



Target Talk

Texas Hunter Education Program



Life's better outside.®

TPWD Mission: To manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas and to provide hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.



COORDINATOR'S CORNER

I remember attending all the workshops in 1987 when Steve Hall and Darrell Holt were leading the program. I met a lot of great folks and thoroughly enjoyed each educational adventure. After meeting and the possibility of working with Steve and Darrell, it inspired me to consider applying to work for TPWD. They were both great mentors and taught me a lot.

I was very sad to see Steve leave, but certainly wish him the very best in heading up a group of individuals who are passionate about firearm ownership and the Second Amendment. I know he will do an excellent job for TSRA.

We have invited Steve to attend the annual conference on March 18-20 at Texas Old Town in Kyle. We hope his schedule will allow him that opportunity. We will look forward to visiting with him during that time. Please look in this newsletter for the registration form and complete and mail it to Shannon Caughron to reserve your spot at this upcoming function. You won't want to miss this one. We have some outstanding auction items and door prizes available.

We reached several milestones again this year. Please read the summary below of your accomplishments!

- 2,673 instructors (volunteers, game wardens, professional educators)

continued on page 2



Steve Hall Retires from TPWD

By Terry Erwin

An icon has moved on. Yes, that's right, Steve Hall, Education Director, retired on December 31 after 26 years to assume the executive director position with Texas State Rifle Association. I am a Life Member of TSRA and he said it looks like he will be working for me and a lot of you as well if you are members of TSRA. At least he will be just across town and we can still visit while working closely together. He plans to make TPWD a regular partner in all the youth activities planned for the future. Watch these pages for an opportunity to work with him during youth hunts, shooting sports opportunities and numerous other activities.

Hear from Steve on page 2 and get his new contact information at TSRA.

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Coordinator's Corner, continued

- 428 new instructor applicants were trained in 54 one-day courses
- 10,437 students were trained using the Home Study Internet/Hunter Skills method
- 17,879 students participated in live-firing activities
- 25,812 students participated in hands-on field activities
- A total of 516 teachers/youth group leaders were trained in Archery in Schools, and 448 schools were enrolled by the end of the year (up from 313)
- A total of 8,707 students participated in archery outreach events
- TPWD received \$691,520 of in-kind from hunter education volunteer hours
- 8,372 people shot in 47 sporting clays events conducted by staff
- 11,781 people participated in 102 firearm safety presentations, hunting seminars and related outreach activities provided by staff
- 13,996 "hunter education deferrals" were sold through point of sale (new record)
- TPWD approved \$ 240,000 in Target Range Construction Grants

Thank you so much for all your dedication and hard work. It is such a pleasure to work with each of you and to know we have you to thank for all the successes in our programs.

Hope all of you had a very Merry Christmas and an especially Happy New Year.

Until next time ... Always be safe!

Terry Erwin

From Steve...

It is with mixed emotions that I write you of my retirement from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department after 26 years of service.

All 26 years, I am proud to say, included professional membership in IHEA (formerly the North American Association of Hunter Safety Coordinators) and NBEF, privilege to serve as president of IHEA and on the board of NBEF, and the opportunity to work with the best bunch of folks in state, provincial and territorial fish and wildlife agencies! As I am an IHEA life member and current NBEF board member, I will continue supporting the organizations and volunteers whole-heartedly and will try to attend conferences and functions when possible - mostly to make sure my friends are still behaving.

My last physical day on the job was December 31; but I started right up with my new job on January 3. In that role, I will get to continue the mission and to work with Terry Erwin and partner with the Texas Hunter Education Program; so, luckily, I get to stay involved. I also will continue to serve as a volunteer hunter and bow hunter education instructor - from whence I came before I took the Texas job 26 years ago. Now, Terry gets to be my boss - paybacks are heck, I guess!

A sincere and respectful THANKS for the friendships and working relationships!

Steve Hall, Executive Director, Texas State Rifle Association
 314 E. Highland Mall Blvd., Suite 300 · Austin, TX 78752-3731
 (800) 462-8772 (W) (512) 615-4200 (W) www.tsra.com

Best Wishes from the Hunter Education Staff!



Front row, L-R:
 Robert Ramirez,
 Kathy Powell,
 Terry Erwin,
 Jimmie Caugron
 and Heidi Rao
 Back row, L-R:
 Steve Hall,
 Michelle Michaelis,
 Brock Minton,
 Burnie Kessner and
 Charlie Wilson.

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 Carter P. Smith

Editor, *Target Talk*
 Terry Erwin

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 Fort Worth

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT

"To manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas and to provide hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations."

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

All inquiries: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Rd., Austin, TX 78744, telephone (800) 792-1112 toll free, or (512) 389-4800 or visit our Web site for detailed information about TPWD programs:

www.tpwd.state.tx.us

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Life's better outside.®



Whiz-Bang Held In San Antonio

Pictured to the right are the participants of the Whiz-Bang event held on October 30 at the National Shooting Complex in San Antonio. This group included the top five shooters with the best scores in at least four events during the Senior, Intermediate and Junior Shotgun 4-H Shooting Sports participants.

Winners in each group were awarded Lifetime Hunting Licenses sponsored by Fort Worth Sportsmen's Club.



Second place winners (left) received new Browning X-Bolt rifles sponsored by Browning Arms. All awards totaled over \$25,000 in prizes for the 15 young shooters. Congratulations to each one!

Online “Home Study” Qualification

Some instructors have become very strict with who is and is not allowed to participate in the Field Day activities. Recommendations are to print the quizzes from the TPWD and IHEA “free” online courses and present them to the instructor as proof of completion. However, if the student does not have these quizzes, they are still allowed to enter the course and go through the field day. Perhaps the student didn’t have a printer and could not print out the quizzes for presentation. Learning will take place during the field day activities as well.

In addition, the two online courses that have fees associated with them, “Today’s Hunter in Texas” and “HunterExam.com” will issue a certificate as proof of completion and good for entry to the field days. Shown here is a copy of the “Today’s Hunter in Texas” certificate.

Note: Regardless of what is or is not presented, the student will be allowed to participate in the field days activities. If it appears to be a question of whether the student has completed the online portion of any of the optional courses or not, the students are allowed to enter the field day and the final testing results usually tell the story.

It is not the instructor’s responsibility to eliminate anyone from participating in the field days, but rather take all who show up and provide the best opportunity for learning or reinforcing the knowledge, skills and attitude of the student. Welcome the participants to the course and do the best in presenting the material.

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE		TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT			
Field Day Qualifier Exam Certificate					
DATE OF ISSUE: November 22, 2010					
THIS CERTIFICATE EXPIRES ON:					
November 22, 2011					
CERTIFICATE NUMBER	TX00001				
NAME (Last, First, MI)					
STREET ADDRESS					
CITY/STATE/ZIP					
TYPE OF COURSE	Today's Hunter in Texas Field Day Qualifier Course				
PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS		DATE OF BIRTH			
GENDER	RACE	MONTH	DAY	YEAR	PRESENT AGE
MALE	White/Caucasian	NOVEMBER	22	1990	20
I hereby certify that I am personally responsible for completing the work associated with the online course of study for the Today's Hunter in Texas Field Day Qualifier Exam. I further understand that this is only a portion of the required work to obtain certification. After passing the Field Day Qualifier Exam, I will need to attend a Field Day (Home Study / Skills Trail Test), for which there is an additional \$15 state fee.					
Signature:			TTI1KL1F1PMM		
Date:					

Talk About Dedication ...

By Heidi Rao

Jane Norton, wife of Area Chief Gene Norton, Baytown, contacted TPWD staff to share that Mr. Norton was in the hospital to undergo a cardiac procedure. Mr. Norton would be unable to teach his scheduled hunter education structured and home study courses in Baytown on October 30-31. He refused to let her cancel these courses, and asked she contact TPWD to assist.



John Meekins, Area Chief, Cleveland, and Clint Free, Tomball, stepped up to cover the entire weekend for Mr. Norton. Area Chief Rodney Lancaster, Houston, assisted on Saturday and Robert Roth, Coldspring, assisted on Sunday, certifying over 30 students for the weekend.



Mr. Norton stopped by "his" class on Sunday afternoon after attending church services to receive a "Get Well" card signed by all students and a photo shoot by instructors. TPWD staff and the entire Hunter Education program are glad to see Mr. Norton back in the classroom once again. Hats off to this dedicated group of instructors for organizing their resources in such a short amount of time to help out a fellow instructor. Texas is proud of all of you!



Program Offers Easy Way to Donate Venison

With deer season almost over, many hunters will soon find their freezers packed with venison. The Hunters for the Hungry program offers a convenient way to donate extra venison to help feed people in need. Interested hunters can take their legally harvested, late-season deer to a participating meat processor, who will process and package the meat for a nominal fee to help cover basic costs. Meat processors make arrangements with local food assistance agencies to distribute the meat to people in the community who need food.

Last hunting season, hunters donated nearly 176,000 pounds of meat to the Hunters for the Hungry program through 90 participating meat processors in 64 counties. This year, donate deer at one of 96 participating meat processors in 69 counties, with new processors joining the program throughout the season.

Organizations providing food always need protein sources—an important, but often expensive food category. Low in fat, veni-

son nutritiously fulfills the protein category in a healthful way. The venison donated to the Hunters for the Hungry program goes to food pantries, soup kitchens, churches and shelters. Individuals and families impacted by ill health, job layoffs, domestic violence, natural disasters, and other personal crises benefited from the venison last season. All were appreciative of the delicious meals that resulted from Hunters for the Hungry donations and the generous hearts of the hunters and meat processors who made it possible.

Be part of the solution to hunger. For a complete list of participating meat processors, visit www.tacaa.org/hunters.htm. The list of processors grows every season. Additional processors are always needed. If the processor you use is not on the list, encourage the business to participate by contacting program staff during business hours Monday through Friday at (800) 992-9767, extension 506. Monetary donations to support the program are always welcome.

Hunting is a Safe Activity

According to a 2009 Industry Intelligence Report released by the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), hunting is one of the safest forms of recreation in the United States with an estimated five injuries per 100,000 participants. This is very low, especially when compared to other common forms of recreation. For example, bicycle riding can expect 1,351 injuries per 100,000 participants; soccer can expect 1,440 injuries per 100,000 participants; and football can expect 2,557 injuries per 100,000 participants.

Activity	Estimated Participants	Estimated Injuries	Estimated Injuries per 100,000 Participants
Football	17,800,000	455,193	2,557
Basketball	24,100,000	481,011	1,996
Boxing	794,000	14,844	1,870
Wrestling	2,100,000	37,320	1,777
Soccer	13,800,000	198,679	1,440
Skateboarding	10,100,000	143,682	1,423
Bicycle Riding	37,400,000	505,413	1,351
Baseball	14,000,000	167,661	1,198
Snowboarding	5,100,000	57,792	1,133
Softball	10,000,000	110,086	1,101
Ice Hockey	2,100,000	18,679	889
Cheerleading	3,800,000	26,786	705
Martial Arts	4,700,000	26,655	567
Volleyball	12,000,000	57,039	475
Swimming	52,300,000	171,704	328
Weight Lifting	33,200,000	72,369	218
Fishing	35,300,000	71,615	203
Water Skiing	5,300,000	9,652	182
Tennis	12,300,000	21,775	177
Golf	22,700,000	36,886	162
Mountain Biking	7,400,000	10,458	141
Mountain Climbing	4,600,000	3,875	84
Archery	6,600,000	4,393	67
Bowling	43,500,000	21,819	50
Billiards	29,500,000	5,045	17
Hunting	19,400,000	916	5



KUDOS!

Wounded Warrior Hunt

Orlando Gill, a hunter education student who was in the November 6-7, 2010 course held at Government Canyon State Natural Area near San Antonio, is also a medically retired U.S. Army Staff Sergeant. He was injured in Iraq a few years ago and lost his right leg from the knee down. He now gets around very well on his prosthesis and the elk and whitetail better watch out!

He works work for Disabled Sports USA, a partner with Wounded Warrior Projects, and recently completed his first Colorado Elk hunt with four other Wounded Warriors. Their hunt was at the Trinchera Ranch near Alamosa, Colorado, from November 18-24. Each Warrior harvested a bull while on their very first elk hunt. The bulls ranged from 288 to 360.5 Boone and Crockett scores. Orlando's elk field dressed 560 pounds and scored 360.5 Boone and Crockett points and is a 7 x 8. Good shooting, Orlando! Hope to see more pictures from you and other Warriors. Hooaa!

Instructor Jack Thompson



These are pictures from the first ever youth hunt in Kennard. All of these young hunters are students in the Kennard School District, and they are hunting at the Henderson Ranch in Angelina County. I was so proud of them. Congratulations to all these fine hunters!

David Baxter
Principal, Kennard School District
TYHP Huntmaster, HE Instructor



Sarah Sawyer shot this nice 9-point Saturday (opening day) just before sunset at our ranch in Hamilton County. She is very pleased! Sarah is a former student of Area Chief Bryant Truitt, and she took the hunter education course at Camp Mystic near Hunt. (Sent in by Sarah's mother)



Olivia Ansley, daughter of Area Chief Curtis Ansley of Shepherd, took her very first deer during the youth season this year. Talk about a proud father; Curtis was really beaming. Please keep up the great work, Curtis, and keep those kids in the woods. They grow up much faster than we realize. Spending time with your daughter or your kids is very special. Congratulations, Olivia!

Youth Hunt at the Double D Ranch



Congratulations to Dominic Rao, son of Game Warden John Rao and Hunter Education Specialist Heidi Rao. He took this fine Hawaiian Ram during the youth hunt at the Double D Ranch.

This group participated in the annual youth hunt held at the Double D Ranch hosted by Hunter Education Specialist Heidi Rao. Eleven Houston-area kids experienced a perfect youth hunt during the special youth weekend in the Hill Country. Four girls and seven boys went on an exotic hunt, as their parents watched them with pride shoot a total of one black Hawaiian ram, two Corsican rams, three sika and five fallow deer. The kids and their parents completed hunter education course and a trip to the shooting range prior to the hunt. This was the first time most of these kids had been exposed to the outdoors, wildlife and hunting. Congratulations, folks!



Bison Hunt in the Dakotas



Showed here is new instructor Robert Smith, Garland, who was on a bison hunt in South Dakota. The only difference is the weather was a little colder and hunting the condition was a little more unpleasant considering the snow and cold. Congratulations, Robert!



Pictured here (left to right) are Area Chief Duke Walton, Porter; Louis Loots, Professional Hunter and Outfitter, South Africa; and Area Chief Bob Boswell, Spring, with Duke's bison taken on their hunt in South Dakota. All three harvested a great specimen. Looks like each will have some fine eating for the year. Congratulations, gentlemen!

KATHY'S CORNER

Hi Folks! Happy New Year! We are all caught up and I am working on points to see what everyone reached this year. I'm also looking forward to the annual conference at Texas Old Town between Kyle and San Marcos. It is going to be great with some very nice auction items. Send in your registration form ASAP. It is included in this newsletter.

Please remember: Mail your course records to arrive to us within seven (7) days of completion. If you hold on to these records, it could result in dismissal from the program, and/or charges being filed for "Theft and/or Fraud." Once the funding is collected, it belongs to TPWD and must be sent in immediately after completion of the course.

Some of you may have noticed that your course records were returned for various reasons ... not enough structured course hours, two-day course taught in one day, insufficient field hours or exercises, no Final Report, no funding and incomplete reports. Please check over your paperwork before mailing. Make sure you teach a minimum of ten (10) hours in the structured course, and a minimum of four hours in the home study course.

Thanks for your cooperation, so now go out and keep up with our requests.

See Ya!
Kathy

It's Never Too Late

By Judy Kanas

To BOW Staff:

I am writing you a summary of my Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) experience as well as results of that experience. I attended the BOW workshop held at Parrie Haynes Ranch in Killeen, Texas on November 5-7, 2010. I signed up for (1) Introduction for Firearms, (2) Shotgun Basics, (3) Rifle, Muzzleloading and Handgun and (4) Advanced Shotgun Basics.

BACKGROUND

I am a daughter of a military man who discouraged me from handling any firearms, even though he had many. My brother became a sharp shooter and won many awards. At one time, my brother handed me a firearm and told me to shoot it. The recoil caused a very large bruise on my shoulder and collar bone and threw me to the ground. Consequently my experience with firearms has been less than positive. I have had an interest in firearms but never found a medium in order to pursue my interest until the BOW workshop.

WORKSHOP

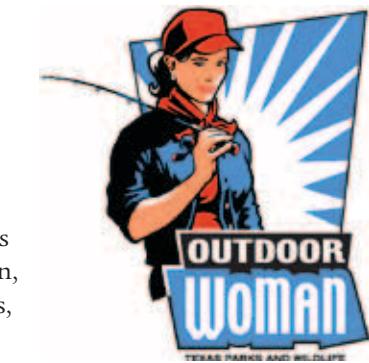
The workshop was more than I expected. The instructors were not only qualified but encouraging and positive. They were top notch. The workshop moved

from very basic (answering what may be termed silly or stupid questions which were never seen that way by the instructors) to actual hands-on experience. The hands-on experience incorporated the classroom basics. This is really the way to teach!

RESULTS

The workshop stimulated my interest to the point that I took my first firearm lesson from Randy Barrington on December 4, 2010. Up until that point, we had been unable to correlate our schedules either due to bad weather or scheduled events at the shooting range. Randy was very encouraging and explained how to shoot in descriptive terms based upon me telling him about myself.

On December 7, 2010, I purchased my shotgun based upon the information



that I acquired from the BOW workshop and suggestions from Randy Barrington. I purchased a Beretta 391. My second lesson with Randy will be December 19, 2010.

GOALS

I am retired and now have the time to pursue some of my interests that were put on hold due to working long hours. I want to become very comfortable with the firearm. Maybe even compete. This year, I purchased my very first kayak ... now my very first firearm. Who knows what is next. By the way, I will be 70 years old at the end of this month.

The BOW workshop is such a valuable event. The next one is in March, but I will be in Big Bend with our TOWN Bastrop group, but do plan to attend the BOW held in September of 2011.

**For more information and
upcoming workshop dates, visit
www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/bow**



TRAINING WORKSHOPS

Pre-Service Training



These folks attended the hunter education instructor training held on October 3, 2010, at Camp Tonkawa. From left to right: Allan Eggelston, Doug Allmond and Roxann Hillye.

*Thanks,
Rodney Sturdivant, Area Chief*



I taught a class yesterday for new instructors, so I thought I would send you a photo of the class. The folks in the photo are from left to right: Robert Smith, Dean Johnson, Judith Baker, John Shinn and Brent Heath.

*Thanks,
Brent Heath*

Good Morning Staff,

I spoke to you a few weeks ago concerning Volunteer Hunter Education Instructor Application. If I recall correctly you have my applications and waiting on completion of hunter instructor course. This course was completed this weekend at Waco with Brent Heath, Area Chief. I'm sure Brent will forward to you soon. Your arranging to process the application will greatly be appreciated.

I would like to pass along some atta-boys for Brent. I wish to thank him for arranging this class so promptly, since those attending have opportunities to begin teaching the course as a volunteer very soon. I would like to express to TPWD that they are well served by Brent. Brent is an asset to any organization. The course was presented professionally, thoroughly and with great care and concern. We were treated with great respect, trained and motivated by Brent.

Thanks,
John Shinn, CPA, Van Zandt County Auditor



Area Chief Rhonda Esakov taught the workshop in Austin. It was a small group, but they interacted very well and had a great training session. Keep up the great work!

TRAINING WORKSHOPS

In-Service Workshops

Another Successful Waterfowl Workshop

Pictured here is the group who attended the Waterfowl Workshop held at Cooper WMA near Sulphur Springs on December 18. Hunter Education Specialist, Robert Ramirez and TPWD biologist put on a fine workshop and covered waterfowl identification, waterfowl biology, duck calling, decoy spreads, duck blinds, and wounding loss/wing shooting education. Congratulations to each shooter who was fortunate enough to take some ducks.



Pictured here is the group who took the Wildlife Management/Conservation Workshop hosted by Area Chief Virgil Frick in Panhandle, Texas.

Thanks, Virgil, for putting this event together.



If we are to preserve our nation's hunting legacy, we must start with our youth. Only by our youth learning about and appreciating the outdoors, and the relationship between hunting and conservation, will the sport of hunting survive.

SCI Youth Hunter Education and Safety Class

By Duke Walton

Since 2005, HGC-SCI First for Hunters, in cooperation with Texas Parks and Wildlife, has put on the state's largest Youth Hunter Education and Safety Class at no charge to all participants. Every year since, on one weekend a year (and soon maybe twice a year), we invite all youth in the Houston area (older hunters, too) to come out to take the TPWD Hunter Education course while we pick up the tab, with lunch included each day! In Texas, anyone born after September 2, 1971, must pass an approved course to hunt in Texas. Youth must be at least nine years old to be certified, but the weekend is open to youth ages six and up that want to attend for the experience. We also encourage parents/guardians to attend the course with their youth (we even feed the old folks!).

In addition to the course and free lunch, we also have give-aways and door prizes, with a grand prize of a whitetail hunt at the famed Bill Carter Sombrerito Ranch, complete with hunting rifle and scope from Carter's Country, taxidermy courtesy of Woods and Water Taxidermy in Spring, Texas, and filming for TV by CSE Outdoors. You can click on our Youth Hunters Education icon on the home page for the latest information on this year's course(s).

This program would not be possible without a little help, and we'd like to thank the following participating sponsors for their support: Texas Parks and Wildlife, Bill Carter and Carter's Country, CSE Outdoors TV, Woods and Water Taxidermy, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Houston Farm and Ranch Club, Houston Safari Club and SCI First for Hunters.

NEW INSTRUCTORS

Welcome, New Instructors

If you recognize any of these folks who might live near you, please give them a call and ask if you can help them get started. Remember, it is always appreciated when you lend a helping hand.

October

Johnny Perez
Alex Ritter
Heath Clark
Betty Hegemeyer
Dennis Kemp
Ruben Anthony J.
Thompson
Alvaro Giraldo
Jimmy Lankford
Douglas Wessels
Joel Chapa, Jr.
Shelby Parker
Mark Herod
Ricardo Cruz
Calen McNett
Tracy Abbott
Mark Ward
Cody Gfeller
Jeffrey Plunkett

Pharr
Huffman
Queen City
Caldwell
El Paso
Kyle
Austin
Houston
Seguin
Brownsville
Sugar Land
Gustine
Elgin
Blanco
Glen Rose
Stephenville
Vernon
Livingston

James Allmand
Alan Eggleston
Laura Malone
Clint Williams
Thomas Walker, Jr.
Raul Chapa
Weldon Schmidlkofer
D.R. Watson
Timothy King
Shawn Woods
Rolando Galvan
Melissa Dalton
Karen Michaels
Joel Bressman
Scott Clark
Connie Ansley
Robert Hilliard
James Hallum
David Harwood
Martin Castro, Jr.

Abilene
Abilene
Pearland
Kountze
Avinger
Laredo
Gainesville
Arlington
Latexo
Lufkin
Brownsville
Port Neches
Tyler
Addison
Houston
Shepherd
Denton
Arlington
Arp
Pharr

November

Paul Mahoney
Joseph Woolison
Lacy Williams II
Lacey Newton
Faye Anne Hunt

New Braunfels
Provident
Village
Houston
Stephenville
Austin

December

Nathan Driver
Pamela Minnick
John Shinn

Fort Worth
Karnes City
Ben Wheeler
Livingston

Assistant Instructor

Benjamin Plunkett

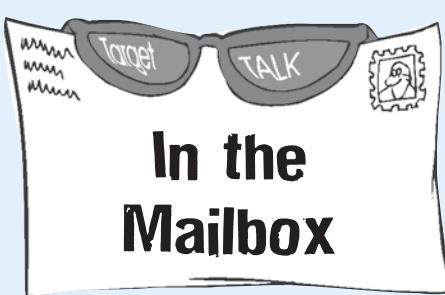
New Area Chief

Joe Schmidt, Huntsville, has been certified since 2007 and has taught 32 courses certifying 356 students. He will cover Walker and surrounding counties and assist other instructors in his area when needed. Joe also is being certified as an IBEP Instructor Trainer. Congratulations, Joe!

Welcome, Michelle Michaelis

Please welcome our newest employee who will serve as the branch administrative technician for hunter and boater education. Michelle Michaelis began her career with TPWD at San Angelo State Park 12 years ago working as a Clerk I while going to college for her Bachelor's in Business. After leaving the park, she attended graduate school at Angelo State University and worked for a newspaper as an administrative assistant and graphic artist for seven years. She even taught school for a short period of time. She decided teaching public school was not for her. She moved to Gonzales two years ago to restart her career with TPWD as a Clerk II at Palmetto State Park. Welcome to our office, Michelle. We hope you like it here.





Dear Staff:

I am writing to you to express my appreciation of the outstanding job by Jim and Kitty Haynes in teaching the Hunter Safety Course on July 30–31 at River Pointe Church in the Richmond–Rosenberg area. So many valuable lessons were learned that day. I can't begin to tell you how thankful I am. The money spent was an investment that has already paid big dividends. It was exactly what I wanted for myself and my sons—at the right time, with the right instructors, with the right message. My sons, who are seven and 10 years of age, came away with knowledge that is invaluable, knowledge that could some day save their life or that of someone else.

Jim and Kitty incorporate an effective variation of teaching methodologies. To hear my sons talk about the course content, how to be safe with a firearm or around others who hold a firearm is so incredibly valuable. I see the importance here because it is not only critical that my sons should know the right way to handle a firearm, but also what to do if they are over at a friends house and the friend decides to take a look at dad's gun.

The lessons Jim and Kitty shared about survival hit home. Kitty mentioned that building a fire without the aid of synthetic starters is not always easy. So we tried. The boys practiced building a fire at home in the sand pile. They had a great time trying and they found out that Kitty was right.

The course had a profound impact on me as well. Wanting to be safe and putting safety in practice 100% of the time was, well, I have to admit sometimes not always the case. After sitting through the course with Jim and Kitty, safety is so much at the forefront that I can hardly watch a hunting show without some critique of the show's attention to safety.

I could go on and on, yet I think you get the message I am trying to convey. Expectations were exceeded and I thought you might like to know.

Regards,
Daryl Charbula
Houston

Dear Hunter Education Staff:

I just wanted to send a note saying "thank you" to members of your staff. I was preparing for my Hunter Ed class when there was some miscommunication between me and my daughters helping with coordinating the numbers of students for my class on the 11th and 12th. I normally only set the class number about 20 to 25 students; because of the "oops" I was up to 35. I called TPWD and got Tami Moore and explained my dilemma. We had a great conversation but knew that it would be a long shot on receiving the extra material for the class, to my surprise it came in Friday afternoon and my bacon was saved once more by your fine team. As it turned out, the week was hectic and I had to put five more students on a standby list and possibly put them off for a maybe class in October. On the day of the class I had three calls canceling and two no-shows, so I called on the stand-by list and my class was 31 students.

I conducted my class in Karnes City at Karnes Electric Coop, as it turned out they had just finished building a new lineman training facility that accommodated the class very nicely, and we were the first class for the facility. The Coop has always been a great friend to the Hunter Ed programs in our area and I would very much like to present them with a plaque from TPWD if at all possible.

Also, our local Super Wal-Mart in Kenedy sponsored the drinks and snacks and a sandwich lunch on Saturday for the whole class. That was a big order for 31 students and a couple of parents that sat in. The manager also stated they would continue their support for future classes. They also helped out with providing extra TPWD Outdoor Annuals. I would also like to recognize Wal-Mart for their efforts.

One last additional note, the whole class passed their exams. I did have two students, ages nine and 12, that after grading their papers recognized the scores were very low and I ask if they would stay after everyone had left. The nine-year-old was sitting beside me with large tears flowing down his face somewhat ashamed that his brother passed and he did not. I verbally went through the test and he passed with flying colors. Needless to say when he passed the tears were eaten up by his smiles. And the 12-year-old was a young girl that had the same difficulties and after I sat with her with a verbal test she also passed. Several minutes passed after the girl left, and the mother came in teary-eyed and gave me a big thank-you hug for helping her daughter. That was the best payment for the weekend. Sometimes taking a student the extra mile can payoff. Thank you again, for going that extra mile for us instructors.

Proud Instructor (name withheld)



Instructors Jose Garcia, Carlos Castro and Pete Duchrow from Bass Pro received a Certificate of Appreciation from TPWD Hunter Education. This was done this weekend and they already having it hanging on their wall.

Thanks,
Jose Garcia
Irving

Student from England Chooses Texas for Certification

by Rodney Lancaster

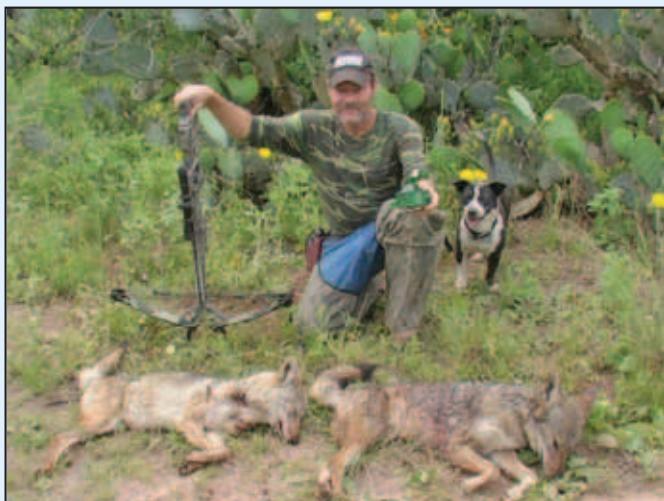


You never know where some of your students are going to come from. I was contacted in June by David Adams from Wirral, England. He had gotten my name from

Alan McCormick who took my class in 2008. Alan is from Wales and is the Head of Deer Management for the BASC (British Association for Shooting and Conservation). David was planning on a vacation here in the U.S., and Texas in particular, and wanted to do some hunting for white-tailed deer if possible. We traded many e-mails and I did put him in touch with a friend of mine who is a game manager for property south of San Antonio who had the tags that allow early gun hunting last year; he was not able to help but he knew of another property that had the tags this year. Alan was able to get setup for a hunt the week after my class (October 15 and 16). Even at 70 years old he felt he needed the Texas Hunting Education course to make sure it was smooth getting his hunting license. I hope to find out how his hunt went after he gets back from his vacation. This did make one of my widest ranges of students for a class with ages from 10 to 70 in the class. David and I are hoping we can get together and go hunting and shooting together. Here in Texas or in England, either would be fine with me.



Rodney Lancaster, Hunter Education Area Chief Instructor, conducted a special hunter education course to certify employees of Academy Sports and Outdoors at their corporate headquarters in Katy on December 2-3, 2010. These nine individuals work closely with the public in the promotion of hunting, shooting and outdoors safety. Obtaining their hunter education certification was an added benefit of information and materials to support their knowledge of the great outdoors. The IHEA Remington training firearms were just one of the many hands-on tools used during this two-day course. Special thanks to Mr. Lancaster for putting this course together on short notice, and to Ms. Sheila Nelson (Academy) for her continued support of TPWD and the hunter education program.



Dear Hunter Education Staff:

I wanted to let you know that Butch, my other half, is in an article in the *Xtreme Predator* magazine and the Center Point Optics Ad is embedded in the article. I like those scopes shown in the December issue, page 41. It's an article of hunting coyotes with the crossbow. Also mentioned in the article are Jeff Becca of Crossbow Nation and Randy Wood of Ten Point Crossbows.

Wendy White

Welcome, Mexico's Newest Group of Instructors

Thomas Saldias, Instructor Trainer, traveled to Mexico City to train a group of instructors who are members of the FEDERACION MEXICANA DE TIRO Y CAZA, A.C. This group is now a member of IHEA and will have representation at the annual meetings. Congratulations, FEMETI, as the newest member.



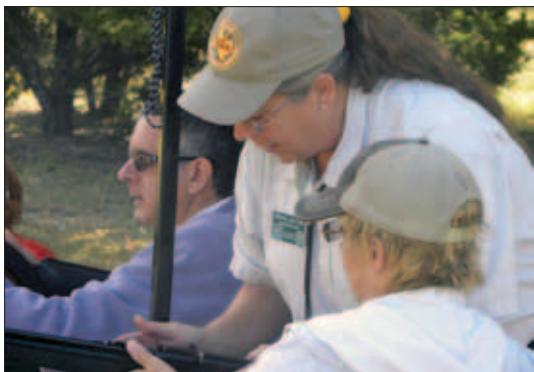
TPWD Loses Instructors

Irvin "Irv" Kring, age 73, Lubbock, passed away on November 19, 2010, after a long and courageous battle with cancer. He had been an instructor since 1987, taught 46 courses and certified 506 students during that time. He was involved with 4-H shooting sports and held his courses at the Lubbock American Legion Hall. "Irv" will be missed by those he came in contact with and the students he helped along the way.

Ernest E. Roney, Jr., age 78, passed away on December 13, 2010, in San Antonio. Ernest was a prominent member of the Mitchell Lake Audubon Society and served as a NRA recruiter. He was the assistant director of the San Antonio Zoo for 28 years. Ernest had been a TPWD Volunteer Hunter Education Instructor since 2003, taught 231 courses and certified 2,538 students. He had found his role as an instructor at "A Place to Shoot" range in south San Antonio. He was inducted into the Texas Hunter Education Hall of Fame in 2008. He will be missed by all who knew him, because he had such a great manner about him.

OUTREACH EVENTS

Texas Outdoor Family Event in Georgetown



Area Chief instructor Rhonda Esakov, Georgetown, held several activities during the weekend Texas Outdoor Family event in Georgetown. Here she is shown going over shooting activities beginning with air guns. Numerous participants were extremely happy to have participated in the activities. Thanks, Rhonda, for all your help!

Dear Staff:

I really appreciated the assistance of David Rios. He made a value added contribution and a very nice gentleman. We had over 300 youngsters and adults at the Laser Shot booth during the time of the event from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. Approximately 100 or so made the normal multiple visits. I passed out Hunter Education information brochures, annuals and safety pamphlets. Thanks again for the opportunity.

Best regards,
Bryant D. Truitt, Area Chief, Hunt

Dear Staff:

On behalf of Georgetown Parks and Recreation, I would like to say "Thank You" to Rhonda Esakov for her support and generous donation of time to Georgetown's 5th Annual Texas Outdoor Family Event. We were very pleased with the feedback from all the participants. Many of the participants this year were return families and said they plan on making this an annual tradition. So we certainly hope to continue the program and add new families next year! We know that this event could not have been a success without the help of volunteers such as her. Thanks again for helping to introduce new families to the great outdoors. We appreciate the time and her skills in teaching the air rifle session.

Traci Stengle
Georgetown Parks & Rec.



Banners Available

Youth Dove Hunt Near Coleman



A group of young hunters participated in a youth dove hunt hosted by Instructor Ernie Yates (far right) on his ranch near Coleman. Everyone had a great time and had just completed the hunter education course. What a way to finalize the field activities of a course. Congratulations, Ernie!



The Hunter Education staff holds a new banner to be used during outreach events. Each staff member has two of these banners and they are available for use on a first-come, first-served basis when available.

Youth Dove Workshop/Hunt at Resaca de la Palma

Youths display their prizes they received through a drawing while attending the 2nd Annual Youth Mentored Dove In-service/Hunt workshop. The workshop was held at Resaca de la Palma State Park, Olmito, Texas, September 18–19, 2010. The hunt, which takes place the day after the classroom portion, was cancelled due to the nine inches of rain that fell at the park the night prior. Junior Munoz assured the youths that he would make good of the hunt at a later date during the season.

Walter Pritt (back row on left next to Brock), South Texas Regional Chair Person for Texas State Rifle Association, provided the prizes (game bird vests, head lamps, caps and other items). Brock Minton provided the training and TPWD material and handouts (gun locks and wilderness survival and first aid pocket booklets).

William Batson (back row on right wearing orange cap), Range Technical Team Advisor for NRA, assisted with the live fire exercise as a part of the workshop. Junior Munoz (center of photo), State Park Lead Ranger, conducted the skills trail and assisted with live fire exercise during the Youth Mentored Dove In-service/Hunt. Area Chief Rusty Shriver, Harlingen (taking photo), assisted with the workshop. A total of eight youngsters attended the event (12 canceled due to bad weather). All youths who attended received prizes.



Hunter Education for Boy Scout Troop 2001

By Ed Sanchez

It was a hot August afternoon when the members of Boy Scout Troop 2001 assembled to participate in a Hunter Education course offered by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) as part of their emphasis to get youth interested in hunting. Scouts were given an incentive to complete the Hunter Education course – a special Hunter Education graduate pin provided by the Texas State Rifle Association (TSRA) as part of their emphasis to encourage youth to get involved in hunting and in shooting sports. The bonus incentive was a dove hunt at the Double Eagle Ranch in Rocksprings, Texas.

The meeting started like so many other Scout meetings with a flag ceremony, reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance, Scout Oath and Law and then down to business of learning about hunter responsibility. Ed Sánchez, Scoutmaster of Troop 2001 and recently certified Hunter Education Instructor by the TPWD, and Rhonda Esakov, recently honored by the International Hunter Education Association (IHEA) as Volunteer Hunter Education

Association Instructor of the Year, began with the purpose of the Hunter Education program. Texas Hunter Education strives to instill responsibility, improve skills and knowledge, and encourage involvement of beginner and veteran hunters. The primary objective is to produce safe, responsible, knowledgeable and involved hunters – hunters who understand the importance of complying with hunting laws and behaving ethically.

Scouts were introduced to modern and primitive firearms that included bow and arrow, muzzleloader, pellet gun, shotgun, and rifle. Instructors described and demonstrated each type of firearm, how they function and use of the correct type of ammo. The Hunter Education program objectives are to help youth understand the importance of safe handling, transportation and storage of all firearms, including BB guns.

Hunter safety is synonymous with hunter skills. TPWD introduced a Hunter Skills Trail hands-on teaching technique as the most effective method of teach-

ing those skills necessary to result in a positive hunting experience. The skills trail allows students of all abilities to experience a variety of hunting situations, not just ones with which they are familiar. Scouts were coached and walked through several different scenarios such as “shoot, don’t shoot,” tree stand safety, obstacle crossing, zones of fire, road hunting, vital zone and blood trails, survival and first aid and hunting regulations.

A live-fire range was set up to introduce safety skills that included muzzle control, target acquisition, in front of and beyond the target identification, and safe firing. Each Scout was allowed to fire a pellet gun at paper targets. This was definitely one of the highlights of the Hunter Education course.

All participating Scouts successfully completed the Hunter Education course, earned their Hunter Education certificate, the TSRA Hunter Education graduate pin and a dove hunt. What a way to end the summer!

Kids Are Listening

By Tom Humphries, Instructor, Fort Worth

For those of you that know me, you know how special my three daughters are to me. But I wanted to take a minute and tell you about Nicole, my oldest, age 17. All three attend Harmony Science Academy/Fort Worth, which is a college prep, academic-oriented school. They have very few athletic opportunities, and all coursework is geared toward college. As a matter of fact, all of Nicole's courses this year are either dual credit college courses or AP courses. Almost all of her free time is spent in study.

Nicole's hobbies are few. She enjoys photography very much, especially outdoor/nature photography. *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine is her favorite, with their rich photos and outstanding articles. But her prime passion is the outdoors. Ever since she was a young child, she would tag along in the woods with me on hunting expeditions. Most of the time we didn't get to harvest anything because we were in conversation about why this or that animal was acting a certain way, what animal this track belonged to, and various ways of the woods. However, we have had the opportunity of cele-

brating successful hunts and admiring our harvests. She is quite the outdoors-woman and very much at home there. Nicole has assisted me with our Dallas Safari Club Youth SAFETY event as an assistant crossbow instructor, an activity that she became quite proficient at the early age of five. She also serves on various committees at the Dallas Safari Club Convention. One of the activities she enjoys the most is accompanying me when I work with Jim Schaefer teaching Texas Hunter Education as part of the North Texas Hunting Academy program, at Alpine Shooting Range in Fort Worth. Her aspirations are to complete her Junior Assistant Hunter Education Instructor prerequisites and become a Hunter Education Instructor herself.

Yesterday, Nicole had to give a speech for her speech class. I didn't even know what she was doing it on. This morning she told me that she had given it on "The Role of Hunters in Conservation." She had her facts and figures to present, how hunters contribute more dollars toward conservation through Pittman-Robertson, conservation organizations and out

of their pocket, conservation projects and efforts, restorations, etc. What is quite ironic is the day prior, one of her classmates presented a speech on PETA. Nicole made sure to include that PETA only contributes approximately one percent of their annual expenditures toward conservation, the majority going to ad campaigns and salaries. Bottom line — Nicole presented me this morning with a piece of paper with 10 names on it. The names represented 10 of the 14 classmates in her speech class who came to her after class desiring to become educated and interested in becoming hunter/conservationist, wanting to know "what do we do next?"

We talk about our youth, and sometimes don't give them their due. They are listening when we don't think they are. They are watching and learning, too! All we have to do is give them our time and share our experiences with them! And don't shortchange them for a moment ... they will share with their peers and teach, too!

I, for one, am proud of our youth!
And a very proud father!



For Your Information

F.Y.I.

Rattlesnake Warning

My fellow friends and hunters:

We have killed 57 rattlesnakes on two separate ranches this year, 24 at South Bend and 33 at Murray, since mid May. Not one has buzzed! We provoked one fair-sized boy with a stick and he coiled and struck at the stick a couple of times before he buzzed up and rattled. The purpose of this explanation is that I have been hearing the same from fellow ranchers and hunters in regards to the lack of warning with rattlesnakes. I had lunch with a friend today and he offered a theory about the fact that these snakes aren't rattling anymore. He raised pigs for years and reported that when he would hear a rattle-snake buzzing in the sow pen, the sows would bee-line to it and fight over the snake. For the uninformed, pigs love to eat rattlesnakes. Therefore, the theory is they are ceasing to rattle to avoid detection, since there are plenty of pigs roaming the countryside. I have a neighbor ranching lady who was bitten three weeks ago, twice by the same snake without any warning—she spent five days in ICU; after 22 vials of anti-venom, she is back at the ranch and still may lose her foot, or worse yet, her lower leg. The days of perceived warning are over. Keep your boots on and use a light when out and about. As you all know, one can pop up just about anywhere!

Sincerely,

Norman D. Stovall, III, Agri-Ventures Corp., Managing Partner



San Antonio Bass Pro Shops Milestone

Since taking over Hunter Education classes at Bass Pro Shops in San Antonio (Sept. '08) we reached a milestone. During the weekend of Nov. 6-7, 2010, we certified our 500th student. We celebrated by awarding a \$25.00 gift certificate and a Columbia multi-purpose knife to the student. A second student was awarded the same gifts in recognition of the beginning of the next 500 students. Here is a picture of the two students and a member of the Bass Pro Shops management team (Patrick).

Our new Remington Firearms Training Set was a big hit. Students (young and younger) enjoyed handling and working all the different types of actions.

John Rodriguez, Area Chief, Pipe Creek

Sportsman's Tips

- One mystery every deer hunter has to cope with is the wind. One way to beat it is to collect milkweed pods. Take the floaters out and put them into a film canister or pill bottle. Use them to check the wind. They're completely natural, they introduce no foreign odors, and they're easy to see. Watch them float along the air currents, and you'll know where your scent is going as well.
- If a landowner allows you to hunt on his land, do all you can to keep that relationship intact. Don't abuse the privilege. Don't invite other unwanted guests. Do pick up trash you find. Do share the bounty with him. Do send a Christmas card and occasionally give a small gift. Express appreciation and keep the welcome mat out.
- When purchasing a new pair of hunting boots or shoes, look for something with a medium soft sole. These soles grip better than hard soles and make a lot less noise, especially in cold weather. After you get your new shoes, show others how to walk in them!

IN THE NEWS...

From National Shooting Sports Foundation

Number of U.S. Hunters Greater Than Expected

Fernandina Beach, Fla. – A new study funded by the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) and carried out by Southwick Associates has found that the pool of American hunters is much larger than previously thought. This discovery can lead to major conservation and economic benefits. If many “casual hunters” (hunters that do not purchase a hunting license on an annual basis) can be converted into annual license buyers, a major benefit would be realized.

This report estimates that 21.8 million Americans hunted at least once over the past five years. Previous estimates have shown over 14 million youth and adults hunt each year, but not all hunters take to the field every year. Conducted in partnership with 17 state wildlife agencies, the study assessed license sales patterns and found that 78 percent of the U.S. hunters who bought a license in a given year also purchased one again the following year. By examining purchasing patterns over multiple years, it was determined that for every two hunters in the field this year, one is taking the year off.

“Considering hunters’ contribute over \$1 billion every year to wildlife conservation via licenses and excise taxes, if half of the hunters who lapsed this year actually bought a license, conservation dollars would have increased by \$97 million,” reported Rob Southwick, president of Southwick Associates. “This estimate doesn’t even include the extra dollars possible from increased hunters’ excise taxes. Considering the limited government dollars allocated for wildlife and the tremendous impact hunters provide to rural communities, increased efforts to boost hunter numbers would make smart conservation and economic sense.”

The NSSF study monitored license-buying patterns over multiple years, producing results for various segments of hunters, and described the lifestyles, habits and demographics of various segments of the hunting community. “We know there are many types of hunters with a wide range of interests. This study reveals who our hunters are beyond the usual demographic descriptions. We now have a better idea of hunters’ regional purchasing habits, recreational choices and overall lifestyle preferences,” said Jim Curcuruto, director of research and analysis for NSSF. “The results will be used to strengthen existing hunting participation programs and develop new programs designed to convert the casual hunter into an annual license buyer. Savvy industry marketing and communications professionals will use these data to enhance their advertising efforts.” said Curcuruto.

A summary of the study results can be downloaded for free at: www.nssf.org/PDF/HuntingLicTrends-NatlRpt.pdf.

Quarterly Excise Tax Obligations Down 16%

The latest Firearms and Ammunition Excise Tax Collection report released by the Department of the Treasury indicates that firearm and ammunition manufacturers reported excise tax liabilities of \$102.20 million in the second calendar quarter of 2010, down 16.29 percent compared to the same period in 2009. The report, which covers April 1 through June 30, shows that \$31.84 million was due in taxes for pistols and revolvers, \$28.71 million for firearms (other)/long guns and \$41.65 million for ammunition (shells and cartridges). Compared to the same period in 2009, tax obligations were down 5.1 percent for pistols and revolvers, down 32.25 percent for firearms (other)/long guns and down 9.77 percent for ammunition (shells and cartridges). Please note that these figures reflect what excise taxes the manufacturers have filed and do not reflect retail mark up and final retail sales.

Beretta Recalls .22 cal NEOS

Beretta U.S.A. Corp. has discovered a potential condition with Beretta .22 caliber NEOS semi-automatic pistols in which the pistol will fire even if the safety is activated and, in some cases, the pistols may fire if the safety is moved from the OFF to the ON position. Chances of either of these situations occurring is extremely remote and no injuries have occurred because of this condition, however, because of safety concerns relating to this situation, Beretta U.S.A. Corp. is immediately implementing a recall of Beretta .22 caliber NEOS semi-automatic pistols. For more information, download a PDF copy of the recall notice at www.berettasupport.com/neos.



THE BOWHUNTER

TEXAS BOWHUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

Lone Star Bowhunters Association Supports Burleson ISD Archery Program

Lone Star Bowhunters Association (LSBA) recently donated a full set of archery equipment for students in Burleson ISD to participate in the Texas-National Archery in the Schools Program (TX-NASP).

Jack Jetton, president of LSBA, personally delivered the more than \$3,000-worth of archery equipment to Hughes Middle School teachers and certified TX-NASP archery instructors Kelly Odom and Remeca White at their school in Burleson.

Mr. Jetton stated that the LSBA has been a partner of TPWD's educational outreach efforts for years and has recently been discussing ways to help more students get introduced to the lifetime sport of archery. "We voted to donate a set of NASP archery equipment to a school that has a certified NASP Instructor and in need of help to get the program started." As stated from their website, www.lonestarbowhunter.com, the mission of LSBA is to "unite the state's bowhunting sports-people to work towards a common goal of preserving and promoting the sport of bowhunting in Texas."

Burleson ISD is no stranger to archery. Terri Brosius at The Academy at Nola Dunn, Burleson ISD campus has been teaching NASP archery for several years. With the support of LSBA many more students will be able to participate in TX-NASP classes. This past July, 11 more Burleson ISD teachers were trained as certified NASP Basic Archery Instructors during the eight-hour certification course. Kelly Odom and Remeca White represented Hughes Middle School. District PE Coordinator Kelly Odom says, "We are thrilled to have our archery equipment for BISD. We have many campuses trained in TASP and



ready to teach. This will impact many students. Thank you again for the donation."

The in-school target archery program started in 21 Kentucky schools on March 3, 2002 and was adopted in Texas in September 2004 with the mission of teaching target archery skills to students in grades 4-12 as part of their in-school curriculum. The rapidly expanding program is currently taught by nearly 16,000 teachers in more than 1.5 million students across 47 states and five countries. Archery is ranked safer than every ball sport taught in schools except table tennis.

The 2011 Texas State Tournament will be held Friday, February 25, at the Waco Convention Center in Waco. The 2011 NASP national tournament will be held at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville, Kentucky, on May 13 and 14.

For information about the Texas-National Archery in the Schools program, contact Burnie Kessner with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department at burnie.kessner@tpwd.state.tx.us or (979) 862-7341, or see the TPWD archery in the schools Web page.



Finally I connected with a nice eight-point buck in San Saba County. I harvested him on Saturday, Dec. 4, during the general season with my Hoyt Trykon bow. Taken at 17 yards, he went about 90 yards before he dropped. I did not have any problems blood trailing this deer thanks to a well placed shot and my Razor Sharp Magnus Stinger Broadheads. I was also blessed with a nice doe on the opening weekend of bow season. I made a 20-yard shot on her and she only went 30 yards. What a blessed season I have had. I hope everyone else has had as much success as I have. (Yes, the picture was staged and was previously tagged, but I removed the tag for photos and then got it immediately back on the deer after the pictures. For the record I mention this and did not want any flack from anyone about, "I don't see a tag on the deer!" I never got more than 10 feet away with that tag not on it.)

David Lassetter, IBEP Area Chief Instructor, Irving

Hi Staff,

I had a new record for distance traveled to attend one of my IBEP courses on November 21. The student was from Montana and could not find a bowhunter class to meet his need for certification for an upcoming hunt. He flew down for the weekend on his frequent flier miles. He took the NBEF on-line course and needed a Field Day. This is an advantage of listing classes on the NBEF website; it opens up a nationwide audience.

Joe Drobniak



Texas Hunter Education Instructors Association

President: Bob Boswell, 18771 Candle Park Dr., Spring, TX 77388 Cell: (361) 215-7020 Email: boswellrob42@yahoo.com

ANNUAL HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR CONFERENCE and AWARDS BANQUET

Texas Old Town • 1205 Roland Lane, Kyle, Texas 78640

Directions to Texas Old Town

From the north

Take I-35 South to Exit 213, continue on feeder road for 2.7 miles (through red light) to CR 137, (Roland Lane) Turn Right and go 1 mile straight into Texas Old Town's gate. Follow the signs to Redbud Hall on the left near the office.

From the south

Take Exit 210 (Yarrington Exit), Turn left at Stop sign, go over I-35 and turn right at Stop sign. Go 1.2 miles on feeder road to CR 137 (Roland Lane) and turn Left. Go one mile straight into Texas Old Town's gate. Follow the signs to Redbud Hall on the left near the office.

Grand Auction Item

Donated by Tony Biggs of Buna



FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 2011

4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Conference Registration at Texas Old Town, Kyle Texas
Silent Auction
Meet 'n' Greet @ TOT; Chuck Wagon meal (Chili, etc.)
Stargazing – University of Texas Astronomy Club

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2011

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.
8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.
8:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.
9:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
9:30 a.m. – Noon

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Breakfast (On your own)
Conference Registration @ Texas Old Town
Color Guard, Posting of Colors, Pledge, Invocation
Welcome to Kyle – Terry Erwin
Welcome to Texas Old Town – Danny German
BREAK
T.H.E.I.A. business meeting – for everyone present

Lunch buffet (Texas Game Warden Assoc.) with Guest Speaker

BREAK-OUT SESSIONS:

Laser Shot – Dan Atkinson and Bryan Corb
How to do Skills Trail and Live Fire exercises with Laser Shot

Survival – Peter Kummerfeldt, who gave outstanding sessions on survival at the IHEA conference last year on Colorado

Tree Stand Safety – Michael Wydner, of Hunter Safety Systems

Woodworking/Lathe – Keith Powell

Wild Game Dinner by Texas Game Warden Association
Special Speaker, Awards Presentation
Silent Auction and Live Auction

SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 2011

On Your Own:

Cabela's in Buda
Vanity Fair and Tanger Outlet Malls – South of San Marcos
Return Home

This portable BBQ unit will go up for auction at the annual conference in March. It was specially made for this event by Instructor Tony Biggs of Buna. He handcrafted the unit and donated it for the auction. Come to the conference and place your bid and take it home.



Life's better outside.®



**Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and
Texas Hunter Education Instructors Association
invite you to attend the
Annual Instructor Conference and Awards Banquet
at Texas Old Town, Kyle, Texas
March 18-19, 2011**

\$25 Registration per individual (Covers Friday night reception, Saturday lunch and banquet)

\$40 Registration per couple

\$15 Registration per each youth under 12

NAME: _____ ID# _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ZIP _____

YES, I plan to attend the Annual Conference

I will bring the following guest/s: (Please Print Names)

SPOUSE: _____

GUEST/S: _____

Enclosed is my total Registration Fee of \$ _____

Complete this registration form, attach a check or money order made payable to:
T.H.E.I.A. '11 Conference, and mail to:

Shannon Caughron
T.H.E.I.A. Treasurer
1601 N. 8th St.
Ballinger, TX 76821

Registration should be mailed to arrive by March 3.

Please make your motel reservations NOW because of the South-X-Southwest festivities in Austin and spring break. Nearest motels to Kyle are located in San Marcos (8 miles); in Buda, Hampton Inn or in Kyle, La Quinta and Best Western (talk to Mike at Best Western).



Life's better outside®

Hunter Education Instructor Workshops 2011

Mark your calendars for the upcoming workshops. We've scheduled additional programs in different areas of the state. Hunter Education Specialists and Area Chiefs will host most of these workshops. Our goal is that each volunteer instructor, professional educator and game warden will attend at least one of these workshops scheduled across the state.

These workshops offer advanced training and hands-on experience in each of the disciplines taught in the Hunter Education course. They give instructors a chance to learn new techniques, teaching skills and receive new material. The workshops offer an opportunity to visit other areas of the state, to "get away" and meet new friends. Exchanging ideas with other instructors is perhaps the best way to learn about new techniques.

A number of well-qualified individuals, such as biologists, game wardens, land managers and hunter education instructors, will assist with the new knowledge and training in each of the workshops. Like you, these folks volunteer their time and expertise to pass on the necessary information used to effectively educate hunters, as well as other outdoor users, to be safe, responsible, knowledgeable and involved.

General Format Information

The hours are:

Most workshops are just one day on Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., but read the information letter for exact times and details of each workshop.

Registration, Lodging and Meals

Print the schedule, mark workshops you would like to attend, or desire information on, enter your name and address, and return it to Austin. Information cannot be mailed out if the sign-up forms are not returned. This does not commit you to a given workshop, but it does assure that you will receive an information packet for that workshop. Austin staff will send specific information on reservations, lodging, meals, directions and agenda items about four to six weeks prior to each workshop. **Don't put it off – mail it today!**

Other Reminders

Dress for the workshops is casual: shorts and t-shirts; sport shirts and jeans; tennis shoes or boots. Be sure to bring warm clothes and rain gear in case of bad weather. We have seen rain, sleet, hail, snow and sunshine at the Outdoor Skills/Survival workshop in the past years.

For more information, please call (800) 792-1112, ext. 8142 or (512) 389-8142. We will try to see that you have successful workshops and that you go away with a sense of accomplishment and increased knowledge. We look forward to seeing you at the **2011** workshops.
Be Safe!!

Workshop Descriptions

Program Orientation/Standards/ Home Study Field Activities

This is a 12-hour workshop, and the first four hours must be completed online by visiting our website at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/hunter_education/instruct.phtml. New applicants must attend the remaining 8-hour workshop in person. Veteran instructors are encouraged to refresh their knowledge online and attend the one-day session and learn how to conduct "Home Study field activities and testing." The IHEA has an online Instructor course for credit. If you pay to take the course, it will also get you an annual membership in IHEA. Check it out at ihea.com. Send

us a copy of your certificate upon completion to gain your credit points.

Rifle, Shotgun and Handgun

These workshops are conducted by NRA Training Counselors. They offer NRA instructor certifications in each of the designated disciplines. However, each participant may be certified in only one of the three disciplines at a time. Each discipline is limited to 25 participants and is on a first-come, first-served basis. NRA certification is strictly up to each individual, and is the sole responsibility of the individual after completion of the courses.

Responsibility, Game Laws and Ethics

This workshop reviews Texas game laws and gives information regarding violations from a game warden's point-of-view. Training on "how to teach" using the Texas *Outdoor Annual* is an important portion of this workshop. The workshop covers important aspects of hunter responsibility by introducing participants to different teaching concepts, such as "trigger films," open meeting, brainstorming and dilemma methods.

Wildlife Management/Conservation

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department personnel plan to give participants an overview of wildlife management/

conservation of game and non-game species. A tour of wildlife management areas is usually planned, and professional biologists will be prepared to answer questions concerning the department's efforts across the state.

Outdoor Skills/Survival

This workshop gives participants a philosophical background and hands-on experience in situations and exercises including map and compass use, fire starting techniques, shelter building, outdoor cooking and desert/mountain survival. Participants might experience a "camp-out" reviewing the materials learned that day. Be prepared for a great outdoor experience with adequate needs rather than luxurious facilities.

Advanced In-Service Workshops

Archery in the Schools Program

The Archery in the Schools Program has taken off across America, including Texas. The course offers two levels of certifications – Basic Archery Instructor (BAI) and Basic Archery Instructor Trainer (BAIT). The BAI course is geared towards PE teachers and is one-day workshop covering the basics of archery, gymnasium range set up, 11 steps to shooting success and safety whistles (commands) and procedures. Geared towards the positive teaching style, this course is a prerequisite for BAIT – a three-day training that focuses on how to instruct teachers in the safe, fun approach to archery, especially in schools. The goal of TASP is to give 4th- through 12th-graders a threshold experience in the shooting sports. Stated tournament is in **Waco on February 25, 2011**. Come on up and give us a hand.

Huntmaster

The Huntmaster Workshop is approximately 14 to 16 hours long and is mostly hands-on application. It provides the necessary training for organizing and running a youth hunt with additional support from the Texas Youth Hunting Program office. Friday evening is for registration with the course continuing all day on Saturday and until Sunday noon. **"Take a kid hunting!" Please contact TYHP at 2800 NE Loop 410, Suite 105, San Antonio, Texas 78216, or call (800) 460-5494.**

Laser Shot Simulator

Come in for a day of instruction on set-up and use of the Laser Shot system. Learn how to check out this mobile unit for your courses or special events. No instructor will be allowed to check out or use this system unless they have been trained and certified in the appropriate care, transport, use and troubleshooting.

Pheasant Hunting

Ever wonder why you just couldn't hit that little critter? Learn about pheasant biology, identification, flight patterns, ecology, habitat, favorite foods, watering and roosting patterns. Take some notes from the specialist. It could mean the difference in becoming a successful hunter and bringing home some tasty morsels for the table. Remember, you must practice well before the season!

Waterfowl Hunting /ID

Texas has some of the best waterfowl hunting in North America. Learn different techniques on how to set up decoy spreads and call in those birds. Professional guides and personnel will be on hand to lead the activities. Hands-on training will be the focus of this workshop including necropsy of some species. Individuals will possibly have the opportunity to pattern their shotguns with steel shot.

White-tailed Deer Hunting/Biology

Learn the skills necessary to become a successful deer hunter. Stalking, rattling, calling, camouflage use and natural senses are just some of the topics covered. Safety and wildlife identification are important parts of the program. White-tailed deer hunting is one of the most avid outdoor pursuits in Texas. Let's keep that interest up and share the knowledge with the public to help make each individual a more responsible hunter.

Reading the Weather

Learn more about the weather and how it affects outdoor activities associated with hunting, camping, boating, and hiking. One can never be too careful when it comes to the outdoors and how to deal with sudden changes in weather patterns. An experienced meteorologist will be on hand to give expert advice. Know when to take shelter, and when to get out of possible conditions that might be life-threatening.

2011 Workshop Schedule Dates

Print this page, mark the workshops you'd like to receive information for, and enter your name and address. Then mail to Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept., Hunter Education, 4200 Smith School Rd., Austin TX 78744.

Program Orientation/ Standards/Home Study

Look on our website for current listings:

www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/hunter_education/instruct.phtml

NRA Rifle, Shotgun Handgun, Reloading

<input type="checkbox"/> Feb 4-5	NRA - Shotgun	Bastrop
<input type="checkbox"/> Mar 4-6	NRA - Pistol	Bastrop
<input type="checkbox"/> Mar 4-6	NRA - Shotgun	Grand Prairie
<input type="checkbox"/> Apr 22-24	NRA - Rifle	Grand Prairie
<input type="checkbox"/> May 27-29	NRA Reloading	Grand Prairie
<input type="checkbox"/> Sep 23-25	Range Safety Officer	Grand Prairie

Bowhunter Education New Instructor

<input type="checkbox"/> Mar 26	(Instructor only)	Friendswood
<input type="checkbox"/> May 14-15	(Stud./Inst. Combo)	Austin (ACP)
<input type="checkbox"/> May 14-15	(Stud./Inst. Combo)	Fort Worth
<input type="checkbox"/> Jul 30-31	(Stud./Inst. Combo)	Lubbock
<input type="checkbox"/> Sep 24	(Instructor only)	Friendswood

Responsibility, Game Laws & Ethics

<input type="checkbox"/> Feb 19	El Paso
<input type="checkbox"/> TBA	Houston
<input type="checkbox"/> Apr 9	Amarillo
<input type="checkbox"/> Jun 11	Brownsville
<input type="checkbox"/> Aug 6	San Antonio

Wildlife Management/Conservation

<input type="checkbox"/> Sep 10	Kerr WMA
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Survival & Outdoor Skills

<input type="checkbox"/> Apr 9	Houston
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SPECIAL EVENTS

Instructor Annual Awards Conference

<input type="checkbox"/> Mar 18-20	Texas Old Town - Kyle (near San Marcos)
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Youth Hunter Education Challenge

<input type="checkbox"/> Apr 29 - May 1	Kerrville
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IHEA Annual Conference

<input type="checkbox"/> Jun 1-4	Holiday Inn Resort Wrightsville Beach, NC www.wrightsville.sunspreeresorts.com/index.asp
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ADVANCED IN-SERVICE WORKSHOPS

Basic Archery Instructor (TASP not IBEP)

See website for information:

www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/archery/nasp_texas/index.phtml

Big Game Scoring

<input type="checkbox"/> Jun 13	Mission
<input type="checkbox"/> Jul 16	Austin
<input type="checkbox"/> Jul 23	Grand Prairie

Laser Shot Training>Show & Tell Training Aids

<input type="checkbox"/> Jun 25	Austin (ACP)
<input type="checkbox"/> TBA	Houston

Reading the Weather

<input type="checkbox"/> May 21	Houston
<input type="checkbox"/> May 21	Lubbock

Feral Hog Workshop/Hunt

<input type="checkbox"/> Mar 4-6	Jack County
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Pheasant Hunting Workshop

<input type="checkbox"/> Mar 5	Sweetwater
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White-tailed Deer Mgmt/Hunting Techniques

<input type="checkbox"/> Jan 29	Tomball
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Dove Workshop/Hunt

<input type="checkbox"/> Sep 24	Brownsville
<input type="checkbox"/> Oct 1	Three Rivers

Waterfowl Workshop/Hunt

<input type="checkbox"/> Dec 17-18	Brownsville
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Turkey Hunting Workshop

<input type="checkbox"/> TBA	Houston
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Tree Stand Safety

<input type="checkbox"/> TBA	Houston
<input type="checkbox"/> Jun 11	Grand Prairie

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

THE Newsletter of

T H E I A Texas Hunter Education Instructors Association, Inc.

Fall 2010-Winter 2011

Number 38

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

FRIENDS:

The date and place for the 2011 state Texas Youth Hunter Education Challenge, or TX-YHEC, has been set. We are returning to the Hill Country Shooting Sports Center, in Kerrville, on the weekend of April 30 and May 1. Peggy Weyel is organizing the event, and will notify all with the details of the match. Rooms at the YO Ranch Hotel and Resort, La Quinta and Motel 6 are being reserved and camping will be available at Kerrville-Schreiner Park.

We will be in need of volunteers to be Event Directors or to be one of the 6 or more volunteers per event to help the Directors and run each event. We will find a place for each volunteer who wants to help. Work days for helping to set up the events may begin on Wednesday, April 27 and continue through Thursday and Friday, April 28-29. Don't forget that you get points toward your incentive awards for each day you work.

As a reminder, the 2011 annual Hunter Education Instructor Conference and Awards Banquet will be held on March 18, 19, and 20, at Texas Old Town, in Kyle, between Austin and San Marcos. Scheduled guests include Peter Kummerfeldt, who gave outstanding classes on survival at the IHEA conference this year, and Michael Wydner, of Hunter Safety Systems. There will be additional speakers, and maybe a surprise or two. Texas Game Warden Assoc. will provide the meals on Saturday lunch and an all out wild game dinner that evening. Hope to see you there. For details on Texas Old Town, check out their internet site.

The 2011 IHEA conference will be held in Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina, June 1 through 4, with the awards dinner and auction held Saturday, June 4. The nearest airport is in Wilmington, N. C., and a ticket from Houston on Delta can be bought for \$335.30. Hope to see you there. It will be a great experience.

THEIA's regular meetings continue to be a part of both the Annual Hunter Education Instructor Conference and Awards Banquet as well as the TX-YHEC event. See you there.

As I previously noted, the IHEA conference in 2013 will be in San Antonio. We should give serious thought to holding our annual conference at the same time, also in San Antonio, as close as practical to the IHEA event. When the IHEA met in Missouri, the Missouri Instructors' Conference was held at the same location, to the enrichment of all who attended.

Keep your powder dry,

Bob Boswell

HUNTER EDUCATION EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

March 18-20, 2011 Hunter Education Instructor Conference and Awards Banquet, at Texas Old Town in Kyle.

March 19, 2011 THEIA meeting scheduled at Annual Hunter Education Instructor Conference and Awards Banquet, at Texas Old Town, in Kyle.

April 29-May 1, 2011 Texas Youth Hunter Education Challenge, Hill Country Shooting Sports Center, Kerrville. For information and participation contact Robert Boswell (Director) 361-215-7020 or Peggy Weyel (Event and Volunteer Coordinator) 210-413-3912 (cell) or 210-696-9599 (home)

April 30, 2011 THEIA meeting scheduled Saturday evening at TxYHEC Hill Country Shooting Sports Center, Kerrville following the competition.

THEIA THANK YOU...to each of you instructors for the “gift of time” you have provided your state, your students, your colleagues and families, not necessarily in that order, with the many activities in which you have been engaged. You make hunting and its extended activities safer, our families more engaged with each other and life more enjoyable for us all.

This editor whishes to thank Chester Moore, Executive Editor of *Texas Fish and Game Magazine*, whose article (“The Gift of Time”, *Texas Fish and Game Magazine*, December 2010, page 12) re-awakened me to one of the most precious gifts we can offer one another...our time.

TEXAS HUNTERS FOR THE HUNGRY

This is a friendly reminder of a state resource of hunters helping other Texans who need our help. As stated on their website, “Hunters for the Hungry is a statewide wild game donation program that provides a healthy source of protein to Texans who need assistance obtaining well-balanced, nutritious meals.” It is one of the Hunger Relief Programs of the Texas Association of Community Action Agencies, Inc. (TACAA).

Often we have deer tags that go unfilled and there is just not an extra place in the freezer to put another package of meat. Consider donating your extra white-tail or mule deer venison only. No axis deer, other exotics, or hogs, please, as these last critters must be inspected by the Texas Department of Agriculture.

Information from the website <http://www.tacaa.org/HFTHhome.htm> will help you identify the nearest participating meat processor, or call (800) 992-9767 ext. 506 (toll-free in Texas), then drop your tagged white-tail or muley at one of those participating meat processors and know that your gift is truly appreciated.

SCTHEIA HOLDS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER

Instructor members of the South Central Texas Hunter Education Instructors Association held their annual Christmas dinner and food collection for needy families, Thursday, December 9, at the San Antonio River Authority’s River Room. Special guests able to attend included Brock Minton, Kathy and Keith Powell.

Matthew Driffl, Education Coordinator for the San Antonio River Authority, provided a history of San Antonio River’s water usage from the old Spanish water grants that are still in use, to the current holiday celebration with the river’s new extension at the old Pearl Brewery with its Culinary Institute of America. The new river extension can now accommodate river barge traffic from downtown to the former brewery with the newly opened river-lock, enabling barges to be lifted to the higher river level.

THE NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL

Children Killed by Guns

Too often anti-gunners and anti-hunters challenge our gun-sports with arguments aimed at our inclusion of children through hunter education, 4-H shooting activities, family plinking, and sitting in the hunting blind with mom and dad. Their arguments suggest we are training our children to be killers of defenseless animals, or each other, by accident or action. Anti-gunners can cite statistics showing how many children are killed each year by guns. They offer dramatic statistics that catch one's attention. That they may not "disaggregate" or separate the data is a concern to this reader. For in not providing additional information, such as the age groups involved, the activity the child was engaged in, or whether the injuries were intentional or un-intentional, they are proving the adage that there are three types of lies (thank you Mark Twain and Benjamin Disraeli): "lies, damned lies, and statistics."

What IS the truth behind the numbers of gun deaths among our children? I checked the National Safety Council's website and discovered the information and, well, the statistics, in the following:

"How many children are killed by guns is a complicated question. The answer depends on a number of factors, including age range, and whether homicide, suicide and/or unintentional- injuries, are included in the figure. If the age range is 0-19 years, and homicide, suicide, and unintentional injuries are included, then the total firearms-related deaths for 2006 is 3,218. This is equivalent to nearly 9 deaths per day, a figure commonly used by journalists. The 3,142 firearms- related deaths for age group 0-19 breaks down to 154 unintentional, 763 suicides, and 2,225 homicides, 42 for which the intent could not be determined, and 34 due to legal intervention. Viewed by age group, 63 of the total firearms-related deaths were of children under 5-years-old, 346 were children 5-14 years old, and 2,809 were 15-19 years old."¹

For hunter education instructors it might be helpful for us to be knowledgeable of these data so when numbers, such as "3,142 children died by gunshots" are tossed out by "journalists," we understand that at least some of the critical detail of these deaths is left out...usually on purpose. The public would be better served if those numbers reflected the reality of events. Was the child an 19 year old gang banger in a shootout or an innocent 10 year old caught in the crossfire? The numbers can be deceiving if left unquestioned.

Reported, real numbers by themselves do not support other NSC statistics that show hunting is one of the safest sports² people—that includes kids-can engage in, and continues to grow even safer. Thanks in no small part to concerned parents and... ahem, hunter education instructors.

¹ National Safety Council. (2010). Injury Facts®, page 143. (Available for purchase from NSC for \$95 from <http://shop.nsc.org/Injury-Facts-Book-2010-Edition-P2005.aspx>

² National Safety Council. (1994-1995). "Safety First-The Numbers." Texas Parks and Wildlife On-line Hunter Education Course.

http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/hunter_education/homestudy/safety_first/index.phtml

And a reminder: You might be a redneck if...

You owe the taxidermists more than your annual income.

You filled out your deer tag on the golf course.

There is a stuffed possum anywhere in your house.

Jeff Foxworthy

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THEIA

TEXAS HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS ASSOCIATION, INC.
Membership Application

INSTRUCTOR MEMBERSHIP 1 year, \$12 3 years, \$25
Must be currently certified by Texas Parks and Wildlife as a Hunter Education Instructor
SUPPORTING MEMBERSHIP available for THEIA friends 1 year, \$12 3 years, \$25
JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP available to junior instructors 1 year \$6 3 years \$15
CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP available to our friends in business 1 year \$300 3 years \$750

**make checks payable to: THEIA
send to Shannon Caughron,
1601 N 8th St. Ballinger TX 76821
25-365-2854 shannoncaughron@mac.com**

NAME:

INSTRUCTOR #

ADDRESS:

PHONE

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

E-MAIL: _____