A Family That Hunts Together Stays Together

The Importance of Hunter Education and Mentorship

Staying Found, The Essentials
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The International Hunter Education Association (IHEA) is an organization involving some 70,000 volunteer instructors across North America, plus cooperators in the shooting sports industry, and the 69 State and Provincial Hunter Education Administrators in Canada, El Salvador, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, South Africa and the United States of America. The IHEA is affiliated with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

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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Staying Found And Safe In The Mountains
By Chris Parmeter, District Wildlife Manager, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

The Importance of Hunter Education and Mentorship
By Benjamin R. Womelsdorf, Kansas HE Instructor

Features
Cover: Shaylene Smith with her first buck. Photo courtesy of Eric Smith.
President’s Corner

The Volunteer Instructor, Then And Now
By John McKay, President IHEA • President.IHEA@hotmail.com

It wasn’t too long ago that a student could sign up for a Hunter Education class (or “Hunter Safety” as it’s still called today) in just about any jurisdiction in North America and expect to get pretty much the same type of course. They (and maybe another 100+ hunters to be) would take their seat and prepare to sit through 12, 16, or 20 hours or more of lecture from their instructor(s). Pretty simple, listen, listen, listen some more and pass a test at the end. Voila, a new hunter! With IHEA approaching its 40th anniversary, my how times and Hunter Education has changed.

Today’s student’s lives are fast-paced and include a multitude of activities and time constraints that weren’t even a consideration for previous generations. How many times have you heard students lament the lack of time in the day for work, family, school, soccer, football, baseball, dance, you name it and question how they’ll find time to complete their Hunter Education course? No matter how you feel about this time crunch (after all where will they ever find the time to actually HUNT?), the fact remains they are still essentially our customers, as well as students, and we need to find innovative ways to accommodate their schedules and needs. The days of hunting and fishing having a monopoly of sorts over outdoor sports are long gone and if prospective hunters don’t find it convenient to get into an HE class, they’ll simply turn their attention (and dollars) to other pursuits they can engage in immediately.

As a result, many wildlife agencies have turned to alternative course delivery methods to better meet the demand for “instant Hunter Education gratification.” Home study, internet courses with field days and other hybrid models combining elements of traditional and alternative courses are all being tried and tested. Regardless of chosen delivery method, agencies can’t deliver the courses without instructors. And while at times agencies themselves have been slow to indentify shifting trends and make the corrections necessary to meet changing student demand, instructors have at times also been reluctant or resistant to accepting and implementing these changes.

As I mentioned in my last column, much effort has been made at solving the hunter recruitment and retention problem and reducing or eliminating barriers for those seeking to become hunters. In the process, some have pointed to Hunter Ed as potentially one of those barriers. Just take a look around the U.S. at the number of states (31 at last count) that have adopted some version of an apprentice hunting license if you want to see a direct result of that belief. While I don’t believe Hunter Ed in general is an impediment to hunting, Hunter Ed administrators and instructors don’t want to give validity to such arguments and need to do our best to be responsive to student demand for classes when, where and how they want them. This includes instructors being willing to teach non-traditional classes.

Hunter Education programs need volunteer instructors to function and your jurisdiction’s hunter ed administrator and staff value your contributions tremendously. A significant portion, if not the lion’s share of HE program resources are allocated to instructor recruitment, training, certification, coordination and recognition. This magazine itself is dedicated to educating and informing you, the instructor. All evidence shows that agency Hunter Ed staff is dedicated to providing you with the training, tools and support to effectively teach courses. Simply put, agencies couldn’t do what they do without you. As course content, delivery methods, student demand and even the mission of Hunter Education has changed, the need for agency programs and instructors alike to adapt has increased a pace. We’re all in this together, so if change has come to your neck of the woods your Hunter Ed administrator needs your help in bringing your jurisdiction’s program into the 21st century.

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 that is chosen for print receives a gift 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.
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With an estimated 650,000 instructors teaching hunter education for the 65 member agencies of the IHEA, it is easy to see how instructors are the foundation of the hunter education program. One cannot think about hunter education without considering the time and effort the volunteers put into making this one of the greatest success stories of volunteerism. From the very beginning of this organization, the IHEA realized the importance of the instructors to the hunter education program. Because of this, the IHEA offers many products and services for the hunter education instructor.

Hunter and Shooting Sports Education Journal

This is the quarterly magazine that you are reading right now. This magazine is provided free of charge to your wildlife agency to disseminate to its instructors. This is also directly delivered to IHEA individual members.

Product Discounts

The IHEA works with our agency partners to recruit and retain product discounts for the hunter education instructors. These discounts range from targets, to firearm cleaning supplies, to clothing, to guns. The industry partners who offer instructors discounts are listed on the IHEA website, www.IHEA.com.

Online Instructor Resources

You will find a lot of useful information on the IHEA website. In addition to the aforementioned product discounts, you will also find information on hunter education requirements for the various member jurisdictions, blaze orange requirements, printouts for classroom information (types of actions, zones of fire, etc.), contact information for the instructor associations and hunter education coordinators, and contact information for our industry partners, among other useful information and links.

Volunteer Insurance

IHEA offers a $1,000,000 volunteer instructor liability insurance policy for individual members of the organization.

Resource Catalogue

The IHEA sells various products including teaching videos, templates, posters, and collectibles. You can find all of these products in the Resource Catalogue on the IHEA website, at www.IHEA.com.

Instructor Training

Each year the IHEA holds an international conference. While instructors are welcome to attend the entire conference, a one day instructor-specific training session is conducted on the last day of the conference. Speakers and topics are selected exclusively for hunter education instructors. In addition, the IHEA, in conjunction with its member agencies, conducts periodic instructor rendezvous. These rendezvous bring together instructors from nearby states to attend instructor specific sessions.

Recognition

Federal Premium Ammunition, in partnership with the IHEA, selects an annual Volunteer Instructor of the Year. The winner of this award attends the IHEA conference, all expenses paid, where he/she will receive the award. The IHEA also has a Volunteer Hall of Fame Award that recognizes instructors’ lifetime achievements.
TARGETS THAT BITE BACK

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In the 1980 movie classic “The Mountain Men”, the character Henry Frapp is questioned by a young greenhorn: “Haven’t you ever been lost?” Frapp scratches his whiskers and after a recollecting pause, replies, “A fearsome confused for a month or two…but I ain’t ever been lost!”

For the fur trappers, wandering through a vast and unexplored country, “lost” would have been something of an oxymoron. Not knowing where you were was a necessary part of the mountain man business. The blank space on the map was as much “home” as it was wilderness, and “lost” was more a state of mind than a physical dilemma.

When the mountain men plunged head-long into the unknown, they knew that where they were going there would be no restaurants or hotels. So they planned accordingly. They learned quickly where to find food and how to get it; how to mend equipment, to make new or make do; they could sleep in a log, a cave, or just plain under the stars and survive! How did they accomplish this incredible feat? Simply, they were prepared, mentally and physically.

Today, the same principles apply. When you head out into the woods, be prepared: for cold, rain or snow, to tend an injury, or to stay the night in the woods. It’s not as difficult as it sounds. Here are a few nuggets of Mountain Man wisdom to help you survive:

**Staying Found**

The old timers relied on “Dead Reckoning” for navigation utilizing a compass to guide them in the general direction they wished to go. Sometimes in the absence of a compass, they relied only on “reckoning”, as in, “I reckon camp is back that way.” The contemporary woodsman may have the handi- ness of a GPS, but these high-tech gizmos are not adequate substitutes for map and compass skills. Just as with other conveniences (cell phones, cameras, flashlights), the batteries will invariable go dead just when you need them most.

Learning how to read a map is not that difficult; up is north, left is west and so on. The closer the lines are together the steeper the country. Water is shown as blue, while man-made objects are black. It is simply a two-dimensional rendition of a three-dimensional world. Using a map and a compass to show you which way is north, you’d be hard-pressed to get seriously lost. Sure, some practice is required, but that’s all part of the preparedness thing.

Paying attention to where you’re going can also be a big help to staying found. As you pursue your quarry, notice which way the shadows are falling. Have you been mostly climbing, or descending? Look for landmarks as you go. Not stumps and rocks, but BIG landmarks that give your relative position to the valley below, or that craggy peak to the west. Turn around and look behind you, what would it look like if you were going that way—back to camp or the truck?
The Essentials

Unless your trip is taking you across the Gobi or the Brooks Range, you probably don’t need to carry 50-feet of copper wire or spare fishing line and hooks. The largest wilderness area in Colorado, for instance, can be traversed in a day or two by a man in decent shape. So what are the essential essentials you need when you’re on your own hook?

• Water. Without it, you’re dead in three days. Without it for a few hours, at 9,000-feet above sea level, you’re not dead, but you may wish you were. Dehydration can lead to altitude sickness and hypothermia. But even worse, it can impair your judgment, induce panic, and result in a fatal case of Lost.

• Fire good… Fire friend… Fire number two in importance. Learn how to build one, WITHOUT toilet paper and gasoline. It’s as easy as one two three: One, you need dry tender. Scratch around under grass tussocks for the driest stuff. Get lots of it, about a volley ball sized bunch; two, kindling. You want about twice as much as the tender you gathered.

• Kindling is small stuff, matchstick sized. Three is the fuel itself. Gather up plenty if it looks like you may have to spend the night. Pick dry branches one to two inches in diameter—these burn without difficulty and make it easy to control the heat. Of course we can’t overlook the match. You don’t need to be proficient with a flint and steel, but you should have at least a couple of ways to start fire. It doesn’t matter if it’s a lighter or a fire plow, as long as you can get it lit.

• Shelter. Now don’t jump right into bivy sacks and backpacking tents. Let’s start from the beginning. Shelter starts with your clothing. Dress for the worst. And an autumn night can be pretty harsh. Pick synthetics like fleece or polyester blends—wool is best. Dress in layers: long handle union suit, light mid layer(s), and warmer outer layers. Dressing appropriately will find you well on your way to surviving a night in the outback even without a buffalo robe.

• Make a plan and let someone know what it is. Leave a map open on the dashboard of the truck. You don’t have to give up your secret spot with an “I AM HERE” arrow, just circle a square mile or two. When you leave camp, a plain old “I’m gonna work this ridge out and come back down the crick” is enough to give your buddies a place to start looking for you if you should become “a fearsome confused.” The important thing is to stick to your plan.

As you begin your hunting adventure, see yourself as part of the Lewis & Clark Expedition—be prepared mentally and physically for the challenges of the unknown. Keep your powder dry and your eyes on the horizon and you’ll know that “lost” is, by and large, just a state of mind.■
I grew up in a small southeast Kansas town in the heart of deer country. My father had not hunted for years, and my three brothers never showed any interest in the matter. But from early childhood, I always had a desire to hunt. There was something that tingled in my bones when I thought about stalking a whitetail deer, or watching a flock of ducks cut the air as they landed at my feet. I knew it would be hard to learn without a mentor, but was adamant to give it a try. A Hunter Education class was offered at a town a few miles away, and with a little persuasion I talked my mom into driving me back and forth to the class. I absorbed what I could and was ecstatic to receive my card on test day. Now the rest was up to me.

I worked my way up through rabbits and squirrels to the occasional quail that found its way into my path. The only turkeys ignorant enough to get within gun distance was the neighbor’s domestic flock, and though I was tempted, I knew the flogging I would get from my dad would be far worse than the taste of any turkey could make up for. Eventually the time had come, and one evening I put together all of my change and a few dollars from mowing a yard and bought a deer tag. The next evening I planned to make my dreams come true.

Anyone who says you have to have scent block, camouflage, and a scope to bring down a deer should have been on my first deer hunt. Dressed in brown bib coveralls and a vinyl blaze orange vest, I marched up a tree line against 25 mile per hour winds with a Marlin lever-action 30-30 in hand. After about twenty minutes, I found a small clearing in the trees and lay out prone in the grass. To this day I can remember how peaceful it felt with the cool wind blowing over my back, and the dried blades of grass rattling against my sides. I laid the 30-30 on the ground next to me and made myself comfortable, watching the sunset starting to turn to dusk. Just as I started to drift off to sleep I felt something touch the top of my two dollar blaze orange stocking cap. Startled, I looked up and was nose to nose, staring into the face of a young eight point buck. The deer snorted and started to bolt in the other direction as I grabbed my rifle and cocked the hammer back. By mouth I made the most horrendous sound I could, imitating what I would now compare to a half strangled goat. The deer stopped in his tracks, turned around and looked at me from fifty yards. Boom, and he crashed into the tree line on a dead run.

The smell of the rifle that cold evening was exhilarating. The crisp air...
burned my nostrils as I inhaled in excitement. Since then I have found that the first breath after each successful shot would bring me back to that day.

I ran down the tree line past where the deer disappeared and began my search. No deer, no sign, nothing. After admitting defeat to darkness I decided to examine the area where I had taken my shot to see if I had even hit the animal. Amazing enough, on the way back I found my deer lying just inside the tree line where it had ran. Within an hour of stepping foot onto the field and beginning the hunt, my deer was field dressed and on its way home.

Though it makes an amazing story, and one I am proud to tell, it is sad in a sense. There are probably many kids out there today that would love to try hunting, but never get the chance because their family doesn’t hunt. If you can take the time, make the effort to take one of these kids with you. It could change their life forever. Now I spend every day protecting the resource I love, and teach Hunter Education as often as a game warden’s schedule will allow. I always stress the importance of being a mentor whenever possible. Let’s not let the kids do it all on their own. The only thing that would have made the story of my first deer better would have been having a witness to back it up. Hunter Education helps create ethical, knowledgeable hunters who will be passing on the tradition to future generations, and paired with a good mentor these kids will be able to experience our resources to the fullest extent possible.
When your hunter education students exit your classroom with a certificate in hand or the promise of one subsequently coming in the mail, they may be leaving with little or no actual firearms shooting experience. Fortunately, the National Shooting Sports Foundation works with member ranges to conduct a seminar program called First Shots, which provides both classroom and closely supervised live-fire sessions, reinforcing much of what they’ve learned in your program and allowing them, perhaps, their first shots with a firearm.

Hunter education courses have certainly changed from when I took my class in the early 1970s. I remember sitting in on my class on a Saturday. We covered everything in the curriculum in one day, took a test and, if I remember correctly, left that classroom with hunter education card in hand.

Then, a young adult with no mentors to help me get started shooting or hunting, I really had nobody to turn to for hands-on instruction, at least, no one that I knew of. I had learned fundamentals in that classroom, and I had been exposed to rules of hunter safety and ethics. However, except for a .22 rifle that I fired a few times as a kid at a summer camp and a couple of rounds with a pistol that I shot at a fraternity brother’s family farm when I was in college, I had no shooting experience.

Of course, many states’ hunter education programs today have a live-firing component in their curriculum. Many, however, do not.

I set out by myself with my Remington Model 870 Wingmaster, with a different barrel for all chokes and occasions. I began to get a self-taught education in hunting, but I still hadn’t fired my shotgun very much. I bought a Trius Trap, and that allowed me to release clay birds. Yet, I was still a loner in this new world of shooting and hunting, and I don’t remember using that trap very much.

I don’t know if my story is at all reflective of most people’s experience. What I do know is that I would have greatly benefited from a First Shots experience if such a program was available to me then.

Folks who enroll in a First Shots program register in advance. Availability can be limited, so it is wise to sign up as soon as possible. At the opening part of the three-hour session, a well-informed instructor will go over firearms fundamentals, safe firearm handling and storage and the information the students will need to know regarding compliance with all laws and regulations regarding firearm ownership in their locale.

Just as in your class, each student will have the opportunity to get their questions answered.

Then, for the next hour and a half, under very close supervision by expert instructors, the students will get to shoot the firearms of the day. Some First Shots seminars might focus on handguns. Others might limit their scope to rifles or shotguns or even concentrate specifically on modern sporting rifles. Many sessions cover rifles, shotguns and handguns, giving the new shooters a hands-on introduction to all three types of firearms.

Perhaps participants will have to be a minimum age, determined by state laws and maybe by the shooting facility conducting the class. There are occasions when young people may get to take in the seminar and shoot if they are accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

Keystone Sporting Arms, recognizing the value of First Shots in introducing youngsters to shooting, has donated 1,000 youth-model .22 rifles to the program. They are being offered to
ranges that commit to holding two seminars, one for adults and one specifically for youth and their parents. Participating ranges get five of these rifles, at no charge, to add to their permanent inventory of firearms.

Many ranges, having seen the success of First Shots, have started a First Shots, Second Round program. These programs may concentrate on one aspect or discipline of shooting. It is meant to further educate the new shooters and give them the opportunity to also meet other novices and build a support network.

Recalling my early experiences, a support network was sorely needed and lacking. Don’t let that similar situation stymie your students’ development. Why not direct your students to the First Shots website, www.firstshots.org? There they can learn more about the program and check a calendar to see if First Shots events are scheduled in your area. You might want to check frequently yourself, so that you can mention upcoming events to your students. And, last, you may serve as an ambassador for the First Shots program by approaching local ranges and gun clubs, filling them in on First Shots, directing them to the website and encouraging them to become a First Shots host. The National Shooting Sports Foundation, the trade association of the hunting, shooting sports, firearms and ammunition industry, is the administrator of the First Shots program, and it offers considerable assistance to First Shots host ranges to simplify their effort and maximize the benefit.

NSSF thanks you for what you do and, hopefully, for your assistance in helping your future hunters gain an even better understanding of firearms fundamentals, safe handling and storage and local regulations, while getting some live-fire experience under their belt by directing them toward First Shots. For more information on First Shots, contact Tisma Juett, NSSF’s manager of First Shots, at tjuett@nssf.org, telephone 203-426-1320.

Wild Game Recipe: Venison Cabbage Rolls From Dan Mecham, Beaver, OK

To 3 lbs. venison (or any wild game) sausage, add:
• 1/2 head cabbage finely chopped
• 1 med. red onion finely chopped
• 1-1/2 cup rice
• 2 Tablespoons ground sage
Mix thoroughly. Make small tube-like shapes of mixture and wrap with cabbage leaves. Place in glass baking dish. Cover with 1 can Del Monte Basil, Garlic & Oregano Diced tomatoes and 1 can Del Monte Garlic & Onion Diced Tomatoes. Sprinkle with salt, pepper, Italian seasoning, Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce. Bake in 400 degree oven for 60 minutes. Enjoy!
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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The anniversary knife is a Browning model 322571. This large drop point knife was designed by Jim Crowell and comes with a top-grain leather sheath. The 5-inch blade is made from 420HC carbon steel with a satin finish. The handle is made from stabilized walnut. Only 500 were ever produced and the IHEA has 250 of them.

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

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

*Shipping and handling cost is $10 to the 48 contiguous states (includes shipping via FedEx with delivery confirmation). Alaska, Hawaii and international orders are extra.
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The Magri-Hunter from HiViz Shooting Systems corrects cross-eye dominance by utilizing our revolutionary Magri-Optic technology to ensure optimized hand-eye coordination and spot-on accuracy. The skeletonized base provides the perfect balance of light-gathering optimization and durable protection of the interchangeable LitePipe. The additional light allowed into the LitePipe ensures visibility in early morning or late-evening hunting situations.

Shooting Tip #11: Cold Weather Shooting

Waterfowl hunters face the problem of bulky clothing and many use a shortened stock length to accommodate their hunting parkas. But what about the shooter that needs to shoot in cold conditions early in the day, but warm conditions in the afternoon without the bulky coat.

There is a simple little trick that can help quite a bit. Just moving your front hand back an inch or two towards the receiver can make the gun feel noticeably shorter.

Using this hand position your gun will be one to two inches forward of your clothing when you start your mount.
"I’ll never forget my first BIG BUCK!"

- Jarid Hoyt
2011 Dream Hunt Winner
Sanford, Michigan
When Marilyn Garrison taught Jared Hoyt’s field day, she didn’t know it would also be her ticket to a dream whitetail deer hunt in northern Saskatchewan. Sharing in her student’s success filled her with pride. She also got a great 10 point buck of her own!

Find out more at www.HUNTERcourse.com/dreamhunt
The delivery of hunter education classes throughout the nation is supported by over 650,000 volunteer instructors. Each year, these volunteer instructors conduct thousands of classes for state wildlife agencies to teach safe hunting skills. These volunteer efforts add up to thousands of hours from committed individuals who give up their personal time and contribute money to fulfill the hunter education mission.

Another component for some state hunter education programs is the development and maintenance of shooting ranges. As recreational shooters struggle to find safe and maintained shooting ranges, many state wildlife agencies are attempting to address this issue. The North Dakota Game and Fish Department (NDGF) has aggressively worked to develop and maintain ranges. In 2001, the Federal Aid Improvement Act provided a funding mechanism to develop and improve shooting ranges. Funds are derived from excise taxes on firearms and ammunition and are administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to state fish and game agencies through the Service’s Wildlife Restoration program. The NDGF earmarked the funding for shooting range development and improvement.

To leverage their funding, NDGF developed a Shooting Range Grant Program. The program solicits third-party shooting range operators to submit proposals for developing and improving ranges. In return for the funding, third parties allow public access and provide facilities to conduct hunter education classes that include live fire experience.

Many of the applicants applying for grant funding are small gun clubs which do not always have the cash to match the federal funds. Though they may be cash poor, they are rich in volunteer hours, skill, and labor. This bounty of volunteerism can make a project a reality and open up new opportunities for shooting range facilities to expand their services or build new ranges. The other benefit is that ranges are made available to hunter education programs. This allows students to experience a live fire exercise under the guidance of a volunteer instructor. The following ranges are being constructed and expanded with the help of hundreds of volunteer hours. The volunteers provide skilled labor in electrical work, plumbing, manual labor, heavy equipment operation, and other tasks.

The Bullseye Archery Club in Langdon operates a year-round indoor archery range in a rented facility. The Club sponsors numerous league shoots for youth and adults. One of their sponsored activities is a 3-D target league that includes 300 participants. To help meet user demand, the club requested funding to purchase materials for backstops, equipment racks, 3-D targets, and archery targets. To cover the cost of the improvements, the Club donated 100 hours of labor worth $1,800 plus $700 cash to match the $7,500 made available through the Service’s Wildlife Restoration program.

The community of Grand Forks is home to the Grand Forks Gun Club. The Club has been in existence since 1949 and provides an outstanding facility for the shotgun enthusiast. Throughout the year, the club has sponsored numerous events including the North Dakota Prairie Rose State Games, which attracts participants throughout the State. Each summer the Club offers an eight-week trapshooting summer program for 30 to 40 youth. To continue to provide comfortable amenities, the club requested Wildlife Restoration funds to renovate their existing clubhouse to provide a comfortable facility for the members and public users. The club is providing 380 hours of labor that will account for $5,500 in volunteer match plus $615 from the club treasury which will match $22,365 in Service funds.

The Oh Shoot Sporting Clays facility located in Luverne is expanding range amenities to include a clubhouse for storage and classroom use. The club currently provides sporting clay opportunities for informal and formal shooting experiences. The construction of the club house will provide a classroom setting to conduct hunter education classes for the community and also offer a site to conduct firearm and archery instruction for interested youth. Individual club members are volunteering over 300 hours of services for a cash value of $5,500 and the club is providing...
$4,300 in cash. This will match $39,000 in Service funds.

These three projects are just a few examples of the many shooting range projects that depend on volunteers to provide support in operations, maintenance and development. In 2010, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department funded 17 shooting range projects. Eleven of the projects depended on volunteers to provide time and labor to make the projects a reality. These 11 projects provided a total of 1,827 volunteer hours representing a cash value of $32,886. Without volunteers, many of these range improvements would be delayed or never attempted. Thanks to the partnership between volunteers, NDGF, and the Service, shooting sports enthusiasts have access to safe, well-maintained ranges throughout North Dakota.

Teaching Tip: Instructor Mistakes

BY L.C. Jones, NCWRC Instructor

In reading a recent issue of the Journal, the mention was made that many of our students do not know who John Wayne was. The same holds true for the use of a lineman’s belt. Very few of my students these days have ever seen a lineman climb a utility pole. Most work is done from a bucket truck—therefore the reference to “use a lineman’s belt when climbing or descending a tree” means nothing unless you take the time to explain the device’s use “back in the day.” Also, the article in the Fall 2011 edition concerning “More Than They Need to Know” hits the nail on the head. I somehow find time before, after, or during breaks in class to answer students’ specific questions, sometimes bringing my own experience into the discussion. There is enough content to utilize all our class time. Save the personal stuff for when you take a student on his or her first hunt.
In a recent HE class that I taught I had a particularly bright student. We teach an “internet completion” class that is required to get a Hunter Education Card after completing one of the many online courses offered. Jacob had taken the IHEA online course and was prepared to take on this final stage of hunter education.

Many of the students taking this class are from families that home-school. Jacob (left) was one such student. It was obvious from the first question I asked that Jacob was revved up and ready to learn and to show how much he had garnered from his internet class. His hand shot up immediately and at every opportunity. He knew his stuff and it was hard not to call on him every time. The other students had to get a chance to answer questions as well. Yet Jacob was not deterred and offered his response by raising his hand every time I asked a question.

I have found that the students who come with their parents usually show more interest and more knowledge than the students that have been dropped off for class. This isn’t always the case at all but in the case of Jacob it was certainly true. His father attended the class with him (and even took the final test, to see how he measured up against Jacob). It was apparent that Jacob and his father had spent much time together doing the course work on the internet.

Wildlife educators in the hunting community and hunter safety instructors continue to be beacons for ensuring future sportsmen and women understand their contributions to sustainable wildlife management in the U.S. Too often the hunters and their values for wildlife conservation are sidelined by a media driven world that does not portray hunting in a positive light.

Each and every hunter here in the U.S. can be an advocate for hunting. Promoting our heritage through our daily life whether it is our clothing, our good sportsmanship, or our thoughtful discussions with non-hunters can make everyone, young or old, an advocate for our lifestyle.

As citizens in a democracy we are compelled to engage in our political system. And not surprisingly, most decisions that affect future hunting opportunities occur at very local levels. For example, a town council wants to authorize an urban deer hunt or a youth waterfowl day at a local park that has an overabundance of nuisance geese. As sportsmen and women, we should engage those opportunities as a platform to discuss wildlife conservation and sustainable management.

As an organization representing a membership focused on preserving our hunting heritage, Safari Club International also interacts with our political system. SCI has an office in Washington, DC where our staff collaborates with elected officials, wildlife agency personnel and other supporters of hunting.

Anti-hunting organizations have their sights set on eliminating hunting opportunities across our country. As sportsmen and women we must remain not only diligent to protect against these attacks, but also we must educate our non-hunting friends on the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation and encourage them to join us in the field or share in a wild game dinner. We must be advocates in our local community first.

Please learn more about SCI’s work defending the freedom to hunt at www.scifirstforhunters.org.

The Seven Sisters for Conservation:

1. The Public Trust
2. Prohibition on Commerce of Dead Wildlife
3. Democratic Rule of Law
4. Hunting Opportunity for All
5. Non-Frivolous Use
6. International Resources
7. Scientific Management
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 at 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.

WWW.NSSF.ORG
All year I have been telling my dad I can’t wait for deer season to get my first buck. We had gone out to the range where I practiced shooting my Rossi 243 single shot with a 3x9 scope. We got it sighted in and I was hitting the target at a 100 yards every shot. My dad got a phone call from a good friend Garret Davis who had invited us out to his property.

The first evening we went, my dad called me and said “grab your gun and pack then meet me at my work”. We would take his truck and meet Garrett and his son Cody at the bottom of the road. I was so excited I hurried home from school and grabbed my gun and pack then off we went. On the way up the road I saw some does feeding and I could hear my dad telling me about all the bucks he had gotten, but all I could think about was putting my sights on my first buck. We finally came to the spot where we would get out and walk. My heart was racing but I was ready. Garret told us where to go and me and my dad headed off. We walked down this trail that came to a small opening where we sat down. My dad was glassing everything and after being there for 5 minutes my dad whispered to me “there’s a buck right under the oak tree”. I couldn’t see it so I took his binoculars but I still couldn’t see it. So we got up and tried to move up the hill to get a better angle but the buck jumped up and ran off. I couldn’t believe it, my chance was gone. We went back the next two nights and that buck was bedded in the same bed every time but he would get up and run off every time.

On the fourth night my dad said, if we see him there again we will back out and try to sneak around and come in from a different spot. Sure enough we got down there and he was lying in the same bed, just waiting for us. So we backed out and started up the back side of the ridge to a spot that would be just above him. Every step we took through the oaks was so loud, the leaves would crackle with every step but we moved on hoping the wind would cover our noise as we crested the top of the ridge. Dad said “he is right there, ease up and get a rest on that fence post he will stand up broad side and then take your shot”. I couldn’t see him but I slowly walked out to the fence post and as he stood up I had my crosshairs right on him. I could hear my dad saying “shoot, shoot”. I pulled the trigger and he bolted down the hill, I couldn’t believe it, he was gone. On the way home dad told me about deer he had missed and how it happens to everyone but all I could think about was that was my buck and now he’s gone. The next night my dad couldn’t go because he had to work but Garrett offered to take me with him and Cody. I had to try so I met them and off we went. On the way out the trail I saw this deer and I said “Garret there’s one”, Garrett looked at the deer and said “it’s your buck”. I said “no, that’s not my buck” so he looked again and said “it’s a buck” about then it took off. I pointed up the hill where my buck had been laying and I said “there’s my buck” as it also ran off. I couldn’t wait to get home and tell my dad everything that happened and that my buck was back in the same spot.

A couple nights went by before we could go again and all I could think about was my buck lying there in the same bed. We had decided to go down in the morning for it would be Saturday and I didn’t have school and dad didn’t have to work. We got up real early before day light and got there just as the sun was coming up, we came to the little meadow but this time nothing- not one deer. We sat there for about two hours and then dad said “lets clear a trail from the top of the ridge to the bottom trail so if we do see him later we could be a lot quieter sneaking up the ridge”. It was hot but we pushed the leaves out of the way all the way to the top of the ridge to the last oak tree that had a limb coming off of it that would make a good rest. We met Garrett and Cody and made plans to come back later that afternoon around 4 pm. I couldn’t wait but I also worried that maybe I wouldn’t see him again. It took forever for 4 o’clock to come and then my dad said “well, are you ready- tonight’s the night.” I could feel the excitement in his voice but what if he’s not there, what will we do? We met Garrett and Cody and we went out to the meadow. Once again we eased up as my dad was glassing towards the bed my buck had been laying in. I could see him laying down about 20 feet above where he had been laying I whispered “dad, that’s him over there, laying right out in the open”. So we backed out to the trail we had made and up the hill we went to get a closer shot as I eased out to the last oak tree. My heart was pounding I got a good rest and took a couple of deep breaths. My dad had been telling me find the cross hairs in the scope and then put them right behind the front shoulder. I found the cross hairs put them behind the front shoulder, took a deep breath and pulled the trigger.

I could hear my dad say “you got him, you got him”. I knew then I had my first buck. I was so excited I gave my dad a hug and we went over to get a better look at my buck, it was a 3x2. I can’t wait for next year. I would like to thank my dad, and Garrett Davis and his family for allowing me to harvest my first buck on their property.
NO CELL SIGNAL? NO PROBLEM.

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The popularity of coyote hunting with airguns is growing. New arrivals in the air rifle category make this approach to harvesting predators a challenging and exciting hunt.

As with any type of hunting, there is a proper way to get the most enjoyment and success out of your experience, while maximizing your effectiveness. Using the following tips can greatly improve your chances of taking a coyote with an adult, high powered air rifle.

Equipment. Choose a rifle that has plenty of power to get the job done at the range you are hunting. The Benjamin Marauder PCP .25 caliber air rifle fits the bill nicely. With power to instantly kill a coyote with a shot to the head inside a distance up to 50 yards, it is certainly enough gun. The Benjamin Marauder .22 caliber rifle and Marauder .22 caliber pistol also pack enough punch at the right distances.

Hunting Technique. Plan your strategy. Find an area within your hunting grounds that has a funneled, open area within a thick area of brush, and you can get started. The idea is to call the coyotes within range and get a good shot when they appear. The nature of the coyote makes this easier than you may think.

Calling. My favorite area to call is a small clearing inside deep brush that has a dirt stock tank with water. Coyotes love such areas because of the abundance of rabbits, rats and mice in the brushy areas. Winter months can be very productive for coyotes since 90% of a coyote’s diet is rabbits, mice, rats, and whatever else they can hunt. In short, coyotes eat meat in the winter.

By using a high quality game call such as a FoxPro, you can mimic the sounds of a coyote food buffet with the touch of a button, as well as hold his focus on the area the sound is coming from rather than your hunting position. Most of the time coyotes respond to distress calls in brushy areas differently than they do in open areas. Use that to your advantage by selecting your hunting spot within the brush so the wind is in your face. Place the caller in the middle of the open area, and back in to the edge of the brush using the natural camouflage to your advantage. Start very quietly with the calling. Good choices to begin with are a cottontail distress call or field mouse. Be ready! Have your rifle on shooting sticks for steadiness, and watch the edge of the brush, for as soon as the sound starts you may be afforded the shot at that coyote.

By nature, a coyote emerging from thick brush into an open area will usually stop and look around the clearing for what is making noise. Once he stops at the edge of the brush, he will be wary and looking for the source of the sound. That moment of hesitation on the part of the coyote is when you need to take your shot. Make no sudden movements, and carefully aim at the center of the brain area on the coyote.

Once you have coyote number one down, use your remote and switch to another sound, such as a coyote pup distress. There may well be another coyote that is close, and that coyote may respond to sounds just like the first. The quiet operation of the Marauder often leads to the opportunity of a second or even third coyote, so don’t let your guard down.

There is a right way to hunt deer with a bow. The same holds true when hunting predators with an airgun. Following proper techniques and using the right airgun for the job is crucial. Find success with precise shot placement and a quiet, accurate airgun like the Benjamin Marauder. Remember that shots to the body may be fatal, but a headshot will anchor that coyote. Aim for the head. Good luck and good hunting!
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If anyone has ever ventured into extensively vast and rugged mountains or spent time scouring over the terrain of the West, the real appreciation of a premium spotting scope and its benefits will never go unnoticed. Good optics allow you to clearly and comfortably judge antler size or legal curl, while sparing valuable time and preventing unnecessary miles.

A premium spotting scope in your arsenal will greatly increase your chances of success. Try to choose something with a variable magnification range that offers a wide range of magnification and a lockable eyepiece. For those back country trekkers who wish to lighten the load choose a smaller objective size in the 65mm configuration. Smaller objective sizes will also slide in and out of a backpack much easier and help to keep unwanted weight to a minimum. Look for something with a durable rubber armoring or finish for those slick and rocky spots. The combined benefits of exceptional lens designs and optical coatings to increase light transmission are critical with high magnification observation. A quality hydrophobic lens coating to repel the usual nasty inclement weather and grime that wilderness hunting conditions throw at you will make your quest for a trophy more enjoyable and help keep those lenses maintenance free. Most importantly with frequent or rapid elevation change and daily operation in damp conditions, the unit must be fog and waterproof.

If you are heading into the back country for the potential hunt and trophy of a lifetime, remember that a premium spotting scope or field spotter like those offered by Carl Zeiss Sports Optics will allow you to clearly observe and assess distant game. Before “go-time” make certain that “maybe” buck, bull or ram is in fact a shooter. Be safe, shoot straight and get out there!
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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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In your Fall 2011 publication there was an article, “More Than They Need To Know” that was “spot on” as far as being a “Teaching Tip”. I have wondered why Instructors put forth all the “war stories” and informal jargon that goes on in some classes. The answer is simple, that is what that particular Instructor knows or is comfortable speaking about.

I have found, as Chief Instructor, you need to educate and guide your team Instructors. Instructors take years to become effective just as school teachers take years to become effective. Continuing education for Instructors is a MUST. One of my suggestions is to practice good, timely preparation as a team. Find out what each Instructor is best at teaching and give them all the tools they need. Practice class presentations on team members. Try to incorporate as much “hands on” learning for the students and use team Instructors to “demonstrate” what is being taught. Keep the Instructors on task by having them demonstrate or help students as the primary Instructor leads the class. Just as important in a Hunter Education team is a meeting after the class is over. A good informal meal and group discussion with notes works very well. Each Instructor gets a chance to critique themselves and the group can realistically evaluate how the students performed on the written test, the workbook assignments, the live fire course and the field test.

I further suggest the “Chief Instructor” set up mini clinics or help individual Instructors become better. This usually takes the form of a campout or informal dinner and then teaching and learning. Keeping everyone comfortable makes the Instructor teaching and learning experience easier without the criticism. Mr. Valade, the author of the article said, “Teaching is a learning experience”. Instructors must understand the more they know, the better the students will be in so far as developing into safe, ethical hunters.

Tony Kastella retired in 2011 as a Hunter Education Instructor. Prior to that, he volunteered 24 consecutive years as a Certified Hunter Education Instructor active in Montana (15 years), Utah (1 year), Washington (7 years) and Alaska (1 year).
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A s 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

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• 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.

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**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.

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**IHEA Online Auction**

A ll 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](http://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.

Thanks for supporting IHEA.
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