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The Hunter & Shooting Sports Education Journal is the official publication of the International Hunter Education Association. It is published four times annually (Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter) and distributed to more than 70,000 administrators and volunteer instructors in Canada, El Salvador, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, South Africa and the United States of America, that are responsible for education programs that total more than three-quarters of a million new hunters annually. The purpose of the publication is to increase the skill and effectiveness of hunter education in administrators and instructors so they can improve the enthusiasm, safety, ethics and proficiency of their students as they embark on lifetime enjoyment of hunting and the shooting sports.

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To continue the heritage of hunting worldwide by developing safe, responsible and knowledgeable hunters.

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www.IHEA.com
It’s About More Than Just The Hunt Itself
By John McKay, President IHEA • President.IHEA@hotmail.com

If you are a member of, participate in or attend meetings/conferences of just about any sportsmen or conservation-oriented organization these days, you are bound to have heard mention of hunter “recruitment and retention.” The number of active hunters is slowly, but steadily dwindling and unless we retain current hunters, and perhaps more importantly, recruit new, younger hunters to replace those leaving the sport, hunting will die a slow death and cease to exist as we’ve known it for the last hundred plus years.

One of the many R&R approaches that’s been tried is the “Take One, Make One” model where we each commit to taking a non-hunter afield, show them the ropes and hopefully hook him or her on all the things that hooked us when we started hunting. This idea has shown varied levels of success in creating life-long hunters, but certainly can’t hurt in creating new hunting advocates and a better understanding of what hunting is all about versus what anti-hunters would like the non-hunting public to believe.

I recently put Take One, Make One into practice on a pronghorn hunt in northwestern Nevada. A Nevada volunteer angler instructor, and avid deep sea fisherman, had expressed an interest in chasing big game of the terrestrial variety, but had been unable to draw a tag of his own, so I invited Bill along on my hunt. Interestingly through his learning, questioning and commenting he opened my eyes to many of the fun aspects of hunting I had over the years come to overlook or forget.

One that immediately became apparent was the week-long hunt itself was not the “be all, end all” and was really just the apex of a long process that begins early in the year and ends long after the season closed. The fun really started with researching game management units, draw odds, success rates, trophy potential, etc. Hunters almost always have a wealth of this type of information available, and studying before making your choices can really build anticipation and excitement long before the calendar shows it’s time to hunt. Of course you have to actually draw a tag, but can there be anything more exciting than waiting for the results and finding out you drew a long awaited tag so many of your peers covet? Then there are the months of strutting while you’re showing off that tag to all your friends, family, co-workers, mailman, dogcatcher and anyone else who will stop long enough to listen! Hitting Powerball will make you rich, but I know many hunters who feel just as wealthy with a Nevada bighorn sheep or bull elk tag in their pocket.

Another area often overlooked for the enjoyment it brings is hunt preparation and all that goes into it. Through Bill’s queries as he prepared with a fresh set of eyes, I realized I’d come to focus too much on the ends and skipped over the means. Making your lists, compiling your gear—which often means new stuff and who doesn’t like buying new stuff! Sighting in/patterning your gun and scouting are all essential and entertaining in their own right. Scouting can be particularly enjoyable as you explore new country and search for animals and their haunts and hideouts. Don’t get me wrong, camping is fun all by itself, but scouting gives camping and hiking purpose that just doesn’t exist otherwise and again serves to build anticipation for the hunt and confidence in your plan when the opener arrives.

Once the big day arrives, all your preparation comes together in setting up camp with the assurance your hard work and foresight covered all the bases and left nothing to chance. Many hunters keep journals chronicling their hunt, so that they may relive the experience years later. Of course, few things beat close friends sharing meals, telling stories around the fire and just spending time away, free from the distractions of today’s increasingly electronic, virtual life.

Once the hunt ends, hopefully successfully, there will be numerous wild game meals using recipes, new as well as tried and true, borne of the satisfaction that the meat on your table came straight from the land and honest effort. For those with the resources and inclination, taxidermy is always an option to memorialize a special hunt and animal.

As Bill demonstrated to me, there’s a lot to enjoy about hunting that doesn’t actually involve the act of hunting itself. As we tackle the stubborn, complicated issue of recruitment and retention I believe we’d do well to emphasize all the fun aspects that go into hunting and entertain us during the many weeks and months outside short hunting seasons.
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As I write this I am 30,000 feet in the air on September 11, 2011, the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks that devastated the United States and shocked the entire world. I have personally thought a lot about that day. Now, being in the air on the tenth anniversary of the attacks, it is almost impossible for that day not to be on my mind. I can’t help but think of all of the men and women who lost their lives and the heroes, from the New York Police Department, New York Fire Department, armed forces and average citizens, whose heroism that day saved lives.

I also can’t help but think of others who dedicate their time to saving lives. Hunter education instructors dedicate countless hours to saving lives. While hunter education has expanded a lot from its early days, the very heart of the program is aimed at saving lives, and it has worked extremely well. Hunting incidents have drastically fallen since the inception of hunter education. Lives have been saved, and this would not be possible without you, the volunteer instructor. I have always said that hunter education is the greatest volunteerism success story that few know about. While you may not get the credit you deserve, your time, dedication and enthusiasm does not go unappreciated.

I want to personally thank each and every one of our heroes in the police and fire departments, the armed forces and each of our unsung volunteer hunter education instructors who dedicate your time to keeping us safe.

Thank You.
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*Jon Michael McGrath* - HiViz ProStaff, gold medal winner at the 2011 ISSF World Cup in Sydney, Australia and the gold medal winner at the 50th Annual ISSF World Championship in Munich, Germany

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**Shooting Tip #4: Keep your cheek against the stock**

If you want to stop lifting your head when you shoot, try this: place a $20 bill between your cheek and the stock and agree with your buddy that if it hits the ground, he gets to keep it. Repeat as necessary.

The worse your head-lifting habit, the more expensive the lesson. For some people, the lesson only costs $20....other require hundreds of dollars.
Availability of facilities that are conducive for hands-on instruction in the field is limited in many areas. For this reason, many courses are conducted without live fire, blood trailing and other valuable hands-on activities that are normally thought to enhance information retention.

Students in and around Tallapoosa County, Alabama are fortunate to have a dedicated cadre of volunteer hunter education instructors who regularly go above and beyond the call of duty. Led by Jerry Brown, a retired Colonel with the Marine Corps Reserve and career educator, the group teaches numerous courses each year. In addition to extensive classroom instruction, the courses include hands-on training in black powder, archery, modern firearms, compass, tree stand and blood trailing complete with shoot/don’t shoot situations with fake firearms built by the instructors.

Having heard of the high quality of the Tallapoosa County Hunter Education courses, Rebecca Wood, Executive Director of Outdoor Women Unlimited (OWU), registered 14 members of her Boy Scouts of America Venture 380 crew to take the October course. Venture is a youth development program of the Boy Scouts of America for young men and women ages 13 to 21. OWU is an organization dedicated to providing women and families with education and the excitement of the outdoor experience through teaching outdoor life skills, sharing the knowledge of our natural resources, building self esteem, strengthening individual character, and promoting self-reliance in a safe environment. The young ladies performed well and Mrs. Wood was impressed with the instruction. So much so that she inquired as to the possibility of some advanced training to better prepare the ladies for an upcoming whitetail deer hunt.

To say Lee is a shooting and hunter education enthusiast is a gross understatement. Lee was selected by the Alabama Wildlife Federation as the 2010 Hunter Education Instructor of the Year and for good reason. Lee and his wife Trudy, a certified instructor, single handedly built a hunter education organization in Chilton County Alabama. Although they teach several courses a year there, they also find time to play a lead role in the Tallapoosa County classes and courses statewide. When Jerry mentioned the possibility of an advanced gun handling class, Lee took the lead in developing the course and within a week a pilot program was ready for testing. The objectives of the curriculum were to have the students become thoroughly familiar with safely loading and unloading their firearms, safe firearms handling in hunting situations, develop shooting skills from various positions, enhance their understanding of shoot/don’t shoot situations and the importance of accuracy.
Obviously this type of comprehensive instruction required detailed planning, numerous motivated instructors and a good support staff. The support staff for the Tallapoosa County Hunter Education group consisted of Genelle Brown, Donna Porch and Trudy Brown. Although not a hunter education instructor, Genelle Brown (wife of Jerry) probably knows as much about hunter education as anyone in Alabama and definitely is a master at handling the logistics of putting on a course. Trudy Brown is a certified instructor and works alongside Lee in training students and handling logistical challenges. Donna Porch is a certified instructor and has assisted Genelle and Trudy with the many varied details that must be handled for a course to proceed smoothly. These ladies were instrumental as test subjects for the advanced training, in addition to their usual assistance on the day of the class. Their contributions were crucial to the success of the event.

The young ladies arrived on a cool November morning ready for a challenge. The course began with a lesson in how to properly sight in a rifle. Each girl was given a .22 caliber rifle and Instructors Scott Railey and Tommy Martin taught them how to make the proper adjustments to get the firearms on target.

With their rifle sights honed in, the girls moved to the next segment which was a walking trail with numerous small game targets placed at varying distances. The students were required to load their rifle, shoot at the target from either a standing, kneeling or rested position and then unload their firearm and move to the next station. The ladies were able to see firsthand how shooting from an offhand unsupported position wasn’t necessarily the best way to achieve the accuracy they desired. Their trainers were able to emphasize the importance of making a good shot to achieve a humane kill. In the middle of the course was a target with a hunter wearing orange located distantly behind it. The instructors did not call attention to the unsafe situation which was not blatantly obvious. Many of the young ladies recognized they could not safely take the shot. If it appeared a student was going to take a shot, the instructors Ronald and Jerry Brown would stop the student and ask them to look at the shot more carefully. This segment provided a great opportunity for the leaders to provide valuable instruction concerning making sure what is beyond your target. Ronald and Jerry reported it was gratifying to watch the progress being made both in safe handling techniques and accuracy.

With the walking trail complete, the shooters moved to the shooting range where instructors Ricky Porch and Maron McConnell facilitated some friendly rifle competition. Although several of the girls had prior firearm experience, some had never fired a firearm before the live fire segment of the initial hunter education course. However, it was obvious the students were quickly acquiring considerable shooting skills. The competition was decided not by who had a shot in the “X” ring, but who had the most rounds in the “X” ring!

Since the crew planned to utilize pop up blinds on their upcoming hunt, the next station concentrated on how to enter, exit and shoot safely from a blind. Chilton County Instructor Doug Bice facilitated this component of the training. The ladies practiced shooting from the blind using a shooting stick to stabilize their firearm.

After mastering the .22 rifles, the ladies stepped up to .243 bolt action rifles which they would be hunting with. Lee assisted each young lady in sighting in their rifle. With the sights set, it was time to test their skills on deer-sized targets at longer ranges. Along with Lee, Chilton County Instructor Christopher Bice monitored the girls as they made lethal hits on the deer silhouette from 50 and 100 yards. Once again this was an opportunity to emphasize the importance of shot placement.

With everything in place prior to the crew’s arrival, and having performed a couple of dry runs with the support crew, the exercise was completed in about 6 hours and was deemed a success by both students and instructors. The adults were inspired by the girl’s enthusiasm and great attitude and the girls were impressed by the professional instruction and expertise of those in charge. When asked, Alabama Hunter Education Coordinator, Ray Metzler said, “these volunteer instructors are highly motivated and provide quality instruction due to their interest in the subject and desire to pass on their knowledge. Their level of commitment is exceptional and invaluable to the hunter education program.”

Training is great, but the proof is in the pudding. Armed with their newly acquired knowledge, the Ventures Crew 380 headed to Athens, Alabama to the property of Mr. Greg Anderson, the national sales manager for outdoor marketing group (OMG). The numerous outdoor manufacturing members of the OMG sponsored a three day white tailed deer hunt for the young ladies. Ms. Wood reported all guides, outdoor industry reps, volunteers and community supporters were amazed at the knowledge the girls had in all areas of firearm handling, safety and ethics. Those comments reflect positively on a great group of young ladies, their leader and their hunter education instructors. Thirteen of the young hunters were successful in taking deer. A member of the crew, Brooke Nettles stated in an article that the instruction they received and the hunt they were able to take part in were the experience of a lifetime. It sounds as though the time and effort expended to train and educate these young ladies has resulted in a passion for hunting. That sounds like it was time well spent.

Instructor Christopher Bice congratulates Jade Bozeman on an excellent shot.

Photo Courtesy of Trudy Brown
It was an extremely cold January day in southeast Kansas, the coldest I could remember since becoming a game warden. The late duck season had reopened, but the only pockets of water left unfrozen were scattered along the Neosho River. I had managed to locate a group of hunters heading back to their truck in an attempt to flee the harsh, icy wind. They had harvested a couple diving ducks before the cold permeated their insulated waders and camouflaged arctic gear. I could feel the bones in my fingers begin to throb as I checked their hunting licenses and ensured their equipment was legal for hunting waterfowl. The two layers of thermal underwear, my uniform, a parka, and insulated gloves I was wearing offered very little defense against the day’s brutal conditions. I kept my conversation brief as the group huddled close to their vehicle, silently begging for the opportunity to climb inside and turn the heater on high. After congratulating them on their hunt, and for having the tenacity to withstand the elements as long as they had, I meandered my way north along the frozen Neosho wondering how long it would take for a person to fall prey to hypothermia in the present conditions.

About five miles upriver, I noticed fresh tire tracks entering a field and decided to take a closer look. I put “Trigger” in reverse and eased backward until I could see a full sized pickup truck with a camper shell sitting in the middle of the mile section. The truck appeared to have a flatbed trailer attached to it. Through my binoculars I could see a bag of duck decoys resting on the trailer. After listening unsuccessfully for shots and mapping out the safest route to the truck, I entered the field, crossed a waterway, and eased up behind the vehicle. The camper shell and tailgate were open. A pile of icy clothing lay on the ground below the tailgate. A Ruger 10/22 rifle was leaning against the trailer, the stock coated with a sheet of ice.

My first thought was that the hunters had been unlawfully killing waterfowl with a rifle, and my blood began to boil. I stepped out of my truck and scanned the area, searching for any sign of the hunters. Unexpected movement in the bed of the hunter’s truck gave me chills as a dazed, blonde haired boy, appearing to be in his late teens, crawled around in his pockets for his hunting license, and then started searching through the pile of clothes, mumbling about getting soaked when he fell through the ice. I asked him to repeat what he had just said. The boy turned toward me. I could see most of his face was pale white, except where his cheeks had been chapped raw by the icy wind.

With short and fragmented words, he stuttered “I fell through the ice.” My heart rate escalated as I quickly ushered the kid into my idling truck and closed the door. I picked up my radio to call an ambulance, but at his request decided to wait a few minutes. To my surprise, he warmed up quickly and began explaining the day’s events. He and two of his friends had come out to hunt waterfowl, but had quickly realized the birds were not flying. Not ready to go home empty-handed, they decided to split up and hunt squirrels along a creek on the property. His buddies took an ATV and went to the other property line, while he started near the truck, alone. They planned to meet in the middle and compare their harvest. While walking on the ice, the kid had fallen through, submerging himself to his neck. He managed to grab an overhanging branch as he fell, and using his rifle and the branch, drug himself out of the frigid water and onto the bank. The kid had walked more than 500 yards to the truck, and found it locked, his cell phone lying uselessly on the seat. Becoming less coherent, he stumbled to the unlocked tailgate and found a pair of coveralls to change in to. He climbed inside the cold pickup bed and curled up in a ball, praying for his friends to return, and knowing it would be a very long wait. About fifteen minutes later, I
pulled in.

After explaining his story and identifying himself, he provided me with enough information to determine he was eighteen years of age, and capable of making his own decision concerning medical treatment. He again refused my offer to summon an ambulance to the location. The feeling in his digits had returned, lessening his fear of frostbite. He just wanted his friends to come take him home.

I followed the ATV tracks, and after twenty minutes of driving the field edge, blowing my siren and talking over my PA, his friends finally emerged. They had no idea their friend’s life had been in jeopardy. The owner of the truck said he had left the truck keys in the wheel well, but had forgotten to tell his friend.

I explained to the young men how deadly the situation could have been. I could have just as easily pulled up and found a cold, lifeless corpse, and had to try explaining to his family why their son was dead. There have been cases similar to this where the subject did not make it the 500 yards back to the truck. Often, if they do make it to the truck, their mind has already lost any rational thought due to the effects of hypothermia. Sometimes the person mindlessly walks past the destination they were searching for, and the cold eventually takes over.

One of the most valuable parts of a hunt is the ability to make it home and talk about it. It is the same for fishing trips. When things go wrong in the woods, or on the lake, there needs to be a set plan, developed to keep everyone safe in case the excrement hits the proverbial propeller.

I cover over 1,000 square miles of area alone, and the odds of me just happening to show up when you are in need are not very good. Plan your hunt, and hunt your plan. Above all, be safe, be vigilant, be smart, and enjoy the hunt from start to finish.

*Photo by Joe Sills*
When you stand before your classroom, you have a variety of attentive people before you, hanging on your words—to learn and to gain the knowledge they will need to become certified to get their first hunting license.

Though the hunting world embraces a cross-section of our population, odds are good that many of those sitting in your sessions are students and working people, who, at best, have only Saturdays and Sundays as a break from their regular routine and as the days that they will be able to devote to hunting. Two out of seven days doesn’t seem enough for anyone who really loves to hunt. Yet, in more than one-fifth of the nation, two weekend days of hunting would be a privilege currently not extended to them. That’s right—laws in 11 states either prohibit or restrict hunting on Sunday.

Sunday trade restrictions, or Blue Laws, were commonly enacted during the colonial period in America and well into the 1800s. They stemmed from religious beliefs in a new nation that prided itself on its moral righteousness, but also fought for a Constitution that separated church from state.

During the latter part of the 19th century, these restrictions began to be challenged by merchants’ associations. By 1970 only 25 states still had Blue Laws, a number which fell to 13 by 1984.

I can remember growing up in New York, where as a child Sunday shopping was not an option. Today, I suspect the busiest days of the week at my local mall are Saturday and Sunday, the Sabbath for many religions. In my lifetime, I have seen many of the restrictive Blue Laws in the Empire State go by the wayside. Today, people are given a choice.

Why should that not be the case in every state, and why shouldn’t hunters, and landowners, be given a choice? If farmers and other landowners don’t wish to be disturbed by hosting hunters on their property on what they consider to be their day of rest, than they have the right to say no. They can even post their property accordingly: “No Sunday Hunting.”

In this poor economy, you would think government agencies and legislators would be seeking any way to improve the lot of the citizens they serve. The National Shooting Sports Foundation, the trade association for the firearms, ammunition, hunting and shooting sports industry, commissioned a Sunday hunting economic impact study by the respected research firm of John Dunham and Associates, New York. The company’s conclusion was eye-opening.

According to the Dunham and Associates’ study, if the 11 states that now prohibit hunting on Sunday were to eliminate those outdated restrictions, it is estimated that more than 27,000 new jobs would be created. These are good jobs, says the report, paying more than $730 million in wages and contributing about $2.2 billion in additional economic activity.

If you live in one of 39 states that allow hunting on Sunday, then, hopefully, this article will remind you of the good fortune you have. If, however, you live in one of those 11 states where Blue Law restrictions curtail your hunting, then perhaps you’ll agree that it’s time to speak up.

You may not be a political activist that wishes to contact one of your state legislators to get the ball rolling on the repeal of these restrictive laws. I suspect other sportsmen are willing to take on that role. You are, however, a

Sharing time afield with friends and family is precious, but also limited to when you can go, and restrictions on Sunday hunting in 11 states make such memory-making experiences even more limited.
conduit of information to the dozens, perhaps hundreds or even thousands of Hunter Ed students that you influence every year. Why not make them aware of the fact that they are in the national minority and that if they want to see change, they should voice their preference for Sunday hunting?

We are not talking about a hypothetical movement. For example, in Virginia, one of those 11 restrictive states, the Virginia Board of Game and Inland Fisheries has passed a resolution supporting Sunday hunting in Virginia. During the five-month public-comment period, which ran from Dec. 2010 to April, 2011, a significant number of the 1,200 comments received expressed support for Sunday hunting, as have surveys that the state has run.

In Pennsylvania, House Bill 1760 was introduced into the Pennsylvania Legislature. It would repeal the ban on Sunday hunting. Its fate is most likely to be decided upon this fall.

In New Jersey, similar legislation in the form of Assembly Bill 4071 would permit deer hunting on Sundays, an activity now prohibited.

If you are a certified Hunter Ed instructor in any of these 11 states—Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia—please use your influence to, at the least, emphasize to your students that they are subject to restrictions that most of the nation is not.

For more information visit online at http://sundayhunting.org/index.cfm, the website of the Coalition to Lift State Bans on Sunday Hunting. Members of the coalition are highly respected entities most likely very well known to you. In addition to NSSF, the coalition consists of, in alphabetical order, Bass Pro Shops, Boone and Crockett Club, Cabela’s, Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation, Delta Waterfowl, Mule Deer Foundation, National Rifle Association, Pheasants Forever, Quail Forever, Quality Deer Management Association, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Safari Club International, U.S. Sportsmen’s Alliance and the Wildlife Management Institute.
IHEA is commemorating the 60th Anniversary of hunter education in North America with a collector Henry Golden Boy .22 caliber lever action rifle. Only 250 of these guns are available.

The IHEA logo, “Celebrating 60 years of Hunter Education” is etched onto the left side of the receiver. A custom design depicting a mentor and a youth, along with “Safe Hunting is No Accident” is engraved onto the right side of the receiver. The custom serial number will indicate which gun in the series you received. For example a serial number of IHEA005 indicates the fifth gun out of 250 in this series.

We are selling these guns for the low price of $449 + S/H*. We only have 250 guns. Call 303-430-7233 to order your gun today and inquire about matching edition numbers on the IHEA anniversary gun and knife.

*A $50 shipping and handling fee will be added to each gun. This includes the IHEA’s FFL dealer fee and shipping via FedEx with confirmation to the FFL Dealer of your choice. Any fee your FFL dealer charges will be the sole responsibility of the purchaser. The IHEA can only ship this gun to an FFL dealer.

Special Edition Knife

The anniversary knife is a Browning model 322571. This large drop point knife was designed by Jim Crowell and comes with a top-grain leather sheath. The 5-inch blade is made from 420HC carbon steel with a satin finish. The handle is made from stabilized walnut. Only 500 were ever produced and the IHEA has 250 of them.

The IHEA logo, edition number (X of 250), and “1949-2009 Celebrating 60 Years of Hunter Education” is etched onto the left side of the blade. The knife’s serial number (X of 500) is etched onto the right side of the blade.

We are selling these knives for the low price of $149 + S/H*. You will not find this knife anywhere else for less than $250!

Order today!

*Shipping and handling cost is $10 to the 48 contiguous states (includes shipping via FedEx with delivery confirmation). Alaska, Hawaii and international orders are extra.

Teaching Tip

By Dean Krebs, MN Instructor

At the beginning of the first class session of every firearm safety class that I teach, I ask each student to go home and ask someone who they feel is a safe, ethical hunter or firearm user to be their mentor. Then during each class, I assign them homework in the form of asking their mentor questions. Some of the questions include:

Has your mentor ever been checked by a conservation officer? Describe the experience.

Has your mentor ever witnessed unethical behavior while hunting or shooting? Describe the situation.

Has your mentor ever been part of an accidental discharge of a firearm. What were the circumstances?

What is your mentor’s favorite type of hunting or shooting and why? The last question I give them is kind of a setup. I have them ask their mentor, “If we were going to go hunting or shooting together, where would we go and what would we do?”. Hopefully this will give them an opportunity to go afield with someone they identify as being safe and ethical at least once.

Does it work? You bet. I have had many mentors come up to me after a class and say they really appreciate being involved in the firearm safety process and feel that it really adds to the experience for the student to talk about real world situations that the mentor has been in. In fact, one student, a boy named Joe, got to go deer hunting with his mentor and shot a nice buck! His smile telling me about it was just priceless.
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In 2004, the California Department of Fish and Game developed the Advanced Hunter Education Program. The goal was to take their basic hunter education course to the next level. Advanced Hunter Education clinics are designed for both the novice and experienced hunter. The clinics expand on what is taught in basic Hunter Education, and provide one to two days of training beyond the level allowed for in the basic course. In 2004, the Advanced Hunter Education Program started with six clinics. The Program has expanded to 19 clinics held throughout the state.

In the past three years, nearly 1,600 students have participated in the Advanced Hunter Education Program, the majority of whom have fewer than five years of hunting experience. Participants represent a cross-section of society—men, women, and children alike attend the courses. The clinics also provide training to Hunter Education Instructors in topics with which they are less familiar, better preparing them to teach their standard hunter education classes.

What happens in an Advanced Hunter Education clinic? In every hunting clinic, a portion of time is devoted to species biology, habitat needs, hunting regulations, game care and safety. Additionally, participants discuss hunting techniques and hunter ethics. All clinics include some form of field demonstration or “hands-on” training. For example, during the game care portion of the clinics, attendees are shown the proper way to field dress an animal, and the students are allowed to help skin the animal. In other clinics, students engage in exercises ranging from loading and shooting a black powder rifle to a map and compass course.

Some of the Advanced Hunter Education Program clinics include:

- Wilderness Survival
- Game Care and Cooking
- Land Navigation
- Hunter Marksmanship
- Deer Hunting
- Black Powder Hunting
- Upland Game Hunting
- Bow Hunting
- Wild Pig Hunting
- Waterfowl Hunting

Further details on these clinics can be found at www.dfg.ca.gov/huntered.

For additional information about the Advanced Hunter Education Program, contact Lt. Dan Lehman by calling (916) 358-4356 or email him at dlehman@dfg.ca.gov.

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Cabela’s FALL catalog
Following the closure of the Humboldt County Shooting Range in 2006, area sportsmen were left looking for a place to shoot safely. Shortly after the range closed, the Humboldt County Board of Commissioners sanctioned a committee of concerned citizens and officials to identify sites for a new shooting facility.

In January 2008, the commission approved a plan for a shooting range, which included two 50-yard pistol ranges, 100-yard and 400-yard rifle ranges and a hunter education building. A suitable site was selected on county-owned land adjacent to the regional landfill. With land and a plan in place, the next step was securing funds to build the range. The County appropriated $10,000 to build an access road, and individuals, local businesses and sporting organizations collectively raised $40,000 to begin construction.

The first phase of the range opened to the public in June 2008, but more funds were needed to complete the project. Enter the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) and its federally-funded shooting range grant program. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR) annually awards Enhanced Hunter Education Program funds to State wildlife agencies, distributed from manufacturers’ excise taxes collected on pistols, revolvers, bows, arrows, archery accessories and ammunition. Each year, NDOW dedicates up to $80,000 of these funds for constructing or enhancing shooting ranges across Nevada. In 2010, the WSFR Program awarded NDOW $80,000 toward this project for hunter education facility development, which was then ultimately dedicated to the Humboldt Shooting Range Committee to help implement the project.

These grant funds made possible the construction of a 1,800 square foot, solar-powered hunter education building, including public restrooms and other improvements. In its first three years of operation, the shooting park has received a tremendous amount of use and strong community support. A second grant awarded through NDOW in fiscal year 2011 funded additional building and range improvements, including a perimeter safety fence and signage. These improvements have created a place where the public can be taught safe and responsible hunting practices for many years to come.

Your purchase of firearms, ammunition, and archery equipment support wildlife restoration and hunter education programs.

Instructor Access to IHEA Website

Hunter Education Instructors can access many free resources and services at the “Instructor’s Only” section of the IHEA website!

For your exclusive access go to www.ihea.com/instructors/instructor-resources/index.php and enter “instructor” as your username and “gohunt” as your password. These are both lower case with no space.
Volunteering as a hunter education instructor is a personal commitment and sometimes challenging. Obtaining quality hunter safety and educational materials shouldn’t be. The National Shooting Sports Foundation has been supporting hunter education instructors for almost 50 years. A longtime supporter of the International Hunter Education Association, NSSF has been in the forefront of developing multimedia hunter safety and education materials. We provide printed and electronic materials for volunteer instructors—most of which is free. And when your students graduate and are looking for places to hunt or for additional information to develop their skills and knowledge, the answers are simply a click away!

Log on to www.nssf.org and order your materials today. All the help you need is at your fingertips.

www.nssf.org
I can’t wait to meet Jarid and Marilyn in Saskatchewan. They’re in for the trip of a lifetime and that’s no guff!

Jim Shockey
Professional Hunting & TV Host

Jon Woods, Michigan Hunter Education Coordinator
Marilyn Garrison, Hunter Education Instructor
Jarid Hoyt, HUNTERcourse.com Graduate
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF THE JIM SHOCKEY DREAM HUNT

JARID HOYT, a graduate of HUNTERcourse.com, is a sophomore at Meridian High School in Sanford, Michigan.

“This is an opportunity of a lifetime. I look forward to spending time in Saskatchewan. The possibility of shooting a big buck is just the cherry on top!”

MARILYN GARRISON “The Gun Lady” teaches out of Michigan’s Bay County Conservation and Gun Club and shoots for the Midland Bullseye Team. She has been teaching hunter education field days since 1995 and has taught 80 Internet students. Marilyn is an advocate for online courses stating that not only had her last Internet class done well on field days, but all of those students scored 100% on their final exam! Marilyn has personally committed herself to reaching out to her community to teach hunter safety to as many as possible.

Each year, a HUNTERcourse.com student and his or her field day instructor will win an all-expense paid once-in-a-lifetime dream hunt with Jim Shockey. This year, Jarid and Marilyn will be traveling to Jim Shockey’s Northern Saskatchewan Hunt Camp for a week of whitetail deer hunting. Details of the 2012 Jim Shockey Dream Hunt Contest coming soon.

For full contest details, please visit www.HUNTERcourse.com/dreamhunt

HUNTERcourse.com is the leading provider of online hunter education across North America. The fully narrated and interactive online hunter safety courses help students to meet mandatory education requirements in over 35 states and provinces. HUNTERcourse.com is a Golden Associate Member of the IHEA.
In over forty years as a Hunter Safety Instructor I have had the opportunity of observing and listening to many class presentations. It always amazes me how some instructors seem to want to impress the class by telling them how much they know about things that are not at all important to the students or the program.

Do our students need to know about the particular safety aspects on a specific semi-auto pistol model? Do they need to know that the caliber on the .257 Roberts is based on the lands and not the groove, as are all other calibers? Do they need to know about the fantastic shots made by the instructor? And do they need to know about his or her military history? The obvious answer to all these is no, they do not need to know.

In fact, these “war stories” and bits of inconsequential trivia actually steal precious time that could be used to reinforce safety and other necessary information to the students. As instructors, we should stick to the outlines religiously and not wander about with bits of useless trivia. Our first priority is to first and foremost get across to the student the information that they need and not necessarily what is nice to know.

Some instructors seem to want to impress their students with terms that are vague and confusing. Such terms such as “wheel guns” instead of revolvers; “smoke-poles” in place of muzzleloaders; “skatter guns” in place of shotguns, etc. have no place in the classroom. We have to remember that we are not talking with our peers who have shared our same interests for years. We are talking with students that came to us not to be impressed by our many years of knowledge but to learn safe gun handling and all the other aspects of the Hunter Education Program.

Look into your presentations and see what you can learn from it. As for me, I find that I am now more conscious of any transgressions along these lines on my part. Let’s always remember that we are there for the students, they are not there for us. What may be a bit inconvenient for us might be critical to a student.

This is submitted not to be fault-finding but rather to be constructive. Teaching is a learning experience. Let’s all continue to learn from it.
To assist certified NRA, Hunter Safety, Appleseed, 4-H, Scouting and state instructors in their efforts to provide quality firearms safety training, Ruger offers the following products for purchase at a special discount:

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060911
Unequivocally, a critical objective for our hunting future and perpetuation of the sport is recruitment and retention. We talk about it every year at the IHEA Convention, and all organizations in the industry energize new theories and practices around getting/keeping people hunting. The American Wilderness Leadership School (AWLS), which I recently had the privilege to attend, has a unique model that works.

Backed by the SCI Foundation, AWLS is packed with unbelievable activities in an even more amazing setting in Wyoming. Offering survival, shooting, and conservation classes amongst a plethora of other outdoor activities, attendees not only learn about things like game management, firearm safety, marksmanship skills, and stream ecology, but can also walk away with college credits and NASP or NRA First Steps Certifications. Some say it even changed their lives.

AWLS single purpose is to present the science of conservation and the positive role of hunting to people that may not otherwise think of hunting as positive, or happen to be teaching outdoor programs that need some energy injected into them. Their theory is interesting—bring in educators to learn about ecology and hunting. When I say educators, I mean public school science and math teachers, natural resource and health science instructors, even YMCA Program Directors.

Mary Spence (pictured below), former Coast Guard officer and environmental science teacher, had a lot to say about the impact AWLS had on her. “When I returned to Tampa, I was able to put my training to use right away...when we passed our deer pen, I had the opportunity to discuss the role of hunting in wildlife management and explain the term ‘carrying capacity’.” Mary teaches over 1,600 sixth graders every year and volunteers for Boy and Girl Scouts of America. “They will all have a piece of AWLS in their education.”

In addition to taking the notion of positive hunting to teachers, AWLS also has an agreement with the Salvation Army. They bring in their summer camp instructors and pastors presenting them again, with ways that they can get kids outside and teach them about the benefits of ecology and hunting. The long-term goal of this program is to reach 700,000 students annually, and every single one of these camp leaders took NASP qualification away and further inquired about becoming certified hunter education instructors. Carrie and Michael Dixon run a Salvation Army summer camp in inner city Kansas City, MO. They were so grateful for AWLS and the actual on-the-ground exercises it gave them for the kids that they mentor. “We really struggle with teaching ethics. The hunting and shooting tools that we are taking away from AWLS have given us a clear way to communicate ethics.”

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In general, the unequivocal expertise of the instructors that participate all summer in AWLS gives these attendees an experience that arguably no other outdoor
conservation/hunting program can match. And it gives them REAL TOOLS to keep students engaged and learning about the outdoors. It offers these teachers and camp leaders ways to talk about conservation and the positive effects of hunting not just once in a quick learning setting, but daily, and even yearly to the same student—changing the way our children think about the outdoors and game management.

I strongly encourage you to consider taking the course or even help them out with Hunter Education sessions if you can break away for the summer. All the students I met were very interested in becoming certified hunter education instructors. Also, adding real-life game management activities to your classroom can further engage and make your Hunter Education class interesting and more memorable for your students and our future wildlife conservation experts and hunters. We can never teach enough about integrity, character, ethics, balance in nature, and the outdoors to our children. Thank you AWLS. Your course is truly amazing.

Each summer the American Wilderness Leadership School (AWLS) in Jackson, Wyoming introduces educators to principles of conservation and the positive role of hunting and to shooting sports.

AWLS instructors are university professors, professionals in the field of conservation, K-12 science teachers, Project Wild trainers, shooting sports instructors and coaches, trainers in National Archery in the Schools and graduates of the AWLS program.

The AWLS core curriculum is the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. Educators experience a variety of learning experiences in the indoor and outdoor classrooms and through field trips to meet with professionals working in wildlife and land management positions.

Sponsorships to attend AWLS as an educator or as a high school student are available. AWLS has six educator workshop sessions and one high school student session.

If you have an interest in being an instructor at the American Wilderness Leadership School Summer 2012 contact Sue Hankner, SCIF Director of Education to learn more about AWLS programs and its staff. AWLS is searching to fill one available 2012 instructor position.
We lay there flat on the ground for what seemed like an eternity, our necks aching while we strained to see which direction he was going to go. He had two choices. He could come down the draw directly in front of us, or he could head down the other side of the ridge and into the thick forest beyond. But he wasn’t in a hurry at all to decide. He was not concerned about us at all. In fact, I don’t think he ever saw us. The mule deer was more interested in our horses that were resting 30 yards away from us. My dad, mom, little brother Jimmy and I were all stretched out in a row with our binoculars watching the deer try to decide what kind of critters our horses were. Once he finally decided that he did not want to socialize, he slowly and majestically walked the ridgeline and disappeared down the other side. He was anxious to get back to camp where his hay pellets were.

After watching the deer disappear, we decided to climb the steep slope and peek over the top. My dad and Jimmy scrambled up in no time at all while my mom and I, who were both lugging heavy rifles, followed a little slower. Peering down into the grassy valley below, we did not see any deer but decided this would be a good place to come back to later this afternoon. So we headed back down to where the horses were patiently waiting. They whinnied as we got closer, anticipating food or freedom, or both. My horse rolled his eyes while I slid my rifle into the scabbard. He was anxious to get back to camp where his hay pellets were.

As we had ridden up here in the dark this morning, I was amazed the horses could even see where they were going. We rode with our headlamps off, it was pitch black and I could not see a thing. Fortunately, our horses are very calm and sure footed and trust us to keep them safe. We work with them a lot during the summer to make sure nothing will surprise them, including the smell of blood or fresh meat. There are too many things that can go wrong if you or your horses are not prepared. Most accidents that happen could have been prevented, but they can still happen.

As we scrambled back up that same steep slope we had climbed earlier this morning I was hopeful we might see something down in that grassy area. We reached the top and I was shaking with anticipation as I looked through my binoculars. My dad saw them first and said “Get down.” We all hit the ground. I got my rifle ready and looked to see what my dad had spotted. At first I saw a group of does and then a little further to the left, there was my buck. My dad told me they were about 230 yards away and because it was a downhill shot, I would need to aim a little high. The does were busy grazing, but the buck must have seen our silhouettes against the ridgeline, he was standing very alert and ready to sprint. I took a deep breath and let it halfway out as I aimed and squeezed the trigger. I heard the shot zing through the air and then heard a thump far away as the buck dropped in his tracks. Startled, the does jumped away and disappeared in to the trees. My dad said “You got him.” My mom and brother both said “Good shot.” We headed down the slope and my dad had me poke the deer in the eye with my rifle to make sure he was not alive still. He did not budge and I knew this buck was going to be in our freezer soon. I filled out my tag.
and attached it to one of the legs. My dad, who is also a hunter education instructor, handed me a knife and showed me how to gut the deer and then how to skin it and quarter it. Then we carefully cut the antlers off with a small portion of the skullcap, he was a beautiful forked-horn 2 X 2. I was so happy I had such a clean shot. I had been practicing all year so I was comfortable with my rifle at different distances and it had paid off. I was glad we had horses to pack the meat out on because the hill was so steep.

Once we were back at camp, we enjoyed fresh venison for dinner as we sat around our campfire telling stories while the shadows from the fire danced around on the canvas of our wall tent. There are bears and mountain lions up where we hunt, so we had to be very careful to hang the meat bags high up in the trees and fairly far away from our camp. That night I was still so excited I could hardly sleep. I listened to the horses shuffling their hooves in the dirt as they moved around under their high lines. I must have fallen asleep because about 4 o’clock in the morning, I felt my dad tap on my shoulder to wake me up. It was mom’s turn to try to fill her deer tag.

It was soooo very cold as we saddled our horses in the dark; I remember wishing I had another cup of hot chocolate to keep me warm as we rode along. The sun began to rise over the mountains and I could see my breath floating in the air. Our horses were anxious to go this morning; the air was crisp and their pace was snappy. After awhile, we decided to hike around a bit and let the horses rest. We did not see any deer, so we stopped once to light a small fire and warm up. It had started snowing lightly and was really pretty but was really cold too. By the time we got back to the horses, it was sunny and starting to get warmer. When hunting in the mountains, you can expect anything.

We rode for several miles along a stream and then headed up a ridge. My mom, who was in back, spotted something. Sure enough, there were two does just down below us. She found a good spot to shoot from and filled her tag too. After we quartered her deer and were climbing back up the mountain to where our horses were waiting, my mom looked down and found a beautiful white arrowhead lying in the dirt. It made me think about how very difficult it would have been to hunt way back then. It also made me appreciate that we are really not that different now even though we have come a long way through technology. What a great trip. What a great year. Our freezer will be full of venison this year. We will have fun cutting and packaging the meat and also making sausage. Next year Jimmy will be old enough to hunt big game too and I can’t wait until he gets his first deer.
He would have looked me in the eye and said “It will never happen to me,” said Rod Slings, retired Iowa DNR law enforcement supervisor.

But it did. Slings befriended an avid hunter who worked at an automobile service department near Slings’ residence in Iowa.

“This guy lived and breathed bowhunting,” Slings said. “Every time I took my car to the shop, he’d ask me questions or tell me about his latest hunt on the acreage he owned outside of Des Moines.”

One afternoon, Slings’ friend went to his stand, just like he had hundreds of times before. However, this time was different. During this hunt, he accidentally slipped off his stand. Although the hunter was wearing a safety harness, the leg harness was not attached so only the chest strap supported him. This mistake would cost him dearly.

“The hunter was tethered high in the tree so when he fell, he couldn’t reach the tree. He began screaming for help. A neighbor heard the hunter and was able to locate him,” Slings said. “The hunter asked his neighbor to fetch a ladder to help him down. While the neighbor was gone, the hunter’s chest harness had worked its way up, shutting off his airway. By the time the neighbor returned, the hunter was unconscious.”

The neighbor called 911. A rescue team arrived, but they were hampered because it was so hard to reach the unconscious victim. Precious minutes ticked by as rescuers got ladders in position, secured the hunter and lowered him to the ground. However, it was too late. The hunter was dead. He suffocated as a result of his safety harness not being correctly attached.

Slings recalled another bowhunter who had fallen from his tree stand. He was asked to interview the victim to better understand how the incident occurred. However, upon arriving at the intensive care unit at a hospital in Des Moines, it quickly became apparent it would be some time before the 60-year-old hunter would be able to give an interview.

As Slings made his way to the waiting room where the victim’s family was gathered, the sadness and suffering was palpable. There sat the hunter’s wife of 45 years and his two daughters, sobbing. Though the hunter had survived, he would live the rest of his life as a quadriplegic.

“The hunter had fallen asleep and ended up falling head first from his 12-foot stand. He was not wearing a fall-arrest system,” Slings said. “Now he’ll never be able to move his arms or legs, so he’ll be restricted to a wheelchair for the rest of this life. Here’s a man who was preparing to retire so he could enjoy his lifelong passion for hunting and spend more time doing things with his family. The suffering his accident caused for his wife and daughters was gut-wrenching.”

(Continued on page 30)
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The family told Slings the hunter made excuses for not wearing a fall-arrest system, saying he felt it restricted his movement. They had even bought him one for Christmas. He refused to wear it.

Think these accidents are isolated cases? They’re not. The tree stand accident rate is as high as one in three with the probability of a near miss (incident) being much higher, according to the National Bowhunter Education Foundation (NBEF.org). That translates into thousands of accidents each year with many resulting in serious injury and even death. Slings said many tree stand incidents go unreported because the victims are too embarrassed to talk about it.

Slings said the bottom line is that hunters must take responsibility for their own safety. While it’s not hard to protect yourself, there are several things you should know such as:

- How to use and inspect your fall-arrest system (FAS)
- Best practices for using and inspecting your stand
- Selecting the right tree
- Proper procedures for climbing your tree stand
- How to transport gear and firearms into your stand
- What to include in your hunt plan
- How to respond in case of emergency

Hunters who want to learn more about how to stay safe when using a tree stand are encouraged to take an online hunter safety course at www.hunter-ed.com or at www.bowhunter-ed.com. The training offered at these sites is approved by the state agencies responsible for hunter education.

Studying at www.hunter-ed.com and www.bowhunter-ed.com is free to the public and allows students to learn about hunter safety at their convenience. Those who must be certified before they can buy a hunting license pay a one-time fee, which is due only if they pass the test. Students can take the test as many times as they need to pass it. Online hunter safety and bowhunting education courses are available in participating states so students should visit the previously mentioned sites to take a course specific to their state and to sign up for a field day (if required).

About Rod Slings
Since retiring in 2008 Rod has kept busy as an instructor and has served as director of the International Hunting Incident Investigation Academy. He also has provided consulting services to law firms and insurance companies in hunting-related incident cases. Rod currently is the CEO of Hunting and Shooting Related Consultants, LLC (www.huntsrc.com) and continues to contribute to the safe and ethical mission of maintaining hunting the tradition he has been involved in all of his life.
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Hunting With Airguns Offers An Exciting Challenge

By Chip Hunnicutt, Crosman Web and Social Marketing Manager

Airguns are experiencing a renaissance not unlike archery hunters have seen with compound bows or muzzleloaders and their advancements in ignition systems. New technology such as the Crosman Nitro Piston-powered break barrel rifles and Benjamin pre-charged pneumatic (PCP) rifles have made it possible for hunters to take airguns beyond the backyard and pursue game as large as hogs and coyotes. Airgun hunting is not a new concept, however just as with a bow, centerfire or muzzleloader, there are considerations to be made in order to be successful.

Since airguns don’t produce the velocity of a firearm, it’s important to teach students that shorter effective ranges should be expected. Head shots are the most effective target but are not reserved solely for big game. This technique applies equally to woodchucks, squirrels and pests such as rats. The heart/lung shot is ingrained in shooters at an early age because it is the largest target area and the animal will surely die. With airguns the distance between a chest impact and “will surely die” could be significant. Coupled with no exit wound, the hunter is faced with a difficult track, and likely a lost animal.

Experienced firearm hunters often opt for a neck shot to put an animal down quickly. The buck in the accompanying photo was taken with the Benjamin Rogue .357 with a single head shot at 43 yards. The entry was the size of a dime and there was no exit. No meat was ruined, the trophy was intact and no tracking was necessary. The same result on a 180 pound hog at 50 yards and a prairie dog at 135 yards left no doubt that a properly placed head shot is the most effective method of dispatch with an airgun.

Crosman offers an Airgun Hunting Capabilities Guide to assist consumers in determining what Crosman or Benjamin airgun best fits their needs. Suitable hunting airguns, from .177 caliber up to the ground-breaking Benjamin Rogue .357, are included along with suggested pellets and expected velocities and foot-pounds of energy (fpe). The guide lists a variety of popular small, medium and larger game and recommended maximum distances for shooting each species, all with a headshot being the recommended kill zone.

Hunting with an airgun offers the exciting challenge of close pursuit across a wide variety of species if taken with a head shot. Ultimately, success will be determined by ballistics and the accuracy of the shooter, so remind your students to know their distance and know their capabilities.

By Chip Hunnicutt, Crosman Web and Social Marketing Manager

www.IHEA.com
Zeiss Discount Opportunity For Instructors

Carl Zeiss Sports Optics, manufacturer of premium riflescopes, binoculars, rangefinders and spotting scopes, in partnership with IHEA, is extending savings of 25% off retail pricing for qualified hunting education instructors enrolled in ProMotive. ZEISS is making available a wide variety of its product line including the award winning Victory RF laser rangefinder binoculars, Victory FL binoculars, DiaScope spotting scopes and Victory FL riflescopes. Conquest series products including riflescopes and binoculars will also be available. Whatever instructor needs you may have for optics, ZEISS is sure to have a solution.

“We are especially excited to have the opportunity to work with IHEA to extend this program to their membership. ZEISS firmly believes in the mission of IHEA and is especially thankful of the dedication of its individual members in the hunting and safety education they deliver. As a full-time training manager providing optics education to diverse audiences, I realize the need and preference to work with the best materials I can and have reliable partners. We look forward to a great relationship with IHEA and its members.” Rich Moncrief, Training Manager, Carl Zeiss Sports Optics.

To take advantage of this awesome discount, enroll through IHEA.com in the instructor discount section.

Free Admission At 2012 Target Communications Midwestern Deer And Turkey Expos

Certified hunter education instructors will receive free admission to all of Target Communications’ 2012 deer and turkey expos. All you have to do is show certification proof at the ticket window when you arrive. This is an on-going gesture by the expo producer.

2012 Expos:
• February 17-19
  MICHIGAN DEER AND TURKEY SPECTACULAR,
  Lansing Center, Lansing, MI
• March 16-18
  OHIO DEER AND TURKEY EXPO,
  Bricker Bldg, Ohio Expo Center (State Fairgrounds), Columbus, OH
• March 23-25
  ILLINOIS DEER AND TURKEY CLASSIC,
  Civic Center, Peoria, IL
• March 30-April 1
  WISCONSIN DEER AND TURKEY EXPO,
  Alliant Energy Center, Madison, WI

“Instructors work hard. You are an important cog in the wheel that keeps hunting safe and enjoyable, and in hunter recruitment and retention,” said Glenn Helgeland, Target Communications president. “We’re pleased to be able to thank you in this manner for your efforts.

“We also give free admission to all first-year hunters, those who have passed a hunter education course within the past year. All they need to do is present proof of course completion at the ticket window.

“Our expos emphasize the presentation of solid information for all hunters, beginners through experienced, he added. “Our seminars are presented by nationally-known and skilled experts. Special areas and activities on the exhibit floor complement the seminar content, as shown in the list below.

Hunter education students will find plenty of things to do and enjoy here.”

New Features Of 2012 Expos:
• Trail Camera Demos Center and Seminars
• Predator Calling/Hunting ‘Answer Man’ in the Tech Information Center

Other highlights:
• Tech Info Center…talk with the Answer Men (archery, firearms, muzzleloaders, slug guns, optics, clothing, footwear, food plots, turkey hunting, deer hunting, predator calling/hunting).
• 250-590 exhibitor booths, including ‘outdoor lifestyle’ products
• U.S. Sportsmen’s Alliance Raffles & Sweepstakes (more than 200 hunting gear prizes). This is an expanded version of Target Communications’ long-time support of the US Sportsmen’s Alliance and its work protecting our hunting privileges and conservation efforts. Attendees will have opportunities to win all sorts of hunting gear and accessories, all to the benefit of a great cause.
• 40-50 Seminars per event
• Hunting Dogs & Puppies
• Women’s Hunting Garb & Gear Area
• Trophy Buck/Big Game Contests
• Archery Trick Shot (Sat & Sun)
• New-Product Special Display
• Live Game Animals & Predators
• Venison Butchering Demos
• Dozens of Door Prizes
• Trail Camera Demo Center & Seminars
• 3 Shooting Ranges
• 2 Photo Contests

The four expos in 2011 drew attendees from 40 states. Attendance ranges from 14,500 to nearly 27,000 for the 2-1/2-day weekend events.

Go to www.deerinfo.com for details.
Barbequed Doves With Plum Sauce

Serves 4

Ingredients:
- 16-20 whole doves, skin intact
- 1 cup soy sauce
- 1 cup water
- 1 tsp. ground ginger
- ½ cup brown sugar
- ½ cup rice vinegar

Combine last 5 ingredients in a large bowl. Add doves and marinate covered for 24 hours in refrigerator. Barbeque over medium-hot coals be sure to brown evenly on all sides. Total cooking time should not exceed 6 to 7 minutes. Arrange on plate and baste with plum sauce. Serve with additional sauce for dipping.

Plum Sauce: Makes Approximately 2 Cups

- 1 ½ cups plum preserves
- ¼ cup applesauce
- ½ tsp. ground ginger
- 2 garlic cloves
- 1 tsp. chili flakes
- 1 Tbs. cornstarch
- 1 Tbs. soy sauce
- 2 Tbs. cider vinegar

Cook plum preserves and applesauce until boiling in a sauce pan over medium heat. Stir in remaining ingredients and reduce heat until sauce thickens.
**10 Commandments of Firearm Safety**

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“The mission of the International Hunter Education Association is so pure that for those of us that hunt and believe in education first and legislation last, I personally have included in my Last Will and Testament 1/2 of my estate be awarded to the IHEA. Hunting for me has been one of life's great disciplines and made me a better person in so many ways. Having an understanding of our connection with the land, how we both collectively and individually influence our natural resources and the opportunity to actively participate in the management of those resources is key to the future of our hunting heritage.” –Tim Lawhern

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• A specific dollar amount
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• All or part of the proceeds of a Life Insurance policy or Retirement Plan

All donations received from this program will be deposited into our Planned Giving Endowment and will be utilized for long-term funding of the organization. The interest earned from this Endowment will be used for general operations for the IHEA.

We urge you to consult your attorney in preparing your will or trust and hope that the following language will be helpful in providing a bequest to IHEA:

“I give, devise and bequeath ___% of what remains of my estate (or $_______) to the International Hunter Education Association (Tax ID # 37-1145157), a charitable corporation presently having offices at 2727 W. 92nd Ave., Suite 103, Federal Heights, CO 80260.”

IHEA is a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Colorado.

Bequests of any size are gratefully accepted and sincerely appreciated. However, while IHEA can accept gifts of land, we are not in a position to hold property for any reason. Any land given outright or bequeathed to IHEA will be immediately sold. The proceeds of which will be used to fund our programs.

Disclaimer: The Hunter & Shooting Sports Education Journal welcomes article submissions expressing individual or organization views and opinions. Articles submitted do not necessarily reflect those of the IHEA, IHEA board of directors, IHEA management, the editor or publisher. The IHEA will continue to support the safety aspect of all hunting activities and methods. In addition, we encourage anyone who wishes to submit a rebuttal to published articles to send them to susiekiefer@msn.com.

IHEA Online Auction

All items are brand new and “in the box.” Product descriptions come directly from Cabela’s catalog. Everyone, regardless of whether they are a member of the IHEA, is welcome to bid. Bidding will be done through a secure website at www.IHEA.com and hosted by IHEA Webmaster Jim Wentz and Silver Tip Productions.

A new auction item will be added the first week of each month. The bidding will close at the stroke of midnight the last day of the month. Winning bidders will be notified the first working day of the month and arrangements will be made to ship the item to the winner’s address. Winning bidders will be responsible for shipping.

Items will include backpacks, luggage, rangefinders, cots, sleeping bags, and other hunting and camping gear. So check back each month to view the new item of the month.

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- Target Packer
- All Target Stand
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