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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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On the Cover: Mark Birkhauser, former NM HE Administrator instructing student
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This issue of the Journal made possible by:
Two years ago, we began a journey together for the second time. Many of you may remember that back about ten years ago the IHEA allowed me the privilege and honor to serve as your president. I now come to the close of my second term as president of IHEA and am very happy about what I see as the future of our organization.

Hunting and Hunter Education have been so much a part of my life. I have more memories of those adventures than in any other area of my life. It is a comforting thought knowing that a positive impact has been made towards teaching hunters to be safe, responsible and knowledgeable. Each of you that donate your time as a volunteer hunter education instructor fully understands and appreciates that.

One of our IHEA Board of Directors said recently that more has been accomplished towards our mission in the last two years than in all the previous years combined. There is plenty of evidence to support that statement. Here are but a couple of examples:

1. Development and implementation of the IHEA On-Line Instructor Training Program
2. Development of the IHEA "Best in Class" On-Line Student Course (to be launched this year)
3. Production and sales of the IHEA Non-Functional Firearms Action Sets
4. Adoption of the IHEA Student Course Curriculum Standards
5. Annual Delivery of the IHEA Hunting Incident Investigation Academy (for Conservation Law Enforcement personnel only)
6. Development of new logos for the IHEA Hunting Incident Investigation Academy and a traveling trailer housing most of the equipment necessary to provide the training.
7. Development and delivery of the IHEA twenty-five second TV and Print public service announcements
8. Development of the IHEA Strategic Plan with Action Steps
9. A signed MOU between IHEA and Remington Outdoor Foundation (a significant supporter and contributor to our growth and success)
10. Improvements in IHEA Conference Agendas
11. Development of all future IHEA Journal Themes
12. Increased individual IHEA membership to the highest level in history

As you can see, there's been plenty going on. What remains a very strong and substantial constant is the dedication of everyone involved in hunter education. The volunteer instructors, the department staff, the administrators and all of our partners continue in the tradition of excellence. During my life I’ve not known a more dedicated group of people. It’s a privilege and an honor for me to have shared a small corner of our lives together.

As the IHEA grows, we need to remember that change almost never comes easy. Growing pains are to be expected. Those of us that are older fully understand this and know that with each change event our perspective of things takes on new meaning. The best way I can explain this is...remember the first time your child fell and scraped their knee? They typically react as if the world has come to an end. You and I know that with each such event we realize that it’s not as tragic as we might think at the time. We all recover, learn and grow with each event. The rate, the pace and the face of change (meaning the amount, the speed and how it looks and feels) are much more potent today than ever before. Keeping up with change will be important so that the IHEA remains significant to our society.

While I’m leaving the office of president of the IHEA I’m not going away. I, like many of you, am an instructor. So long as I can carry a firearm or bow I will be hunting. So long as my heart beats there will be an internal fire longing for the chase. As I sit around the campfire of hopefully many future hunts, I will think fondly of the IHEA and all of you; hoping that each of you has safe, enjoyable and successful hunts!
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By Wayne East, Executive Director, IHEA

Firearm Skills

Firearm skills means different things to different people. For me it means the ability to safely and accurately use your firearm. The first and most important skill to have is safety. We cannot emphasize enough to our students the importance of firearm safety. There are several acronyms to remember these four basic rules, but I prefer TABK. T – Treat every firearm as if it were loaded. A – Always point your gun in a safe direction. B – Be sure of your target and what is beyond your target in case your shot travels through, or misses the target. K – Keep your finger outside the trigger guard and off the trigger until ready to shoot.

There are several different techniques for rifle marksmanship and wingshooting also known as shotgunning. Here are some basic tips that may help in your classroom.

Basic Rifle Skills

Advanced rifle marksmen learn proper breathing, trigger control, and even shooting in between heart beats. For the purpose of basic hunter education we need to remember to stick to the basics.

First, it is easiest to teach new shooters to shoot with their non-dominant eye closed. When advancing their skills, rifle shooters should later learn to shoot with both eyes open.

Teach them the basic shooting positions, but take it one step further and encourage your students to actually practice shooting at the range from the various shooting positions. The last place you want to try a new technique is when you actually need it. I encourage everyone to practice shooting from the kneeling and sitting positions as I find these are the most likely used positions in the field.

And I urge my students not to shoot offhand, as it is the most unstable position. Even in a controlled classroom environment it is easy to see how this is the most unstable position. In actual hunting situations it is even more unstable as a result of a racing heart and heavy breathing caused by “buck fever”. Many new hunters will most likely experience some form of “buck fever” when shooting their first big game animals. I experienced this firsthand. The first deer I ever shot was only about 70 yards away. I shouldered my gun in an offhand shooting position and looked through the scope, only to see how much my “buck fever” was affecting my aim. I lowered the gun and got into a kneeling position. I took a deep breath to calm myself, and made a clean shot to the heart.

To further stabilize the gun, use a mounted bi-pod or some form of shooting sticks to help stabilize your gun. These shooting sticks can be used from almost any position.

If possible, shooters should practice shooting at the range with the actual hunting clothing and gear that they will most likely be wearing while in the field hunting. When you are at the range, you want to simulate as closely as possible the shooting situation you will encounter while in the field. Shooting a rifle with a t-shirt on is different than shooting with a heavy coat or tree stand safety harness on. If you have shooting sticks, practice using them while at the range as well.

Basic Shotgun Skills

Keep both eyes open. Point the gun, don’t aim the gun. On a shotgun, your eye serves as the rear site similar to a peep site on a rifle. With proper gun fit, your eye should line up with the front bead on the shotgun. If you have a shotgun with a mid-bead (a bead half way down the rib of the shotgun) and a front bead, then these two beads should form a figure eight when looking down the rib, with the front bead “resting” on top of the mid-bead.

Have your head and eyes lock onto your target and bring the gun up to your cheek first to assure proper alignment with your eyes. The gun will find its natural spot in your shoulder at this point. Point the gun at the target. Be sure to follow through a moving target, always looking at the front edge of the target. Do not look down the rib of the shotgun and aim it like a rifle. Some people find it helps to point the index finger of your weak hand straight down the fore end of the stock, this way your
weak hand will point at your target. Take an aggressive stance. Your feet should be shoulder width apart and knees slightly bent with about 60% of weight on the leading leg. Move your upper body to align to the target - don’t just swing your arms. The shooter needs to lean into the gun in order to better absorb recoil. One of the most common mistakes I see new shooters make is to lean back when getting into the shooting stance. When they shoot the gun while leaning back, at best they will be knocked completely off balance, and at worst they will drop the gun or fall down, which can be very dangerous.

**Two Things to Remember**

Overall there are two basic things to remember. First, remember the old adage of “Aim small, miss small”. This is one of the most common mistakes novice shooters will make. They will just try to hit the target or the animal, instead of a very specific spot on the target or animal. They need to pick out the smallest point on that target as possible. At the range, practice aiming at the intersection of two lines so that your aim point is about the same size as the tip of a ball point pen. On a deer you want to aim for that same size, very specific aim point. With a rooster pheasant, aim for the beak. This does several things. First, it is a classic example of aim small, miss small. Next, if you are concentrating on the beak you will be able to easily identify the green head of a rooster, and positively identify your target as not being a hen (it is usually illegal to harvest hen pheasants). And lastly, most people shoot behind moving targets, especially pheasants and doves. By concentrating on the beak it will help you make a clean head shot.

The second basic thing to remember is practice, practice, practice. You owe it to that animal to make a one shot clean kill. By practicing you will gain familiarity with the firearm and your ammunition of choice. You will also learn the limits of your skills. For example, some people can accurately and consistently shoot rifles out to 400 yards and beyond. Personally, I am not completely confident at anything over 200 yards. Sure, I might be able to hit a stable target with no wind 7 out of 10 times at 350 yards. But that means that 30% of the time I might injure an animal at that range. I am not willing to take that chance. From practicing, I know what my limit is.

Want to learn more? There are numerous books, videos, clinics and courses available to improve your shooting skills. The NRA offers rifle and shotgunning courses. For more information, visit www.nrahq.org/education/index.asp. Your state/provincial agency may offer trainings as well, so be sure to check their website for available opportunities.
Competitors in the History Channel’s Top Shot Competition compete in a series of grueling challenges, inspired by history, until one wins the $100K prize and the title of Top Shot.

Ohio Hunter Education instructor Chris Cerino starred in the first season. A self-described “can-do person,” Chris is a firearms instructor who sets out to master any firearm he gets his hands on. Chris took second place in the International Law Enforcement Educators and Trainer’s Association in Chicago. He is also experienced with compound bows, crossbows, and slingshots.

Chris and his wife Michelle both serve as Ohio Hunter Education instructors and even assist the Ohio DNR in training other instructors. When it comes to shooting Chris says, “It’s all about the fundamentals.” According to Cerino, when you have a good mindset and focus on the fundamentals you’ll hit the target. When it comes to our future Chris says, “It’s all about the youth.” Chris believes that it is important to work with youth and encourage them to be responsible outdoorsmen; he and his wife freely give of their time and talent to see that this happens.

This expert marksman and top-notch hunter education instructor took second place in the first season of the top shot competition. Congratulations Chris on this accomplishment.

After watching this first season of the show, Florida Hunter Safety Instructor Eric Anderson says he submitted an audition tape to see if he was a legend in anything other than his own mind. Then, out of thousands of applicants, he got a call to come to California. After the second round of auditions, only 16 marksmen were selected. One of the 16 was Anderson.

When they arrived for the competition, Eric announced, “I’m here with the big dogs, and I’m off the leash.” Getting this Florida shooter back on the leash might be easier said than done with this outspoken marksman. Eric says what he likes about shooting is there are no excuses – “no ifs, ands or buts – just shut up and shoot, we’ll look at it down range.”

He has extensive knowledge of the shooting sports and has participated in many competitions. It all started when he served nine years in the Marine Corps where he was a marksmanship instructor and earned the expert badge in pistol and rifle. After the Corps, he worked as a Washington State Trooper before moving to Florida. In Florida, he received a Florida Police Academy Top Shooter trophy, and currently is a member of the Lake County Sheriff’s Posse. Eric participated in mounted competition for the past seven years winning two gold medals on three different horses. In 2010, he claimed a National Championship for the Cowboy Mounted Shooting Association - Men’s Level 4. Last, but certainly not least, this civic-minded shooter shares his knowledge and love of the shooting sports by serving as a volunteer instructor for the Florida Hunter Safety program.

Training horses for shooting competitions is a way of life for Eric. According to Anderson, when you train to compete in mounted shooting competitions, you are not always shooting, but you are always training a horse. If the horse does the right thing, the shooting part is easy. Training students in the hunter safety program is a way Eric proudly...
gives back to his community. The casual observer can see some of his horse-training philosophy demonstrated in his teaching style – if the students do the right thing, the shooting part is easy.

Anderson starts each class with the pledge to the flag and a prayer: “If you are against that, there are other classes you can attend in the area”, says Anderson. The mere presence of this well-spoken, tall cowboy commands the student’s attention. Yet he constantly accesses the student’s learning and makes sure they are acquiring the necessary knowledge. He wants learning to be fun.

Eric also uses his connections to make classes fun and accessible to students. His current occupation as the landfill supervisor for Lake County, Florida and his work with the Sheriff’s posse gives him access to host hunter safety classes at the Sheriff’s departments training facilities. There is a large classroom adjacent to the shooting range, allowing all the knowledge and skills portions of the course to be easily accomplished at one facility. The Sheriff also sponsors the classes; off-duty officers feed the students a barbeque lunch during the weekend sessions. Free learning, food, fun and shooting — does it get any better than that?

Anderson is also wise enough to not let life’s little hiccups slow the show and spoil the fun. When previous risk management supervisors required all hunter safety students wear bullet-proof vests while on the shooting range, he did not let this decision get him all wrapped around the axels and stop using the facility. He just made it fun for the kids and continued moving forward with the training: “Most of you have never seen a bullet-proof vest before, but today I’ve arranged for each of you to wear one,” Anderson would tell the kids. You could see the excitement in their eyes as they slipped on the vest before shooting the .22 rifles. After a few classes, other influential people agreed with Anderson that this was an unnecessary requirement. Now the vests are back in the closet and the kids are still on the shooting range.

Anderson believes that it is important for hunters to be understood by those who choose not to hunt, and he believes just as strongly that hunters should do the right thing so they don’t leave the wrong impressions. What better way is there other than today’s hunter education programs to get this message out to those who need to hear it? He makes his classes seriously fun and interesting, and focuses on the student; thus having a positive influence on hundreds of young lives every year. If the student is having fun learning to do the right thing, the shooting part is easy, and the mission is being accomplished.

Anderson can not disclose where he placed in the current-seasons Top Shot competition. It’s such an honor to be selected to compete, every additional level is just that much more icing on the cake.

If you think you’ve got what it takes, send in an audition tape. Who knows, you might be the next hunter education instructor in the Top Shot competition.
How To Identify A Marijuana Grow Site

By Gary F. Brennan, CA Hunter Education Instructor

Most hunters are always looking for new areas to hunt. We look forward to going to new hunting grounds in search of different species of wild game. I personally love going to a new state to hunt a species I haven’t hunted before. While rules and regulations vary between states, the opportunity to visit and hunt in different states still can present a few challenges.

In California, one of the challenges that hunters face is the ever increasing presence of illegal marijuana plantations in the wilderness. With the lax marijuana laws and the notion of “lowest priority to enforce” that some law enforcement agencies are adopting, the possibility of encountering an illegal grow site is increasing. I know California is not the only state where this trend is on the rise. As hunter education instructors, we should warn our students about the signs and symptoms of an illegal grow area.

As a State Park Ranger in California, I have been involved with locating, destroying, and cleaning up numerous growing sites. Each of the grow sites has been different and some are more dangerous than others. Growers like to use existing game trails to lead them off the beaten paths or trails into the grow site. As a hunter, I look for the trails that seem to be used by animals. Some of the paths leading to grow sites look just like the trails an animal would follow including tunneled, low hanging vegetation, which big game could walk under, and steep terrain.

If you are walking into an area and you start to see cut back vegetation, you may be on another hunter’s trail or a trail leading to a grow site. If you continue to walk into an area and you start to see black polyethylene plastic, buried PVC piping and/or black irrigation tubing, GPS or mark the location on a map and back out as quickly as you can. Report the location to the nearest law enforcement agency as soon as possible.

Marijuana grow sites often contain booby traps and noise makers that alert the growers of your presence. On one occasion we were entering a grow site and luckily we saw numerous fish hooks hanging from the bushes at eye level before we hit them. Growers have been known to modify simple mouse traps by drilling a hole where the bail will strike and installing a 12-gauge shotgun shell facing down. They weld a BB on the bail so when the trap is sprung, the bail and BB hit the primer of the shotgun shell, causing the shot shell to explode. Since there is no barrel to control the path of the shot, the shot flies everywhere. The entire assembly is set off by a trip wire. The noise will alert the usually armed growers of your presence.

Every grow site that we have been into contained at least one booby trap and weapons to guard the growing area. Tripwires leading to the
booby traps can be strung high or low and sometimes both. Tripwires are often monofilament fishing line and are difficult to see even in the best light. Camouflage rope can also be used which is also difficult to see. The closer to the harvest season (between late September through early November in milder years) the greater the security on the grow site. Many grow sites, especially Mexican-based Drug Cartel sites; have been guarded with armed guards who would rather shoot first than ask you to leave. These sites typically have thousands of plants in the ground with an estimated street value in the millions of dollars, so you really need to be watchful where you hunt. Our deer season in California starts as early as August when the plants are almost mature. You need to be extremely careful during this period.

In the off season, you may walk into a grow site which has been harvested and abandoned. You and your students should still be careful where you walk and the site should still be reported to law enforcement as soon as you return to civilization. When grow sites are abandoned, the growers usually leave all of the trash and garbage behind. Often, the trash and garbage will include harmful pesticides and herbicides left lying around. Booby traps are usually left in place as well. A clean up of a site will usually completely fill two to three large dumpsters with trash, garbage, plastics and up to miles of irrigation tubing.

All grow sites require water and usually a south facing slope. Growers will also use a partial south facing slope when it is available close to water. They then clear cut most of the taller timber and leave the lower brush for camouflage. Hillsides are terraced and plants are planted along the terraces.

Water for the grove is usually fed by a spring or a creek. The growers will divert water into trenches they have dug into the hillsides. They line the trenches with plastic and then cover the trenches with brush so you can’t see it from the air. I have found deer which have drowned in the trenches because they fall through the brush and cannot get out. Solar panels are connected to 12 volt batteries that run portable sump pumps to move the water to the plants or other collecting tanks. One grove we were in had over 100 Rubbermaid-type bins for holding the water.

If you are hunting or even pre-season scouting a new area or state and you start seeing items talked about within this article, play it safe and leave the area as quickly as possible. Talk to the Sheriff or Game Warden and ask them if marijuana groves have been found in areas you intend to scout or hunt. Report your sighting to law enforcement immediately. Hunt safe and always be aware of your surroundings.
A Video On Range Safety And Etiquette

Familiarize your students with the rules of the road before they ever get to a shooting facility.

When you train future hunters, you are most likely training future shooters as well. Whether your graduates take to the range as if being at a second home, or only occasionally make a visit, they must become acquainted with the safety rules and etiquette of a shooting facility. The safety of the shooter, and of all of those who may be at the range, is always the paramount consideration.

Going to a range for the first time can be an intimidating experience, simply because the shooter has never been there before and may not know what to expect and know what is expected of him or her.

An understandable anxiety may arise from the unknown, but now the unknown has been addressed through a new video from the National Shooting Sports Foundation. “Introduction to Range Safety and Etiquette” has been produced by the trade association for the hunting and shooting sports, firearms and ammunition industry. You can view this video, and a host of other great shooting tips, on NSSF’s YouTube Channel, www.youtube.com/thenssf.

In “Introduction to Range Safety and Etiquette,” Barry and Cynthia Laws, owners of Open Range Indoor Shooting Range, in Crestwood, Ky., serve as instructors to the audience. Though Barry Laws carries much of the workload and is responsible for the bulk of the dialogue, the fact that both genders are represented as experts gives all viewers an easier time relating to a role...
model and instructor.

In the video of less than nine minutes in length, the Laws address the safety considerations and etiquette of the range, and it becomes obvious that the etiquette discussed here is safety related.

“Always walk around someone else’s equipment; never step over it,” Barry Laws states. This is not only a polite gesture, but a safe one.

Laws opens by emphasizing three basic range-safety principles: Always point the firearm in a safe direction; always keep your finger off the trigger until you wish to shoot; and always keep your firearm unloaded until you are ready to use it.

What may be surprising to the novice to the range, and perhaps even to the more experienced shooter, is that everyone at the shooting line is a safety officer, in that they have the authority—and the responsibility—to yell “Cease fire” whenever they think it is necessary to protect the safety of any or all shooters.

For example, if a shooter drops a round of ammunition that falls to the floor and rolls ahead of the shooting line, and that shooter leans down and forward over the line to retrieve that round, any shooter should attempt to halt shooting on the line. Such a scenario is clearly depicted in the video.

Incorporating this video into a hunting education presentation would serve as a great visual teaching tool. Chances are one of the first steps a new hunter will take for that outing is sighting in his or her rifle, and often the only place, and usually the best venue, for them to do this is a shooting range. A shooting facility is also a place where wingshooters can improve their shooting technique on clay birds and handgun hunters can also sight in their firearm and develop proper shooting practices, as well as sharpen their accuracy.

“Introduction to Range Safety and Etiquette” can familiarize your students with important shooting facility rules of the road long before they ever get there—which may be soon after they leave your classroom.
All of my life I have been an outdoor kid. When it comes to being in the outdoors, childhood memories come alive for me. As a kid, almost every waking moment was spent exploring the rivers, fields, streams and forests around me. I did not realize until I became an adult the spiritual influence nature continues to have on me and all that I do. Outdoors in the world of animals and plants I am able to recharge my internal batteries and find my equilibrium when things around me feel chaotic or out of balance.

I grew up learning about animal habits and habitats and hunting from my Dad. On our small farm he made sure plenty of habitats were maintained for pheasants and other wildlife. Through my Dad’s actions as a conservationist, we too learned the conservation ethic.

In today’s world, young people are consumed with electronic toys and digital social networks. Young adults and teenagers spend little time exploring and learning science, language, math, social and emotional skills that nature can teach. Young people need to be engaged to ensure the future of conservation, wildlife management, hunting and fishing. Youth participation in outdoor education activities led by schools, the Boy and Girl Scouts of America, 4-H, The Salvation Army, conservation organizations like Safari Club International or just exploring local creeks, woods, deserts, hills and valleys gives them lasting experiences to draw upon their entire lives.

Adults must create better awareness of and a love for nature through example. We can all follow the lead of President Teddy Roosevelt who invigorated the conservation ethic in the United States at a time when wildlife populations had been grossly mismanaged. As President and as a hunter, he advocated for conservation programs that make it possible for sportsmen and women to continue our hunting heritage, today.

Safari Club International encourages young people everywhere to engage in hunting and shooting. SCI Chapters supports youth involvement programs across this country through partnerships with like-minded sportsmen and women in order to bring more outdoor enthusiasts to our sport. To learn more about SCI and SCI Chapter programs please visit www.safariclubfoundation.org, email SCIF Youth Program Coordinator, Jon Zinnel, at jzinnel@safariclub.org, or call 520-620-1220.

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3 NEW STYLES AVAILABLE FOR SPRING IN MENS AND YOUTH SIZES
South Carolina Department of Natural Resources acquired approximately 4,664 acres of wildlife habitat in Newberry and Laurens Counties, which has become the Belfast Wildlife Management Area. This acquisition protects over 20 miles of river frontage along Little River and Mudlick Creek. The property is between two sections of Sumter National Forest. The property contains a mix of hardwood forest, pine forest, and wetlands that provide habitat for a variety of game and non-game species such as white-tailed deer, wild turkey, bobwhite quail, Kentucky warbler, and American woodcock. With the acquisition of this property, public hunting opportunities will be expanded, and the agency is planning to use the property for educational and recruitment efforts through the creation of firearm (under construction) and archery shooting ranges and expansion of educational programs.

For additional information about the Belfast Plantation Ranges or other projects in South Carolina, contact Lt. Billy Downer, Hunter Education Coordinator, by calling 803.609.6875 or email downerj@dnr.sc.gov.

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources recently opened a community archery range park at the Lynches River County Park in Florence County near Coward. They developed the archery range through a partnership with the Florence County Council, the Florence County Park and Recreation Department, and funded in part with Wildlife Restoration Section 10 Hunter Education and Safety funds. Advanced archers will have the opportunity to shoot targets at various distances from 20 to 50 yards on the flat range with a beginner (or youth range) available as well. Bows with a draw weight of 30 pounds or less are required on the beginner range. Bowhunters and other archers also will have a 15 foot elevated platform where they can practice shooting. The new tower provides a safe platform for archers to shoot at targets at varying distances in a realistic wooded hunting setting. The targets range from 10 to 40 yards in the wooded area beside the archery tower. Lt. Billy Downer (Hunter Education Coordinator) stated, “We are hopeful that the range complex will get a lot of use with the growing popularity of archery and more youth taking up the sport through the National Archery in the Schools Program.”

For additional information about the Lynches River County Park or other projects in South Carolina, contact Lt. Billy Downer, Hunter Education Coordinator, by calling 803.609.6875 or email him at downerj@dnr.sc.gov.
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Having taught in a variety of classroom environments for more than 45 years, I have observed many annoying habits of instructors. This article discusses some of the annoying habits of instructors and how to correct them.

You would think that a novice instructor with little experience would be the likely culprits to unconsciously commit these bad habits. However, many seasoned instructors are more prone to commit them once they become overly confident in the classroom. The unfortunate downfall of annoying habits is that they distract the audience from the presentation. The audience focuses on the habit and not what is being taught at the moment.

When I was teaching college level courses, each student was required to give two 10-minute presentations during the semester. I kept a score card of each bad habit they committed within the 10 minutes. When they began their presentation each student had a 100 score which was reduced one point for each time a bad habit was committed. That became their grade for the presentation.

Another nervous bad habit is the ummms, ahhhs, you knows and okays. The presenter often uses them to think about what their next thought is. These unplanned pauses are very distracting and indicate that the instructor has not adequately prepared for the class or is not well versed in the subject matter. Using the score card method is one way to make the instructor aware of this bad habit. One of the best ways to control this problem is to have a team member video tape a brief presentation and then play it back to you. When you see yourself committing these errors, it makes you consciously aware of them and you will be more careful in future presentations.

How often have you seen a presenter turning their back to the class to write on the white board or to read the next discussion point off of the screen? While they are turned away they continue talking but the class cannot hear what is being said. This again is very distracting. Practice using your audio-visual aids without turning away from the audience. If it is a Power-Point presentation, place the lap top in front of you to read from it instead. If you are using other types of aids, quickly glance at them to maintain continuity in your thoughts, but do not turn completely around and talk to them directly.

The one that I get a kick out of most often is the NASCAR Lectern. I have seen many instructors grabbing the sides of the lectern, leaning on it, drumming their fingers on the sides as if they are playing a snare drum or changing gears on a race car or they drive it around the floor. If you are sitting in the front rows of the classroom look out for the fast turns. If you are doing this, you won’t be in the winners circle at the end of the class. Use the lectern to hold your teaching materials but avoid using it as a steering wheel. Stand away from the lectern.

One way to definitely put your class to sleep is to speak in a monotone voice. The constant drone of a monotone speaker will quickly bore them and they will begin to doodle, talk among themselves or simply fall asleep. It takes less then five minutes to totally lose your audience. Listen to radio announcers and how they vary the tone of their voice, change the pitch, raise and lower inflections, change the volume, speak fast then slower the make a point. Put enthusiasm in you voice. All of these tricks will improve your vocal quality.

There are many other bad habits that instructors commit. To improve your presentations, watch and learn from the more experienced instructors, take classes on public speaking, video tape your presentations and critique yourself when you play it back. If you don’t have access to video equipment, stand in front of a mirror and give yourself a presentation. You will be surprised what you see. Not everyone can get in front of a group and give a great presentation right from the start. Being a good instructor is an acquired skill that takes prepara-
tion and practice.

**Voice Trailing Off** – Many speakers let their voices trail off at the end of every sentence. The audience can hear the first part of their sentence, but they have no idea what pearls of wisdom might be lost in the whispers at the end.

**Looking Down** – Sometimes this speaker will deliver complete sentences inaudibly while looking down, obviously not interested at that moment in engaging the audience.

**Mumbling** – Mumbling is not cool. Inexperienced speakers will often speak at conversation level, not giving any thought or consideration to the people in the back of the room. Recently, I sat in on a panel discussion at a workshop. The panelists chose to sit instead of stand to address the standing-room-only crowd, which I thought was rude. And one man, whenever it was his turn to speak, would rest his elbows on the table and fold his hands in front of his mouth during the entire time that he was speaking.

**Reading** – Some speakers are not good readers. If you are not skilled at reading something out loud, don’t do it while speaking. Especially avoid doing this secretly. In other words, if you plan to deliver your speech by reading all or part of it, and you do not have good out loud reading skills, forget it.

**Not keeping everyone involved** - Inexperienced or thoughtless speakers leave members of the audience out. When an audience member asks a question, it is rarely heard in the back of the room. I’ve seen many expert speakers respond to the question by engaging in a one-on-one conversation with this person while the rest of the audience is left wondering. Repeat the question so everyone is on the same page. And then respond to the question so that everyone in the room can hear it.

These are just a few annoying habits of hunter education instructors. All of these habits can be overcome with preparation, practice and being knowledgeable of your subject matter. No one expects you to be a professional speaker, but you gain credibility and respect by eliminating the bad habits.

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**60th Anniversary Commemorative .22 Henry Golden Boy Rifle**

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.

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**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!

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

---

**GUNS $449 ($50 OFF)**
**KNIVES $149 ($26 OFF)**
**GUN/KNIFE COMBO $574 ($100 OFF)**

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.

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HunterExam.com is now HUNTERcourse.com
NEW name, same great course!
JIM SHOCKEY DREAM HUNT

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I am very proud to be partnering with HUNTERcourse.com. Their online hunter education course is best-of-breed. It’s so interactive and engaging. It really appeals to today’s youth.

I can’t wait to take two lucky winners, one student AND his or her instructor, hunting with me in my home province, beautiful Saskatchewan, Canada this fall, for the 1st Annual “Jim Shockey Dream Hunt”.

Jim Shockey
Professional hunter & TV host

Each year one online graduate of HUNTERcourse.com and the instructor that administered that same student’s field day or certification exam, will be randomly drawn to win an all-expense-paid “Jim Shockey Dream Hunt”.

For additional contest details please visit www.HUNTERcourse.com/dreamhunt

www.HUNTERcourse.com
In the past few years, media attention has been drawn to a problem throughout the United States dealing with wild animals in urban and suburban settings. As further development of outlying areas increases, so do the number of encounters between humans and animals. With these increases in human to predator encounters, one animal vividly comes to the forefront often creating problems. Welcome the coyote.

While coyotes have long been a problem for ranchers, the solutions sought to deal with them in a suburban setting are relatively new. Reports are very common of attacks on smaller household pets, with the winner of the encounters often being the coyote. Reports of attacks and injuries were highly unlikely years ago, but have become less surprising today, with missing pets becoming all too common. Some measure of control is needed to keep problematic predators in check within the suburban setting. Air rifles are a very good fit to part of the solution.

Crosman Corporation manufactures high quality, accurate air rifles that solve serious safety issues within suburban settings. The Benjamin Marauder PCP and the Nitro Piston lineup are perfect choices. The Marauder not only offers enough power to effectively take a coyote under the right conditions, but is quiet enough to not cause alarm in neighborhoods.

Of course the same safety rules apply to air rifles that apply to any type of firearm, but the use of an air rifle is legal in many suburban areas. In most cases, the use of a firearm is neither safe nor legal in most neighborhoods. An air rifle is ideal for such a scenario because the report is nearly silent and the pellet does not travel as far as a projectile fired from other firearms.

Calling coyotes is an exciting way to join the ranks of hunters without incurring the expense of big game hunting, and the gear it requires. Air rifles like the new Benjamin Rogue in .357 caliber also open up a whole new area for hunting coyotes without the noise or long range safety issues involved with using other firearms. In some suburban settings, they would be the only choice.

Acreage tracts in the suburbs are perfect for getting started with calling coyotes. In addition to having the thrilling experience of having a coyote respond to your call, you will also be doing something about the problematic issues that involve coyotes in suburban areas throughout the U.S.A. Be sure to check local laws and ordinances as they apply to the use of air rifles or hunting coyotes in your area, and start having FUN!

Barry Stewart is an accomplished predator hunting expert with over 30 years experience. He promotes predator hunting as an ideal way to enjoy the shooting sports while at the same assisting the agriculture industry. Ridding farmers and ranchers of the predators can save millions of dollars of damage due to the depredation of livestock and the inherent costs of controlling predators. As a committed educator, Barry teaches youth about the habits of predators, and hunting them in the wilds of North America.

IHEA Item of the Month

Online Auction

Be sure to log on to the IHEA website at www.ihea.com and check out the on-line auction.

All items are brand new and “in the box.” Descriptions of the products come directly from the Cabela’s catalog. Everyone, regardless of whether they are a member of the IHEA, is welcome to bid on the item. 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, rangefinder, cot, sleeping bag, and other hunting and camping gear. So check back each month at www.IHEA.com to view the new item of the month.

Good luck and thank you for supporting the IHEA!
Now Here’s a Bright New Idea!

Brand New for 2011!
Mini Comp

Our goal with the MiniComp was to incorporate many of the features of the CompSight into a compact sight that’s as economical as it is effective. It replaces your existing bead with a single screw. Interchangeable LitePipes in green, red and orange and stands .160 inch above the rib. Affordable, easy to install and it has the amazing brightness you have come to expect from every HiViz sight.

Jon Michael McGrath - HiViz ProStaff, gold medal winner at the 50th Annual ISSF World Championship in Munich, Germany

Shooting Tip #5: Follow Through

There are three commonly accepted techniques for achieving forward allowance, or lead, on a moving target. They are sustained (maintained) lead, pull-away, and swing (pull) through.

Which one you choose as your primary method is a matter of personal choice. However, in order to reach a higher level of ability it’s a good idea to get comfortable with all three.

Some target presentations may be more effectively shot with a different technique than your primary style.

The springing teal is a good example. Depending on the other target in a pair you may have to attempt the teal rising, at its apex, or dropping. A large percentage of shooters will employ swing-through on the way up, sustained lead at the apex and pull-away for the dropping teal.

During your practice sessions you should practice with the different techniques on problem presentations and see what works best for you.

Regardless of the lead method you choose, follow-through is one of the most critical elements of a successful shot.
The following is an article written by our current Junior Instructor Sasha Peters. She is an integral part of our team. Her hard work and dedication has helped our program run smoothly and efficiently. Here is her story. We hope that by the end of the article the readers will be as proud of Sasha as we are! Thanks.

Kevin Segar, Senior Instructor CE/FS.

My name is Sasha Peters. I am a Connecticut Conservation/Education Firearms Program Junior Instructor. Other than that, I am your average, teenage girl; well, maybe a little different. You see, hunting is my passion. I knew from the time I was walking and talking that I was going to be a hunter and a country girl. I grew up learning about animals, raising them and hunting them. I come from a family that hunts; yes, mom and dad both. It’s our heritage. It’s in our blood. I like to show people that hunting is not just for guys but for girls and women too. Girls can hunt too! I can’t stress that enough!

When I tell people that I teach the hunter safety class for the state of Connecticut, some people think it’s great, other people think I’m crazy, and some people don’t speak to me anymore. People have different opinions about hunting, and that’s OK. But let’s remember, all opinions are not equal. If someone doesn’t understand the concept of carrying capacity and thinks that we can bring a certain species of wildlife back to an area where this species is absent without considering habitat requirements, then that person’s opinion doesn’t carry the weight that an educated person’s opinion holds. At least that is how I feel about it. Besides, I take pride in harvesting, field dressing, quartering and freezing my own table meat. Have you ever heard the expression “if you want something done right, do it yourself?” Well that’s why I decided to become an instructor. I feel better knowing that my students know how to be safe, responsible hunters because of what I taught them. Being a young woman, I feel I have to push myself harder to prove myself. Being a Junior Instructor; it’s a very awarding experience.

Here’s a story-

The first class I assisted in there was a teenage boy who gave me quite the attitude because I was a girl and younger than him. When it came time for the exam, he started to get nervous about passing and broke down and came to me to ask for help. After that first encounter we would get together every break and review what he did and didn’t know. He was one of the few that passed the exam with 100%! When the class was over he came up to me with a smile and gave me a hug and thanked me for my help. This experience inspired me to continue my service to hunter education.

Being a CE/FS Junior Instructor definitely motivates me to push myself harder and climb the ranks to be a Senior Instructor one day. It has also given me the confidence to stand up in front of people and talk. This is a skill I can use at school and later on in the job place. As a Junior Instructor I also earn people’s trust and respect. I love being a Junior Instructor! I get great satisfaction out of knowing that I am helping produce safe, ethical hunters who will respect the land and carry on the wonderful heritage we call hunting.
IT'S ONE TOUGH TARGET!

- Four Sided Shooting
  Four unique offset zones.
- High Contrast Design
  For long range shooting.
- Polyfusion Design
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"I DON’T BELIEVE IT! I STILL THINK I’M DREAMING!" 17 year old Shelby Rose Skinner from Eugene, Oregon exclaimed as she scanned the horizon of the vast Indianhead Ranch in Southwestern Texas. “This is the coolest thing that has ever happened to me!!”

Each year thousands of hunter education students register for the opportunity to win the annual Hunter’s Handbook Heritage Hunt. As in the past, three student winners, their parents and two hunter education instructors are the lucky winners of an all expense paid trip to the famous Indianhead Ranch.

The 7th annual hunt was sponsored by Hunter’s Handbook, Indianhead Ranch, Cabela’s, Federal Ammunition, Weaver binoculars, Mzuri Foundation, Houston Safari Club, City of Del Rio, Del Rio Chamber of Commerce, and McDonalds of Del Rio.

Round trip airfare for all participants, fantastic food, top quality lodging, guided hunts, clothing, hunting gear and taxidermy are all covered for each participant by these generous sponsors. The hunt is also filmed for airing on Americana Outdoors, which airs on the Versus Network. Careco Productions donates their camera people, editing crew, and provides the airtime on the network, which is greatly appreciated.

While many hunters will have the opportunity to take whitetail deer or turkeys as they progress to being proficient hunters, the dream hunt offers a unique opportunity for the winners that in most cases will truly be the hunt of a lifetime.

Indianhead is home to over 25 introduced species of game animals and winners participate in a management hunt. They have the opportunity to see animals from all over the world and learn about their native habitat as well as the history of how the game came to flourish in the United States today. This is a fair chase hunting experience for free ranging animals on over 10,000 acres of land.

The 2010 student winners were Shelby Rose Skinner of Eugene Oregon, David Wagener Jr., of Colora Maryland, and Dominik Stamey of Columbus, Ohio. Instructor winners were Harold Bennett of Ridgeley West Virginia, and Bill Geis of Hopkins, Minnesota.

The 2010 hunt was held in October and all winners harvested animals and are anxiously awaiting their taxidermy prize to show off to all their friends and family.

The only way students or instructors can register to win the Heritage Hunt is to fill out the form in Hunter’s Handbook. Be sure you and your students register...you could be the next winner!
ALL RANGEFINDERS WORK IN THE STORE.
THIS ONE WORKS IN THE MUD, SNOW, RAIN AND SLEET.

Victory PRF Laser Rangefinder with LotuTec®
Whatever the conditions are in the field, the new Victory 8x26 T® PRF with LotuTec® lens coating ensures that you never miss a single detail. The protective coating sheds water and dirt instantly, so the view is always clear when the big moment you’ve been waiting for comes into sharp focus. Begin your adventure at zeiss.com/sports.

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BEST-IN-CLASS ENTRY-LEVEL RIFLE
- ALL NEW MODERN DESIGN
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SAVAGEARMS.COM - SAVAGEACCURACY.COM
mAA’s AdventureAids are designed to assist hunters in their quest for a perfect hunting adventure. As more youth and women are entering the outdoor sport of hunting, mAA’s AdventureAids can assist in significantly reducing the learning curve. Each AdventureAid is an 8-1/2 x 11” laminated 4-page guide, packed with useful information and checklists tailored to a specific adventure.

The front cover will assist hunters in species specific information. For example, field judging the age of deer on the Whitetail Deer Hunting AdventureAid and different subspecies on the Turkey Hunting AdventureAid. The visual illustrations are clear and simple to understand. Even experienced hunters will find value in the checklist. The inside is a pre-hunt list of items needed. The list is very extensive. You may not need all the items listed, but myAdventureAid did the thinking for you, condensed it down, organized and illustrated it, and produced an AdventureAid so you can enjoy your hunt. Money and time can be wasted if you are not properly prepared, so rather than having to repurchase essential items that were forgotten, use the AdventureAid to check them off the list as you pack. For $6.95, less than some fast food lunches, much stress can be relieved.

The back cover will assist hunters in understanding the best shot placement for an ethical harvest. This information is also presented in an illustrated visual format making it easy for hunters to understand.

mAA’s AdventureAids are practically indestructible. They are printed on heavy stock and laminated for multiple use. mAA AdventureAids are built to last for years to come regardless of the conditions you encounter.

AdventureAids have been recommended by Chad Searcey at Reality Driven Pursuits (http://realitydrivenpursuits.com) and reviewed by top bloggers, like Bulls and Beavers (www.bullsandbeavers.com) and HuntingLife (www.huntinglife.com).

The AdventureAid is a must have in your hunting gear.

Visit www.myadventureaid.com for additional information or to make a purchase. You may also email contact@myadventureaid.com or call 402-881-6130.
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For a complete Instructor Resource catalog go to www.IHEA.com, call (303) 430-7233 or write to: IHEA • 2727 West 92nd Ave., Suite 103 • Federal Heights, CO 80260

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Each ANNUAL $25 IHEA Individual Membership* includes:
1. IHEA Membership Card.
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4. IHEA Membership Patch.
5. IHEA Responsible Hunting static cling Window Decal.
7. Exclusive "Member Only" opportunities to purchase significantly discounted merchandise and closeouts offered by hunting and firearms manufacturers and distributors (www.ihea.com).
8. Liability Insurance-Individual memberships of the IHEA are provided with Volunteer Liability Insurance up to $1,000,000 per occurrence. This policy provides protection for a bodily injury or a property damage liability claim arising out of the performance of the registered volunteers’ duties. Note: A similar policy is being pursued for Canadian Volunteer Instructors but is not yet available.

In addition to the benefits listed above, each new IHEA Lifetime $375 “Membership will include:
• $100 Cabela’s Gift Certificate
• Recognition on the IHEA website as a Lifetime member.
• Certificate signed by the Executive Director of the IHEA.
• Continuing the Heritage #2 Print (16” X 20”)
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Classroom Humor

Josh Mackay, Holderness, NH
Hunter Education Instructor

I am writing to send in a very short story that happened in one of our hunter education courses. I couldn’t help but laugh when it happened. We were talking about limiting factors and asked the students to give us some examples. We got the usual answers of weather, food, predators, etc. We also got answers of disease and parasites. We asked if anyone could give us an example of a disease or parasite that could limit wildlife populations. A student in the front row, maybe 13 or 14 years old, raised his hand and when called on said with a straight face “my sister, because she won’t leave me alone.” As hard as I tried I couldn’t hold back a smile. It definitely caught us by surprise. It was a good lighthearted moment.

Teaching Tip

Nick Tramp, Norfolk, NE
Hunter Education Instructor

One method I have used in both Hunter and Bow Hunter Safety courses here in Nebraska is to take a 3-D animal that has the vitals cut into it (Rhineheart makes a good one). Then I hold a string and have students hold the other end of the string from each chair and tell me where to move my hand to hold the string on the target and if they have a shot or not from their chair. It really helps them to visualize the path of the projectile and understand sometimes you don’t place the point of impact in the vitals but a bit farther back for quartering away or farther ahead for quartering to for those hunting with rifles. It works better than just drawing lines on paper because it allows them to physically visualize how arrows or bullets will move through the game.

Mountaineer Sports Rescue Offers Instructor Discount

Certified hunter education instructors will receive an additional discount on the Rescue One Safety Harness Controlled Descent System. Contact Norm Wood at 877-683-7678 for details. You will need to fax or email a copy of your instructor certificate for the additional discount.

Note: Hunter education student graduates who submit an order along with a copy of the certificate can order this product for $150, and receive free shipping. The regular price is $199.00.

The RESCUE ONE CDS (Controlled Descent System) is the only Treestand Safety Harness System that not only stops a bone breaking, possibly fatal fall but then does what no other Harness System can; helps prevent suspension trauma injury and death by allowing you to safely lower yourself all the way to the ground. Suspension trauma injury and death can happen to anyone suspended in a full body safety harness in just a matter of minutes.

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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City:  State:  Zip Code:
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I agree these firearms are for training only and are not to be resold.

Signature:

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HiViz Shooting Systems Own McGrath Wins Junior Skeet World Championship

HiViz Shooting Systems Junior Pro Staff member Jon Michael McGrath II is the current Men’s Junior Skeet World Champion. He won the gold medal at the International Shooting Sport Federation’s 50th Annual World Shooting Championship held in Munich, Germany. McGrath, 18, shot three rounds of 25 straight and missed just two targets for a score of 123.

ISSF World Championships played host to over 2,400 shooting athletes from 90 countries who participated in the event. Two years before the opening ceremony of the 2012 Olympic Games in London, the best shooters of the world competed trying their hardest to secure the first Olympic Quota Places, the “entrance tickets” to the 2012 Games.

“He is the best skeet shooter under 20 years old in the world and that is a huge accomplishment,” said Bret Erickson, Team USA national shotgun coach.

Jon Michael began shooting clay targets at the age of 11 with the Boy Scouts of America and has earned the rank of Eagle Scout. Since then, he has won 19 world skeet titles and nine national skeet titles.

He has been a member of the United States Shotgun Team for the past four years and currently resides at the United States Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs and is training for the 2012 Olympics.
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NSSF Reports Big Jump in Hunting License Sales
3.6 Percent Increase Largest Since 1974

The National Shooting Sports Foundation, trade association for the firearms and ammunition industry, calls the 3.6 percent rise in paid hunting license holders for 2009 one of the most encouraging signs for hunting in recent years.

"This is great news for our industry and everyone associated with hunting," said Steve Sanetti, president and CEO of the National Shooting Sports Foundation. "Many efforts are at work to build hunting participation, and they are paying off. More people are enjoying the outdoors and sharing the tradition of hunting with family and friends. Also, more hunting license sales translate into more funds for wildlife conservation."

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has reported a total of 14,974,534 paid license holders for 2009, the largest figure since 2002 and an increase of 526,494 over 2008. The 3.6 percent rise in paid license holders represents the largest year-over-year increase since 1974. (A "paid license holder" is one individual regardless of the number of licenses purchased.)

NSSF cites several reasons for the increase, ranging from programs launched by many state wildlife agencies over the last decade to increase hunting participation to a difficult economy that motivated hunters to fill their freezers with game rather than store-bought meat. Also, hunters who were among the unemployed or had their work hours reduced used some of their free time to go hunting.

Coordinated efforts of state wildlife agencies, conservation organizations and the firearms industry appear to have halted a decades-long decline in hunting license sales, which since 2005 have held at the 14.5-million level until the jump in 2009. NSSF has played a key role promoting hunting participation with its programs and websites. Through its Hunting Heritage Partnership program, NSSF has provided state agencies with $3.8 million to fund initiatives designed to encourage hunting among all age groups. Also, through Families Afield, a partnership effort of NSSF, the U.S. Sportsmen’s Alliance and National Wild Turkey Federation started in 2004, thirty states have made it easier for youth to begin hunting at a younger age with licensed adults. NSSF websites such as www.WingshootingUSA.org make it easy for hunters to locate gamebird preserves, where youth can easily get started in hunting and where inactive adult hunters can revive their interest.

Another positive sign for hunting is that contrary to claims of a whole-sale decline in hunting participation, paid license holders have increased in 24 states in the five-year period from 2005 to 2009.

"Due to continued urbanization and changes in our culture, hunting will face significant challenges for the foreseeable future, but at the same time hunting remains an extremely important activity in the lives of millions of Americans, as the latest hunting licenses sales figures confirm," said Sanetti.

NSSF points out that the actual number of hunters who go afield in any given year is greater than the total of paid hunting license holders in that year. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service figures do not account for certain state exemptions for purchasing a hunting license. Many states allow landowners and active military to hunt without purchasing a license; also, lifetime license holders and youth hunters who do not fall within the required license purchasing age are not included in the figures.

According to an NSSF-funded study carried out by Southwick Associates, the pool of hunters in America is much larger than previously thought. The study, released last fall, estimated that 21.8 million people purchased a hunting license at least once in the last five years.

Hunters are the backbone of conservation funding in America, contributing more than $1 billion each year through the purchase of licenses, tags, permits and stamps and through excise taxes paid on firearms and ammunition. For example, proceeds from the sale of Federal Duck Stamps, a required purchase for migratory waterfowl hunting, have purchased more than 5 million acres of habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System.

NSSF, using its new 12-state hunting license sales index, anticipated the national increase in paid hunting license holders by reporting a 3.5 percent increase in license sales last spring. "It's gratifying to see how accurate our state index was, which gives us confidence in future index-based hunting license sales figures," said Jim Curcurutto, NSSF’s director of industry research and analysis.

NSSF will announce its state index hunting license sales report for 2010 this spring.
As you know, the International Hunter Education Association has a commitment to preserving and protecting our right to hunt as well as our hunting heritage. By providing for the IHEA in your will or trust you will help to ensure that future generations will get to experience the same kind of outdoor experiences that you hold so dearly. Please read this testimonial:

“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

You can set aside:
- A specific dollar amount
- A percentage of your estate’s value
- All or part of the remainder of your estate in your will or trust
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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.”

Your advisor may wish to know that 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.
If you are in the market to lay down some cash for new optics to be used afield, there often are many pieces of information to consider, establish the value and make what you believe to be an informed decision. In a world of catchy marketing terms and gadgetry, what matters most is you get a product that fits your particular application and ultimately makes you happy for many years to come.

After determining the model, size, magnification etc… Always try to purchase the best quality you can possibly afford. In order to help you through this process here are a few guidelines.

**Binoculars:**
A new binocular should fit your hand properly – evaluate handling, ergonomics and balance. Check the function of the operating elements for ease of use. You should be able to “feel the quality” in the mechanical focus, the eyecups, and protective armor. Ask yourself if the product seems durable to withstand the rigors of hunting. Considering optical performance by looking for color fringing, edge to edge clarity, resolution and most important, brightness. Evaluating light transmission can often be accomplished in the store by looking into dark corners or areas with your naked eye and then again through the binoculars. Learn how to adjust the diopter setting to your eyes, and if you don’t know how to test the binocular, ask the attendant for help. Always compare several models and if possible do some research on the internet or in publications before entering the store.

**Riflescopes:**
Once you’ve determined the objective size and magnification range, determine if you require an illumination feature or not. Hold the scope and try to judge the workmanship and overall appearance. Is the finish durable and the quality what you expected? Look at the lines of the scope tube body and determine if there is ample mounting space and that the weight and length make sense for your rifle and your hunting style. Are the mechanical features of the windage and elevation adjustments precise, or do they feel “mushy”? Do the knobs protrude where they could snag or move accidentally? There shouldn’t be any internal debris visible on the lens surfaces. Make sure there is no shift in eye relief with magnification change. Try to judge color, fidelity, edge to edge clarity and most importantly the low light performance. Always check the warranty and the reputation of the brand. Think of optics as a long term investment. With proper care your new optics will provide you years or success and enjoyment. Shoot straight, be safe, and get out there.

Kenyon Simpson Wins 2011 Crosman Friend Of Youth Shooting Award

Kenyon Simpson, shooting’s consummate teacher, has won the 2011 Crosman Friend of Youth Shooting Award. By dedicating more than 30 years of his life to teaching the value of shooting as a lifetime sport, his commitment to young people’s learning and safety has established him as the model for shooting’s teacher and coach. The Award was presented last night at the 2011 Crosman Corporation SHOT Show International Reception in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The annual Award recognizes: “An individual or organization whose commitment to excellence in youth shooter education and dedication to a lifetime of safe shooting has enhanced the future of the sport.” According to Ken D’Arcy, Crosman’s president and CEO, Kenyon Simpson embodies the lifetime commitment to shooting celebrated by the award. “There are thousands of dedicated people who give of themselves to encourage the younger generation to embrace shooting as a lifetime activity. Kenyon Simpson has been working alongside youth, both in the classroom and in the field since he was a child at his father’s side. His distinctive style in passing on shooting’s message to young people is what makes him such a special contributor to our sport,” he said.

"The key to growing our sport and maintaining it as a vital element in recreation, is engaging new enthusiasts," said D’Arcy. "We must always remember that in shooting, young people are our future. By fostering resources to encourage and retain our younger generation, Kenyon Simpson..."
is more than an inspiration, he's one of a kind," he said.

Kenyon Simpson is a lifetime teacher, though he's worked as a riverboat pilot, in agriculture, food service and papermaking as well. His father's love of the outdoors and his hands-on teaching style were Simpson's motivation. He began his 30-year elementary school teaching career in Vermont and ended it in New York State, mostly teaching first and second grade.

In his spare time, he introduced his own children and then, countless members of the 4H Clubs of America to the shooting lifestyle. He taught shooting and hunter education classes to students and teachers alike. Wherever his name appeared on a teaching roster, his hunter education classes were full and constantly in demand. Over the years, he has served in a variety of capacities for the 4H Clubs, most notably as a member of the National 4H Shooting Sports Committee, both in Vermont and New York State.

In retirement, Simpson continues his work with the 4H Clubs, doing what he loves best, youth development. Ever the teacher, he has left lasting impressions on many of the more than 14,000 4H youngsters currently participating in a broad range of New York State shooting programs. He remains one of shooting's most committed advocates, with no end in sight.

As a dedicated husband and father, he credits much of his success to the love, support and patience of Patti, his wife of 28 years.

Says D'Arcy, "Kenyon Simpson is a genuine Friend of Youth Shooting. We need many more like him, infused with the same enthusiasm and skill that make him such a valuable contributor. We congratulate Kenyon on winning the Award and on his lifetime of giving back to shooting and the outdoors."

Editor's Note – Kenyon has also graciously been an article contributor for the Hunter & Shooting Sports Education Journal.
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 the www.nssf.org and order your materials today. All the help you need is at your fingertips.
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