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The Hunter & Shooting Sports Education Journal is the official publication of the International Hunter Education Association-United States of America. 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 650,000 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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HEA-USA Board of Directors has hired Brad Heidel as its new Executive Director. Brad began his transition into the role late February and will be working remotely from Madison, WI.

Brad began his career in the outdoor/nonprofit world and began working for the Wildlife Heritage Association where his passion for hunting and conservation continued to grow. Brad brings with him over 15 years of experience in the outdoor industry. He worked with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation where he was a Regional Director in the state of North Dakota and quickly developed a talent for building relationships within the hunting industry. This, along with his passion for the outdoors, led him to Pheasants Forever, Inc., where he served as the Director of Corporate Relations until coming to HEA-USA as the Executive Director.

Brad is excited for this opportunity and looking forward to leading HEA-USA while helping the next generation of hunters and wildlife conservationists into our ranks. He feels HEA-USA is the bridge that takes those that want to hunt to becoming hunters. He also stated it is going to take continued agency and industry support of our organization to allow us all to continue the hunting traditions that we cherish.

We’re excited to have Brad join our team. Brad’s wealth of experience with conservation, marketing, corporate relations in the outdoor industry, and his credibility among his peers adds greatly to our organization. We’re looking forward to the perspective and experience he’ll bring to our Association and to hunter education worldwide.

Farewell

As I take a few moments to reflect on the past two years of my presidency, even though we faced a few setbacks, I couldn’t be more proud of what our organization has accomplished. HEA-USA is as strong as ever and thriving. Our Board of Directors and Committees, made up of state hunter education administrators and partners, have done a lot of great things for Hunter Education, such as:

- Developed and adopted new Hunter Education Online Delivery and Assessment Standards
- Updated Bowhunter Education Standards to follow the same format and principals as our recently updated Hunter Education Standards
- Developed a Hunting Incident Academy Host Guide and Application
- Secured funding and will be reinstating Hunter Education Peer Reviews for State Agencies
- Secured funding and will be conducting research on Hunter Education Delivery Methods
- Overhauled the Employee and Board handbooks
- Established the HEA Charter Organization and held its inaugural meeting

These accomplishments, along with many others, will ensure that our organization maintains its role as the leader in hunter education worldwide for many years to come.

I would like to recognize the following individuals and pass on special thanks for their assistance during my tenure.

John McKay, retired Nevada Department of Wildlife/interim Executive Director, for his leadership and guidance during our organization’s time of need and transition

Rachel Ladd, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, for growing and maintaining HEA-USA’s social media presence along with helping fulfill many roles and responsibilities within our own state’s hunter education program so I could have this experience

Paulette Lubke for being HEA-USA’s rock and ensuring that our day-to-day operations and member support continued and ran seamlessly during the absence of an Executive Director. The last two years wouldn’t have been the success it was without you.

Lastly, I would like to thank everyone for their support and vote of confidence over the past couple of years. It truly meant a lot to me and helped me grow both personally and professionally. So as I say farewell to my roles and responsibilities within HEA-USA leadership, I won’t be going away as I plan to stay engaged in the organization for many years to come.
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As the National Lead for the Wildlife Restoration Program and Hunter Education for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR), I am often asked how to properly document in-kind match for volunteer hours. It’s an important question because volunteer hours help state fish and wildlife agencies meet matching requirements for their WSFR Hunter Education grants. Since the 1970s, volunteers have contributed over $38 million worth of in-kind match! This list of Best Management Practices was developed based on a presentation provided at the 2016 IHEA-USA Annual Conference, with input from our WSFR Regional Hunter Education Coordinators and the WSFR Training Branch.

Is the match in-kind? Match is only considered “in-kind” if the entity providing the service is not receiving grant funds, and the service is necessary and reasonable for accomplishing the objectives of the grant.

The most common problems that cause audit findings related to in-kind match are:

**Proper valuation:** the value of the service provided must be documented. Not all volunteers may be valued at the same rate. For instance, an assistant may be valued less than an instructor with experience and expertise. Volunteer services or unpaid services provided to a grantee or subgrantee by individuals will be valued at rates consistent with those ordinarily paid for similar work in the grantee’s or subgrantee’s organization. If the grantee or subgrantee does not have employees performing similar work, the rates will be consistent with those ordinarily paid by other employers for similar work in the same labor market (see 2 CFR 200.306(e)). Contact your Region’s USFWS Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR) Grant Manager for validation and approval of the proposed valuation methodology.

**Proper documentation:** Volunteer timesheets should include the following elements:
- Volunteer’s name
- Date
- Hours worked
- Activity performed
- Travel time/mileage (if travel miles are going to be used, have volunteers confirm that the same miles will not be claimed as a personal tax deduction—it cannot be used as both.)
- Volunteer’s signature
- State agency employee’s signature/concurrence

(A sample volunteer timesheet is...
Volunteer time and activity reporting must meet the same standards as a state agency’s time and activity reporting for its employees (see 2 CFR 200.306(j)).

Avoid common problems:

- **Do not lump hours together.** Hours must be accounted for by date even for multi-day classes. Hours for preparation must be accounted for on the date performed;
- **Do not have one person filling in hours for volunteers.** Volunteers must complete and sign their own forms;
- **Do not have a volunteer approve hours** — only a state fish and wildlife agency employee should approve volunteer time and activity;
- **Train your staff and volunteers** on the correct procedures, and why they are important;
- **Proper valuation for volunteer labor** should be for like services at the current market labor rate for the services being donated; and

Make sure the in-kind contribution is from a non-federal source.

Work with your state’s Federal Aid Coordinator and your Regional WSFR Grant Manager. Some states include a copy of the volunteer timesheet with their grant materials for WSFR review and approval. In the case of an audit finding, a state can show that their volunteer timesheet was approved by WSFR.

Questions? Contact your Regional USFWS Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration office: https://wsfprogramsfws.gov/Subpages/ContactUs/ContactUs.html

Christina Milloy is a Fish and Wildlife Biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR) in the Headquarters Office. She is the National Lead for the Wildlife Restoration Program, Hunter Education, Sport Fish Restoration Program, and Aquatic Education. Christina can be reached at: christina_milloy@fws.gov

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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 650,000 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-USA Journal, PO Box 432, Wellington, CO 80549.

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Spring is here and high school seniors everywhere are taking SATs and submitting college applications to universities across the country. As exciting as this time of year and coming months are for those soon to be graduating seniors, for those who have competed avidly in the shooting sports as youth shooters, going away to college often means putting the guns away.

It doesn’t have to be that way. Thanks to the National Shooting Sports Foundation’s (NSSF’s) Collegiate Shooting Sports Initiative (CSSI), more and more colleges and universities have incorporated shooting clubs and programs into their outside-the-classroom activity rosters.

“NSSF created the Collegiate Shooting Sports Initiative with several goals in mind,” explained Tisma Juett, NSSF Manager, Recruitment and Retention. “Our top priority with this program is to raise awareness with the public about those higher education institutions that already have established target shooting programs. But we also wanted to be able to provide resources to those universities and colleges looking to develop new programs or grow their team participation. Of course, this also helps fulfill our mission of promote, protect and preserve hunting and the shooting sports by simply providing information to these young adults who may not even know anything at all about skeet or trap or 3-position rifle or whatever discipline for which a college has a program.”

The timing is right for this kind of effort and is a crucial component of the program and NSSF’s work to encourage diversification and capture the interest of a new audience. Research done by NSSF staff over the last couple years has shown that target shooting is on the rise. From 2009 to 2012, participation in target shooting of all types rose 19%, from 34.4 million in 2009 to nearly 41 million in 2012 (the last year for which numbers were available).

“The majority of today’s students don’t have the exposure to hunting and firearms shooting sports in their schools, something the generations before them once had,” said Juett. “Things have changed, but that doesn’t necessarily mean for the worse. Right now our industry and the future of hunting and the shooting sports is changing for the better with programs such as CSSI, which have an entirely new audience—many of them young adults—experiencing the shooting sports for the first time.

“As we see it, when encouraged at the university level by their peers who do have experience in the shooting sports and have come up through the ranks competing at the youth level, those young adults newly-introduced to the shooting sports will find a level of sportsmanship and camaraderie few other sports offer. Best of all, they’ll also find a level of acceptance uncommon in other sports. Short or tall, athlete or not, male or female, black, white, Hispanic, Asian, Native American or any other ethnic background—none of that matters in the shooting sports.”

University Shooting Programs

College catalogs and online information are essential to choosing the right school, whether you’re a parent working out the tuition budget or a student looking to get the most out of their next four years and their first venture away from home. For those looking to include a collegiate shooting program in that planning, there are several resources available.
Those pursuing rifle disciplines should visit the National Collegiate Athletic Association’s page, www.ncaa.com/sports/rifle, while the National Rifle Association’s resource page, www.competitions.nra.org/collegiateshooting-programs.aspx, provides a wealth of information for college shooters participating across a wide array of disciplines, including smallbore rifle, airgun, skeet, trap and others. More information can be had at collegiate.nra.org.

Have a dedicated skeet or trap competitor looking to keep his string alive while he or she works away at their bachelor’s degree? You’ll find an excellent resource in the student programs guide of the Association for College Unions International (ACUI), www.acui.org/claytargets. Working to continue the success of the 45-year-old program, the ACUI’s website lists a team directory, information on how to start a team or shooting club if your university or college doesn’t currently have one, and events for all eight U.S. divisional regions. You’ll also find links to the history of past national championships and record scores to literally give you something to shoot for.

Students Can Start Their Own College Shooting Clubs

The ACUI partnered with NSSF on its initiative to encourage university students to start clubs where they don’t currently exist. Known as the Collegiate Shooting Sports Initiative (CSSI), the basis for this program can be found in a downloadable PDF located at www.nssf.org/cssi/. Assembled with the help of Duane Shepherd, Ph.D., of Fort Hays State University Department of Health and Human Performance, this multi-page guide was created to give rising college freshmen and current university students a resource for establishing club goals and initial planning, developing membership, acquiring range access, working with student advisors and other faculty members, becoming a university-sanctioned club and promoting a shooting club to other students through on- and off-campus activities.

Said Juett, “Today’s young adults on a whole are incredibly open to trying new things and having fresh experiences. They’re not in lockstep with convention, and that means they provide the perfect opportunity for an introduction to the shooting sports. With our resources, there’s the added benefit to the students who will work to establish a university-sanctioned shooting program or form a team through cooperation with faculty and fellow students, because they’ll end up gaining invaluable insight into the leadership and management skills they’ll need post-graduation. That’s what I call a win-win for today’s firearms industry and the future of the shooting sports.”

For more information on NSSF’s Collegiate Shooting Sports Initiative, visit www.nssf.org/cssi, or contact Tisma Juett at tjuett@nssf.org.
Back in the day, when I was a conservation field technician suffering from meager wages, I still felt good about what I did for a living. I was driven by my desire to be in the outdoors while doing something I felt had value. I worked for one department in the agency but also found myself volunteering my free time to another department simply because I couldn’t get enough of it. During my tenure I met people like myself, and one day crossed paths with the regional waterfowl biologist. Like myself, he hunted ducks—we talked hunting at lunch breaks and eventually we went on a hunt together.

One morning, during a slow hunt, we decided to call it a day early and returned back to my home to unpack gear. While idly passing the time stowing gear and talking shop, he asked if I would be interested in teaching the state’s waterfowl hunter safety course. It never dawned on me that I could get even more involved in the sport than I already was but I jumped at the chance to try it. Some short time into the beginning of this new venture I learned of the new start-up youth waterfowl program put together by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and our local Ducks Unlimited chapter and I had to become involved in that as well. From those early days to today, I spent the better part of eighteen years teaching the waterfowl hunter safety and duck identification course, along with teaching and mentoring in the youth program and loved every minute of it.

Having now participated in a new passion—teaching youth—I can truly say the most rewarding aspect of the program was meeting and working with respected people in the waterfowling community. What I recognized quickly was that the spirit of giving lived in these folks, as much as myself, especially when it came to kids. I reaped more reward from helping a young hunter become indoctrinated into the sport of waterfowling as I did from taking a double on mallards. The youth program became a part of my yearly routine and as soon as the leaves on the trees start falling and I can hear the honk of migrating geese over my house, I looked forward to the start of a new youth hunting season as much as my own.

As in years past I get the call from Kelli Hamilton, our region’s New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Sportsmen’s Education Director, and get the notice that the 2013 Youth Waterfowl Hunt and training program was once again ready to go. However, in the last few years, this long-standing program was seeing a dramatic drop in attendance. We could talk for months about why the program was losing ground but Kelli was determined to turn the program in a new direction. Kelli assembled a team of devoted program participants such as NYSDEC Police Captain Tim Huss, the former local Ducks Unlimited chapter Director Craig Kessler, and a host of others like myself to help breathe new life into the struggling program. I was fortunate to be part of the working group discussions and after months of Kelli working diligently to increase program awareness, we would soon see that the effort she put forth would pay off.

This year, I enter the training center to find a pile of new recruits and a packed room of new young faces. It seemed Kelli succeeded in more than doubling the attendance from years past. As I started to deliver my portion of the course, I couldn’t help feeling I was a part of something that mattered again.
In our area and since the program inception, the NYSDEC and the local chapter of Ducks Unlimited uses Hubbard County Park in Riverhead, NY as its training center. This location has deep roots in waterfowling culture and, as an added bonus, the marshes and estuary areas that border this property are emblematic of what waterfowling on Long Island has to offer. Walking the grounds of this property on the duck-rich Peconic Bay and cruising through the club house buildings, some more than a hundred years old, you can feel that this place is bathed in waterfowling tradition and culture.

Hubbard County Park, or simply the Flander’s Club as the local waterfowlers call it, has a rich waterfowling history dating back more than a hundred years, long before we claimed it for a local park ground. The area once made up the private hunting grounds of the prestigious Black Duck Lodge and the Flanders Gun Club. The Flanders Club principal and last remaining shareholder, R. Brinkley Smithers, gave the 430-acre property to Suffolk County in 1971, which now is the Suffolk County Hubbard Park and Ducks Unlimited learning center.

With the conclusion of the training course, the mentors then make preparations to take the new youth hunters on a one-day duck hunt during the special youth season the following week. With a packed house this year we had more hunters than duck blinds to put them in, and as a hunt mentor, I volunteered to take a couple boys with me to a new location. I contacted Stephan D’Amico of Elite Long Island Outfitters and he immediately told me that he would be delighted to help out. After a week of Steve scouting areas for ducks, the plan was made.

As if it were my own hunt, I couldn’t sleep the night before and I was up before the alarm rang out. As I suited up in the garage, I turned on the marine weather radio to get the wind and tide information to figure that into our hunting scenario. Contrary to the reports, the winds were almost nonexistent and I knew that with an early season hunt with low numbers of migrating waterfowl, it was going to be tough to find birds. Normally, I am reliant on bad weather to push ducks into secluded marshland for cover, but today the hunt gods were working against us.

I held off as long as I could, but not wanting to sit around in the man cave (garage), I headed out to meet Steve and one of the hunters. As soon as I pulled into the parking lot I guessed Steve couldn’t sleep as well because he was already there. No sooner had we started talking than Danny Corpack, one of our youth hunters, pulled up with his father, just as early. With all of us laughing at our anxious start to the day, we headed off to pick up the next hunter.

A short drive later we picked up the second hunter, Nicholas Bellomo. We repeated the introductions with his father and headed to the boat dock in a race to beat the morning bewitching hour.

We got to the boat dock and not in any particular rush we backed the boat down the ramp in the dark. In the background we can hear ducks flush from the tidal creek and their wings whistle overhead. What we didn’t know was that with the moon tides, the creek was almost too low to navigate and the narrow channel made progress slow. Steve hunted in this location many times before and knew what to expect, but the opener for youth waterfowl day doesn’t wait for a better tide.

No sooner had we set up when we saw a huge flock of geese that Steve knew would traditionally take the tidal creek route to the Long Island Sound, but today they veered way off in the distance as did our first opportunity.
Steve and I were anxious to give the boys the best chances we could and stood on pins and needles hoping for a duck to swirl in for a shot. Occasionally we heard ducks buzz us from behind, but they landed just out reach in small tidal ponds leftover from the last high tide.

This high and low action kept our heads on a swivel all morning while pinning us down behind the paper-thin stand of spartina alterniflora that we could find for cover. Every now and then the boys would get a charge when a pair would circle us but they’d flare every time. The boys did get a shot but jokingly Steve told me he wanted to keep them from the temptation to “throw a shot” at the high flyers. I wish I had a nickel for every time they jumped up at the ready to be pulled back with a grunt to let them go. We could see the boys were high-strung and ready for action, and if we didn’t do something soon the morning was going to fade along with our chances of getting the first duck.

Knowing that the cover wasn’t adequate and was giving our position away, Steve and I knew we had to make a change quick. We decided to move to a tall stand of Phragmites and more in line with the route the birds were buzzing us. Make no mistake, we saw dozens of birds, but we simply could not get them to swing on in. These birds seemed to be honing in on an area way off to our east that undoubtedly held more water than the two inches that was in the tidal creek below us. The water was almost gone and the decoys were now grounded. In a rush we grabbed the gear and made a run for the Phrags for cover.

No sooner did we get to our new blind area, digging into the weeds for cover, when birds started flying over. Immediately it became apparent that this was a better idea. It was better for the boys as they could stand up, making it easier for them to get shots and their movement was covered by the weeds that towered over them by at least two feet. However, it made it challenging to see the birds beforehand and to get the drop on them. Like clockwork the birds started coming in overhead. When I say overhead, I mean literally right overhead. We had birds diving in over the Phrags twenty feet above us. Steve and I looked at each other and laughed because we knew these shots were going to be tough, if not impossible.

The birds came in often and hard but in short spurts. We had no idea how long it would last but who cared? We felt like we just hit the lottery. We were finally giving the boys what we tried to do all day. It was chaos, the boys were blasting away, we’re blurtling out instructions—“cheek to stock,” “slow down your shot,”—and the hammers are going off one after another. They are blasting away and missing every bird, laughing all the way.

We never got a bird that day and I brought them home feeling like I may have disappointed them. My goal was to give the boys a great time and hopefully get them their first ducks and possibly a time they would never forget. I know Steve was kind of thinking the same thing working all day, texting his buddies that were running around scouting trying to find ducks that never materialized.

I guess old dogs can learn new tricks. It turns out the guys who got the lesson here were Steve and I. When I drove the two boys home to be picked up by their parents, they both said they had an awesome time and wanted to know if we would take them out again! I guess it looks like we all won that day…

Author’s note: No ducks were harmed in the making of this story.
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 more than 50 years. A longtime supporter of the International Hunter Education Association, NSSF has been in the forefront of developing multimedia hunter safety and education materials. We provide printed and electronic materials for volunteer instructors—most of which is free. And when your students graduate and are looking for places to hunt or for additional information to develop their skills and knowledge, the answers are simply a click away!

Log on to nssf.org/safety and order your materials today. All the help you need is at your fingertips.
In a recent article I submitted that the IH E A -U SA was kind enough to publish, I addressed a short story of my learning and personal rewards of the same over my lifetime of hunting and as a hunter safety instructor here in Wisconsin (“The Balance of Nature,” Winter issue, 2016).

Although I wrote that with being an instructor in mind, I felt that something deeper was missing in the matter of responsibly carrying a loaded firearm. After submitting the article, I realized that although the majority of my students are of youth, and enroll to learn the responsibilities of hunting, there are also adults that enroll for the same reason. That’s what the education program and my presence as an instructor is all about. And as I stated in my article, it is VERY rewarding for my students as well as myself. But a noteworthy amount of the adults are enrolling to simply obtain their credentials to apply for a Wisconsin Concealed Carry Permit. That does not rest well in my mind, but I feel that if I can explain my reasoning, and get my thoughts out to the other instructors nationwide, I may be helping deter adult students from what could be a very bad situation on their part, and “egg on the faces” of us hunter education instructors. And that is what I felt was missing. That being stated, I’ll try to explain.

The following insert is a copy of the training guidelines/qualifications that the state of Wisconsin requires to obtain a concealed permit. Four options being: 175.60(4) TRAINING REQUIREMENTS. (a) The proof of training requirement may be met by any of the following:

1. A copy of a document, or an affidavit from an instructor or organization that conducted the course or program, that indicates the individual completed any of the following:
   a. The hunter education program established under s. 29.591 or a substantially similar program that is established by another state, country, or province.
   b. A firearms safety or training course that is conducted by a national or state organization that certifies firearms instructors.
   c. A firearms safety or training course that is available to the public and is offered by a law enforcement agency or, if the course is taught by an instructor who is certified by a national or state organization that certifies firearms instructors or by the department, by a technical college, a college or a university, a private or public institution or organization, or a firearms training school.
   d. A firearms safety or training course offered to law enforcement officers or owners and employees of licensed private detective and security agencies.
   e. A firearms safety or training course that is conducted by a firearms instructor who is certified by a national or state organization that certifies firearms instructors or who is certified by the department.
   2. Documentation that the individual completed military, law enforcement, or
security training that gave the individual experience with firearms that is substantially equivalent to a course or program under subd. 1.

3. A current or expired license, or a photocopy of a current or expired license, that the individual holds or has held that indicates that the individual is licensed or has been licensed to carry a firearm in this state or in another state or in a county or municipality of this state or of another state unless the license has been revoked for cause. You must complete form DJ-LE-289 from the DOJ website and include it with a copy of the license.

4. Documentation of completion of small arms training while serving in the U.S. armed forces, reserves, or National Guard as demonstrated by an honorable discharge or general discharge under honorable conditions or a certificate of completion of basic training with a service record of successful completion of small arms training and certification.

What I am seeing is that adults are opting for 1a. And that is fine. TO A POINT! We, as instructors, must inform the adults who choose this route, the responsibility of carrying a loaded firearm in public does not end with that. Without further obligation in training as a “Hunter Safety Instructor,” we must convince the adult student that they still will need further and more in-depth training in the matter of carrying a concealed firearm in a social environment instead of a hunting environment. They are two EXTREMELY DIFFERENT environments with what can be socially, financially, and mentally devastating if not fully understood prior to actively exercising one’s “constitutional rights.”

We, as Hunter Education instructors are not obligated to provide that information, but must, as I stated earlier, convince the student that they need to further educate themselves in their venture to obtain their permit. I refer back to sections 1: b, c, and d, as stated in my insert for Wisconsin specifically. Each state has its own guidelines, and it’s our responsibility as instructors to know those guidelines, and limit ourselves to teaching only hunter’s rules but, at the same time, guiding those that are using our courses as a stepping stone to the much-needed avenues for further training in the path that they choose to take.

I am in the hopes that national and local political offices will realize this, and address what I am seeing as an “Easy-Street” approach to obtaining a concealed carry permit. In the event that the government does recognize my observations, I further anticipate that they fine-tune the requirements that are presently in place and in turn, I believe the results will better control the overwhelming issues that today’s society is fighting with in the matter of trying to control the misuse and possession of concealed firearms.

I myself was fortunate enough to learn the “balance” of the two different scenarios throughout my life as a child. My parents insisted on learning the responsibilities of hunting “wild game” through a hunter safety course, to the U.S. Army teaching me the responsibilities of “entities that will shoot back.” But as I said, THAT WAS OVER MY LIFETIME.

The balance, I have learned, cannot be accomplished through a three or four week course that is one-sided (in the matter of Hunter Safety). That balance needs the other side (the responsibilities and liabilities of concealed carrying a loaded firearm in a public society). And we, as instructors, must instill that upon our students who enroll in our courses just to obtain the credentials to enter the “other side” that they know nothing about. Our objectives do not completely cover what they intend to gain from it.

In closing, I believe and hope that I have successfully presented an understanding of the “balance” that we as instructors are somewhat forced (but in a rewarding way) to construe to our adult students who enroll in our courses for purposes other than what we represent and provide.

At this point, it is not a matter of “The Balance of Nature,” but a matter of “The Balance of Responsibility.”

It IS part of our responsibility as instructors to get that point across to our adult students in order to protect not only them, but ourselves, and what we represent.
Lesson Learned—Turkey Hunting Defensively

By Keith Byers, Hunting and Shooting Related Consultants LLC

Many years ago, when the woods were not filled with turkey hunters, being safe came down to you, the hunter, not hurting yourself by following the Hunter Education Safety Rules and using common sense. However, with the boom of the turkey-hunting bug, the woods are now filled with turkey hunters, which brings being safe while out in the woods turkey hunting to a new level. Now, not only do you have to be concerned about not hurting yourself, you also have to be concerned about not being harmed by another hunter. Now I know some of you out there reading this are saying, “Well, I don’t have to worry about other hunters, I hunt on my own land,” or “I am the sole turkey hunter on my lease.” Good points! Now let me tell you about my background. I worked for the State of Georgia Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Section as a Conservation Ranger (Game Warden) for 31 years. At the time of my retirement, I supervised a seven-county area. Also, I have been a turkey hunter for over 25 years.

Let me tell you about a few situations that I experienced as a turkey hunter and Game Warden that will expel the “I am the only one in the woods” attitude. Once I was hunting in South Carolina, on property that was owned by my grandmother and a neighboring property where I had obtained permission. No one else had permission to hunt these properties. I set up on a gobbler that was in a barley field. A county road ran along the upper side of the field. A thin tree line separated the field and the road for about three-quarters its length, then the tree line abruptly stopped and it was open. I had set-up on the gobbler about 10 to 15 yards inside the woods across the field from the road. The gobbler was out in the field strutting for a hen about 60 yards from my position. He was positioned between me and the treeless gap in the field. I had been calling to him for about 10 minutes when I heard a vehicle on the county road. The vehicle stopped when it reached the gap in the field and I immediately saw a gun come out of the window. I had just enough time to roll around behind the tree I had set up against before I heard the shotgun blast and pellets began to hit my tree and all around my location. After the shot, I got up and shouted at the shooter and, as you guessed, he just sped off.

Another hunt, this time in Georgia. I was hunting a 3,000-acre block of land that bordered the Ocmulgee River. This property was privately owned and I had the privilege of being the sole turkey hunter on this property. I heard a gobbler down next to the river at first light and made my way through the woods down into the river swamp. It was still dark down in the river swamp and I picked out a good-sized tree to set-up against. I put my call in my mouth and leaned back to relax a little while I waited for it to get a little lighter before I made my first tree call. As the swamp began to get lighter, I looked around trying to see what the lay of the land looked like. When I looked slightly behind me and to my right between the river and me, to my surprise I spotted a turkey decoy approximately 20 yards from my position. I looked beyond the decoy and I could pick out a hunter in camouflage up against a tree. We were all in a direct line of each other: the roosting gobbler, the decoy, the trespassing hunter and me. Needless to say I went into Game Warden mode and took care of the situation at hand.

The valuable Lesson Learned from these stories is: you may not be alone in the turkey woods. No matter if you are hunting private property or on a public wildlife management area. How do you keep safe? By hunting defensively! By defensive, I mean always be aware of what is going on around you. Don’t get caught up and so excited about the hunt that you miss that hunter sneaking in on you. When you set up your decoy, do it in such a way that you can see what is approaching it from dead-on, or set it up where if it does get shot, you will not be in the direct line of the shot. We all know not to wear the colors red, white,
or blue while out turkey hunting. Also, if you do happen across someone trespassing, make sure you speak to him or her before you approach. Do not just wave your hand; the sudden motion could trigger the trespasser to shoot. This brings me to the hunting technique that is all the rage today: fanning. This method of hunting is no doubt effective. However, it goes against everything taught in our Hunter Education classes. You, the hunter, crawling into an open field with a decoy on your head, a turkey fan on your gun, or holding the decoy or fan directly in front of your face. I guess, as a hunter, you have to ask yourself, is it worth the danger? I myself have elected not to use this method of hunting, the risk of being shot is too great. Why? Back when I was a Game Warden we investigated a group of five hunters that had killed well over thirty gobblers. We could prove thirty-one kills. They killed them by two methods: riding around a three-county area spotting the gobblers in fields and shooting them from the vehicle with rifles, or one hunter would drop the other hunter out and he would stalk the bird and shoot it. Fanning had not become a hunting method yet.

Just remember, while you are out in the turkey woods, always have fun, that’s what you are there for, but remember to hunt defensively. You may not be alone.

Lessons Learned:
- All the rules of safe firearms handling apply before, during and after the shot is fired
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That first gobble of the morning… one of the best sounds that a springtime turkey hunter can hear! This deep gobble on this particular morning was exactly where we wanted it to be as we sat in the cool gray light of dawn.

Being an avid and passionate turkey hunter, this hunt was the culmination of several months of planning and preparation. As the President of the Capital Region Strutters, our Concord, NH-based chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, I was both honored and privileged to be a mentor as part of our Learn to Turkey Hunt Mentor Program. This program is a collaboration between the National Wild Turkey Federation and the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. As part of our “Save the Habitat, Save the Hunt” program, volunteers who also happen to be enthusiastic and experienced turkey hunters donated their time, advice, hunting time and a culmination of many years of hunting knowledge and skills to the people who were interested in learning more about this intriguing sport. From the initial classroom time in late winter to the shotgun patterning, and ultimately an actual hunt, this program taught its participants a lot about turkeys and how to hunt them, in a relatively short period of time.

The person who was joining me on this morning was a woman named Sheri Croissant who had deer hunted before, but had never tried turkey hunting. As we sat that morning in the Double Bull blind which we had set the night before, I could see a huge smile under her camo face mask as that old bird continued to gobble on the roost. We were fortunate enough to have Fish and Game videographer Jason Phillip in the blind with us recording the morning’s events.

Watching someone who had never hunted turkeys before, hearing their first gobble under field conditions, is one of my favorite parts of the hunt. I had explained to her the evening before that this was absolutely not a “guided hunt”—we were out here to learn the subtle nuances of the sport and if she were able to have an opportunity at a bird, it would be “icing on the cake.”

As this turkey’s throaty gobble continued to fill the now brightening sky, I told her that once his feet hit the ground after fly-down, he would probably get quiet for a while. As it turned out, I was right and she got a good lesson in patience. We had done a few soft tree yelps earlier on, which he responded to, so we knew he was aware of our presence. After fly-down and the subsequent hour of the “silent treatment,” he gave up an unprovoked gobble about 350 yards from our location. We gave him a minute or two to stew, then gave him some sweet talk with a cherry slate pot. His gobbling and excitement level grew
and within 20 minutes, he was at 25 yards…straight behind us! Light purrs and clucks were keeping him interested, but try as we might, he just wouldn’t present a shot, and ultimately gobbled off in the direction that he came from.

High fives and smiles filled the blind and right then, a new turkey hunter was born! We discussed our options and decided that it was still early, we were in a great spot…and the bird never spooked! After about 40 minutes or so, we reached out with some “cold calling” and he lit up almost back from where we had originally heard him. It was a great lesson for her to hear his response and even better that his gobbles were getting closer by the minute! This time, he stayed to our north and strutted just out of sight. After some exciting moments, he again left unscathed.

She was certainly getting the full experience and I could tell she was loving every minute of it! We gave him some time to take care of whatever turkey business drew him away, but when he gave us that mid-morning, unsolicited gobble, I looked at her and whispered “Ok…you’re up…you are going to call this bird in!” She confidently took her striker in her left hand, and started a series of yelps on her slate that a seasoned hunter would have been proud of. The big old gobbler responded eagerly to her calls and was closing the distance…fast! At this point, she got a lesson in how topography can determine where a turkey will go. To our left was a fairly steep draw, which feathered out to the flat which he used earlier in the morning to get behind us. Figuring that he would repeat his earlier footsteps, we waited until he gobbled one more time and then, knowing that he would not see us, we rotated the blind enough so she would have a shot in the right direction.

There were three hearts beating very fast in that blind as the sound of spitting and drumming became mixed in with that wonderful, loud rattling gobble. Sheri’s eyes were the size of dinner plates as she hissed “I see him!” He came in right where we wanted him to be, strutting and completely focused on our decoy. I whispered, “He is in range…when you have a safe shot, take him.” After what seemed like an eternity, he broke strut and stuck his neck up in a good opening at 28 yards. Sheri picked the spot on the turkey’s red, white, and blue head and neck, and the 20 gauge did the rest.

The 19-pound, three-year-old tom never knew what hit him, and as we walked up to that majestic bird, I knew all was right in the turkey woods that morning. After tagging, photos and a trip to the check station, we took care of the most delicious part of the hunt…the meat!

I feel very privileged to have been able to be a part of such a terrific hunt and, more importantly, share an experience with a new hunter and help to create a memory which will last forever. This is how we as hunters and outdoors people can continue to promote and preserve this sport, which we hold so dearly. Take a friend, a coworker, an aunt or uncle hunting…together we can Save the Habitat and Save the Hunt!!

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Once a week after school, the kids and I pile into a big van and head out to nearby “wild” areas. For a couple hours these early elementary-aged kids build forts, explore, catch grasshoppers, walk in creeks, pretend, climb trees, chase frogs, stuff rocks in their pockets, and generally act like kids set loose in nature.

Sound familiar? That’s because chances are, if you are over the age of 35, you spent a good chunk of your own childhood doing the exact same things. When we were young and outdoors, there was rarely an adult looming over us, directing our every move. Adults weren’t always there to stop us from doing something they deemed “too dangerous,” they weren’t hovering and imploring us to keep our shoes clean, and they weren’t interfering by making up the rules to the games we invented. Our discoveries were our own—and they led to personalized risk assessment and self-directed learning. It sounds idyllic, and in a way, impossible, when we talk about it now.

There are always exceptions, but by and large, childhood is very different for our kids today than it was even a generation ago. Quite simply, kids today aren’t afforded the same opportunities many of us had, to have unstructured free-play and exploration time in nature. I don’t want to blame extremely busy parents, who always strive to do what is best for their children. Every now and then, even the best among us fall victim to societal changes and pressures. But let’s face it—many kids are supervised almost constantly. We incessantly dish out instructions and directions to our kids. We imply that the outdoors is a dangerous place for a kid to be on his/her own. And we shuttle our young ones (often our very youngest ones) from one adult-led, structured activity to another in an attempt to enrich their lives. For many, if our children do make it outdoors, it is likely to be on the manicured field of an organized sport. Kids in today’s society are on a technological leash stronger than steel.

You might be asking yourself why I care…shouldn’t I be concentrating on catching the poachers or worrying about the hunters in the field today? Am I wasting precious work time playing with kids in the woods?
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The short answer, in my opinion, is NO. I think it is prudent to take the long view…to see the big picture. Wild Things is my way of looking at the big picture.

Conservation officers and others who work in the natural resources field are keenly aware of the generational disparity I described above. We are aware of it on many levels: monetarily, in terms of wildlife management and land use, of changes in historical traditions, as well as for the general future of our state’s natural resources.

So what is the big picture? When I look at the big picture, I wonder where we will be two or three generations from now, when an outdoor experience for a majority of children consists of something they watched on a screen.

Many conservation officers are taking the long view. They are constantly (and perhaps too quietly) trying to connect with young people in a concerted effort to engage them in outdoor pursuits through mentored hunts and fishing outings. Throughout our history, hunting and fishing has been a tradition handed down from one generation to the next. If a youth lacks an experienced adult to take them, a mentored hunt can be an excellent opportunity for a young person to learn the skills that make for a safe and enjoyable hunting or fishing experience. Hopefully they continue practicing those skills and someday pass them on to their own children.

There are many good reasons to introduce young people to “consumptive” outdoor activities like hunting or fishing, as well as related sports like shooting and archery. One reason (as superficial as it may at first sound) is financial.

Currently in Iowa, everything from the purchase of public wildlife management areas, to the care of such areas, to the salaries and equipment of those tasked with protecting such areas, is almost solely funded by the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund. The Trust Fund, in turn, is
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almost solely funded by hunting and fishing license sales and the sale of habitat fees (which currently are almost exclusively purchased by sportsmen), as well as money generated by the sales of hunting and shooting sports equipment (via the Pittman Robertson Act). Based on data from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the numbers of license holders in Iowa has been on the steady decline since 2009 and before…which quite simply means that the money used to maintain and protect wildlife and wildlife areas is declining as well.

Many people who love nature enjoy using Iowa’s wildlife management areas for “non-consumptive” activities such as hiking, birding, watching meteor showers, photography, walking the dog, mountain biking, picnicking or for the perfect romantic meeting spots. They do so, often not knowing that their money (tax or otherwise), is not being used in a way that impacts that land or its wild inhabitants. That is, unless those same folks decide to purchase a habitat fee or a hunting/fishing license.

So do I expect that every child who goes through the “Wild Things” program becomes a consumptive user (and therefore a financial contributor) of our wildlife management areas? Not really—and that’s okay. I know that it’s unrealistic (and a little bit boring) to expect that every nature-loving child move on to hunting or fishing as they get older. But I also know that very few hunters and/or anglers are born of a person with no connection to, or love for, nature.

My intention with Wild Things was to start at the point where the seeds of imagination and hope germinate. I want my young Wild Things to know what it feels like to lie under a canopy of leaves and watch a squirrel jump from one branch to another. I want them to imagine what it would be like to be the caterpillar making its impossible way through a tangle of weeds. I hope that they will create a memory of what a sandy creek bed feels like on the soles of the feet. I want them to know how it feels to reach down and pluck a 300 million-year-old fossil out of the water and hold it in their hands.

Allowing a child to spend time in a natural place on his/her own unstructured terms is one of the most important things we, as adults, can do. The results can be invaluable and far-reaching for the child’s well-being and development. This fact is evidenced by multiple published scientific studies. And I would hazard to guess that it is equally as important for the well-being and future of our natural places.

Maybe by the time these young Wild Things are adults, the responsibility of caring for, paying for, and maintaining our wild places will be shared more equally among its users. But if not, at least these young people will have a basic foundation for what it means to be connected to a place. And maybe those connections will foster an ethic for, and a sense of stewardship for, those wild places. The places where they learned what it is like to be a child holding the Earth’s history in their hands.

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The generous discount Sun Optics USA offers IHEA-USA instructors on their complete line of quality products (which includes binoculars, riflescopes, spotting scopes, sights, lasers, grips, bipods, ring/ mount systems and more) has now expanded to the well-respected high-end Vixen Performance Optics line of riflescopes, engineered for superior quality and performance. Sun Optics USA is the exclusive North American importer of Vixen Performance Optics, which are designed to meet the needs of hunters who demand the best value without compromising performance.

Sun Optics USA has been a long-time supporter of IHEA-USA, as well as numerous other organizations promoting youth involvement in hunting and shooting sports, because today’s youths are the future of hunting and shooting “and more importantly, they will be the voice to uphold the Second Amendment,” said Sun Optics USA President Jim Gekeler. “In my opinion, there is way more involved with IHEA instructors than teaching hunter safety. From the dozens of letters and pictures I receive from students, I believe they not only learn hunter safety but also life lessons that will assist in developing them into well-respected young men and women who will contribute to society in a positive manner.”

Sun Optics USA’s goal is to make these quality products accessible to certified instructors for their own use or for teaching in the classroom.

Instructors can learn more by going to the “Special Offers for Instructors” section under the “Instructors” tab at IHEA-USA.com.

For more information go to: www.ihea-usa.com/instructors/special-offers-for-instructors

Instructor Access for IHEA-USA Website

Hunter Education Instructors have the opportunity to purchase many items at a discounted rate on the “Special Offers” section of the IHEA-USA website! For your exclusive access go to: www.ihea-usa.com/instructors/special-offers-for-instructors. Just click on the company hyperlink you are interested in and, when prompted, enter “gohunt” as your password. The password has no space and is all lowercase.

Purchase these fine products and more!
Boone and Crockett Club Introduces New President

H unter, angler and businessman, Ben B. Hollingsworth Jr. of Houston, Texas, has been elected president of America’s first conservation organization, the Boone and Crockett Club. For more than 129 years, Club members have helped shape the scientific, educational, political, economic, social, technological and environmental forces affecting natural resource conservation in North America.

As the Club’s 33rd president, Hollingsworth follows the tenure of Morrie Stevens of Saginaw, Michigan. Hollingsworth is the founder and former chairman, president and CEO of Group 1 Automotive, a Fortune 500, New York Stock Exchange company (NYSE) headquartered in Houston.

Earlier in his career, he served for 10 years as President of Service Corporation International, also a Houston-based Fortune 500, NYSE company. He is also active in other nonprofit conservation organizations including the Wild Sheep Foundation (Summit Member), life member of Grand Slam/Ovis, SCI Houston Chapter, Texas Bighorn Society, Ducks Unlimited, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation (Chairman’s Club) and Boone and Crockett Club’s Wilderness Warrior Society.

“As a longtime hunter/conservationist, Ben has served the Club tirelessly in multiple capacities,” said outgoing president Stevens. “Ben was instrumental in guiding the successful growth of the Club’s development committee and the Club’s endowment, providing financial stability to the Club now and into the future to fulfill its mission.”

Before being elected president, Hollingsworth served in various Club officer positions, most recently as president of the Boone and Crockett Club Foundation, which is a supporting organization of the Club. He is a graduate of Rice University, where he was a student athlete and is a Trustee Emeritus and member of the Audit Committee, and a member of the Council of Overseers of the Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Management. He has been honored with the Distinguished “R” Award by the “R” Association, and as a Distinguished Alumni by the Association of Rice Alumni.

Hollingsworth said, “Like most members of the Boone and Crockett Club, I am a passionate hunter, fisherman and conservationist. I have noted that in my later years I have spent more time and dollars conserving than hunting, but I consider that a great investment in the future. I also understand, as most sportsmen do, that hunting is conservation. This may be one of our biggest challenges, ensuring that others see this as well and remain supportive, or at least neutral, toward hunting. Hunting is critical to wildlife conservation, public support is critical to hunting, and all three are crucial to one another.”

He added, “I have never been associated with an organization with more dedicated members who devote so much of their time and treasure to our mission. It is humbling to follow in the footsteps of Theodore Roosevelt, the first President of the Boone and Crockett Club and one of my all-time idols. I proudly accept this role and will work hard to carry on his legacy.”

Hollingsworth concluded, “I can assure you the Boone and Crockett Club will continue to maintain the Club’s historic legacy of thoughtful leadership in promoting good government policy as it relates to wild game and its habitat, and sportsmen’s access to these resources. We will continue to seek and distribute new knowledge to guide critical decisions. We will also continue to educate the public and help them understand the historic role and contributions of the hunting and angling community in promoting and funding conservation of our wildlife and public lands for everyone’s enjoyment.”

About the Boone and Crockett Club:

Founded by Theodore Roosevelt in 1887, the Boone and Crockett Club promotes guardianship and visionary management of big game and associated wildlife in North America. The Club maintains the highest standards of fair chase sportsmanship and habitat stewardship. Member accomplishments include enlarging and protecting Yellowstone and establishing Glacier and Denali national parks, founding the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service and National Wildlife Refuge System, fostering the Pittman-Robertson and Lacey Acts, creating the Federal Duck Stamp program, and developing the cornerstones of modern game laws. The Boone and Crockett Club is headquartered in Missoula, Montana. For more details, visit their website at: www.boone-crockett.org.
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 650,000 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. We are also looking for success photos, especially involving youth. Every submission chosen for print receives a gift from supporting manufacturers.

Send your submission to Susie Kiefer via email: susiekiefer@msn.com
Or mail your submission to: IHEA-USA Journal, PO Box 432, Wellington, CO 80549

“Preparing today’s youth to become the leaders of tomorrow”

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Hunter Education Instructors now have access to a new resource that can provide them with additional methods and teaching tips to help them as they prepare for and present their classes. Titled the “Instructor Toolbox,” it is part of the IHEA-USA website and Hunter Education Instructors across all 50 states have access to the information.

The Instructor’s Toolbox has been developed by the IHEA Instructor Advisory Committee (IAC) that was formed in 2012 and was tasked with, among other things, developing teaching aids to assist instructors in the presentation of their classes. In 2013, the IAC asked Hunter Ed Instructors across the nation to respond to a survey which included questions about specific teaching techniques and teaching aids they have successfully used in presenting their classes. The IAC received a great many responses and decided that since there were so many great ideas, a method to share these with all instructors needed to be developed. Hence the “Instructor Toolbox” was started and will be an ever growing, dynamic resource, that additional “teaching tips” can be added to in years to come.

The Toolbox was designed around the newly-accepted IHEA Standards and the major heading areas follow those outlined in the standards. Each major heading has numerous sub-headings that encompass the total Hunter Education arena. The IAC then identified specific “teaching tips” from the survey responses that applied to the headings and inserted them under the specific heading. So if a Hunter Education Instructor wanted to add or present a specific topic in a different way, he or she could go to the Toolbox, look under the appropriate heading, and find what “teaching tips” might be available to assist in presenting their class.

The “Instructor Toolbox” is available online through the IHEA-USA website. It is located under the “Instructors” portion of the home page. The process for using the Toolbox on the website is a drop down menu that identifies major headings. There are also links to related topics and a method for instructors to send in additional training aid ideas and teaching tips to add to the toolbox.

The IAC will continue to accept and request additional “teaching tips” that might be added to the Toolbox in the future. The “Instructor Toolbox” is a dynamic, growing resource available to Hunter Education Instructors and gives them ideas and methods that they can use to enhance and improve their already outstanding classes.

Leupold Decals to Be Provided in Select Boxes of 2017 Hunter’s Handbooks

Leupold, America’s sports optics authority and a long-time sponsor of Hunter’s Handbook, has a special bonus for a select number of 2017 hunter education students.

They are providing over 60,000 decals that will be placed in Hunter’s Handbook shipping boxes for direct distribution to students.

Check your shipment to see if decals are included and don’t forget to grab one for yourself!
Shoot•N•C Reactive Targets

Stick it! Hit it! See it! Every time.™

With these revolutionary targets, bullet holes are revealed with bright chartreuse rings – providing you with instant feedback. They also eliminate the need to walk down range or use binoculars or spotting scopes. Upon impact, the targets explode in color that is visible to the naked eye and the adhesive backing makes these targets easy to put up. Repair pasters available with Shoot•N•C products allow you to cover up previous shots and extend target life.

Customize your Shoot•N•C experience with the sizes you need. Ask for them by name at your local dealer.

More information visit: birchwoodcasey.com or Call 800-Shoot-N-C (746-6862)
Daisy Partners with Boy Scouts to Promote Shooting Sport Safety and Education

Rogers, AR – Daisy Outdoor Products, the most-recognized name in airguns worldwide, today announced a partnership with the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) to promote safety and education in the shooting sports to today’s youth. This agreement makes Daisy the official airgun of the Boy Scouts of America.

The Boy Scouts of America, the largest youth organization in the country, in association with Daisy, will provide local councils and camps throughout the country with safety-oriented experiences and lessons that are both exciting and educational.

“There is no doubt that more people have learned how to shoot with a Daisy BB gun than with any other,” said Daisy President Keith Higginbotham. “Teaching the basics of marksmanship and shooting safety, through one-on-one mentoring as well as structured programs, continues to be at the core of our mission.

“To be recognized as the Official BB Gun of the Boy Scouts of America and to be involved in this far-reaching youth shooting sports initiative is a huge source of pride,” he continued. “Hundreds of millions of adults have been positively affected by Scouting, learning to become responsible citizens, developing character and becoming self-reliant. Involvement in the shooting sports develops similar traits, such as discipline, patience, self-control and responsibility.”

This partnership makes Daisy’s iconic inflatable ranges available to the BSA’s 274 local councils as well as enhancing the shooting sports program at campsites across the country. The inflatable ranges allow seasoned instructors to work individually with young people who may be shooting for the first time. Instructors emphasize shooting safety rules and teach basic marksmanship, including breath control, trigger pull, sight picture and more.

“As the nation’s leading organization that brings outdoor adventures to life for millions of young people, we greatly appreciate the support and commitment that Daisy Outdoor Products is providing to Scouting through this important partnership,” said Brad Farmer, Assistant Chief Executive of the Boy Scouts of America.

Ask any hunter or shooting sports enthusiast how he or she was introduced to the sport and the answer you’re going to hear most is that it all started with a Daisy. Together, Daisy and the Boy Scouts of America will present a comprehensive shooting sports program that will build character while introducing young people to the wholesome sport of shooting.

Visit www.daisy.com, and hashtag #ItAllStartsWithDaisy on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for more details.
About Daisy Outdoor Products:
At more than 130 years old, Daisy Outdoor Products is America’s oldest and leading maker of BB guns, air rifles and pistols, air rifle ammo and accessories. The company produces the most extensive product line of youth air guns, appropriate for ages 10 and older under adult supervision. Daisy’s shooting education curriculum is widely used by organizations that promote and teach gun safety and marksmanship. The company’s prestigious Daisy National BB Gun Championship Match, held each summer in the company’s home town of Rogers, Ark., is the largest 5-meter BB gun match in the country, attracting thousands of youth shooters from nearly every state.

BSA Requirements for the BB Gun Shooting Belt Loop
- Explain the rules of safe BB gun shooting you have learned to your leader or adult partner.
- Demonstrate to your leader or adult partner good BB gun shooting techniques, including eye dominance, shooting shoulder, breathing, sight alignment, trigger squeeze, follow through.
- Practice shooting at your district or your council camp in the time allowed.

BSA Requirements for the BB Gun Shooting Pin
- Earn the BB Gun shooting belt loop and complete five of the following requirements:
- Explain the parts of a BB gun and demonstrate how to properly load the gun.
- Demonstrate the shooting positions.
- Develop proficient shooting techniques by practicing for three hours.
- Learn the correct scoring techniques for target BB gun shooting.
- Make a poster that emphasizes the proper range commands.
- Draw to scale or set up a BB gun shooting range.
- Show improvement in your shooting ability with an increase in scoring points.
- Help make a type of target for the camp BB gun shooting range.
- Show how to put away and properly store BB gun shooting equipment after use.
- Explain how to use the safety mechanism on a BB gun.
- Tell five facts about the history of BB guns.

Source: http://www.boyscouttrail.com
North American Trapper Education Program &
Best Management Practices
"Sustaining the Future of Regulated Trapping"

Trapping in North America is heavily regulated by state and provincial wildlife agencies, providing a critical wildlife management technique. AFWA’s North American Trapper Education Program can provide trappers with the knowledge they need to be successful, ethical and help promote the future of trapping. This free online program is available at:

http://conservationlearning.org

Trapping Best Management Practices (BMPs) are carefully researched recommendations designed to ensure animals are humanely captured. Developed as part of the largest trap research effort ever conducted, BMPs feature the latest scientific information about trapping techniques and equipment, along with practical advice from experienced trappers and wildlife biologists.

**Trapping BMPs exist for 22 species of furbearers:**
fishwildlife.org/best_management_practices

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**BMPs:**

- Trapping BMPs are recommendations, not laws. Each state fish and wildlife agency decides how BMPs are used in their trapper education programs.

- Data collected and used to develop BMPs are consistent with internationally-accepted scientific standards for the evaluation of trapping techniques and the welfare of animals captured in traps.

- The Wildlife Society has a Standing Position which supports regulated trapping and the development and application of BMPs.

**North American Trapper Education Program:**

- This course is already used by a number of states to certify trappers. AFWA State Agency Directors approved and recognized this course as reciprocal where mandatory trapper education is required to obtain a license in a state.

- 7,000 students have already completed the course.

- The course teaches basic trapper education in addition to providing knowledge about BMPs for trapping.

**BMPs and the North American Trapper Education Program are intended to maintain the integrity of furbearer management programs throughout the nation and to sustain trapping methods now and in the future.**

AFWA encourages you to SPREAD THE WORD about the North American Trapper Education Program and Trapping BMPs!
The 100% American-made Ruger American Rimfire® bolt-action rifle builds on the enormous success of the centerfire Ruger American Rifle®. With many of the standard Ruger American Rifle® features, this line also combines several design innovations from the popular 10/22® rimfire rifle. This combination, along with the rifle’s adaptability, will appeal to all bolt-action enthusiasts — young or old, novice or experienced.
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