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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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**President’s Corner**

**Life (And Hunting) Is About Learning**

By John McKay, President IHEA • President.IHEA@hotmail.com

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First, as the newly elected President of IHEA I believe an introduction is in order.

I began my career with the Nevada Department of Wildlife in 1989 as a fish hatchery trainee. Nine years, with the last five spent as Hatchery Manager, and eight million trout later, I moved into the world of Hunter Education. In 2006, after eight years as NDOW’s Southern Region (Las Vegas) Hunter Ed Coordinator, I was promoted to my current position as Outdoor Education Coordinator, where I oversee Nevada’s statewide Angler and Hunter Education programs. If there’s one common thread that’s run throughout my nearly 22 years working for NDOW it’s been that every day brings a new learning opportunity. I’m certain two years as IHEA President will do the same and only hope I do the office justice.

Before I ever dreamed of a career with “Fish and Game,” I grew up hunting, fishing and generally spending most of my free time in the woods and fields of western Pennsylvania. Each season brought new activities; spring was trout fishing; summer, groundhog hunting; fall was heaven with small game, upland game, waterfowl and of course, deer season; winter brought the occasional crow hunt and hoping I’d get a new gun or fishing rod for Christmas! And again each season and activity brought another opportunity to learn new skills.

After high school I entered the Air Force and let me tell you, I definitely learned a thing or two in basic training! Upon graduation I received orders to Nellis AFB outside Las Vegas, NV and just like that I became a Westerner. Over the next eight years; military duty followed by the transition back to civilian life, multiple moves, marriage, children, etc., etc. kept me pretty busy and away from hunting and fishing. Once I decided it was time to get back in the game I figured my experience from days afield in Penn’s woods would be all I needed and I’d be dining on wild game again in no time. Boy was I wrong! Sitting in a deer stand stock still for hours doesn’t do much to get you close to muley bucks that live out their lives on 10,000 ft. rocky ridges miles from the nearest road. It was back to the drawing board for me and yet another opportunity to learn.

By now I’m hoping you might have guessed where I’m going with all of this. Besides presenting my life story in painfully boring detail, I hope to drive home the point that no matter what the subject, there’s always room to learn. And as Hunter Education Instructors I think that’s something we sometimes lose sight of when teaching new hunters.

One of the seemingly never-ending debates concerning Hunter Ed is what information should be included in our basic courses. Inevitably there is always one more topic that must be taught or the student will leave the class ill-prepared. I urge you to reconsider the urge to add ever more information and instead consider hunting a life-long learning experience that can’t possibly be taught in eight, ten or 16 hours.

I know that as experienced hunters there are many topics we consider vital to know before even going hunting, let alone having a good chance of success. And no doubt, there are numerous topics that are very important and should be considered essential to every Hunter Ed class. But where we draw the line between “must-know” and “nice-to-know” is the key.

Think about it. Does it take a student knowing every rifle caliber and shotgun gauge developed since the invention of gunpowder to make a safe, responsible hunter? Or is it perhaps the student knowing how to tell the difference between the different calibers and gauges, where to find that information and ultimately which round-shell is correct for their firearm and intended use?

So as you peruse this issue of the Journal and read the various articles on hunting skills I ask you to always remind yourself that students in your classes are often just starting out on this life-long journey called hunting. With the limited time you have to teach the course ask yourself what is the truly important information these new hunters need so they begin their journeys safely and responsibly. In reality our Hunter Education courses barely scratch the surface of all there is to know about hunting, but that’s okay as long as we give students the right start and declining hunting incident trends show we are. Remember life (and hunting) is about learning and isn’t that really half the fun?

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**Send Us Your Stories!**

One of the main goals of the Journal is to provide a platform for the exchange of ideas and teaching experience that can help improve the education process of the more than 700,000 new hunters annually. In order to fulfill that goal we need the input of instructors in the field. Please submit your stories and/or photos about teaching techniques that work for you, thoughts about the state of our hunting heritage today, anecdotal stories about “it happened to me” in class, visual training aids, etc... Don’t worry about spelling or grammar. Every submission receives some sort of prize from supporting manufacturers.

Send your submission to Susie Kiefer at susiekiefer@msn.com. No computer? You can mail your submission to: IHEA Journal, PO Box 432, Wellington, CO 80549.
Just Think Of Us As Your Teacher’s Aide

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.

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I started hunting dove, quail and pheasant at eight years of age, and most of the first 20 years of my hunting life I hunted without a dog. Because I didn’t have a dog and the fact that I absolutely hate losing game, I needed to become proficient at marking downed birds in cover. Since the theme of this edition of the Journal is Hunting Skills, I wanted to share what I have learned over the years about finding downed birds.

After taking the shot, stop moving and stay put while you watch the bird fall until it hits the ground, keeping your eye on the exact spot where it went in. Just like with marksman-ship skills, the same adage holds true to marking downed birds. Remember to “aim small, miss small.”

In the sense of marking a downed bird, you need to mark the exact spot where the bird went down, not some general area like, “somewhere near that tree.” Stand there with your eye on the spot and ensure your gun is safe by pointing it in a safe direction, engaging the safety, and keeping your finger outside the trigger guard. If you know the bird is dead you may even want to unload your gun.

In an ideal world you could keep your eye on that spot and walk directly to the bird. However, in reality the reason you have to concentrate so much on the spot is because the bird went down in cover. This means you will have to walk through cover and not be able to see where you are walking if you were to keep your eye on the spot where the bird went down. Instead, you will need to pick out some kind of landmark or point of reference in relation to your mark. A high plant, or some other nearby landmark might be all you need, or you may need to pick out something on the horizon like a tree or telephone pole that is in direct line with where the bird went down. Now, before you start walking you need to memorize your downed bird mark in relation to your point of reference (i.e. five feet to the west of the tallest sunflower), because you are going to have to take your eyes off the spot to make sure you watch where you are walking as you go to retrieve the bird.

You will find times however, when there is an obstacle (tree, fence, ditch, etc.) in your path. In these situations you will need to stop and get two points of reference. In addition to the point of reference where you have marked your downed bird, you also need to get a point of reference in a direct line with you and the direction you have approached from. Let’s say you shot a dove and it went down in heavy cover at the base of a tall identifiable sunflower, but you have to cross a fence to get to it. The best place to cross is 20 feet to your right. Keep walking in a straight line to your mark until you reach the obstacle and then stop. Turn around and get a reference point in line with you and the spot where the bird went down. Let’s say there is a grain silo in a direct line with the direction you have come from. So with you standing still by the fence, your sunflower mark, you, and the grain silo are all in a straight line. Now go around the obstacle, move back in line using your point of reference from the direction you came, and the point of reference where the bird fell. Continue walking toward your mark. In this case you would cross the fence, and then walk back until you are in line with the grain silo and your sunflower you have as your mark. Now you are back on line and you can continue to your mark.

Often you will be able to walk right to your mark and pick up the bird. However, sometimes you will only find feathers or blood, and other times you may not find anything at all, meaning you may not have marked the exact spot where the bird went down. If you don’t have a dog, you will need to mark your spot where you think the bird went in with surveyor’s tape or some other easily identifiable marker. Some bright colored ribbon works well too. If you are wearing a blaze orange hat, DO NOT TAKE OFF YOUR HAT TO USE IT AS A MARKER. It is better to leave your blaze orange hat on so that other hunters can see you.

From your spot where you have tied off your tape, slowly start circling...
around the area in an ever-increasing radius from your mark. If you could look at it from above, you will move outward in a spiral motion with your mark at the center, hence I call this the spiral search, although some people refer to it as a grid search or circle search. Take your time, even rooster pheasants with green heads can be difficult to find in cover. Quail and doves are even harder to find because of their camouflaged plumage. Keep moving in an ever-increasing outward spiral until you have found the bird or have given it your best effort. In some cases (especially with pheasants) crippled birds can run a significant distance from where they fell, and without a dog it may be virtually impossible to find the bird.

If you are hunting with others, you can help mark downed birds by stopping and watching the bird fall. Keep your eye on the exact spot and stay still until the shooter has made it to your mark. You can help to guide him or her there as long as you stay still and keep your eye on the mark. This also helps to triangulate the location with two different people (the shooter and the spotter) marking the spot. If the shooter can’t find the bird, then go aid in the search.

When two or more people are looking for a downed bird, make sure everyone unloads their guns and opens their actions. You will have several people in a close proximity and you want to make sure all guns are unloaded, with actions open, and pointed in a safe direction.

After you find the bird, remember to take your surveyor’s tape, ribbon or marking with you. With a little practice you will find these steps very easy to accomplish and these steps should make finding your downed birds much easier.

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.
As a hunter safety coordinator or volunteer instructor do you ever wonder if any of the info you toss out there is sticking? Do you ever wonder if your message is getting through to anyone? Do you wonder if you are making a difference? Well, I am here to put your minds at rest. The answer is a resounding yes, and thank you.

I did not grow up in a hunting household. I did not have any friends who hunted. The thought of guns never crossed my mind until I read the paper or saw a news report of some type of violent act or military operation involving guns. The word “game” to me meant Scrabble, poker, golf, or baseball. Not very many years ago, I was a hunter education student—and things changed. I do not know what lead me to search the Illinois DNR website. Not sure what caused me to sign up for a hunter education class. I had no intention of hunting. I mean really, who does that in modern society, especially in the Chicago area, with a grocery store on every corner?

I attended the class alone, a single adult female in a class full of fathers there with their sons and daughters. When the introductions went around the class as to why we were there and what we hoped to gain, my response was, “I don’t know.” I guess my reason for being there was curiosity more than anything else. The class incorporated a lot more than just hunting. The instructor talked about the Pittman-Robertson Act, wildlife management, conservation, preservation, survival skills, firearm safety and much more, but mainly, it was about the outdoors. My curiosity was in overdrive, I wanted to know more.

The class was held at Moose Lodge and hosted by the Morton Grove Sportsman’s Club. The club took a few moments to tell what they were about and asked if anyone was interested in joining to be a member. I talked to one of the guys and told him I was new to the club and wanted to learn more. He told me to feel free to attend a meeting. I did, and the guys were inviting and willing to help a rookie by sharing knowledge, experiences and mentoring. I joined, as the first female member in the club’s 30-year history.

Joining the club was not enough for me; I still needed more. I continued to search the DNR website and I found the Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) program. I signed up and went with a friend. The first night in at the BOW was a social, get-to-know-everyone night, and I met Jeff Hopkins, Illinois Hunter Education Coordinator. The next morning I was in Jeff’s archery class. I had never picked up a bow before that day. Since that time, I have purchased two.

The next afternoon is where my outdoor life got interesting. I had signed up for a fly-fishing class. Unfortunately, the instructor for that class was in a car accident on her way to the BOW. No one was injured, but she was not going to make it to the event, and the class was canceled. It was replaced with Walking in the Woods with Linda Prescott, director of the Wildlife Prairie State Park. In the one day Jeff had known me, even he knew I was not a “nature” person and told me he had room in his intermediate archery program for the afternoon. I opted for the walk in the woods. Yes, I, too, was surprised by that decision.

So, we walked off the beaten path and the nicely paved roads, into the heart of the Pere Marquette State Park. Linda identified the plants, including poison ivy, talked about those that have medicinal purposes and pointed out other interesting facts. She picked up an acorn.
off the ground and explained how you could make a whistle noise through it. I decided not to try that; in the city we don’t pick up things off the ground and put them in our mouths.

As we walked we came to a persimmon tree, and Linda explained that a persimmon was ripe when it had just fallen off the tree. She then picked one up and bit into it, explained the difference in taste of a ripe persimmon to a not-so-ripe one and then asked us to try one. I again passed on the opportunity.

We had been walking around for an hour and a half, and it was almost time for our session to be over. Linda asked each of us to find a quiet place in the woods to calm our minds for a bit and take it all in. I thanked her for her time and told her I was okay and did not need the quiet time. She insisted. I again, told her I was fine. She asked me to do it for her. FINE! I went into the woods and found a place to pout, I mean, be.

I found a fallen dead tree, and I sat there, wondering what unknown animal was going to eat me before the ten minutes of torture was over. I then started to reason with myself. I decided I was there and that I had come all this way, so I should at least try. I closed my eyes and took a deep breath. “What’s that noise?” I thought as I opened my eyes. I tried to settle down and closed my eyes again…and again. “What’s that noise?”

“Okay, last time, try,” I thought to myself. I took a couple of deep breaths. All of a sudden the area went completely silent—and then it wasn’t. Like some sort of wave, the sounds of the forest started to open up. For the first time, I truly heard birds singing. Bugs and other things were rustling under the dry Fall leaves. Things were buzzing around my face, but I did not feel a need to wave them away. Not sure what, but something had happened to me, and I will admit, I was a little freaked out about it.

I heard Linda calling us all back. “So, what did you think?” she asked.

“It was okay,” I responded.

At lunch the next day, everyone was saying their good-byes and collecting email addresses. I had been talking to someone, but the conversation trailed off, and I found myself sitting and staring at the window. Not out the window, but at the window. A carpenter ant was walking around the window sill, and, for some reason, I just started to watch it, noticing the way it was going up and down, sideways and back up again. Out of the corner of my eye, I saw Linda watching me watch the ant, and she started to smile. She knew I was hooked!

I went back to the DNR website to search for more outdoor opportunities. A section on wingshooting publicized classes sponsored by the DNR to introduce ladies and youth to shotgun shooting. I had never shot before, and this really got my attention. I attended a class on a Sunday morning, and following the safety seminar I was able to take my first shot. So, this is what they were talking about during the hunter education class.

After the class I talked with the instructors, who encouraged me to shoot with them again at their gun club, no equipment necessary. Camaraderie—that was something else they mentioned in the hunter education class. I went back to the Morton Grove Sportsman’s Club and asked the guys where to purchase a shotgun and where to shoot. Since that time, we have had several club shoots and get-togethers at the range, and over the years I have purchased a shotgun—or two—or three.

I never stopped learning, from anyone who would teach me, about hunting, hunter education and the shooting sports. I’ve had some great mentors, who have taken me on deer, turkey, waterfowl, and bird hunts. That however, was not enough. Not only did I want to learn, but I also wanted to share my experiences with others. A couple of years later I became a hunter education instructor and was teaching classes in the same place where I took my first class. My instructor was very proud, because I was fulfilling a lesson from the class—pass on your knowledge and get more people involved.

It was not long after becoming an instructor, that I accepted a job with Bass Pro Shops as the promotions manager at the Chicago area store. With this opportunity I was able to introduce others to the outdoors.

Today, I am the manager of First Shots, with the National Shooting Sports Foundation. My job is to aid shooting ranges in increasing participation in the shooting sports by introducing new people to the sport of target shooting.

It all started by taking the hunter education course. So, to all of the volunteer instructors, all of the state coordinators and everyone in between, thank you for all you do. You are not only securing our hunting heritage, but you are also opening the door to the opportunities and adventures that await us in the great outdoors.

About the Author - On April 4, 2011, Tisma Juett began her work at the National Shooting Sports Foundation as manager of First Shots. Juett once helped organize a First Shots seminar for a former employer, never dreaming that one day she would be overseeing the nationwide program that introduces newcomers of all ages to target shooting with handgun, rifle or shotgun at participating shooting ranges nationwide.
If you study the archaeological record here in North America you will find evidence that Humans have been hunting and trapping fur-bearers since they came over the Bering Strait anywhere from ten to thirty thousand years ago during the Pleistocene Era. Fossilized bones and burnt bone, called calcine bone, are found in fire pits and are dated using the Carbon 14 method. Without the presence of this bone, and the carbon within it, scientists would have to depend on more fragile carbon bearing organic material such as leaves and wood which deteriorates at a much faster rate. Archaeologists hypothesize that the majority of the bone material was disposed of so as not to attract unwanted guests in the form of Smilodon (Saber Toothed Cats), Dire Wolves, and Short-Faced Bear. However, some theorize that bone was burned in rituals thanking the creator for a full belly and future harvests. These early hunters used every part of the game they harvested, from the valuable marrow in the bones which provided protein, to the beautiful insulating hide and fur that kept them warm during the tail end of the ice age. As North America warmed and slowly became inhabited by different cultures with different values, trading furs evolved into America’s initial industry. The Native Americans that first trapped these animals for food, clothing, and shelter found themselves trading furs with their new neighbors from the western world for items they had never imagined possible. Copper pots, colorful glass beads, guns and gunpowder together with the furs all formed a new form of commerce. Major companies sprung up all over the east and ventured west in search of tribes who would trade for furs. The Hudson’s Bay Company formed in Canada and was a huge success. When President Thomas Jefferson sent Lewis and Clark to find the passage to the Pacific in 1804, they were met by many tribes that had already traded with “free trappers” or Mountain Men who didn’t work for a single company but could sell their furs or “plews” to anyone they wished. Beaver was the big prize until the silk industry replaced the need for beaver pelts to make top hats like the one President Lincoln wore. To make these hats they made felt from the beaver fur and then treated it with mercury to bind the hair fibers. (This is why the Mad Hatter went mad—inhaling Mercury!!!) A hundred years later during the Great Depression, many a household supplemented their income by checking a rat line on the way home from work or school. A few dollars back then went a long way and was well worth the effort. The fur market remains active today, of course not as active as it was in our country’s first few centuries however, there are fluctuating markets in Asia, Europe, and North America. Throughout history we have developed new methods of take as our understanding of science and technology has progressed. The trinity, as I call it, Firearms, Bow, and Trapping have all taken turns being in the number one position with trapping having it first, then bow, and of course our present leader; firearms. It is interesting to note that both firearms and bows have advanced and retreated from using state-of-the-art technology to earlier more primitive forms; from compound to long bow and high-powered rifle to muzzleloader respectively. Trapping has tended to advance in a more linear fashion from figure four, deadfalls, and snares to footholds, Conibears, and species-specific traps. Deadfalls and figure fours are still legal in Connecticut, but using snares would conflict in areas congested with people that own pets. I recently became a trapping instructor and there are several reasons why I chose to do so. First and foremost, we need instructors in the state of Connecticut. Our existing team is top notch but sometimes we are spread fairly thin. Secondly, obtaining this certification completed my being an instructor in what I have already referred to as the Trinity of Hunting- firearms, bow, and trapping. Of the three of them I find that trapping keeps me the most intimate with habitats and the myriad of creatures that inhabit them. For example: If you’re a big game hunter here in Connecticut...
northeast Connecticut, your primary interest and focus is on whitetail deer. You must scout, put up a deer stand (if you choose) stink the place up, learn to call and understand the calls you hear, and sight your gun in. As a trapper, who is trapping a pond, you are probably not just trapping one species. You want to make your time afield as productive as possible. So, when you check your traps every day you will be checking your mink traps and muskrat traps in the streams and brooks along the way to the big pond where you have your beaver and otter traps set. You might even check along the stone walls that surround the pond for any long-tailed weasels that might have visited your box traps. And instead of learning the habits of just one species, you will have to read the sign for all the critters you trap so you don’t waste your time setting for a species that simply is not there.

Connecticut’s basic trapping class introduces the novice or the sage to traps, scents, sign, wildlife identification, rules and regulations, and many other aspects that pertain to trapping. Skinning, curing, and selling hides are covered as well. Demonstrations of setting traps, variations on sets, and hands-on scenarios aid the trapper in getting comfortable with some serious trapping equipment. We also stress the importance of being a responsible and conscientious trapper, one that follows all the rules and regulations and sets a good example for others by being humble and of high moral character. In Connecticut we also have a second trapping class that is available only after you have completed the basic class. This class is for land trapping coyotes, a predator and furbearer that has moved into the timber wolf’s niche due to the timber wolf’s extirpation. Extirpation is the process of removing or forcing an animal out of an area through habitat destruction, over-hunting (of course before regulated hunting existed), and/or poisoning.

In conclusion, I find trapping in Connecticut to be one of the most rewarding outdoor experiences I have ever participated in. I wish the energetic days of my youth had been spent checking trap lines on my way to and from school, weekends and holidays, by myself or with friends, but those days are gone. As an adult it’s all I can do to check a little line of my own. However, through teaching the class with my fellow instructors, I can recruit as many of today’s youth as possible to ensure that the trapping heritage, which is so much a part of the greatness and history of these United States, lives on for many future generations to come. Trapping, like firearms hunting and bow hunting is not always about taking game but of living life outdoors contently; exploring the woods and streams, hoping to find the place where you can connect with nature by following your trail and hoping a fair wind will always accompany you.

*The way that you wander
Is the way that you choose,
The day that you tarry
Is the day that you lose,
Sunshine or thunder,
a man will wonder where
the fair wind blows...where
the fair wind blows.*

(From the movie Jeremiah Johnson 1972) Mountain Man.

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Photos Courtesy of Kevin Segar
We’ve written it before. You’ve read it before. In fact, you live it with every graduating class of hunter education students you teach. The repeating theme: How do I get them started actually hunting?

It’s a common challenge, and the National Shooting Sports Foundation and the North American Gamebird Association (NAGA) are working together with the International Hunter Education Association to pilot a program that provides, in part, a means of meeting that challenge in the form of a deeply discounted half-day of bird hunting at a preserve.

Selected areas of Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia will introduce the pilot program, Explore Wingshooting, this fall.

Here’s how the program is expected to work: Hunter education instructors in the trial areas will be supplied, by their state’s hunter education coordinator, with a brochure on the program and a list of North American Gamebird Association member hunting preserves in their state that have opted to be part of Explore Wingshooting. The instructors, in turn, will give this brochure to their hunter education graduates, who can, on their own, contact a listed preserve and make a reservation for a half-day hunt.

This outing will be good not only for the hunter education grad but also for his or her accompanying “mentor.” The preserve will provide a guide who will handle a trained hunting dog. The species of birds hunted will depend upon the preserve’s standard hunt package and species hunted on each participating preserve. The hunt may be for pheasants, chukars, bobwhite quail or a combination of those species. Some preserves may also offer practice on clay birds and a meal or a snack as part of the package. Each youth hunter will go home with a package of processed birds.

A half-day experience like that might typically run several hundred dollars for one hunter, but participating preserves have agreed to offer this special opportunity for only $175 for the youth’s adult hunting partner, presumably the paying half of the hunting twosome.

NSSF, the trade association of the hunting and shooting sports, firearms and ammunition industry, has worked with NAGA to develop this program, and has hired a consultant, Roger Wells, to implement Explore Wingshooting. He has visited with hunter education leaders in the pilot states to enlist their support, and he is recruiting preserves in the designated sections of those states to participate.

Randy Clark, NSSF’s managing director, business development, proposed the program, inspired by the Explore Bowhunting program pioneered by the archery industry.

“Our goal is to provide the opportunity for hunter education graduates to take part in the continuing education process and put their skills and learning into practice,” Clark said.

Although Clark developed the concept for Explore Wingshooting, he is quick to credit the archery industry for the inspiration, the cooperation of NAGA, IHEA and state agency hunter education coordinators, and the work being provided by NSSF’s staff members and NSSF’s consultant.

“Melissa Schilling, NSSF manager, recruitment and development, has done the groundwork to make this program a reality,” Clark said.

In addition to manpower, NSSF will invest in this program by reimbursing the participating preserves $75 for extra birds released for the youth hunter.

As a pilot program, the experiment is limited. For example, it is only being tested in zones of five states. These states were chosen because they are geographically contiguous, generally are densely populated and, in some cases, present limited hunting opportunity for newcomers.

Furthermore, NSSF will subsidize these hunts for a quota of 50 hunter education graduates in each of the five states. Wells will work with the preserves to keep a running tally, and once 50 hunts are booked in a state, it will be up to individual preserves to decide if they wish to continue to honor the promotion.

NAGA has shown great enthusiasm for this effort.

“We are excited about the Explore Wingshooting Program as a cooperative way to introduce youth to hunting,” said Ladd Johnson, NAGA executive director. “Preserve hunting allows new hunters to experience a safe and professionally controlled venue to their first hands-on hunting experience.”

If the preserve is the venue, you, as a hunter education instructor, are the conduit to that venue. If you teach in a designated section of the five pilot states, please participate by distributing the program’s brochure to your graduating students.

If you’d like more information on Explore Wingshooting, contact Roger Wells at 620-340-5808 or email him at rmwells@bluestemtelco.com.
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The Smith & Wesson 460.XVR™ has the highest muzzle velocity of any production revolver on earth.

A mature buck is sensitive, always aware, and in a split second... he's gone. Do you have what it takes to stop him? The NEW Smith & Wesson Model 460XVR™ is the world's only X-treme Velocity Revolver. "Gain twist" rifling delivers superb ballistic efficiency, velocity and accuracy. The NEW 460 S&W Magnum® cartridge fuels the fire and the result is an extremely versatile, easy-to-handle revolver with muzzle velocity over 2300 ft/second. Now that's X-treme velocity!

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The woodland caribou of Newfoundland, Canada have fallen on hard times.

Their population has declined by over sixty percent over the past decade. This has many people concerned about the survival of the species and the ability to hunt these animals, which is not just a sport but a way of life for many of the natives of Newfoundland. Because of the decline in population, there have been reduced annual hunting quotas and even entire closures of hunting in some herds.

Researchers in Newfoundland have determined that calf mortality is the primary cause of this continued and rapid decline of the caribou. Calf mortality is primarily attributed to predation. The primary predators of caribou are black bears, coyotes, and lynx.

The government of Newfoundland and Labrador has invested $15.3 million in a five-year predator/prey research and management strategy, started in 2008. This investment represents the largest conservation initiative in the history of woodland caribou, and one of the largest in the history of North American wildlife management. As part of its commitment to science-based conservation, Safari Club International Foundation (SCIF) has committed an additional $250,000 to the research, along with the necessary equipment that is required to track the caribou calves and their predators.

Furthermore, SCIF has contracted the University of Idaho genetics lab to, through the use of wildlife genetics, determine caribou predator population densities and the predator species responsible for caribou calf kills. In determining the predator populations and the amount of predation each species attributes, we can better manage the predator’s populations, helping to ensure the survival and population recovery of the woodland caribou.

Researchers at the University of Idaho are using non-invasive genetic sampling (NGS) to determine predator population densities. The results of their findings will assist the government of Newfoundland and Labrador in setting predator harvest limits and determining ways to stabilize caribou populations.

Efforts in wildlife conservation, such as the rehabilitation of the woodland caribou population, would not exist without hunters and hunter advocacy organizations such as SCIF. We will continue to support science-based conservation to ensure the important balance between predator, prey and people.

Please Remember the IHEA When Writing Your Will

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
• 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.
“Here’s a shotgun sight I’m really excited about…

…the new Two In One from HiViz.”

Allen Treadwell,
TV Host and NSCA All-American

The Two In One is a revolutionary magnetic shotgun sight with a new twist – two colors in one. Our unique molded LitePipe design makes it possible for us to combine two colors in the same sight. Changing colors is now as easy as turning the sight around 180°!

But the Two In One has several other benefits. Each sight has four magnets in the base making this our strongest magnetic sight. The LitePipes are protected by a housing making them nearly impossible to break, and we’re including them in two different shapes – round and triangular. Select the shape you want plus the color combination (orange or green) on the same sight!

---

Shooting Tip #13: Gun Fit

The fact is most shotguns can be made to fit most people by adjusting stock dimensions and balance. For new shooters, two dimensions will be the most critical.

They are drop and length of pull (L). Drop is the measurement from where the cheek touches the stock to a line parallel with the rib. The drop must be sufficient so the shooter can see over the rib without lifting their head. Length of pull is measured from the curve of the trigger to the midpoint of the butt or recoil pad. This length must be long enough to keep clearance between the hand and face, but not so long as to hinder mounting or balance.
The new public firing range in Arkansas officially opened its doors June 11, 2011. The Independence County Firing Range near Batesville will be known as the Paul H. "Rocky" Willmuth Sport Shooting Complex. The complex was named after Willmuth, who was instrumental in securing funds to build the facility.

The shooting complex was cooperatively developed by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Independence County and the City of Batesville to fulfill the growth of sport shooting in the state. The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission’s firing range system has locations for shotgun sports in Mayflower and near Hope, with a third range under development near Warren. The new shooting range is a three-field combination skeet/trap range. The complex is fully supervised and open to the public. It will be the site of Arkansas Youth Shooting Sports Program events, as well as club trap and skeet competitions.

With the costs of travel increasing, range users routinely drive as much as an hour to use shooting facilities. Over 440,000 people, in 201,755 households, live within a 60-mile radius of the range site. This includes nearly 80,000 school children. About 24 percent, between the ages of 21 and 64, have some form of disability. These statistics are a good illustration of the need for Americans with Disabilities Act compliant accessibility features.

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission was able to leverage Wildlife Restoration Act funds by the substantial support from county and city government, local businesses and private donations. This project illustrates the importance of local, state and federal cooperative efforts. It could not have been accomplished without the hard work and contributions of local partners and the leadership of the city and county elected officials and community leaders.

Examples of local support include, Independence County’s purchase of land needed to construct the range, labor, equipment and materials for site preparation; the City of Batesville provided labor and equipment to lay much of the concrete for sidewalks, trap/skeet houses and parking spaces as well as installation of utility service. Local businesses provided donations of electrical and carpentry work. Private donations were made to construct the clubhouse and other improvements.

Much of the $203,750 in Wildlife Restoration Act funds were used for materials and equipment with the non-federal match met through the local contributions. Local government and community leaders continue to expand the shooting sports complex by securing funds to construct an archery range, a fourth trap field, paving of the access road and parking and restrooms. At this time, the local contributions and other grant funds for the shooting complex projects are about $600,000.

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

If you’ve ever purchased firearms and ammunition, archery bows and arrows, fishing lures, rods and reels, hunting or fishing licenses or fueled up your boat...you’ve contributed to the most successful effort to conserve fish and wildlife in America—the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR).

In 2012, federal and state natural resource agencies; the hunting, shooting, angling and boating industries; and the greater conservation community will proudly observe the 75th anniversary of WSFR and the success of the partnerships that have made this program what it is today. Since 1937, WSFR has provided over $12 billion for fish and wildlife, supplied jobs for many Americans, and benefitted local economies through boating, fishing, hunting, and shooting activities.

Join us and celebrate 75 years of better hunting, fishing and wildlife-related recreation through WSFR. It really is Your Nature!

For more information contact: Christina Zarrella, USFWS–WSFR, Fish and Wildlife Administrator Christina_zarrella@fws.gov, 703-862-5761. Visit online, www.wsfr75.com or www.facebook.com/#!WSFR75 Twitter: http://twitter.com/#!/wsfr75

By Luther Zachary, Chief, Programs Branch, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program and Wayne Waltz, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Charleston Field Office
After spending several years teaching hunter-safety classes, a group of instructors in a small, rural Nebraska community proposed an innovative idea for youth-model rifles and other equipment collecting dust between classes. They wondered, “How about making rifles and other equipment used during class available to students for an extended length of time?”

Since the class was only offered once a year, loaning out their Henry Mini Bolt and Henry Youth Model Lever Action (both .22 caliber) rifles between sessions would keep them in use, as well as allow students to continue practicing during the interim.

Of course, loaning out rifles to interested youngsters was ambitious, and before putting the plan into action, the group of instructors compiled “what-if” scenarios and discussed several possible avenues to take.

In the end, the group created a list of candidates and decided to loan the rifles to responsible students’ parents. This not only ensured parental-supervision, but also allowed both to take a vested interest in the program. As the loan proposition began, two parents were approached, and both eagerly agreed to take part. The first year, a real beginner started with the Mini Bolt, while a more mature student was loaned the lever action. The second year, the “beginner” moved to the lever action, and the Mini Bolt went to a new student.

Bill Wilson, a veteran hunter-safety instructor and one of the creators of the program, summarized the group’s intention: “I am sure the idea of getting more exposure to the rifles and perhaps other equipment is a good one.”

This loan program has been in place (and thriving) for about five years now; it has successfully made rifles available for practice, as well as gained exposure for the Henrys. Parent and student feedback has also been positive, and several Youth Lever Actions have recently been purchased by fathers and grandfathers.

The group of instructors is currently exploring the possibility of adding a range finder to the “loaner” rifles, which students and parents can use to check out deer and turkey spots before season. This approach has generated support from parents and other family members who can then become “experienced volunteers” in class activities.

The loaner program is working well for this rural community, and it can probably be modified for other areas by instructors who first establish goals and expand on the concept.

Wilson readily identifies lasting effects of the program, “I urge instructors to try the loan proposition if they can, and a few students will benefit way beyond the class sessions.”

By Bill Wilson, NE HE Instructor

The Rifle Loan Proposition
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When reliability, versatility, performance and affordability are a must, Ruger® M77® Hawkeye® bolt-action rifles are designed to be instant classics. Built with versatility, style and performance in mind, these rifles offer shooters a host of functional enhancements that provide rewarding shooting experiences - slim ergonomics, classic checkering of the walnut stock, and the LOF™ trigger - Ruger M77 Hawkeye rifles will impress knowledgeable shooters with their performance-improving features.

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TO LEARN MORE ABOUT RUGER M77 HAWKEYE RIFLES, SCAN THE QR CODE TO THE LEFT WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE.
A common problem is running out of windage or elevation adjustment.

**Step 1:** Rule out a defective mounting system. Inspect the mounts to ensure they are attached securely and square. Return the scope’s reticle back to “factory center” by counting the total number of clicks for both windage and elevation turrets and then moving each back by ½ that total amount. Check if the scope tube is square with the firearm’s receiver and barrel. Pull the bolt and with the rifle in a stable rest, look down the breech end and through the barrel to center the bullseye in the bore diameter. Without moving the gun, raise your head to look through the riflescope. If the crosshairs are not on paper at 25 yards you have an alignment problem.

**Step 2:** Switch the rings 180 degrees to see if the adjustment difficulty reverses itself. If you run out of adjustment in the opposite direction then you have isolated the problem to the rings. Turn one ring back around or use another ring set. If these combinations do not yield success, then it is time to use the same reversal method to diagnose the base. Look at the base to see if there is too much play between the hole size and the anchoring screw. Switching brands on rings or bases is an effective solution.

**Step 3:** Check the drilling on the rifle. To detect misalignment use a “connect the dots” approach with a laser or straight edge extending the line beyond the receiver. Another encounter called barrel runout pertaining to barrel and bore straightness can cause adjustment deficiency. For these problems, consult the rifle manufacturer.

**Step 4:** The last common culprit is the actual scope adjustment sticking, jumping or not responding. This can be diagnosed by centering the reticle then watching the crosshairs move while using a boresighter. If the crosshair does not move at all the turret gear assembly is defective. If it moves but not the entire specified adjustment range (½ the total range in each direction) something is binding—verify the rings are not over tightened or the tube bent. If the crosshairs jump erratically the reticle retention springs are defective. Use quality steel rings and bases and avoid shimming. Shoot straight, be safe, and get out there.
“I can’t wait to take a lucky student and instructor hunting in Saskatchewan, Canada.”

Jim Shockey
Professional Hunter
WIN THE JIM SHOCKEY DREAM HUNT

Are you a hunter education instructor? Then you could win an all-expense-paid, once-in-a-lifetime dream hunt with Jim Shockey, professional hunter and T.V. host.

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

How it works:

When you teach a field day or follow-up class, look for the HUNTERcourse.com Student Voucher. Every Student Voucher is an entry for you into the contest. You don’t need to do anything. If your student wins, so do you.
Yes! I get to miss school to go hunting, this ought to be fun!

Not once did the possibility of shooting a 400 pound buck mule deer cross my mind on a Friday morning in late October. Dad told me stories of how monstrous bucks lived in South Eastern Colorado, but the stories had started becoming farfetched about the trophy bucks that came out of the area. To tell the truth I had heard so many of the gosh-dang stories that I stopped responding. Well let me tell ya ladies and gentlemen, my daddy Clint Fisher was right and my story is here to tell!

Waking up way early, before the sun was up is not the thing I am best at in life, usually 10 a.m. is the earliest I can drag myself out of bed. But somehow, my dad managed to drag me out of bed. After the morning coffee, Sparky (Delmar Eichenberg, a family friend) and my dad got everything packed in the truck and we headed out of town. A couple of miles out of town we stopped and started to walk up to a low-land area where there was a small, long pond with deer tracks surrounding it. We crept around the whole thing hoping to find our so called “monstrous” buck, within the first 20 minutes we had been out. Eventually, we found out 45 minutes later that there were no deer around that area of where we were looking.

Sparky and my dad decided maybe we should venture out. I didn’t blame them- I was getting tired of walking and walking some more. Too bad the walking didn’t stop, by the end of the day I had walked over 15 miles. Driving around we found tracks, and followed them to where they disappeared. This went on and on, and soon we went back to camp for a while, took a nap and had some lunch!

As two o’clock came around, it was time to head out to the field again. Driving out of town we decided to start a little bit farther out from where we began. Getting out of the truck, my dad thought he had the brilliant idea of wanting to walk again. Soon enough I was so bored that I started fumbling around and lost the top to my gun stabilizer stick (shooting stick). I was afraid to tell my dad, because I didn’t want to listen to him gripe at me. So I started searching around me, I never found the top, so I had to tell my dad!

Being pretty irritated with me, my dad came up with the idea of using the top of an “Off” bug spray bottle and duck tape to fix it. After we were all fixed up and back in the truck, we started driving around. Driving up to a pond bottom, I was staring out the window kind of in my own world, and there I saw a HUGE buck! My dad and I saw him at the exact same time. We didn’t want to scare the deer so we drove a little bit past and the adrenaline pumped like crazy in my body. I got up on the ledge and I hid so that the deer wouldn’t see me. Then I got my gun lined up and stabilized it on my stick. I had my trophy buck in my line of sight and my heart pounded. “Clink” You have got to be joking me! My gun fell off my stick because the “Off” top couldn’t hold my gun. Quietly as we could, my dad and I fixed the stick. I got my buck lined up again and took a shot. Thump! “You hit him!!” My monster buck took a head dive and was down! The smile could not come off my face, I turned to the truck to look at Sparky and he gave me thumbs up. The buck was a huge 5x5 and it looked like it weighed over 400 pounds to me.

Pulling the truck over we dragged the buck to the truck, gutted him and tried to get him in the truck. There was only a slight problem; two men can not lift a huge deer into a back of a truck. After brainstorming for a while, we wrapped a rope around the antlers, dragged him across a field and had the deer on top of a slope so that we could drag him into the truck easier. Then the true dirty work came into place, which was all up to my dad and Sparky while I sat in the camper and worked on my homework.

This memory will last in my mind forever and my dad’s. I am glad that I had the opportunity to do this, and I would be lucky to ever do it again. This is the best way to start high school! Taking something as big as I did, gives me high expectations for the future. I am glad I have a story to share with many people, and I think most people will be shocked with the mission I accomplished, being a teenage girl, but the photos are the proof.
Limited Edition Commemorative Patch/Lapel Pin Order Form

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Card Type: MasterCard Visa

Expiration Date: __________________________

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**Total Payment** ___________________________

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In addition to the benefits listed above, each new IHEA ANNUAL $25 IHEA Individual Membership includes:

- 1. IHEA Membership Card.
- 2. IHEA ‘Member’ Pin.
- 3. IHEA ‘Member’ Decal.
- 4. IHEA Membership Patch.
- 5. IHEA Responsible Hunting static cling Window Decal.
- 6. Special early bird invitations to IHEA events (www.ihea.com).
- 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:

- 1. $100 Cabela’s Gift Certificate
- 2. Recognition on the IHEA website as a Lifetime member.
- 3. Certificate signed by the Executive Director of the IHEA.
- 4. Continuing the Heritage #2 Print (16” X 20”)
- 5. ‘Lifetime Member’ Lapel Pin
- 6. Cabela’s brand Duffel Bag (29”L X 16”W X 14”H) embroidered with the IHEA logo and ‘Lifetime Member’

Membership rewards are subject to change.
### Teaching Tip

By Bob Sutphen, Minnesota HE Instructor

In our effort to make our students’ Range shooting a reinforcing learning experience, I use Birchwood Casey Shoot-N-C 3” diameter self-stick targets on a 8-1/2” x 11” piece of paper. One target for each of the four positions shot. The 4 papers are mounted on a 3’ x 4′ piece of cardboard. If the student is shooting well, they can tell by the yellow spot which appears in the bull’s eye. From 15 yards, they can also likely see hits in the sheet of paper. If their eyes and the rifle sights are way off, I have binoculars to spot those holes appearing in the large sheet of cardboard. If the student is shooting way off the target bull, but gets the bullet holes close together, they feel better about their effort. Students are encouraged to take the targets home, after they have patched holes in the cardboard for the next shooter.

---

**IHEA Item of the Month 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.

Good luck and thank you for supporting the IHEA!

---

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

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.

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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 $10 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.
Worldwide, mosquitoes transmit the arboviruses responsible for malaria, yellow fever, dengue and several forms of encephalitis to over 700 million persons annually, resulting in as many as 3 million deaths. In North America, we simply think of them as those nasty pests that buzz in our face just as we are getting the bead on that magnificent 12-inch bearded tom, or right as we draw back on that beautiful 8-point looking the other way.

Whatever you do, don’t think we are alone and isolated in the world. Just this past year, there were reported cases of dengue fever in Texas and West Nile is endemic in Mississippi, with a reported 65 cases in 2008. With mosquitoes found all over the world except in Antarctica, there is no reason not to prepare your students for the inevitability of encounters with mosquitoes, especially in the spring turkey, early squirrel and archery seasons.

### Three Ways to Fight Mosquitoes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Three Ways to Fight Mosquitoes</th>
<th>Clothing with Repellent</th>
<th>Sprays with DEET</th>
<th>ThermaCELL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>What it is:</strong></td>
<td>Clothing with insect repellent built in.</td>
<td>Sprays and lotions with DEET.</td>
<td>Area Repellent device.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Best Uses:</strong></td>
<td>Good protection for the body. Needs to be used with additional protection for face and hands.</td>
<td>Good for spot and stalk hunts where you are constantly on the go.</td>
<td>Ideal for hunting in a stand or anywhere you will be stationary. Less effective while walking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pros:</strong></td>
<td>Provides protection without applying DEET to the skin.</td>
<td>Reduces mosquito bites.</td>
<td>• Provides a 15x15 ft mosquito free zone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Wears off after a few washings.</td>
<td>• Can spook game.</td>
<td>• No game spooking odor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• No protection for the face and hands.</td>
<td>• Must be sprayed on the skin.</td>
<td>• Silent, lightweight.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Doesn’t get rid of the bugs flying around you.</td>
<td>• Can take finish off guns.</td>
<td>• Costs around $25.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Doesn’t keep bugs from buzzing around you.</td>
<td>• Not ideal if you are moving quickly.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For a PDF tearout of this for your class, go to the Thermacell Special Offers section at IHEA.com.
The North American Model Of Wildlife Conservation
What Every Hunter And Non-Hunter Should Know

By Martin G. Olson, Conservation Educator, Nevada Department of Wildlife

The North American model of wildlife conservation is the first of its kind anywhere in the world and has been primarily responsible for bringing several game species back from the brink of extinction. Included on that list are the wild turkey, elk, pronghorn antelope, deer and others.

Some outdoor enthusiasts may recognize this model as the foundation of the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program, which was created by the Pittman-Robertson Act in 1937. This landmark legislation was named after Nevada Senator Key Pittman and A. Willis Robertson, a congressman of Virginia. Its purpose was to provide a dedicated source of funding necessary to improve wildlife conditions and habitat through a special user tax. President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Act into law on September 2, 1937; however, the law didn’t go into effect until July 1, 1938.

The Pittman-Robertson Act placed an excise tax on ammunition and firearm purchases. These tax revenues are placed in the P-R wildlife restoration fund. On October 23, 1970 the law was amended to include handguns and archery equipment and to allow spending of the revenues on hunter education programs and shooting range development. Funds collected through this tax, paid by hunters and other recreational shooters, and are then directed back to the individual states as grants to be used for restoring wildlife habitat, increasing wildlife populations and training hunters.

“The State Wildlife Grant program is part of the Department of the Interior’s ongoing commitment to the essential conservation efforts of states,” said Department of the Interior Secretary Ken Salazar in a written statement. “In our challenging economic climate, the program ensures that states will have the necessary resources to help conserve their highest priority wildlife, plants, and habitat—an investment that will pay dividends for years to come.”

The foundation of the wildlife restoration act was laid in the mid 1800’s. Early American settlers realized wildlife was disappearing at an astronomical rate and if future generations were to encounter this vast array of wildlife, something had to be done. These early Americans foresaw the need, not for preservation but for conservation and began what would become a landmark discovery for the future. This discovery would become the North American wildlife conservation model.

There are two basic principles to this model. First, our fish and wildlife resources belong to all North American citizens. And second, wildlife is to be managed in a way that allows their populations to be sustained forever. These principles are further explained through a set of stipulations known as the “seven sisters of conservation.”

Public Trust: Natural resources are managed by government agencies to ensure we will always have wildlife for the future. Guidelines such as regulated hunting and season limits are in place to prevent overharvesting of wildlife.

Prohibiting the Sale of Wildlife: The over harvesting of wildlife created an environment that encouraged early hunters to take all they could for personal gain. Feathers to make hats and furs for clothes took an enormous toll on wildlife populations. Today the sale of wildlife meat is illegal. However local laws do vary, certain furs, antlers, and horns can be sold as long as they were legally harvested.

Self-Governing Law for wildlife: Federal and state agencies that manage wildlife provide public forums to express opinions and share ideas on managing wildlife. Today every citizen has the right to help make the laws that conserve and protect wildlife.

Opportunity for Everyone: Hunting is not limited to the wealthy nor to those within a certain social status as it was in earlier days. Everyone is considered equal and can hunt or fish on most public land in North America. Restrictions in some areas may close hunting and other activities at certain times.

Negligent Killing: With strict guidelines in place such as designated hunting seasons and harvest limits, wildlife can be killed for food, fur and even self-defense. Simply put, the killing of wildlife just for its antlers, horns or feathers, while not utilizing the meat, is generally illegal and also considered by most hunters as unethical.

International Resources: Wildlife can migrate between states, countries and provinces. This is most notable in migratory birds. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 makes it illegal to capture or kill migratory birds, except as allowed by regulated hunting seasons. Treaties now exist between the United States, Canada, Mexico and Russia to protect migrating birds and wildlife.

Scientific Management Yearly: Results from such activities as migration surveys, population modeling, and evaluating habitat concerns are just a few of the tools biologists use when considering hunting regulations. According to the Nevada Democratic Outdoor Caucus “About 26 percent of Pitman-Robertson funding is..."
WILEY X PROTECTS SPORTSMEN IN THE FIELD.

AND ON THE WATER.

WILEY X protects sportsmen with high-performance eyewear technology that has been protecting our troops for over 20 years. In fact, Wiley X is the only premium performance sunglasses company whose full line meets the ANSI Z87.1-2003 certification for safety. With a complete line of Climate Control, Active and Street Series sunglasses to choose from, Wiley X OSHA-grade occupational eye protection helps you see clearly, and hunt or fish safely. The Changeable Series features multiple lens sets for versatility in different light conditions, and they all meet stringent Military Ballistic Standards for combat eyewear protection. WILEYX.COM
Hunting is practiced in several different ways. Although a modern centerfire rifle is capable of taking game at ranges up to about a quarter of a mile, many hunters choose to go after their game with a muzzleloader, bow, or handgun. In comparison, these tools impose rather severe limitations compared to a centerfire rifle. The reason is simply for the added challenge which for many hunters translates into added reward and sense of accomplishment.

When hunting small game or pests with an airgun, skill and discipline take on added importance because of the power limitations of the gun. Pellets have much lower ballistic coefficients than bullets launched by firearms so they lose velocity rapidly. For many types of airguns, the muzzle velocity may be in the 600-1000 ft/sec range, but as a result of the rapid loss of velocity, a practical range limit is perhaps 40-50 yards. That means getting close to the game and placing the pellet with great accuracy, but an experienced hunter using an airgun of very high power has somewhat greater latitude.

The hunter who chooses an airgun as a tool to harvest small game or eliminate pests must choose an airgun that has the necessary power and accuracy to be effective. I have tested many airguns that have sufficient power to take small game at 40-50 yards, but they could not deliver the pellet accurately enough to hit a circle of about one inch in diameter. That is approximately the size of the lethal zone of a squirrel or a small pest. On the other hand, I have tested some rifles that could produce groups of about one-inch at 40 yards but at that distance the remaining energy was not great enough to assure a clean kill.

The choice of pellets is almost as important as the choice of an air rifle. Before setting out to hunt, try a few types of pellets to make sure that they are accurate in your rifle and practice shooting under field conditions to ascertain your level of proficiency. With proper equipment and well-honed skills, you can be an effective hunter with an airgun.

North American Model

Continued from page 26

used for surveys and research.” Other uses include the purchase, development, maintenance and operation of wildlife management areas.

These seven sisters of early conservation began the rebuilding of wildlife populations and lead to the much needed funding provided by hunters and sportsmen through the Pittman-Robertson Act. Not just for game animals we hunt today, but for all species of wildlife. Many people who do not hunt take to the outdoors and enjoy the same areas as hunters. Their activities might include wildlife viewing, camping, fishing, and hiking, activities that we all enjoy. Sometimes it is not easy to remember how things used to be, but thanks to our forefathers and their foresight, we live in a rich species-filled environment. And to the modern day outdoor enthusiast, we must continue to carry on the support. The respect and concern for wildlife shown by hunters and, the original conservationists, has produced the greatest wildlife management model of all time.
New High Contrast
BLOCK BLACK

www.blocktarget.com

The revolutionary BLOCK Fusion target has been redesigned and renamed BLOCK BLACK. Offering a new High Contrast Design for better visual acquisition and PolyFusion technology it allows for easier arrow removal.

With the new High Contrast Design, BLOCK BLACK offers precise target acquisition, increased accuracy, easy arrow removal plus the ability to stop thousands of shots using field tips, broadheads and expandables.

Available in four sizes, BLOCK BLACK targets are available from $89.99 to $159.99 retail.

IQ Bowsight Now Available in Black

www.iqbowsights.com

Last year IQ Bowsight, in gunmetal gray, took the archery world by storm. With its patented Retina Lock technology, the IQ Bowsight quickly became regarded as the world’s most accurate archery sighting system.

Now available in black, the Retina Lock provides instant feedback that identifies the slightest torque or change in anchor point, and enforces proper form, builds confidence, and dramatically extends effective range.

The IQ Bowsight does not use batteries or have any exposed parts. Its four-axis adjustment ensures a perfect alignment with almost any bow on the market.

The new black IQ Bowsight is available in four- and seven-pin configurations in both left- and right-hand versions.
The drawing for the eighth annual IHEA Heritage Hunt was held in April. Three very lucky students, along with two instructors, are the Grand Prize winners of an all-expenses-paid hunt to Indianhead Ranch in Del Rio, Texas sponsored by: Hunter’s Handbook, Indianhead Ranch, Cabela’s, Federal Ammunition, Weaver Binoculars, Mzuri Foundation, Houston Safari Club, City of Del Rio, Del Rio Waste Management and McDonalds of Del Rio (Frank and Martha Mendoza). Winners will stay in the magnificent lodge specifically designed with the sportsman in mind. One parent will also accompany each student. The hunt will be filmed for airing on Hunter’s Handbook TV next Fall. The winners will be flown to the lodge in late October where they will enjoy three days of big game hunting. This year’s winners are:

**STUDENTS:**
- Kristin Burleson of Madison, AL
- Sam Nelson of Boise, ID
- Kaleb Caughron of Wills Point, TX

**INSTRUCTORS:**
- Penny Lee Slagle of Williston, ND
- Dennis Corvello of San Lorenzo, CA

The only way students or instructors can enter to win trips is to fill out the form in Hunter’s Handbook or visit online at www.huntershandbook.com. The 20th annual edition of the Hunter’s Handbook was recently shipped to all state and provincial warehouses for distribution to instructors for their classes. If you have not received your copies, be sure to contact your state/provincial administrator for your free copies to distribute to your students. Make sure you and your students register for next year’s drawing!

In addition to the trip winners, 12 lucky students, their instructor and the state/provincial administrator all won secondary prizes donated by various manufacturers that support hunter education. These entries were among the thousands Hunter’s Handbook receives annually via the entry form in the publication or on our website: www.huntershandbook.com

**PRIZE WINNERS**

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<td>Terry Evans</td>
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**Attention: Instructors! Got Yours Yet?**

The 2011 edition of the Hunter’s Handbook magazine is now at state and provincial warehouses and ready for instructor distribution to students. The magazine is the official student publication of the International Hunter Education Association. This “how-to” guide takes the student beyond mandatory general safety guidelines, offering selection and use information regarding a variety of hunting-related products, with a special emphasis on safety in the field. The publication also contains the student and instructor entry form for the IHEA 2012 Heritage Hunt. If you have not received your copies, contact your state or provincial coordinator to arrange shipment. The publication is free of charge. If you prefer to contact us directly, we’ll pass the information along to your coordinator. Send an email to Barbara at barbara@focusgroupseattle.com or call her at 206-281-8520. Please provide your name, phone number, shipping address, and the number of copies you require for student distribution.
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 Bx26 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.
A Great New Solution To An Old Problem—Introducing The Quick-Shot
By John Gallaspy

Many, many times, I have found that new products that are engineered and developed to add an element of safety tend to also ask for a sacrifice. It may be in limiting movement, adding weight, reducing comfort or a host of other less-than-desirable consequences.

Well, here is a refreshing new product just on the scene—the Quick-Shot from Peregrine Field Gear. Compare it to a rifle or shotgun sling for safety, and a well-balanced, waist-distributed backpack for comfort. The Quick-Shot is a cup holder for your shotgun, massage for your sore shoulders after toting your gun in your arms for hours and, as a bonus, puts your shotgun in the perfect position to shoulder and fire.

Attached easily to your belt, it creates a perfect butt rest, right where you want it. With the Quick-Shot, the muzzle is always pointed in the safest direction, forward and up. And, knowing that your lower body, waist and legs, have twice or more the muscle power as your arms and upper body, the relief is immediate! The Quick-Shot transfers most of the weight of your firearm to your strongest point, your hips and legs.

As a teaching tool, too, the Quick-Shot shines. For a young or new hunter to have one specific, safe focal point for the butt of their firearm, makes it a safety check unto itself. And, it is automatically ambidextrous. Right-handed shooters will most likely give it a little cant to the right of center. Lefties to the left.

There are three different models, all performing the same. The handcrafted top-grain leather Quick-Shot will most likely be the choice of upland hunters that think looking snappy is as important as their dog’s manners. But the two all-weather synthetic models, made of rugged polyester, are as functional as well. One is black and another in Mossy Oak Duck Blind camo. This is perfect for standing in the blind or flooded timber with water up to your knees and nowhere to put the butt of your gun. There is also an optional combo unit for each model, which includes a two-inch wide sturdy belt to compliment each holster.

A discount is currently being offered to all certified Hunter Safety Instructors. Visit: www.peregrinefieldgear.com.

LaCrosse Offers Hunter Education Instructors Special Pricing For 2011

In honor of the work that all IHEA Instructors do to bring new hunters to the sport in a way that celebrates safety, instills confidence and honors the tradition, LaCrosse is offering special pricing on their quality footwear.

“We are proud to offer our solution-based footwear to the men and women of IHEA working to bring new responsible hunters to the field,” said Laurie Shaw, Director of Marketing at LaCrosse Footwear. “With every new boot, we work closely with end users to create products that will deliver comfort and long-lasting performance in the field. Nothing can wreck a hunt, and a new hunter’s experience, quicker than cold, wet feet. We proudly stand behind our 100+ year heritage of quality and innovation to deliver products that will encourage new hunters to get out there season after season.”

To take advantage of this great discount to Instructors, head to the Special Offers for Instructors section at IHEA.com.

Prois Goes The Distance With All New Prois Xtreme™ Vest

Prois, known for designing the ultimate in high-performance hunting apparel for women understands strategic layering. Its new Xtreme vest offers a lean, mean, insulated layering extreme that maximizes thermoregulation, keeping heat close to your core.

Insulated with 150gm Thinsulate Ultra inside a waterproof, breathable, soft and silent shell, this well-designed vest is also lined with Prois signature nylon tricot layering system that not only keeps you warm and dry, but also provides incredible ease of mobility. The vest also comes with a hood and the Prois exclusive duck tail feature that unsnaps at the base to instantly create a warm, dry place to sit. Available in both Realtree AP and Realtree Advantage Max1.

For more information on this and other seriously made hunting apparel for women from Prois, visit online at www.proishunting.com or call 970-641-2255.

Field Test Reports
NEW ALPHA MUDLITE
FULLY LOADED WITH AIRRINC SYSTEM, BRUSH TUFF AND ALPHA CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGIES
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Each year NHF Day is honored to have an honorary chair that participates actively in promoting the historic day. T. Boone Pickens is serving as the honorary chair to deliver the message of NHF Day during the 2011 year. Noted philanthropist and avid outdoorsman, Pickens is one of America’s most prominent and influential businessmen.

When he is not behind a set of pointers chasing quail, he is a leading authority on world energy issues. Pickens is also president and CEO of the investment firm BP Capital Management and founder of Mesa Petroleum.

A strong advocate for alternative energy in the U.S., his renowned “Pickens Plan” is designed to decrease dependency on foreign oil while harnessing domestic energy alternatives such as wind power.

The Wonders of Wildlife museum, which is the official home of National Hunting and Fishing Day in Springfield, Missouri oversees educational initiatives to help the American public understand the indelible relationship between hunting, angling, healthy habitat, and wildlife and fisheries conservation.

“National Hunting and Fishing Day represents more than a single day set aside for hunters and fishermen,” said Misty Mitchell, Director of Conservation Programs at Wonders of Wildlife. “It is a call to our outdoorsman to get others involved. We deliver the message that our heritage continues to grow and support conservation efforts that help preserve the valuable resources we all enjoy—the outdoors.”

In 1972, Congress formalized NHF Day to remind the public that conservation depends on funding and leadership from hunters and anglers. Every U.S. President since Richard Nixon has issued official proclamations of support for the annual commemoration, now recognized as one of the most effective grassroots campaigns ever undertaken to promote traditional outdoor sports.

Visit www.nhfday.org.
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Download the SPOT app and pair your smartphone with SPOT Connect via Bluetooth.

Find meSPOT.com
Yamaha Motor Corp., recently announced it will donate a Grizzly 350 4x4 to the International Hunter Education Association (IHEA) to be used as a fundraiser. The ATV will be featured as a special auction item on www.gunbroker.com/Auction/BrowseCharity.aspx beginning September 1, 2011, and continuing for 30 days to October 1.

All of the funds generated will be used in support of the IHEA’s mission and operations.

The winning bidder will be able to pick up the Grizzly at their nearest Yamaha dealer.

“Yamaha is extremely pleased to be able to support the IHEA,” said Steve Nessl, Yamaha’s ATV/SxS group marketing manager. “The IHEA’s mission of continuing the hunting heritage by developing safe, responsible and knowledgeable hunters parallels Yamaha’s efforts to promote and encourage the safe and responsible use of ATVs.”

IHEA Executive Director Wayne East remarked: “We are excited to partner with Yamaha to bring you this charity auction. The IHEA would not be able to fulfill our mission if it wasn’t for the support of our sponsors and members and we would like to thank Yamaha for this generous donation.”

Features of the Grizzly 350 include On-Command push button 2WD, 4WD and 4WD with differential lock, the industry’s most durable fully automatic Ultramatic transmission, four wheel independent suspension and much more.

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A Loss For The Shooting Sports

Bill Stevens, retired Federal Cartridge Conservation Manager, passed away July 3 at the age of 72 after a battle with cancer. Stevens worked for Federal for more than 42 years and his contributions to the industry will still be seen far into the future. Bill Stevens was known by thousands as a man who never stopped promoting his true passions - hunting, shooting, youth, family and conservation.

Stevens earned countless awards for his efforts, but the outgoing and compassionate hunter dedicated himself for the simple reason that he cared. Thousands came to know him through his tireless work with youth, conservation and shooting sports programs across the nation. Stevens helped found the 4-H Shooting Sports Program and was instrumental in defining policies, creating awareness and putting together initiatives that will ensure our future as hunters, shooters and stewards of this industry.
The most advanced gun care systems in the world!

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Introducing the Otis Lil’ Pro...
For New Shooters and Future Champions!

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4 Time Olympic Medalist

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find us on Facebook and Twitter
Hunter Education professionals from across the United States, Canada, Mexico, South Africa, and Dominican Republic recently gathered for the 2011 International Hunter Education Association’s conference held June 1 - 4, in Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina.

Conference sessions included a motivational speech by Dave Butz, retired all-pro defensive tackle for the Washington Redskins; *Ethics in Modern Hunting: Distinguishing Virtues from Vices*, by Dr. David Cobb; *Strategic Sports Marketing* by Dr. Jonathan Casper and Leadership and Team Building, and *How to Be a Better Communicator* by Dave Oakes. Youth shooting sports program updates were received from the National Shooting Sports Foundation, National Rifle Association (NRA), North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, IHEA and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Attendees also participated in hands-on field day exercises revolving around the NRA’s Youth Hunter Education Challenge.

Elections were held at the business meeting on Saturday, June 4th with a new president, president-elect, secretary, Zone 2 VP, Zone 3 VP and instructor rep being elected. The new IHEA Board of Directors is as follows:

- **John McKay**, President, Nevada
- **Randy Huskey**, President-Elect, Tennessee
- **Megan Wisecup**, Secretary, Iowa
- **Lance Brown**, VP Zone 1 (Canada), Saskatchewan
- **Bill Blackwell**, Instructor Rep, Zone 1, Ontario
- **Chris Willard**, VP Zone 2 (Western US), Oregon
- **Dave Bauer**, Instructor Rep, Zone 2, Colorado
- **Bill Balda**, VP Zone 3 (Eastern US), Kentucky
- **Ricky Moss**, Instructor Rep, Zone 3, Alabama
- **Wilhelm Greeff**, VP Zone 4 (all other countries outside Canada and US), South Africa
- **Thomas Saldias**, Instructor Rep, Zone 4, Peru

The following IHEA Awards were presented:

- **Instructor of the Year Award:** Ricky Moss
- **Professional of the Year:** Jo Anne Peagler
- **Gladney Davidson Award:** Anthony Imperato
- **Executive Director’s Award:** Megan Wisecup
- **Ed Kozicky Award:** Tammy Sapp
- **Outgoing President Award:** Tim Lawhern, Terry Erwin
- **Outgoing Board Members:** Tim Lawhern, David Windsor, John Thompson

Next year marks the IHEA’s 40th anniversary. The annual conference will be held in Kansas City, Missouri, May 30 - June 2, 2012.
UNRIVALED SHOT COUNT & VERSATILITY

The Rogue air rifle is powerful enough to take a boar-sized animal! With its adjustable power levels, the Rogue lets YOU decide which game to hunt. Choose game ranging in size from raccoon to hog – all with one gun!

“The new Benjamin ePCP Rogue™ is the best hunting airgun I've ever used!”

– Jim Shockey

World Famous Professional Hunter
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Lock-N-Load® Magnum Sonic Cleaner™
Provides superior, uniform cleaning action for cases, gun parts and tools. Offers triple the size and twice the power of the original Lock-N-Load® Sonic Cleaner™.
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220V Item No. 043241

Lock-N-Load® Case Prep Assistant
Make case prep faster and easier. Durable brushed aluminum housing and high torque, low speed motor provide years of dependable use. Includes chamber and deburr tools, and plenty of onboard storage for optional accessories.
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This 1500-grain capacity scale weighs with precision to .1 grain. Includes two calibration weights and powder pan.
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Increase your reloading speed on any 1/8”-14 thread progressive press, with no special tools required for setup. Available for pistol bullets, with rifle adapter coming soon.
- The easy-feed bullet hopper holds up to 200 pistol bullets and features an adjustable center plate and bullet feed wipers to ensure smooth feeding.
- Coupled with the Lock-N-Load® Case Feeder, you’ll realize dramatic increases of up to 50% in reloading speed.
- Bullet Feeder Dies are case-activated so bullet will only feed upon contact with a case (Dies sold separately).
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