2017 IHEA-USA Conference a Huge Success,
Now North to Alaska!
June 25-28, 2018 – Anchorage, AK

An Arctic Adventure
Oops, I Did It Again! – Lessons Learned
Yamaha ATV Giveaway
see page 34
The International Hunter Education Association – United States of America (IHEA-USA) is an organization involving some 70,000 instructors across the United States of America. The IHEA-USA 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-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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Tradition. A word that resonates so much to so many in the hunting community. The rite of passing down one’s knowledge through the generations. For some it is the annual gathering at hunting camp or moments with friends and family in the outdoors. For others, it is the laughter and sharing of hunting stories around the dinner table or campfire and for some it’s the beauty and solitude one can only experience while in nature. The tradition also varies with hunting implement; whether it is with rifle, bow, crossbow, or black powder. What hunting looks like to each of us may be different, but it is through our individual traditions that we become part of a greater whole, a bigger universal bond called “hunter.”

This tradition is something I will carry with me as I embark on my new role with the IHEA-USA as president. The mission of our Association is: to continue the heritage of hunting by developing safe, responsible, knowledgeable, and involved hunters. I am truly blessed and honored to carry forth this heritage, this tradition, at the national and global level. To carry forth this mission it will take each and every one of us who call ourselves hunter to continue to teach, to mentor, and pass forth our passion; for what can be done at an expanded level needs to begin in our own hometowns and backyards.

For myself, the hunting tradition began in my home state of Wisconsin. From the time that I could walk, I was wearing my dad’s blaze orange to “help hunt.” I learned at a young age the joys of being snuggled in a cold forest meant having the privilege to hunt. Now, as I mentor others, I experience the excitement that comes from helping a new hunter cross the threshold into our community with their first harvest. I also more fully appreciate the patience, selflessness, and wisdom that my mentors had to teach me. The tradition for me developed into taking my hunter education class and hunting, with not only my dad, but Grandpa John, uncles, and cousins. Later it included my sisters, friends, and mentors. In the future, it will also include my niece and nephews. The tradition was more than just the hunt; it was a lesson in ethics and responsibility. It’s the peanut shells on a garage floor and Packer games watched while processing the harvest ourselves out of respect for the game taken. The respect of the land while maintaining the forest through tree planting and the respect one must give to other hunters, members of their community, and of themselves.

The tradition, along with the awe and admiration for my mentors, fueled so much under the leadership of the past president Megan Wisecup, there is still much for our Association to do. We will continue to work on research initiatives including hunter education delivery, peer reviews for state hunter education programs to improve classes for instructors and students, organize and conduct trainings for state administrators and law enforcement, and work with our instructor advisory committee to continue to develop materials for classes and provide support to the nation’s hunter education instructors who, through their volunteerism, continue the tradition of mentoring our new generation of hunters.

Along with the leadership of the Association’s Executive Director and Board, I look forward to sharing my tradition and passion with instructors, members, peers, students and other hunters. While we have accomplished so much under the leadership of the past president Megan Wisecup, there is still much for our Association to do. We will continue to work on research initiatives including hunter education delivery, peer reviews for state hunter education programs to improve classes for instructors and students, organize and conduct trainings for state administrators and law enforcement, and work with our instructor advisory committee to continue to develop materials for classes and provide support to the nation’s hunter education instructors who, through their volunteerism, continue the tradition of mentoring our new generation of hunters.

Through these initiatives and new opportunities that arise in the future, along with the continued support from our industry partners, state members, instructors, and individual members, our Association will continue the hunting tradition while maintaining its role as the leader in hunter education for years to come.

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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It is with great excitement that I am writing my first column as your new Executive Director of the IHEA-USA. It is a nervous excitement, but also a confident excitement at the same time. I would like to start by telling you a bit about myself and my background in hopes of giving you a better understanding of who I am and why I chose to lead this great organization. Growing up on a family resort in Green Lake, Wisconsin, I started working at a young age. Those involved in a family business can relate that there is rarely time off and you learn to really appreciate the time that you do get!

My time off was typically spent with my brothers or friends in the outdoors, either hunting or fishing. Fishing was done on the Big Green Lake where we would target mostly panfish, lake trout and walleye. To date, I am still a poor fisherman but enjoy my time on the water. When I turned eleven I was finally able to sign up for my hunter's safety course. Back in 1978 that was in your standard classroom setting, and I remember my mother taking me to each class and sitting through it with me. In Wisconsin at that time you needed to have an adult hunt with you until the age of 14—that too was typically my mother who would tromp around the woods with me and patiently waited for me to select the perfect location for my tree-stand. More often than not she found that it was her who would be sitting with me in that treestand! From that point forward—I was, and still am, a hunter.

As most hunters, my hunting and reasons for hunting transformed over the years. I became, and still view myself, as a hunter/conservationist. This passion led me down my career path where, soon after college, I began working in the non-profit conservation world starting with the Minnesota Wildlife Heritage Association. I was able to work my way from there to a position with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation where I spent my time with them in the great state of North Dakota, fundraising and working to conserve critical elk habitat in the western and northeastern parts of that area. The last nine plus years of my life were spent as a director with Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever. Here I was not only able to use my skills to protect more habitat for wildlife, but to also learn the inner workings of a high-level non-profit organization.

As a hunter/conservationist, I took this job for several reasons. I view our organization and the agencies and partners that we work with, as the bridge those who wish to hunt must cross to start their path to becoming hunters. Hunters in North America conserve more wildlife and more wildlife habitat than any other group of people in this hemisphere—and there is no arguing that statement. Without hunters and the money they spend, we would not have the wildlife we have today.

The importance of IHEA-USA is the first step in the next generation of hunters/conservationists and ultimately the continued success of the North American Model.

As the new leader of the International Hunter Education Association-USA, I see challenges in front of us, but I also see great opportunity. The future of our organization, our hunting heritage, and our wildlife is bright but it will take more effort, time and money to ensure the future than ever before. This will take a team effort and a need for people to work together. As your leader, I will work to not only bring those with a vested interest together, but also reach out to new possibilities to help ensure our organization stays strong and relevant.

I am honored to be part of this great organization! I will close with a challenge that I will close with on each of my columns—get someone out shooting and hunting that has never hunted before, and have a safe hunt.
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR) and the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) have partnered to create an educational document about how Hunter Education funds—through the Wildlife Restoration Program (WR)—can be used for small range grant programs. Small range grant programs support work on privately-operated shooting ranges, although all grant recipients must offer public access. Not all states have a small range grant program, but those that do may find this information useful.

This 12-page document includes:
- Historical information about WR
- WR’s return on investment for businesses
- Eligibility for small range grants
- Frequently asked questions
- Federal compliance requirements
- Examples of successful small range grant projects

Many thanks to all of the state and WSFR Hunter Education Coordinators who provided input on this document, and to the NSSF staff who compiled the information and completed the layout and graphic design! If you would like a copy, please contact: Christina Milloy, USFWS-WSFR, National Lead for Wildlife Restoration and Hunter Education, christina.milloy@fws.gov or Zach Snow, NSSF Director, Shooting Range Services zsnow@nssf.org.
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When an Arizona mother walked into her bedroom and saw her toddler playing with her husband’s gun, it was the Project ChildSafe lock she’d put on it the day before that she credited with preventing a tragedy in her family.

As a program of the National Shooting Sports Foundation, Project ChildSafe is the industry’s nationwide effort to help prevent firearm accidents by educating gun owners on the importance of properly storing firearms when they aren’t in use. It’s a program that helps prevent accidents and saves lives, and it relies heavily on industry participation to do so.

In the past three years alone, more than 3,500 retailers, ranges, hunting and shooting groups, and safety instructors have joined with NSSF to help promote our Project ChildSafe program and its firearms safety messages. We are the nation’s leading voice on firearms safety and responsibility—and rightfully so. It’s what the American public expects of us, and our efforts are working.

According to the latest research, the number of fatal firearms accidents dropped 17% from 2014 to 2015, to 489—the lowest since recordkeeping started in 1903. Fatal firearms accidents showed the largest percentage decline of any category, in a year which saw record firearms sales.

This decline in accidents is a direct result of efforts to educate gun owners. All of us involved in the legal and responsible manufacture, sale, use and storage of firearms would like to see that trend continue in the right direction. But to do more our industry needs to work collaboratively to expand and amplify the messages of the Project ChildSafe program.

Recently, this effort was bolstered by a grant from the Department of Justice that enabled us to provide tools and resources to retailers across the country, including counter cards, window stickers, and other in-store materials. Retailers are the men and women directly interacting with firearms purchasers. They are in the best position to talk to gun owners credibly and authentically. They know firearms owners don’t want to be lectured, but they also know how important it is to remind gun owners to securely store their firearms when not in use.

Together we can speak with a powerful and effective voice about safety and responsibility. We want our safety message, “Own It? Respect It. Secure It.,” to be everywhere. Every time
someone thinks about their firearm, buys ammunition, or walks into a gun store, we want them to think about the importance of safe firearms storage.

The more we get these messages out, the more firearms owners, particularly newcomers or those who are not firearms enthusiasts, will be reminded to take important yet simple steps to properly and securely store firearms when not in use.

And the bigger the role retailers can play in this effort, the more they are doing to help prevent accidents and save lives in their own home communities. More and more, consumers are looking to the companies and organizations they buy from to do more than make or sell a good product—there is an expectation that these organizations will also work to be “good corporate citizens.” That expectation extends directly to the firearms retailer, perhaps even more so than most, as all of us are familiar with the public pressures these businesses already face. Demonstrating a genuine commitment to public safety through programs like Project ChildSafe is no longer a luxury.

Like so many things about our industry, we have the facts, knowledge, expertise, and the understanding of firearm ownership on our side. But we’ve got to do more to educate the public about firearms safety and our genuine commitment to it.

If there’s a community safety event coming up in your community, be a part of it, and work with local law enforcement to distribute free Project ChildSafe gun locks safety education materials.

Project ChildSafe is your program too. You can urge your community to be a part of it. Check out our many firearm safety resources at http://projectchildsafe.org/resource-library.

Together, we’re on the cusp of something that could help change the discussion on firearms for years to come. Together we are helping to save lives, and showing that gun owners, the firearms industry, and all those involved in the shooting sports are genuinely committed to the principles of firearm safety and responsibility. We’re showing that we are all on the right side of firearm safety.

Learn more about Project ChildSafe at www.projectchildsafe.org.

Project ChildSafe works with law enforcement at the community level to help spread the word about how to safely store firearms when not in use. This picture is from a Project ChildSafe event that took place in Detroit last year.
2017 IHEA-USA Conference & Awards

**Professional of the Year:** This award is presented to an individual who symbolizes the highest level of achievement among wildlife/conservation agency employees in North America for outstanding and dedicated service to the IHEA-USA, Hunter Education, and the sport of hunting.

*2016 Award Recipient:* Monica Bickerstaff
*Award Sponsor:* National Rifle Association

**Hunter Education Volunteer Instructor of the Year:** This award is presented to an individual (or family instructor team) who has significantly advanced the cause of safe hunting on a voluntary basis through extraordinary service in training or education.

*2016 Award Recipient:* Cathy Lynch (Washington)
*Award Sponsor:* Federal Premium Ammunition (Vista Outdoor)

**Hunter Education Volunteer Instructor Hall of Fame:** This award honors VOLUNTEER Hunter Education instructors, either active, retired or deceased who exhibits(ed) outstanding traits or provided services above and/or beyond the call of duty and exceeds the general efforts that helped to improve the Hunter Education movement in their respective jurisdiction and/or for IHEA-USA. This award is intended to recognize Hunter Education volunteers for their efforts supporting Hunter Education over the course of their lives.

*2016 Award Recipient:* Charlie Rutkowski (Oregon)
Dr. Ed Kozicky Award: This award is given to an individual or organization that assists the President of the IHEA in a manner that exceeds a general effort and goes above and beyond the call of duty.

2016 Award Recipient: Matt Dunfee (Wildlife Management Institute)

Professional Hall of Fame Award: Award is presented to any individual who is active, retired or deceased who exhibits(ed) outstanding traits that have helped to improve the Hunter Education movement or the IHEA-USA in a manner that exceeds the general effort. (Three recipients awarded.)

2016 Award Recipient: Paulette Lubke (IHEA-USA)

2016 Award Recipient: John McKay (Nevada)

2016 Award Recipient: Joe Huggins (Arkansas)
**Host State Award:** Award given to the host state for outstanding work in putting on the IHEA-USA conference.

**Award Recipient:** Oregon, James Reed

**IHEA-USA Service Award:** This award is given to an individual of the IHEA-USA for outstanding contributions, assistance and/or efforts above and beyond the call of duty to further the cause of Hunter Education. (Two recipients awarded.)

**2016 Award Recipient:** Megan Wisecup

**2016 Award Recipient:** James Reed

**IHEA-USA Hunter Education Administrator/Coordinator of the Year Award:** This new award is given to a Hunter Education administrator/coordinator for their efforts above and beyond the call of duty to further the cause of Hunter Education.

**2016 Award Recipient:** Megan Wisecup (Iowa)

**Award Sponsor:** Kalkomey
IHEA-USA Executive Director’s Award: This award is given to an individual who has gone above and beyond the call of duty to further the cause of the IHEA-USA and its mission.

2016 Award Recipient: Megan Wisecup

IHEA-USA Industry Award: This award is presented to any member of industry that exhibited outstanding support of the IHEA-USA and its mission. This effort should have been active and innovative in fostering new ideas in Hunter Education and that, by virtue of personal staff efforts, professional advice or financial assistance, has helped the Hunter Education movement in a superior way. Recipients may be selected more than once.

2016 Award Recipient: Alpen Outdoors, Inc.

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Watch for registration details on the IHEA-USA website as they become available!
As the lights of Bethel disappeared behind us and the southwestern Alaska tundra stretched to the horizon out front, I couldn’t help but wonder what we had gotten ourselves into. In January 2017, we’d been fortunate to obtain registration tags to hunt cow muskoxen on Nelson Island in March. We spent the ensuing two months planning for what was sure to be an epic Arctic adventure.

Nelson Island is located in the Bering Sea more than 100 miles west of Bethel, a small, isolated mainland city of some 6,400. Home to a growing herd of muskoxen, the 843 square-mile island is sparsely populated with three Alaska Native villages hosting a total of about 1,200 people.

Muskoxen are indigenous to Alaska, but disappeared in the mid to late 1800s. In 1930, 34 muskoxen captured in Greenland were released on Nunivak Island. The animals thrived and increased from 31 in 1936 to about 750 by 1968. Nunivak Island muskoxen were subsequently transplanted to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Cape Thompson, the Seward Peninsula, Nelson Island, and to Wrangel Island and the Taimyr Peninsula in Russia. Today, Alaska’s muskox herds are healthy, numbering more than 4,600 statewide, allowing for renewed hunting and viewing opportunities.

Found only in very remote Arctic and subarctic locations, muskoxen promise a guaranteed hunting adventure. The meat is delicious and exotic, while the hides and skulls are prized for handcrafted. Hunting permits are issued in limited numbers and fewer than 300 muskoxen are harvested in the United States every year.
Our Arctic adventure began on a morning in March when we left Bethel on rented snowmachines (the Alaskan term for snowmobiles). There were three of us—my husband Kyle, our friend Cory, and myself—and none of us had previously spent time in this part of Alaska. We were amazed by the flatness and lack of trees, rocks, and wildlife. We traveled for more than five hours, crossing the frozen tundra and sea ice to reach Nelson Island. The “trail” conditions were windblown and bumpy.

Upon reaching the island, we headed up on top of rolling hills for a better view. We were lucky it was a clear, sunny day, as we had been told by locals that if the clouds are low, we shouldn’t travel on top as white-out conditions could lead to falls off dangerous drop-offs. After riding for about an hour, my husband spotted a herd of muskoxen across a valley on a high cliff. Muskoxen are herding animals and group up to defend the smaller and younger herd members when threatened by predators such as wolves or grizzly bears. Both males and females have horns, but the horns of bulls are larger and heavier than those of cows. Mature bulls weigh 600-800 pounds while cows are smaller at 400-500 pounds. Once we had discarded our heavier outer clothing and unearthed the bows and rifle from our sleds, the hunt was on.

We rode to the cliff and stopped within 200 yards of the herd, which had backed up against the cliff’s edge. Muskoxen are herding animals and group up to defend the smaller and younger herd members when threatened by predators such as wolves or grizzly bears. Both males and females have horns, but the horns of bulls are larger and heavier than those of cows. Mature bulls weigh 600-800 pounds while cows are smaller at 400-500 pounds. Once we had discarded our heavier outer clothing and unearthed the bows and rifle from our sleds, the hunt was on.

We spread out in a fan, mimicking wolves, and slowly eased toward the herd. Since two of us were using bows, we were constantly ranging the distance. When we were within 50 yards, the herd grew agitated. The adult bulls kept stepping out in front of the herd and the rest of the animals snorted and jostled around for position. The herd consisted of 13 animals, including bulls and cows of varying ages. We assessed the group since all three of us had cow-only tags, and were able to identify three adult cows. Sometimes telling the difference between a young cow and bull can be tricky. Prior to the hunt we spent hours reviewing muskox photos online and taking the Alaska Department of Fish and Game’s muskox identification quiz to ensure we knew the identifying characteristics between bull and cow muskoxen.

Finally, with the Bering Sea as a backdrop and a brisk wind at our backs, we edged within 30 yards of the herd. The animals stood close together, with the adult cows in the middle. It made a shot nearly impossible as we didn’t want a pass-through shot into another animal. The three of us were constantly communicating, letting each other know when a smaller muskox was hidden behind another and that we shouldn’t take a shot.
even if a muskox was broadside.

After about two and a half hours of jockeying the herd around, a cow muskox stepped away from the group. Cory made a clean shot with his rifle and our first muskox was harvested. We continued to work the group for another two hours. By then, my fingers were so cold I wouldn’t have been able to pull back my bow to make a shot even if I had one. Kyle edged closer to the group and finally another cow stepped to the side and gave him a quartering away shot with his bow. He made a great shot, but muskox are tough, so he released a second arrow to make a quicker kill. Since it was after 6 p.m. at this point, we packed up our gear and drove to the bottom of the cliff near some willows to camp for the night.

We retrieved both harvested muskox (taking lots of pictures!), set up camp, and processed meat until 2 a.m. in the blowing snow and cold. Due to the climate and food availability, muskox are amazing metabolizing machines and each cow had a thick layer of fat (three to four inches). While the wind and snow swirled around us, it was nothing to throw a piece of fat away from the carcass, only to have several pairs of fox eyes reflected in your headlamp.

As we climbed out of our tent the next morning greeted by the sun, I spotted the muskox herd on a lower cliff not far from where they were the night before. We loaded up our gear for the day and snowmachined out to the herd. We knew there was still one legal adult cow muskox left, however she seemed to have a sixth sense to stay in the middle of the herd and after an hour and a half still hadn’t given me a clear shot. Kyle spotted another large group of muskoxen across a valley, but once we got closer we were able to tell it was a bachelor group (group of mature muskox bulls). We made the decision to go back to the original herd since we had all day to work them. This time it only took 45 minutes for the cow to step away from the herd and give me a slightly quartering-towards-me shot.
My first shot at 30 yards was perfectly placed behind the front shoulder, but I elected for a second follow-up arrow and the animal quickly went down. The herd continued to stay grouped together until we moved away, giving them an escape route.

Since it was early afternoon, we brought the muskox back to our camp and processed the meat. We marveled at the feet, which were almost more suction cup-like than Dall’s sheep hooves, and must help keep the muskox from slipping on icy terrain. Cutting through the hide was sometimes difficult due to the thick fur. Besides the top layer of guard hair, muskoxen are covered in short, fine under-hair called qiviut (pronounced ki-vee-ute) which is particularly prized due to its softness, lightweight quality, and warmth. I planned to comb out the qiviut on my hide to sell to a local Alaska co-operative. The co-operative is owned by Native Alaskan women in remote coastal villages who would use the qiviut to knit handicrafts such as smokings (garments worn around the neck or as a hood), hats, and scarves.

We relaxed that night in the tent while heating snow for drinking water and to make our dinner. The next day we packed all of our gear to head back to Bethel, but when we were ready to leave one of the snowmachines wouldn’t start. After hours of heating the engine using the small propane stove and a tarp, we were finally able to get it started. We slowly made our way back to Bethel with full sleds. With about 30 miles to go, one of the U-bolts on a sled broke, and we had to rig it together with a thick rope. All three of us were happy to see Bethel in the distance after a 7-1/2-hour snowmachine ride.

Any wilderness hunt comes with challenges, but navigating the logistics of Arctic travel and dealing with equipment frozen by intense cold are challenges largely unique to hunting muskoxen. The meat, hides, and skulls will be enjoyed for years to come and will always remind us of the memories we made on this Arctic adventure.

Ginamaria Smith is the Statewide Program Coordinator for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game’s Hunter Information and Training (HIT) Program.
Lesson Learned: “Oops, I Did It Again,” or Read and Follow Directions!

By Michael Van Durme, Hunting and Shooting Related Consultants LLC

It was the first day of the early muzzleloader season and Jonas was excited to get out into the woods. He had shot his “smokepole” at a few deer over the past two years, but not yet filled a muzzleloader tag. He parked in the lot at the state forest and put on his gear and backpack, and then grabbed his rifle. He walked to edge of the parking area, opened the break action, inserted a primer and snapped his inline rifle shut.

KABOOM! His mind started spinning, his ears were ringing and his left foot had exploded in pain! He was completely confused. WHAT HAD JUST HAPPENED? He turned to walk back to the truck but the pain was so bad he almost fainted over. He hobbled to the driver’s door, climbed in and drove right to the local hospital. They cut away his boot revealing the bloody hole right through the top of his foot! He could not believe it. He had shot himself in the foot! He was also sure he would never hear the end of this.

A few months after his rush to the emergency room, the foot was healing up and he took out the muzzleloader to give it a good cleaning, the first cleaning it had gotten in three years. He put it back on the rack, ready for next season, all the while wondering how he had managed to do that. Was his finger on the trigger? Had he somehow managed to have it cocked before he put the primer in?

Fall came again, and high hopes of finally getting the big one again filled his mind. Opening day found Jonas back at the same parking lot, well before dawn, putting on his gear, his backpack and grabbing his rifle. This time though, he was more careful. He made sure his finger was not near the trigger as he put on the cap and snapped his .50 caliber shut.

KABOOM filled his ears, his head was spinning, his left foot hurt again and he could not believe it. Had it happened again? For the second time in as many years, he hobbled back to the truck and returned to the same emergency room he visited a year ago. Unfortunately, most of the staff remembered him and despite their best efforts he could hear them snicker when they thought they were out of earshot.

The Game Warden who responded to document the incident also remembered him and tried to act professional as Jonas sheepishly repeated the same story as last year. The warden collected the rifle and gave Jonas an Evidence Receipt. A professional examination of the rifle immediately revealed the problem. When the action was opened, the firing pin was clearly visible when it should have been retracted into the frame. When the warden pushed on the firing pin with his thumbnail he found that it was stuck in place, held there by powder residue and corrosion. That made this one pretty easy to solve.

Jonas insisted there must be something wrong with the firearm; it was obviously defective. After all, he had cleaned it after the incident last year. The facts were the facts though, and the firing pin being stuck fast and protruding is what caused the rifle to go off both times it was snapped shut on a fresh primer.

What Jonas had failed to do was to read the owner’s manual included with his rifle when he bought it. In the section on Maintenance, there were both photos and a clear set of instructions, including how to disassemble and clean the firing pin. Modern inline muzzleloaders often have blowback from the primer or percussion cap and keeping the firing pin area clean is an important part in keeping them working correctly. Leaving out this important step in his annual maintenance had been the cause of his injuries.

Lessons Learned:

• Read the manual! It is too important to neglect. Read and follow the directions of every firearm, bow or crossbow you use. Just because it looks like one you used before, does not mean it functions the same. Take the time to read every manual from cover to cover and work through all the features and functions before you load it for the first time. If Jonas had...
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studied the manual, he would know that the firing pin should not be sticking out.
• The most obvious mistake here is muzzle control. Even with his rifle going off twice, Jonas would never have been injured had he kept the muzzle pointed safely at the ground and away from his body.
• Practice is important in the off-season. After the first incident, Jonas should have cleaned and then loaded and fired his rifle to be sure it was functioning properly. If he had, he would have learned there was still a problem instead of finding out the hard way.
• Maintenance is a fundamental part of firearms ownership. Many firearms are in fine condition and can function like new for generations, as long as they are properly cleaned and stored. Muzzleloaders require more cleaning than other firearms. Failure to properly clean them can result in failure to fire, or in this case, worse.
• Don’t have a manual? Don’t let that be an excuse to neglect safety. Most manufacturers have their owner’s manuals available online and all will send out copies to anyone who requests it.
• Ask a professional. If your firearm ever fails to function as it should, be sure to find and fix the problem before you use it again. Every gunsmith I talked to said that they regularly check out firearms to see what is wrong. In a case like this, it would have taken less than a minute and not cost anything to get a professional opinion.

The author still proudly hunts with a 16-gauge Parker Brothers double barrel shotgun that was purchased new by his great grandfather in 1893. He looks forward to the day when his grandson becomes the sixth generation to take it into the field. It has its share of scratches and wear, but simple routine maintenance will keep it working for many more years to come. BUT, as soon as he inherited it he took it to a gunsmith to have it checked over to be sure it was safe. It passed with flying colors, but the gunsmith noted that it was built to shoot shorter shells. 65mm shells are 2-9/16 inches long, not much shorter than modern 2-3/4 inch shells, but enough to be unsafe and cause damage to the firearm.

“Lesson’s Learned” is a regular feature from the retired wildlife officer supervisors at Hunting and Shooting Related Consultants LLC. They are also co-authors of BLOOD on the LEAVES, Real Hunting Accidents - And Lessons In Hunter Safety.
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Champions of Hunter Education

By Joe Arterburn

It is impossible to determine the cumulative effect hunter education instructors have had in perpetuating our hunting traditions. Through hours and hours and hours of volunteered time, they have recruited and mentored thousands and thousands of students, in many cases ushering in generation after generation of educated, safe hunters.

Because of the selfless contributions of hunter education instructors, our hunting heritage remains in good hands.

In recognition of outstanding efforts among the thousands of dedicated (and deserving) hunter education instructors, Gallery of Guns is proud to annually recognize and reward six instructors who exemplify what is best about not only hunter ed instructors and hunters, but people in general.

In addition to our perpetual gratitude, each winner receives a 270-caliber Ruger American Rifle (shown above) from GalleryofGuns.com.

“We are honored to help recognize these Champions of Hunter Education who go above and beyond,” said Bill Bennett, director of marketing for Davidson’s and GalleryofGuns.com. “Without IHEA instructors, the heritage of hunting could be jeopardized for future generations. Hunter education is such an important part of developing ethical and responsible hunters for future generations.”

In this issue, we highlight two Gallery of Guns Champions of Hunter Education. Watch for coming issues in which we announce more deserving award winners.

Bill Sterner, Wilton, Iowa

When Bill Sterner’s son, Mike, became interested in a local 4-H club, Sterner decided he too would get involved, and that led to 29 years (and counting) as a firearms and archery hunter education instructor.

“I didn’t want to be one of those parents who just drop their kids off at a meeting and let someone else babysit them for two or three hours,” he said. And it snowballed from there.

“The club was running a Safety & Education in Shooting Sports program and the adult leaders were also hunter ed instructors,” he said. “I helped them with the 4-H program for a couple years. During that time I also assisted them with several hunter ed classes and joined a local gun club that was also running a junior shooting team as well as sponsoring hunter ed classes. In light of my involvement, it just seemed natural to go ahead and get my certification as a hunter ed instructor. I’ve been certified since October of 1988.”

Sterner, who retired in 2011 after working 33 years for a rural electric cooperative, has taught 116 hunter ed classes, reaching more than 3,500 students, according to Iowa Hunter Education Administrator Megan Wisecup, who nominated Sterner for the award. And Sterner’s involvement goes beyond hunter education, Wisecup said. Sterner was instrumental in getting shooting sports competitions into the Iowa Games, she said, and participated every year for the first 20 years of the event, reaching hundreds of young shooters. He’s also assisted with the Iowa Youth Hunter Education Challenge for nearly all the years of its existence and a list of other events.

Wisecup said Sterner’s “eloquent and captivating writing style has been a great resource for our program,” providing articles for a quarterly instructor newsletter distributed to more than 1,500 instructors in the state. “His articles typically have a lesson learned or ethical underlying message that instructors can easily identify with,” Wisecup said.

For Sterner, hunter education is important not only to students, but to the sport of hunting.

“Every year urban and suburban populations grow and rural populations shrink,” he said. “The attitude that most of the population shared about hunting 50 years ago is disappearing. Whole sectors of the population grow up in today’s world with no idea about the importance of controlling wildlife populations, or how to accomplish this. Hunter education continues to be an important tool to teach laws, ethics, conservation and firearm safety.”

As a substation serviceman for 16 years of his career at the electric co-op, Sterner saw first-hand the effects of wildlife—and hunters—on people’s day-to-day lives.

“When you get called out in the middle of the night because a raccoon trying to climb up a substation structure to get to a bird’s nest has electrocuted himself and caused an electrical outage for several dozen customers, it isn’t difficult to understand the role hunters play in control of wildlife populations,” he said. “Seeing the damage that frustrated or careless hunters do to electrical equipment is another eye-opener. Thousands of dollars are spent each year by distribution companies to repair damage done by hunters who don’t check what is beyond their target.”

Handling firearms safely is the most important thing students can learn in hunter education classes, Sterner said.

“There isn’t anything that the students are taught that isn’t productive and worthwhile, but the thing I feel is needed the most is safe firearms handling,” he said. “The annual shooting incident
UNWRITTEN RULES

It’s important that he knows the laws. It’s also important to me that he has a moral connection to the game we hunt. With that I know he’ll be making the right choices. That’s why we talk about fair chase.

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reports we receive at spring workshops every year seem to bear this out. I spend time in each class I teach stressing that if the students never hunt after they complete the class, the one thing they want to remember is safe firearm handling rules. Know them, use them, pass them on to everyone you shoot with, and if those you shoot with refuse to use safe firearm handling rules, don’t shoot with them. Pack up and leave.”

Sterner also wants to spread the understanding of hunter’s role in wildlife conservation.

“There are a thousand ways for people to enjoy the environment and contribute to the continuation of that environment,” he said. “Unfortunately, the number of people in our society that understand the importance of controlling wildlife populations through hunting, and how this contributes to conservation of our environment, don’t seem to be doing the best job of conveying that idea to the rest of the population.

“In order to encourage more hunters and hunting, I want more people to understand the importance of how hunting helps our environment, and for hunters to experience their roles in this situation in a safe manner.”

Michael Norkus
Colonial Heights, Virginia

A tragic incident Michael Norkus witnessed as a teenager led to his becoming a Virginia hunter education instructor in 1999 and an International Bowhunting Education Program instructor in 2002.

“When I was 14 years old, I was walking up the lane to my best friend’s house, we were going rabbit hunting on his farm that morning,” Norkus said. “His dad had already left to go to work in town, his mother and younger brother were still in the house. While walking up the lane, I heard a shot from inside the house and immediately went running into the house and found my friend’s mother holding him trying to stop the bleeding from his head. She was very confused and panicking. I tried to calm her down and called the rescue squad.

“My friend had put his single-shot 410 shotgun on the kitchen table, not realizing it was loaded and the hammer was cocked. His little brother had reached up trying to pull the shotgun off the table and had pulled the trigger in the process. As my friend was walking out of the kitchen, the blast hit him in the back of the head, killing him instantly.

“I swore to myself that if someday I could prevent this kind of thing from happening again, I would. Hunter education was the way I could do it.”

Bryan Branch, Region 1 recreational safety coordinator for the Virginia Department Game and Inland Fisheries, calls Norkus “a person who goes above
and beyond in any task he sets out to do, including teaching safe and ethical hunting skills to anyone whom he encounters in the many hunting-related programs in which he is involved.” Those programs include hunter education; International Bowhunter Education; training other hunter ed instructors; hunting workshops; and, well, the list Branch included while nominating Norkus for this award continues.

A retired U.S. Army major, Norkus now works as a civil servant for the army, which complements his work in hunter education.

“Developing training products for the Army has a process and procedure and I use those same principles to help develop training products for my hunter education or IBEP classes,” he said. “My job allows me the latitude to be available weekends to teach at our Hunter Ed Advanced Training Sessions and for my hunter ed classes in Prince George County and at Ft. Lee, VA.

For Norkus, the importance of hunter education boils down to two things.

“The first is our students are the future of hunting, especially our younger students,” he said. “I learned a mantra many years ago that I still repeat to this day: ‘Teach your kids to hunt and you’ll never have to hunt for your kids!’ Kids need to be involved in hunting. It teaches them discipline, patience and responsibility. These virtues seem to be forgotten more every day among our youth and even among some of our adults.

“The second is safety, especially with firearms handling and treestands. All our students need to recognize the fact that handling firearms is inherently dangerous, and combine that with a treestand and you’re in for trouble if you don’t handle both safely.”

And there are two things he wants students to learn from his classes.

“I want student to learn to be ethical and safe hunters,” he said. “I want them to understand why they need to be ethical and safe hunters. As I stated before, they are our future; if they don’t hunt in an ethical and safe manner, we won’t have hunting much longer. I want hunting to be around for my grandchildren to enjoy.”

Norkus’ motivation is always with him, the memory of that terrible day he lost his friend.

“I don’t want anyone to go through the trauma of witnessing their best friend, family member or acquaintance die due to an unsafe act from handling a firearm or hunting incident like I did,” he said. “I take the time to set the stage in all my hunter education classes to read the Virginia Incidents Report the first thing when class starts. It sets the tone for why the students are sitting in our classes. Hunting incidents are preventable and a hunting accident is just that, an accident. I close my hunting-incidents talk with telling them “Hey, an accident can happen to anyone, but an incident is preventable!” Our job as hunter education instructors is to provide them with the knowledge and skills to make the right decisions so it doesn’t happen to them.”
he Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation (SSSF) is celebrating its 10-year anniversary this year as the leader in youth development through the shooting sports. The SSSF was formed in 2007 after the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) had developed the highly successful Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP) and selected the SSSF to take over the program administration. In 2012, the SSSF launched the Scholastic Action Shooting Program (SASP), which uses .22 handguns and rifles and centerfire handguns on standardized courses of fire. The nucleus of both programs administered by SSSF remains with caring, volunteer team leadership at the grassroots level.

For many youth and families, SCTP and SASP are the FIRST introduction to firearms and the shooting sports. Because of the communal nature of the programs through local schools and civic organizations, the SCTP and SASP often recruit youth and families where traditional hunting programs cannot. The SSSF currently has about 16,000 youths and 4,000 volunteers registered with about 800 teams across the country. These youths have fired about seven million rounds of ammunition during competition events in 2017 alone.

Successful Model

One of the reasons the SCTP and SASP have been so successful over the years is due to the familiar model of youth sports. The SCTP/SASP competition calendar runs from September 1 through August 31, starting with the school year. Many teams are organized through schools, but some are also organized through gun clubs or other civic groups and comprise youths from different schools. Most states establish a season for competition (often spring and summer), and teams are most active during that 10- to 15-week time frame. Several states administer the SCTP and SASP through their state DNR/game and fish agency, which lends additional credibility to the program and establishes a stronger continuum to hunter education and recruitment efforts.

SSSF staff members and partners conduct coach education courses to volunteers interested in establishing new teams or joining existing teams. Training sessions also include information on team organization and logistics and provide for networking opportunities between new and seasoned coaches.

Once trained, team coaches create a season plan and team activity schedule to include basic firearms safety for parents and athletes, team practices and competitions. SCTP and SASP program staff and state advisors can assist in season planning based on other successful teams and available state competition opportunities.

Competition is not the sole focus of the SCTP and SASP, but it is an important aspect of both programs. Competition provides many opportunities for youth development both on and off the range. Both programs offer chances to compete...
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at any level the team is able. The simplest form is virtual competition, where team scores are entered into the SSSF’s SHOT data system and compared to other scores across the state or across the country. Traditional local and state face-to-face competitions are also available, and the culminating event for many teams is the SCTP and SASP National Championships held the second week of July each year in central Ohio. SSSF expects 3,000 youths from over 30 states to participate at the national championships this year.

What the SCTP and SASP provides to member teams:

- Participation opportunity for youth in grades 3 through college
- Competition opportunities including virtual, state and regional championships, plus the largest national shooting sports championship in the country
- Coach education and certification courses
- Background screening on all volunteers
- Shooting Organizational Technology (SHOT) data system to manage teams and events
- Comprehensive insurance policy covering all volunteers and athletes
- Scholarship opportunities for graduating seniors
- Opportunities to learn about and attend camps focused on Olympic-style clay target sports
- Chance to earn recognition on the SSSF/NRA All Scholastic Team.
- Partnership opportunities with conservation organizations and state agencies
- Member discounts on firearms, ammunition and shooting accessories, and much, much more!

Ways Hunter Education Instructors Can Help Grow Shooting Sports:

- Start a team in your community or join as a coach to an existing team
- Promote the Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP) and Scholastic Action Shooting Program (SASP) at your hunter education classes.
- Contact our national program staff for supporting materials.
- Encourage your local shooting facility to support a new SCTP or SASP team
- Become a Supporting Member of the SSSF and receive a limited-edition Browning knife set

The mission of the Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation is to introduce school-age youths to the shooting sports and to facilitate their continued involvement by providing, promoting, and perpetuating opportunities to safely and enjoyably participate and compete in a high-quality, team-based sport led by trained adult coaches focused on enhancing the personal growth and development of their athletes.

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What Is Experticity?

Experticity is an online network and mobile app that provides experts like you with exclusive brand and product access that isn’t available to the public. As a hunter education instructor and recognized expert in your industry, you’ve earned this invitation.

How Joining Experticity Benefits You

– Support hunter education and IHEA-USA
– Enjoy VIP discounts of up to 70% off
– Learn more about the brands and products you love
– Qualify to receive unique product giveaways
– Try new products before they hit shelves
– Provide feedback to brands so they can build better products
– Share photos with brands and other experts

How to Sign Up

To unlock your access, sign up for free at www.experticity.com/ihea.

How You’ll Benefit IHEA-USA and the Hunting Community

Experticity will make a donation to IHEA-USA on behalf of each instructor who takes advantage of the program.

Thanks to the insider brand and product knowledge you’ll find on Experticity, you’ll be able to give your students more educated recommendations.

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ATTENTION ALL INSTRUCTORS: WIN A BRAND-NEW YAMAHA KODIAK 700EPS ATV!

The 2017 edition of Hunter’s Handbook is now making its way through the system for you to distribute to your hunter education students. For 26 years, the Handbook has been the official student publication of IHEA-USA. Hunter’s Handbook is an ideal collateral training tool for students to take home and further their knowledge about how products and techniques can enhance their experience in the field.

HERE’S ALL YOU NEED TO DO

In each issue of Hunter’s Handbook, there is a Quick Action Card that students fill out to get more information on products they are interested in. This also earns them a chance to win an all-expense paid hunting trip of a lifetime, and many other exciting prizes.

We ask that you have the students fill out the card and turn it in to you at the end of the class. From that point you simply put the entries in an envelope and mail them to:

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EVERY SINGLE card in the envelope then becomes an entry ticket for you to win the Yamaha ATV.

That’s it! Your students get a great publication, a chance to win fabulous prizes (student names picked for prizes are also won by instructors and state administrators!) AND you are entered to win this world-class ATV.
Taurus has entered the AR-15 market with a sharp, made-in-USA rifle that exceeds specifications set by the U.S. military, so shooters—new and experienced—can expect reliable performance from this durable carbine.

Designed, engineered and manufactured entirely in the United States, the T4SA incorporates production processes and components that enhance performance, functionality, corrosion-resistance and service life.

Key components, including the bolt and M16-style bolt carrier, are treated with Melonite, a thermochemical that hardens and improves surfaces of metal parts, enhancing performance and durability while minimizing wear. Parts treated with Melonite are highly resistant to wear and corrosion and easier to clean, Taurus says.

The barrel, chambered in 5.56 NATO to fire both 5.56 and the extremely popular 223 Remington ammunition (so ammunition is readily available in most stores), is also treated with Melonite on all interior and exterior surfaces. In addition to improving corrosion resistance and making cleaning and maintenance much easier, the Melonite treatment results in a significantly increased barrel life, exceeding a 10,000-round life when tested under grueling conditions.

With a lightweight, six-position Magpul buttstock, the T4SA can be easily sized to fit most shooters and the shock-absorbing buttstock pad reduces felt recoil so it is a pleasure to shoot, even on long days on the range or in the field. The buttstock features a “locking” mechanism that prevents it from moving and secures it in your chosen position, improving stability and, therefore, accuracy. The buttstock also comes standard with right- and left-side Quick-Disconnect attachment points as well as slots for use with standard slings and/or sling cords and will accommodate most sling designs.

The forged lower receiver features a Magpul grip (with internal storage) and a Magpul oversized trigger guard so you can comfortably shoot while wearing gloves.

The T4SA comes standard with a well-engineered, lightweight, low-profile, vented aluminum handguard (which promotes air-cooling, unlike closed plastic handguards with heat-shield inserts), for lighter overall weight and to provide reliable platforms for mounting optics, sights and other accessories.

To help assure safe and reliable operation, all fire-control parts are manufactured to military-specification standards and fire-control receiver markings utilize symbols for “safe” and “semi-automatic” instead of the English characters of “safe” and “semi.”

Taurus “has developed an extremely reliable and durable carbine based on the iconic M4 platform that exceeds MIL-SPEC standards,” said Anthony Acitelli, Taurus USA’s chief executive officer. “Manufactured at Taurus USA headquarters in Miami, the Taurus T4SA is a carbine that incorporates high-quality components into a proven platform. The T4 affirms that our USA-based engineering team continues to apply innovative, cost-conscious solutions to a wide variety of industry segment challenges.”

The T4SA is the type of AR-style carbine that is a good choice for hunters, target shooters, and plinkers—of all ages, sizes and skill levels—who appreciate a well-made rifle that they can expect to last and last. Lightweight, reliable and fun to shoot. What more can you ask for?

For more information about the T4SA, and other great Taurus products, be sure to visit taurususa.com.
When employees in Anoka expressed interest in hunter education courses, Federal Premium Engineering Technician Jason Montanye listened. Jason contacted the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and was able to provide free, onsite Hunter Education and Safety Certification coursework for employees and their families.

Jason and his wife, Rachel—both DNR-Certified Volunteer Safety Instructors—happily volunteered to teach the course. Students met on Tuesday evenings for six weeks. The course included classroom learning at the Federal Premium Clubhouse in Anoka, and a field day where students were given an opportunity to take their classroom knowledge and see it put to use in a simulated field experience.

How did the students fare? They all passed certification!
Lansky Becomes Title Sponsor of the Kids & Clays Foundation

Lansky, the most recognized name in knife sharpening worldwide, has become the 2017 Title Sponsor of the Kids & Clays Foundation, supporting their nationwide series of sporting clay events. Proceeds from the events benefit Ronald McDonald House Charities, providing housing and other help to thousands of critically ill children and their families across the country each year.

“We are very proud and humbled to be working with the Kids & Clays Foundation and their mission of helping children and their families when they need it the most,” said Deanna DiLorenzo, Lansky Marketing and Communications Manager. “We at Lansky strive to be good corporate citizens and give back to communities and significant charities across the country. This is a great charity and is making a huge difference for families and we’re proud to be part of their successful events around the country.”

To see the 2017 schedule of Kids & Clays Foundation shooting events, go to www.kidsandclays.com.

“Our organization’s strength and growth is contingent upon having generous partners who understand the vast benefits of contributing to the cause,” said David Baron, owner of Baron Technology Inc. and president of the Kids & Clays Foundation. “Lansky is a tremendous company and this contribution is certainly indicative of that. Their support is life-changing for tens of thousands of families and we can’t thank them enough.”

As title sponsor, Lansky will receive top recognition in all marketing and promotional materials throughout 2017. They will also be featured at the event series from coast to coast and at other promotional sites throughout 2017.

About Lansky: Lansky Sharpeners is the most recognized name in knife sharpening worldwide. In addition to their legendary Controlled-Angle Sharpening System, they continue to develop new knife sharpening technologies and innovations for hunting and outdoor sports, kitchen use, as well as the workshop. Having a dull knife can be frustrating. Nothing feels better than reaching for your knife and having it ready for its encounter. Whether it’s your hunting knife, fishing knife, pocket knife or kitchen knife, you want it sharp enough to get the job done! Lansky provides outdoor knife sharpeners that are perfect for sharpening hunting knives. They also offer compact pocket knife sharpeners for your everyday carry knives. Maybe you are an accomplished chef—or maybe not. We provide kitchen knife sharpeners for the average user to the culinary expert. Choose from our guided controlled-angle sharpening systems, pull-through sharpeners, bench stones, turn boxes, and more.

About the Kids & Clays Foundation: The Kids & Clays® Foundation is a community of shooting sports enthusiasts committed to supporting Ronald McDonald House Charities® and improving the lives of children and their families. By partnering with sponsors and shooters in a nationwide series of sporting clay and other shooting events, Kids & Clays generates funds to help support the operating needs of Ronald McDonald Houses across the nation. For more information about the Kids & Clays Foundation and its mission, contact Doug Jeanneret (Doug@kidsandclays.com) or Zac Lemmon (Zac@kidsandclays.com), or call 219-874-2100.

Congratulations Larry Morrison!

Drawn from dozens of returned Hunter’s Handbook state surveys, Larry Morrison of Indiana is the winner of a set of Bushnell Excursion HD 8x42 binoculars from Focus Group.

Each year, Focus Group surveys Hunter Education Administrators and Coordinators to find out what is working for them from the pages of Hunter’s Handbook. In appreciation of your feedback, we award a cool gift to one survey winner.

Watch for your survey next year, and be entered to win!
Gen-X Archery Offers Discounts to Hunter Education Instructors

Gen-X Archery supports hunter education in many ways; one of them being their offering hunter education instructors discounts on their uniquely-adjustable made-in-USA bows, from their hunting and bowfishing bows to their target archery bows.

Gen-X Archery specializes in a full line of high quality, adjustable bows that combine versatility and velocity with simple design and power. These bows are a great choice for any archer, from beginners to advanced bowhunters, all of whom will appreciate the highly-engineered simplicity of design, smooth draw and surprising speed.

“Safety is always at the forefront of everything we do. Being well-trained is critical to a safe and enjoyable hunting experience,” said Todd Bahnub, president of Genesis Archery, which is based in Wisconsin. “To that end, we are proud to support the hunter education students as well as the dedicated instructors who make it all possible.”

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

Styrka Optics and IHEA-USA

“Styrka Optics is proud to partner with IHEA-USA to support the tireless work of volunteer instructors throughout North America,” said Brad Gross, National Sales Manager. Launched in 2015, Styrka offers a dynamic lineup of hunting scopes, binoculars, red dots and spotting scopes. “The Styrka philosophy is simple but non-negotiable: make high-quality optics at affordable prices; always tell your customers the truth about what optics can and can’t do; and stand behind your products 100-percent, forever.

“Come join us and find out what Styrka Pride is all about.”

In addition, Heated Hunts, Browning, Mission Archery, Weatherby and Leupold Optics have all updated their 2017 discount pricing.

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!
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.

Lyman’s new line of shooting rests give you a stable shooting platform, at the perfect height, every time.

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