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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 750,000 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 a lifetime enjoyment of hunting and the shooting sports.

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At the recent IHEA-USA Conference held in Vermont, I had the opportunity to attend a great workshop entitled Trapping Matters, made possible by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) and the Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation. Trapping Matters is a one day workshop that is targeted to help attendees understand trapping issues, trapping in today’s climate and how to communicate on important issues/key messages. These workshops are being held around the country and if you have the opportunity to attend one I would highly recommend it.

Whether you are teaching Trapper Education courses or just Hunter Education, the information gleaned from this workshop is beneficial. With the controversies surrounding firearms, hunting and trapping today, knowing how to communicate effectively about these subjects with the public through social media is critical. While this workshop focused on issues and communication specific to trapping, there are several take-away items I would like to share that could be applied to hunting as well.

**Tips for Using Social Media to Communicate about Hunting and Trapping**

A great way to keep your students engaged after they complete their Hunter Education class is through social media. Several teaching groups, whether on their own or through a local sports club/organization where they host their classes, are utilizing social media to stay connected with hunters and trappers in their community. When done properly, this can also be a great tool to attract new students or prospective hunters. Below are some tips to keep in mind when using social media to communicate with the public about hunting and trapping. These tips would also be great to share with your Hunter Education students. You personally may not have a social media account but it is almost a guarantee the majority of your students will.

Deal in facts, not opinion. Be polite and upbeat. Too often, people use social media only as a way to promote something. Have a conversation instead. It’s a social network, and that means engaging with your audience.

What may be perfectly appropriate to send to a friend with common interests—a trophy picture to memorialize a hunt for instance—could well offend the general public. Blood, gut piles, tongues lolling out of mouths are all bad ideas on social media. Instead, look at showcasing the experience such as the view from the treestand, a picture of your partner setting the traps or enjoying a meal after the harvest. You don’t have to eliminate posting the harvest pictures altogether, just be mindful of the items that could be offensive to some listed above. When taking photos of hunters and trappers with their harvest, place the animal in a respectful manner away from the dispatch area in front of them. Straddling the animal, holding it by its back legs, or holding it around the chest looks disrespectful.

Use every tool at your disposal. Video, photos, tweets, etc. Stay abreast of the market, and try out the new networks. Your students are doing the same thing.

The beauty of social media is also its downfall. You can post anytime, anywhere. Remember that whatever you say—especially in anger—can be used against you or your organization.

Stuff posted to public sites has a way of surviving, even if you try to delete it (which usually is a bad idea). Double-check your words and attitude before posting. Look closely at photographs. Use proper grammar.

Sometimes it’s tempting to fire back in a flame war. It usually doesn’t end well. Have a thick skin and deal in facts. Trolls want to make you angry. If you get angry and respond in that vein, they win.

Don’t pass on information without checking it out. Your credibility matters.

Respond to negative comments. But do not delete them until you investigate and resolve the issue. Blocking a commenter sometimes has unintended consequences, such as allegations of censorship.

The future of hunting and trapping depends on all of us. So when it comes to communicating about the activities we have all come to love and enjoy, let’s portray them in a positive, ethical and responsible manner.

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**Best Management Practices**

**Humane Trapping Techniques**

Are you using the most effective, selective, and humane tools and techniques for capturing furbearing animals? If not, take a minute to learn about AFWA’s best management practices for trapping. These handbooks are excellent teaching tools to utilize in the classroom when talking about trapping.

To learn more about BMPs or to download a species-specific handbook, please visit AFWA’s website at www.fishwildlife.org.
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Another IHEA-USA conference is in the books. The annual gathering, held at the beautiful, historic Basin Harbor Club on Lake Champlain, was very well attended and offered attendees choices in multiple presentations or “tracks” that best met their needs or sparked an interest. Additionally, the annual business of the Association was conducted with the majority of Hunter Education Administrators on hand to represent their states.

One of the more important pieces of business was consideration and adoption of online Hunter Education course delivery standards. After several opportunities to review and discuss, membership unanimously voted to adopt the proposed standards. It’s important to note these standards were written by state administrators for state administrators in response to requests for guidance on existing courses and new ones coming to market. It’s also worth noting the very need to create and adopt online course standards points to the rapidly changing world of Hunter Education.

And changing with it is the number of states offering some form of online-only courses standing at 14 and counting. Whether you believe online courses are good, bad or something in between, they are definitely here to stay. How we best utilize them and ensure they ultimately produce the safest, most knowledgeable students possible is now our collective task.

Another important effort underway—and of great relevance to Hunter Education—is the launch of the National Hunting and Shooting Sports Action Plan. The Plan, the result of years of hard work by the Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports (CAHSS), Wildlife Management Institute (WMI) and a multitude of other individuals, agencies, organizations and partners, identifies issues surrounding the recruitment, retention and reactivation (R3) of new hunters...
and shooters. Inherent in the plan is the recognition of the key role Hunter Education plays in moving folks from merely interested to active participants.

It’s almost certain the Plan, and/or state “step down” plans, will affect and help guide your work and programs going forward. Our community simply must pool our resources and expertise to determine what works, what doesn’t and direct our efforts accordingly.

The IHEA-USA Executive Director has a seat (ex-officio) on the CAHSS board and IHEA-USA will continue to provide leadership and a voice for Hunter Ed professionals as the Plan(s) are implemented. It will just take a bit longer to get the new ED in place to continue this important work.

As you know from my last column, we interviewed candidates this spring, with the goal of having the new director on board in April. However, at the request of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA), the recruitment was suspended while an organizational review of IHEA-USA is conducted. With the review scheduled to be wrapped up in early July, it is unlikely a new ED will be hired before my employment contract expires in early September.

It has been a great experience and my honor serving as Executive Director over the last year. Hunter Education and IHEA holds a special place and it’s really all of you, the passionate, deeply dedicated staff and volunteers, who make it so. I’d like to thank the IHEA-USA Board, membership and especially Paulette Lubke, IHEA-USA Office Manager, for the faith and trust in hiring me in the first place and putting up with me after. Keep up all your good work and I’ll try my best to do the same, just in a different capacity. Now, back to my regularly scheduled retirement…

**Send Us Your Stories!**

Every submission chosen for print receives a gift from supporting manufacturers.

One of the main goals of the Journal is to provide a platform for the exchange of ideas and teaching experience that can help improve the education process of the more than 700,000 new hunters annually.

In order to fulfill that goal we need the input of instructors in the field. Please submit your stories and/or photos about teaching techniques that work for you, thoughts about the state of our hunting heritage today, anecdotal stories about “it happened to me” in class, visual training aids, etc...Don’t worry about spelling or grammar.

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.
Virtual boating and hunter safety are now available to all Florida high school students through Florida Virtual School’s (FLVS) Outdoor Education course. FLVS is an Internet-based school that is part of the Florida public education system and serves students in all 67 Florida districts. Educators from FLVS worked with the Florida Department of Education, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and FreshAir Educators to develop and offer the Outdoor Education course. Students who take this course can earn credit while developing their skills in outdoor activities such as boating and hunting. By meeting course requirements, students become eligible to obtain a Florida hunter safety field day voucher that allows the student to attend an FWC hunter safety field day. Upon completion of the skills portion of the course, students receive their Hunter Safety card, a Florida Boating Safety Education ID card, and earn ½ credit hour towards their physical education requirements for graduation.

The FLVS connection began with partners who were concerned about conservation education and developing the next generation of those who will enjoy the great outdoors. Lane Stephens, a strong supporter of hunting, nuisance alligator trapper, veteran lobbyist, and Executive Director of the Allied Sportsmen’s Association of Florida, spearheaded the effort. Lane worked tirelessly to pass along his passion for hunting and fishing to a new generation of Floridians. Through the years, he has supported the hunter safety program and actively sought new ways to reach a broader audience with FWC’s conservation stewardship and safety messages. Expanding our audience is not an easy task, but with the right partnerships it can be achieved. Lane led a group of partners that explored adding the Outdoor Education program to FLVS’s list of course offerings. The team also wanted the Outdoor Education course to give students the knowledge of how to participate in these activities, and also encourage them to get outdoors and explore. Students are required to keep a log of their outdoor activities, and instructors approve activities for them to accomplish throughout the course.

FLVS benefits the FWC because it enables youth to participate in activities that are at the core of our agency’s mission. Knowing how to safely operate a boat and hunt are two education elements that are paramount to youth getting involved in traditional outdoor activities. Being able to safely operate a boat and handle a firearm also directly affects participation in boating, fishing, recreational shooting sports, and hunting. Florida residents that want to operate a boat with a 10-horsepower motor or larger are required to take boating safety (for anyone born on or after January 1, 1988.) Hunter safety is mandatory for anyone born after June 1, 1975 that wants to purchase a hunting license, which allows them to hunt by themselves after turning 16 years old. In Florida, approximately 40,000 students a year complete the online Boating Safety course, and 15,000 students a year complete the Hunter Safety course. To increase participation in both of these areas, the
A partner team developed a free course that could be used to complete both the boater safety and hunter safety courses, and encourage involvement in nature-watching, hiking, camping, and other outdoor activities. The program helps expand knowledge learned in boater and hunter safety to an entirely new audience—which was our goal.

FLVS benefits the boater and hunter safety programs because each class is lead by an FLVS instructor. We believe this is a better solution than offering online-only options to complete these certifications. In addition to their education degree, these instructors are trained on how to deliver the outdoor education curriculum. Students can also ask questions and instructors provide clarification. Instructors also track each student’s progress, and are limited to 200 students per course. With the success of the program, many instructors needed to be trained in order to meet the student demand.

FLVS benefits students because it offers a fun, necessary, online learning tool for Florida high school students—all students in Florida are required to take at least one class through this online system in order to receive their diploma. What better way to complete this requirement than taking an Outdoor Education class? Students taking FLVS classes follow a set curriculum, and are guided by the instructor throughout the course. Part of the curriculum requires the student to successfully complete the online Boater and Hunter Safety courses produced by FreshAir Educators. Before receiving their hunter safety certification, they must complete the skills portion of the hunter safety course lead by an FWC-trained volunteer instructor. If a field day is not available, students can complete a virtual field day, participate in a supervised live-firing of a firearm, and submit additional paperwork to complete their hunter safety certification. Each course takes approximately 18 weeks to complete, and covers each topic in-depth.

This partnership allows the FWC to deliver training that is consistent and at the core of the agency’s mission, and reach out to the next generation of sportsmen and women. The Outdoor Education course has been a success in Florida, and continues to be a great addition to Florida’s Hunter Safety course offerings.

State fish and wildlife agencies that want to explore adding Virtual School to their Boater and Hunter Safety course options should contact Kerry Moher at FreshAir Educators: 877-722-8838 x222. The official FLVS video is available at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=rnKD_eoLvki. You can also view one of many student videos about the course here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Qiu79K3vY8.

George Warthen works with the Hunter Safety and Public Shooting Range section as the Director of the Ocala Conservation Center. He plays a key role in training youth and instructors at the OCC. George is a Hunter Safety Coordinator with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and can be reached via email at: George.Warthen@MyFWC.com.
We started our series on ethical hunting in the spring issue of the *IHEA Journal*. In summary, we conclude that ethical behavior is the foundation for safe, responsible hunting—indeed, for participating in any shooting sport. We all want our students to be ethical participants in hunting and shooting sports; to be safe, not to hurt others and to present themselves in a positive way.

In Part I we covered Using Dialogue. It is through dialogue and questioning that the instructor explores a subject in-depth and evokes an analysis deeper than what would develop by merely stating rules. Dialogue elicits thought, which is foundational to ethical decision-making in the field.

We also covered Focusing on the Facts. Fact-finding is important because facts lead to the truth, but truth is not an end in itself. We explained that facts should be collected and interpreted within a moral framework, conclusions should be made based on those facts and actions should be taken based on those conclusions.

**On to the next point: Explain Why Something is ‘Good’**

More than stating that a behavior is or is not ethical, the instructor should explain why an act is or is not ethical. To do that, to explain why acting ethically is worth doing, it is helpful for the instructor to draw upon the foundation of ethics and virtue, such as the ethical principles of Justice and Sanctity of Life. Several collections of ethical principles exist. Whichever principles the instructor selects, the instructor should explain how the morality of an action is justified by showing how the action is linked to and advances those ethical principles.

Here is an example that illustrates why a particular hunting behavior is ethical. Hunters have a moral duty to track a wounded animal and humanely kill it. The source or justification of this moral duty is the ethical principle Sanctity of Life, which holds that life is sacred, must be respected and treated with
dignity. This principle also commands, for example, that people in danger should be rescued and that we should not abuse others.

In the hunting context, Sanctity of Life means that hunting must be done in a way that honors the dignity of the animal and eliminates or reduces suffering. The skilled, disciplined hunter shows respect for the animal; the sloppy, undisciplined or negligent hunter does not.

The principle Sanctity of Life requires that we show our hunting partners that our guns are unloaded when we transfer them. We can see how the principle also creates a moral duty to act in specific ways, such as sighting in our rifles and patterning our shotguns so that our equipment can advance ethical hunting.

Doing “good” is good, an end in itself, because it advances virtue, respect and human nobility. Ethics defines the quality of the relationship between you and others—between you and the object of the hunt. We don’t track the wounded animal because we are told to do so. We do so because it is unethical not to do it.

**Explain That Doing Good is Not Easy**

It is easier to be ethical on the first day of a hunt than on the last day of an unsuccessful hunt. Human nature tends to compel us to cut corners or to take the easy or expedient way. Ethical hunting requires not only mastery of the facts but also self-discipline, self-control and introspection. Suppose it’s late afternoon on the last day of an unsuccessful elk hunt; you’re tired, you want success and an elk walks into a meadow. You can take a shot, but it’s a low percentage for an ethical kill. The only forces restraining you from taking the shot are your sense of honor and self-control.

Doing good, doing what is right, is not easy. Anyone who teaches a child that moral behavior is easy weakens that child. Such a belief will subvert the development of the grit, the tenacity and the moral courage necessary to do what is right. Moral action often requires strength of character to stand against the crowd. Being ethical is often lonely. Being a person of moral judgment requires thinking with moral clarity and having the character and courage to do what you know is correct.

Encourage your students to set the bar high no matter the peer pressure that they might endure to do what is right. They are, after all, the new generation of hunters that mankind will look to as ethics and hunting are measured.

Watch for the final article in this series from Michael in the upcoming Fall IHEA Journal.

Michael Sabbeth is a lawyer in Denver, Colorado. He lectures on ethics and rhetoric to law associations and civic and business groups. He is the author of the newly-published book, *The Good, The Bad & The Difference: How to Talk with Children About Values*. Please visit his website at www.kidsethicsbook.com
Christian’s and Breck’s essays were chosen by a panel of volunteer Hunter Education instructors from over 100 entries received from recent Hunter Education course graduates across the country tasked with answering the question: “Now that you have completed a hunter education course, what do you feel is the best way to reach new hunters and/or shooting sports enthusiasts in the future?”

Congratulations Breck and Christian!

Christian Moroder plans career in nursing while volunteering to improve habitat

Also, hopes to pass on hunting heritage he’s learned from father, grandfather.

An active student/athlete, Christian Moroder participates in basketball and soccer, and was named captain of the soccer team during his senior year, and is active in school assemblies, liturgies and theater. He also volunteers with the Boys Scouts and Campus Ministries, work which he says has influenced his desire to serve others.

He is a trained hospital volunteer and works for his father’s landscape company to save up for college expenses. Christian’s goal is to attend the Milwaukee School of Engineering School of Nursing and earn a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing and sees that as a step in helping others not only through health services but also the ministry.

A waterfowl and deer hunter, Christian was introduced to hunting by his father. “Since I was very young, my father introduced me to and helped me appreciate nature and the outdoors,” he said. “As I grew, I could see the bond my father had with his dad and siblings when they hunted, even discussed hunting, at my grandfather’s land in the Sheboygan Marsh. I sensed hunting was fun for them. But the planning—where everyone would be, the expected weather, neighbors’ boundary lines—was just as important.”

Christian knew what it would take to join that circle of hunters. “So I learned early on that enrolling in hunter safety class would be an important step in learning to hunt,” he said. “In the spring of 2010, when I was 12 years old, I earned my Hunter Safety Education Certificate. My hunter safety class, sponsored by the Fredonia Hunter Education Group, was exciting because after each classroom lecture session there were demonstrations and practical exercises. Our instructor, Mr. Mompers, even had a Wisconsin DNR warden come in for a lecture with a question and answer period.”

Near the end of the course, the class moved to the Ozaukee County Fish & Game Club where participants were allowed to choose firearms to shoot. “All the practical exercises enhanced the learning process,” Christian said. “It also helped develop and grow my confidence to hunt. I feel very fortunate to have taken such a high-quality course with dedicated volunteers who stressed all aspects of safety, not just handling...
guns safely, but in creating a safe hunting environment for all.”

There is a lot to enjoy about hunting, Christian said. “When hunting or being outdoors, I truly enjoy the sights and sounds of the season, wildlife and water, and the peacefulness—all so very different from the urban environment and daily life,” he said. “I have certainly enjoyed each experience as I have learned something of nature, and of myself, each time—be it seeing a deer rub, identifying a duck in flight, or coming home wet and hungry. But my favorite experience has always been the feeling inside of sharing that outdoor experience, that time, with my family.”

After college, Christian plans to switch his volunteerism to a conservation group. “Since I’ve learned a lot working for my father’s landscape business, I would like to get involved in habitat restoration,” he said. “And someday, down the road, I hope to pass on the hunting heritage and knowledge of my father and grandfather.”

Breck Heller hopes to follow in his father’s footsteps as a hunter education instructor, mentor. Breck Heller spends springtime on the soccer field and summertime playing baseball, but come fall you’ll find him hunting pheasants with his father and two dogs, Nuka and Kita.

His ultimate quest is to be the best sportsman he can be, as he says, “Winning a big game or bagging a rooster is an awesome feeling. However, doing it with integrity and respect gives me even greater satisfaction.”

“My hunting heritage starts with my family,” he said. “I have fond memories of going to my uncle’s hunting cabin in northern Wisconsin when I was young. Deer camp was an annual ritual that consisted of my dad, grandfather, uncles and great-uncles. Although I was too young to carry a gun, I enjoyed the atmosphere of being with the guys and listening to all the hunting stories of years past. Becoming old enough to hunt was a rite of passage.”

Breck started hunting at age ten, thanks to Wisconsin’s then new Mentor Hunting Law, passed in 2009, “just after I turned ten, so I was part of the inaugural group who benefited from the law,” he said. “I learned a lot those first two years under the Mentor Hunting Program.”

Breck hopes to follow in his father’s footsteps as a hunter education instructor (more than 20 years) and hunting mentor. “I was fortunate my dad always took me on youth hunts or learn-to-hunt trips,” he said. “However, some kids aren’t as fortunate. I would like to someday mentor kids who otherwise wouldn’t have the opportunity. I have to finish high school and college first, but I think this is a good way to give back to the sport I really enjoy.”

A straight-A student through high school, Breck, currently a junior, plans to study biomedical engineering in college. He finds it rewarding to help others learn, volunteering as a tutor for his psychology class as well as participating in Key Club, which has afforded him the opportunity to volunteer at a local food pantry and other community causes. He is an active 4-H member and has served as treasurer and has shared with others his interest in entomology and rocketry.

For Breck, hunting and being outdoors is a welcome break. “I can’t believe I’m going to say this, but I actually enjoy getting away from my normal routine of classes, homework, soccer practice, baseball games and even my X-Box,” he said. “Hunting is just different. The quiet solitude of patiently waiting for a whitetail to pass my deer stand or a brisk walk following my dogs hot on a pheasant trail gives me time to just relax.”

In addition to pheasant, deer and turkey hunting, he also enjoys fishing, camping, hiking and working on his grandparents’ 300-acre organic farm near LaCrosse, Wis. “Although some kids may not appreciate spending spring break planting crops, I have a better appreciation for taking care of our environment. Maintaining a healthy habitat on the farm also proves to be great for hunting. I shot my first turkey on the farm two years ago, making all that hard work worthwhile.”
Professional Hall of Fame Award: Recipients: Mark Cousins (Retired HE Coordinator CO), Otto Jose (USFWS), Fabian Romero (USFWS) / Presenter: Steve Hall. The Professional Hall of Fame 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.
Professional of the Year Award: Sponsored by the NRA. Recipient: Mark Newell, Outdoor Skills Coordinator, Oregon Dept. Fish & Wildlife / Presenter: Peter Churchbourne, NRA. 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.

Dr. Edward Kozicky Award: Recipient: Chris Willard, R3 Coordinator/Deputy, Administrator for I&E for Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife / Presenter: Megan Wisecup. Dr. Ed Kozicky, the first Executive Vice President of the IHEA, epitomized the essence of the hunting heritage and led early efforts to educate hunters across North America. Displaying the “Coyote Symbol,” because Dr. Kozicky loved the challenge of hunting them, the recipient is selected by the President of the IHEA-USA. 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.
HE Volunteer Instructor Hall of Fame Award
Sponsored by Federal Premium Ammunition (Vista Outdoor): Recipient: Rick Cerwick / Presenter Jon Zinnel. 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.

(No image) Innovation in Technology Award: Recipient: Dustin Leggans, web developer/Hunter Incident Database for IHEA-USA. Presented to any individual, group or member of industry that exhibits outstanding support of the IHEA-USA and its mission by developing better ways of delivery of the hunter education program through technological advances. This effort may be newly-developed, revised, unique, active and innovative in fostering new delivery methods in hunter education. Any individual, group or member of industry may receive this award annually.

(No image of Travis Casper), IHEA-USA Service Award: Recipients: Travis Casper (NC, IHEA-USA Board) Steve Hall (TX, Past IHEA-USA Executive Director) / Presenter: Megan Wisecup. 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.

Gladney Davidson Award: Recipient: Marilyn Bentz, NBEF / Presenter: Steve Hall. This top award is given to an individual or organization that has made significant contributions to the field of hunter education that exhibits excellence in hunter education and those involved with its programs.
Host State Award: Recipient: Vermont, Nicole Meier / Presenter: James Reed. Award given to the host state for outstanding work in putting on the IHEA-USA conference.

Keynote speaker Theodore Roosevelt IV (on left), shaking hands with look-alike Teddy Roosevelt impersonator who portrayed a realistic rendition of our former beloved president throughout the course of the convention.

HE Volunteer Instructor Hall of Fame Award: 4 Inductees: (Left) Recipients: Jim & Peggy Ragland / Presenter Kyle Lairmore (MO); (Middle) Recipient: Jerry Riley / Presenter: Marisa Futral (AL); (Right) Recipient: Louis Stithem / Presenter: Wendy Horine (NE) 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(ed) 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.
Long-Time Supporter of Firearms Safety and Education, 
Cabela’s Offers Series of Courses Throughout U.S. Stores

By Joe Arterburn

Cabela’s initiative to promote firearm safety and education has taken a popular, nationwide turn.

Classes held throughout the spring and throughout their nationwide chain of stores were well attended, prompting the popular retailer of hunting, fishing and outdoor gear to plan for more, according to Mark Nelsen, Cabela’s senior marketing manager.

“Sessions have been well attended and popular so far,” Nelsen said, and he credits some of the success to a company-wide initiative to standardize the classes.

“We have always had classes and seminar offerings at our stores, but this is the first time we have done a chain-wide effort to have the same classes, on the same days, at the same time, in all the stores,” Nelsen said. “This is a more organized effort. We have always offered hunter education and concealed carry courses in our stores, but those have been taught predominantly by third parties. This new effort gives us a chance to have our Outfitters teach and connect with our customers.”

Cabela’s retail employees are called “Outfitters,” fitting the company’s theme as the “World’s Foremost Outfitter of Hunting, Fishing and Outdoor Gear.” Cabela’s currently has 70 stores in the United States and nine in Canada, with more scheduled for opening. Though Cabela’s Canada stores conduct educational classes and may follow with similarly themed courses, this series is currently offered only in U.S. stores.

Topics covered in the classes, which are offered at no charge, include Purchasing Your First Firearm; Gun Storage and Safety; Don’t Be a Victim; Home Defense Shotguns and Pistols; Gun Cleaning 101; Protection Outside the Home; Home Firearms Safety and a women-only Responsible Gun Ownership course.

Future subjects may change, depending on response and demand, Nelsen said. “We may change the offerings a bit to some different subject matter, but all relate to shooting sports,” he said.

Changing class subjects will broaden the curriculum and allow attendees, especially repeat attendees, to broaden their knowledge of firearms and firearms safety. By changing course offerings, Cabela’s will “try to keep things fresh,” Nelsen said.

And, he said, they are looking at responses to past courses, scheduling, attendance trends and so on to set the future schedule as well. “We are trying to determine which weeknights work best for people, so we have been moving some classes around to gauge response,” he said.

Cabela’s has long been a supporter of firearm safety and education.

“This all-store effort came about from our commitment to Responsible Firearms Ownership and how we can help firearm owners, particularly new firearm owners, who have questions and educational needs about what it takes to be a responsible owner,” Nelsen said.

The courses are open to everyone—men, women, youths; of all levels of expertise—beginner, novice, advanced, expert; and all levels of interest. All shooters, and hunters, are likely to learn by attending.

“Our goal is family fun and we are seeing a lot of families and new firearms owners. There are a lot of new firearms owners out there, and we are really targeting those folks who have a lot of questions about firearms and questions about training and education with regards to firearms,” he said.

“One of the fun aspects of these classes is that they are not necessarily classroom-setting offerings,” he said. “Our Outfitters are doing a lot of these classes on the floor, at the gun counter or elsewhere in the store. That makes things less formal; the group can walk around and look at different types of firearms and accessories and make things a bit more interactive.”

Cabela’s does recruit third-party certified experts as instructors in areas where those experts are available. And, he said, the courses are catching on with employees. “We are working to certify more Outfitters for all aspects of firearms training,” he said.

The courses are fulfilling Cabela’s goals, which are “to create responsible firearms owners and give new firearms owners needed education about ownership and shooting sports opportunities,” Nelsen said. “We hope attendees get their questions and concerns answered regarding responsible firearms ownership,” he said. “And we hope these classes encourage firearms owners to have fun and get out to a range and shoot more with family and friends.”

Anyone interested in attending any of the courses can visit Cabela’s website at www.cabelas.com/stores or the store nearest them for more information.
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In my day job as a bank manager, I constantly remind the people I work with of a very important point: without customers, we don’t have a job! In the 37 years I have been in banking, customers and their needs have changed.

This is also true of hunter education students. With the advent of technology, our teaching methods have had to change in order to hold the students’ interest.

In a recent seminar I facilitated on live-fire, I asked the instructors participating whether or not they viewed their students as “customers.” I was pleased to find out that about 90% view their students in this light.

I used to teach with an individual that made the students feel it was their privilege to take his class. This is exactly the opposite attitude one needs to take in order to treat students like valued customers.

Why should this matter? After all, students have to take our class to go hunting, right? As many of you are aware, there are forces out there that want to do away with face-to-face student interaction. Many would prefer going solely to an online format along with something called “virtual field days.” When I hear that phrase, I envision a student with cinematic, wrap-around glasses, walking through virtual grass, with a virtual gun, shooting a virtual bird! Is this the future of our hunting heritage?

The group I teach with relies heavily on student class evaluations to improve how we approach future classes. The students consistently give high marks to those things they are directly involved with—live-fire, trail walk and gun handling. These three activities are required for the Internet Assisted Format we use here in Kansas, but I know we would do these three things if we taught the more traditional class as well.

I recently stumbled upon a class announcement that urged the students to make sure they brought a highlighter to class. I cringed when I saw that! I pictured a student in the classroom, eyes glazed over, highlighter poised over their manual, simply going through the motions in order to get their hunter ed card.

Yes, in many cases, students have to attend classes to get their certification. I also concede that as volunteer instructors, we are the gatekeepers to that certification and their eventual hunting experience.

Does this mean we need to give less than an optimal effort for those students? Should we ask ourselves if there are no students to teach, is there really a reason to be an instructor?

It does take an extra effort to give a student a class experience that is both positive and fun!

Students and instructors have to be in the class anyway, so why not try meaningful activities that teach a valuable lesson, which will make it a fun learning experience for both groups?

Whether it is live-fire, a trail walk, shoot/don’t shoot scenarios, or whatever you can think of, make sure the “highlight” of your class is something more than a yellow block in the student manual!
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 and order your materials today. All the help you need is at your fingertips.

Scan this QR code with your smartphone for more information.
Growing up on a southern cattle farm in the 60s and 70s, my dad was my mentor, teacher, and hunting partner. He taught me how to operate a .22 rifle and a shotgun, how to be safe when crossing cattle fencing with a firearm, how to hunt small game such as rabbits, squirrels and quail, and a thousand other hunting tidbits that I now take for granted. This was my foundational hunting education as a young hunter. As an adult, I expanded my pursuit of game to include pheasant, deer and turkey; however, I learned hunting basics from my dad while chasing small game around a cattle farm. While many of us share the experience of learning how to hunt from a family member, fewer and fewer of today’s youth have family members that hunt. Who will mentor and teach today’s youth how to hunt? Who will teach hunting basics to the next generation of new hunters? To paraphrase Ronald Reagan: if not us, then who, and if not now, then when?

New hunters, young and old, face several challenges to learning the basics of hunting. More and more families live in urban areas without close access to hunting land. Of these urban families, fewer have family members that are experienced hunters. Negative stereotypes of hunters are pervasive on today’s media and our hunting culture is primarily rural, so not many urban families have a chance to rub shoulders with neighbors that hunt. While hunter education programs can’t address these types of cultural problems, we can address other challenges.

Today’s hunter education programs primarily focus on safety and ensuring that prospective hunters know how to be safe, and where to turn to find information on the hunting laws. We deliver content that is designed to ensure our students can pass the hunter education exam, but do inexperienced hunters, especially youth, really understand everything delivered to them online and in the classroom? Additionally, what are we not teaching that they need to know to be successful hunters that will continue to pursue hunting as adults? Once new hunters have demonstrated that they can safely operate a firearm and have passed their hunter education exam, where do they turn next to learn hunting basics?

Hunter education programs and instructors can address these types of challenges. Advanced hunter education is really a misnomer—yes, we need to address advanced hunting challenges but we also need to address the basics. What is the equipment necessary for a successful day of bird hunting? How do I identify small game tracks? What plants do I need to avoid? How do I start (insert your favorite game animal here) hunting? How do I take apart my hunting firearm so I can clean it? What do I use to clean it? As an avid rabbit hunter growing up in the south, I know that rabbits, once disturbed, will circle back around, but how is our new hunter supposed to find that out? Do we really believe that if a new hunter has only seen pictures of poison ivy in a book and on a slide show that they will be able to identify it? How do they learn how to field dress game?

To solve these challenges, we need to place more focus on establishing basic hunting skills sessions for new hunters, and that means we need hunter education instructors to step forward to fill this void. We don’t necessarily need institutionalized instruction—what we need is for our hunter education instructors to remain engaged outside of hunter education classes. Be a mentor to new hunters. Provide hands-on, informal lessons and yes, offer to take new hunters afield with you. We need to understand that our job isn’t done when the hunter education exam is passed. If the future of hunting is to stay bright, if we are to increase the number of new hunters, if we are to ensure a steady balance of nature and conservation by maintaining equilibrium between hunted and hunter, we must step forward yet again. New hunters face significant challenges if they are to get past the “just a little bit interested” phase.

The future of hunting is hunter education if there is to be a future for hunting at all.

Why Educating New Hunters IS the Future of Hunting

By Ken Russell, KS Hunter Education Instructor
JOIN NOW! Be the “FOUNDATION” for IIHEA-USA

To assure hunter education continues to train, educate and recruit future hunters, shooters and conservationists, I/we pledge to be an IIHEAF “Foundation” member at $250.00 per year (minimum) for five (5) years.

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Judging by the number of people they kill every year, mosquitoes are the deadliest animals in the world, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Mosquito-borne diseases such as malaria, dengue, encephalitis, yellow fever, West Nile virus and Zika virus, the latest to make headlines, cause an estimated 725,000 deaths worldwide every year. Malaria alone kills more than 600,000 people each year. In deadliness comparison, humans rank second, causing 475,000 human deaths each year, followed by snakes, 50,000; dogs (via rabies), 25,000; tsetse fly, 10,000. Sharks, which receive enormous notoriety through headlines and movies, account for ten human deaths each year.

The spread of West Nile virus, now found in all 48 contiguous United States, and growing concern over the Zika virus threat brings into sharp focus the need for disease prevention, namely, keeping mosquitoes from biting you.

No cases of Zika reported in the U.S. have been caused by mosquitoes in the U.S., according to the CDC, though there have been cases in the U.S. picked up through travel to other areas. However, local transmission of Zika has been found in the U.S. territories of Puerto Rico, American Samoa and the Virgin Islands.

West Nile virus, however, has spread across the continental U.S. and Canada since it was first detected in North America in 1999. West Nile virus has also been documented in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, India, Australia and parts of Asia.

The West Nile virus is transmitted by the bite of infected mosquitoes, which become infected when they feed on infected birds. While as many as 70 to 80 percent of people infected with West Nile develop no symptoms, about one in five will develop fever and headache,
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7. Exclusive "Member Only" opportunities to purchase significantly discounted merchandise and closeouts offered by hunting and firearms manufacturers and distributors (www.ihea.com).
8. Liability Insurance — Individual memberships of the IHEDA-USA are provided with Volunteer Liability Insurance up to $1,000,000 per occurrence. This policy provides protection for a bodily injury or property damage liability claim arising out of the performance of the registered volunteers’ duties. Applicable to USA Only.

In addition to the benefits listed above, each new IHEDA-USA Lifetime $450 Membership includes:

- $100 Cabela’s Gift Certificate
- Recognition on the IHEDA-USA website as a Lifetime member.
- Certificate signed by the Executive Director of the IHEDA-USA.
- Continuing the Heritage #2 Print (16” X 20”)
- Getting Ready for the Hunt Print (16” X 20”)
- *Lifetime Member* Lapel Pin
- Cabela’s Brand Duffel Bag (29”L X 16”W X 14”H) embroidered with "Lifetime Member"

Membership rewards are subject to change.
body aches, joint pain, vomiting, diarrhea or rash. Most people with this type recover completely, but fatigue and weakness can last for weeks or months, according to the CDC. Less than one percent develop serious illness such as encephalitis or meningitis, which can cause headache, high fever, neck stiffness, disorientation, coma, tremor, seizures or paralysis. Recovery can take weeks or months, and about ten percent who develop neurologic infection due to West Nile will die, the CDC says.

The bottom line? Mosquitoes should be taken seriously.

“Protecting yourself from mosquitoes used to be a matter of convenience and comfort, but as the recent headlines prove, mosquitoes are a danger and should actively be protected against,” said Adam Goess of ThermaCELL, manufacturer of mosquito-repelling products. “Mosquito-borne illnesses continue to become more of a concern when trying to enjoy the outdoors. ThermaCELL has been proven, tested, and trusted to provide effective mosquito protection while you are out in the field.” ThermaCELL’s patented mosquito repellent has been rigorously tested by the U.S. Department of Defense and proven effective in warding off biting insects, including mosquitoes, black flies and those pesky no-see-ums while being harmless to humans and pets.

ThermaCELL appliances incorporate a small mat saturated with repellent, which copies a naturally occurring repellent in chrysanthemum flowers. Heat generated by a butane cartridge vaporizes the repellent, allowing it to disperse into the air creating within minutes a zone of protection. The zone can be a spacious 225 square-foot insect-free area.

“Many times when I am out in the field, those little fears and worries creep into my mind: what if a bear climbs up my stand, what if I turn around and there is a mountain lion is standing there, what happens if a wolf or a pack of wolves start tracking me, but rarely have I asked myself what happens if a mosquito bites me,” Goess said. “I am not dismissing the previous worries but now mosquitoes are as high a risk to your health and even life so that now the smallest of predators are now some of the most dangerous.” ThermaCELL manufactures easy-to-take-along repellers, lanterns, torches and accessories. The Repellers, which come in several models, and Scout Lantern, which combines a powerful light with insect-repellent protection, are of particular interest to hunters and other active outdoor enthusiasts who require convenient take-along protection.

Recognized by leading entomologists and outdoor experts, ThermaCELL is sold in 23 countries in North America, Europe, Africa and Australia, helping keep at bay the deadliest animals in the world.

Please Remember the IHEA-USA When Writing Your Will

As you know, the International Hunter Education Association – United States of America has a commitment to preserving and protecting our right to hunt as well as our hunting heritage. By providing for the IHEA-USA in your will or trust you will help to ensure that future generations will get to experience the same kind of outdoor experiences that you hold so dearly. Please read this testimonial:

“The mission of the International Hunter Education Association – United States of America is so pure that for those of us that hunt and believe in education first and legislation last, I personally have included in my Last Will and Testament 1/2 of my estate be awarded to the IHEA-USA. Hunting for me has been one of life’s great disciplines and made me a better person in so many ways. Having an understanding of our connection with the land, how we both collectively and individually influence our natural resources and the opportunity to actively participate in the management of those resources is key to the future of our hunting heritage.”

–Tim Law hern

You can set aside:

• A specific dollar amount
• A percentage of your estate’s value
• All or part of the remainder of your estate in your will or trust
• All or part of the proceeds of a Life Insurance policy or Retirement Plan

All donations received from this program will be deposited into our Planned Giving Endowment and will be utilized for long-term funding of the organization. The interest earned from this Endowment will be used for general operations for the IHEA-USA.

We urge you to consult your attorney in preparing your will or trust and hope that the following language will be helpful in providing a bequest to IHEA-USA:

“I give, devise and bequeath ___% of what remains of my estate (or $______) to the International Hunter Education Association – United States of America (Tax ID # 37-1145157), a charitable corporation presently having offices at 800 East 73rd Avenue, Unit 2, Denver, CO 80229”

IHEA-USA is a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Colorado.

Bequests of any size are gratefully accepted and sincerely appreciated. However, while IHEA-USA can accept gifts of land, we are not in a position to hold property for any reason. Any land given outright or bequeathed to IHEA-USA will be immediately sold. The proceeds of which will be used to fund our programs.
Drawn from dozens of returned Hunter’s Handbook state surveys, James Reed of Oregon is the winner of a set of Weaver 8x32 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!
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Recently, I received a gift, or really the news of someone special joining our family. My oldest daughter is expecting and it’s going to be a boy. The first of what I hope to be many more grandchildren to come; however, the first grandson is going to receive an extra-special gift from grandpa.

Being born in farming country, I was blessed to be raised by parents who allowed and encouraged my hunting endeavors. In fact, one Christmas my younger brother and I got a 12-gauge shotgun, which turned out to be one of the greatest Christmas presents ever. Nevertheless, we didn’t start out with shooting and hunting with a shotgun. Instead it all started when I was around 12 years old with a Daisy Red Ryder BB gun, then graduated to a .177 caliber break-barrel pellet rifle that I added a 3-9 x 32mm rifle scope to later on.

Somewhere between graduating to the .177 caliber pellet rifle and hunting, I went to a hunter’s education course. Truth is, anyone my age had to attend a course before legally being able to hunt. I still remember passing the course and coming home to proclaim my passing the course after studying diligently for weeks before attending the class.

Hunter education turned out to be just one of the challenges I would pass. The other was who would cook my harvest. As it turned out, my mother refused to cook my rabbits I so skillfully harvested.

Grandma, on the other hand, welcomed me with open arms. I would take the cleaned rabbit down to her and she would fry it up. Although my grandpa had passed away before I was old enough to share my fried rabbit with him, having grandma doing the cooking...
made it extra special.

One of the first rifles I started out hunting with was my grandpa’s. Maybe that’s why grandma was so willing to cook up my rabbits. Today that gun has been restored by my brother who will hand it down hopefully to one of his grandchildren.

I’m fortunate to have a son-in-law and two daughters that enjoy target shooting. They even got me a portable auto reset target to shoot. Although I secretly think it’s one of those gifts your children buy for you so they can enjoy it too.

Not every gift can be bought, in fact some of the best gifts come used. Although not an heirloom, I recently acquired a new Daisy Powerline 1100 break-action .177 caliber rifle. It’s perfect for target shooting or hunting small game, in addition to being the ideal first gun for a young person to shoot after learning gun safety with a BB gun.

I think you know by now what grandpa’s gift to my first grandson will be once he gets old enough and passes the International Hunter Education Association course. Just like me, I want my grandson to experience the excitement of target shooting and exhilaration of hunting with my Daisy .177 caliber pellet rifle. Grandpa’s gift may not be new by then, but it will be one gift I can pass down he will never forget.

Your first hunting gun

Not surprisingly, hunters don’t start out shooting large caliber guns. It’s almost always the same story. They start out with a Daisy BB gun and slowly progress to a .177 caliber rifle.

Daisy’s Powerline 1100 .177 caliber has a maximum muzzle velocity of 1100 fps, giving it enough power to hunt small game. Its affordable ammunition and modest recoil make it the perfect small game hunting rifle if legal according to state regulations.
The drawing for the thirteenth annual IHEA Heritage Hunt was held in February. Three very lucky students along with two instructors are the Grand Prize winners of an all expense-paid hunt to Hixon Land & Cattle Ranch near Cotulla, Texas sponsored by: Hunter’s Handbook, Hixon Land & Cattle Ranch, Cabela’s, Federal Ammunition and Weaver Binoculars. Winners will stay in the magnificent lodge, and one parent will accompany each student. The hunt itself will be filmed for airing on Americana Outdoors television show, appearing on NBC Sports Network. Winners will be flown to the lodge in mid-November where they will enjoy three days of big game hunting.

The only way students or instructors can enter to win trips is to fill out the form in Hunter’s Handbook or visit us online at www.huntershandbook.com. The 25th annual edition of Hunter’s Handbook was recently shipped to all state and provincial warehouses for distribution in classes. If you have not received your copies, be sure to contact your state/provincial administrator for free copies for your students. Then, make sure you and your students register for next year’s drawing! In addition to the trip winners, 12 students, their instructor, and their state/provincial administrator all won secondary prizes for entering in the hunt. These entries were among thousands Hunter’s Handbook receives annually via its entry forms.

**THIS YEAR’S WINNERS ARE:**

**Student Winners**
- Anthony Oro from Massachusetts
- Liam Schulte from Missouri
- Trenton Halvorson from Minnesota

**Instructor Winners**
- Scott Crossland from Ohio
- Sheila Westfall from Alaska

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**2016 PRIZE WINNERS**

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<td>Danner gift certificates</td>
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The farther east you drive in Montana, the more the drive becomes an adventure of changing landscapes. The scenery shifts from mountain passes and valleys into vast amber-colored plains of sagebrush. The harsh, unchecked winds shape natural sandstone monuments and herds of antelope dot the plains, while mule deer shelter in assorted gullies and gorges.

Hunting entails glassing miles of terrain, belly-crawling through dust and cactus, while navigating a maze of private property boundaries. This was onXmaps founder, Eric Siegfried’s, world. The harsh, yet beautiful, terrain he thrived in, but the sea of checkerboarded private property thwarted his hunts. He wanted to end the uncertainty of hunting checkerboards and he wanted to make sure no one had to suffer this uncertainty again.

Siegfried used land ownership maps to help navigate on his hunts, but carrying these in the field while determining his exact position was cumbersome at best. He wanted what all ethical hunters want in the field: to know exactly where you are and where you can legally hunt.

Siegfried had a GPS unit, but nothing on the market offered what he needed. He spent hours adding in-depth information to his own GPS, including land ownership details and topography. The arduous work of finding mapping data inspired him, however. Siegfried felt hunters shouldn’t have to work so hard to carry on their heritage legally and ethically, nor should they have to worry about where they are and where they can go.

Siegfried earned a degree in mechanical engineering from Montana State University, which helped propel his mapping system from idea to a handheld reality. In 2007, his first attempt took shape in the form of a website, which overlayed topographical information on top of Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks hunting district information. The website eventually gave birth to a complementary GPS product, an SD
chip with land ownership data, as well as topography and Hunting GPS Maps was born in Missoula, Montana.

To better represent its wide variety of uses, in 2013 Hunting GPS Maps officially changed to onXmaps, encouraging and helping anyone with a love of the outdoors to find their own, personal ‘X’ on the map.

The success of the Chip propelled onXmaps. The company, as well as the staff, grew, reaching all across the country, and with that growth came technological growth. To stay up to date and offer the product to a larger audience, the company had to tap into smartphone use and in August of 2013 the HUNT App for Android and iOS was launched. The HUNT App offers all the information provided by the chip, with updated map layers, which provide information on roads, trails, access points and much more for all 50 states.

One day after that milestone, the company had another, when it moved into a two-story building in Missoula to accommodate the growing staff.

The goal of onXmaps is to improve peoples’ experiences in the woods, while making it easier for someone to take that first step towards a new outdoor adventure. To further achieve that goal, the company partnered with some of the leading names in conservation and the hunting heritage. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, National Wild Turkey Federation, Pheasants and Quail Forever, Wild Sheep Foundation and Backcountry Hunters and Anglers have all paired with onXmaps to help inspire new generations of hunters, while improving peoples’ safety and experiences in the backcountry.

Pairing with the leading names in wildlife conservation and outdoor recreation, and the growth of the HUNT App, is paving the way towards a bright future for onXmaps. The company is hiring talented people almost every day and has plans to expand their offices. The product lines are also expanding, with new features and map layers to help people find their next adventure. Thanks to new technology and innovations, onXmaps is delivering The New Era of GPS while helping people find their own personal ‘X’ on the map.
Instructor Discount Corner

Henry Repeating Arms Company

No one knows how many young hunters and shooters have started with a rifle from Henry Repeating Arms, but it is undoubtedly a huge number. Henry’s lever- and bolt-action youth rifles are known as safe, reliable firearms for beginning, novice and experienced shooters—youth and adult alike. (Adults also appreciate the compact, easy-handling characteristics of the youth rifles. And then there are the famous full-size rifles from Henry as well.)

Coming from a long and dignified history (Benjamin Tyler Henry patented the original Henry rifle in 1860), today’s Henry rifles are made in the United States, as their motto exclaims, “Made in America, or Not Made at All.”

Realizing the importance of getting quality firearms into the hands of hunter education students, Henry Repeating Arms, a long-time supporter of IHEA-US, offers certified instructors special discounted pricing on select firearms. “IHEA instructors are the unsung heroes of our industry, spending their valuable personal time and money,” said Anthony Imperato, President of Henry Repeating Arms. “They are an integral part of our industry and its future. We at Henry Repeating Arms thank them for promoting firearms safety, youth shooting sports and our Second Amendment rights.”

Hunter education instructors can learn more and access the discount program by emailing charlie@henryrepeating.com.

Vortex Optics

Vortex Optics knows that good optics, like binoculars, riflescopes and spotting scopes, can help you follow one of the first rules of firearm safety: “Be sure of your target and what’s beyond it.” And they know the important role hunter education instructors play in instilling firearms safety principles in new hunters and shooters.

That is why Vortex Optics offers certified hunter education instructors a 40-percent discount on their products. It is a way of saying thanks and assuring quality optics for hunter education classes.

“Bringing new hunters into the fold, while promoting safe, responsible and ethical practices is a responsibility we as outdoorsmen share,” said Mark Boardman, Vortex Optics marketing manager. “Vortex Optics is honored to provide special pricing to individuals who dedicate their time and expertise as hunter education instructors—ensuring new hunters receive proper training. You are a critical link in the evolutionary process of becoming a hunter. We sincerely appreciate all you do.”

Good optics allows hunters to scout game, confirm the target and assure the background is clear and it is safe to shoot. Vortex Optics, based in Middleton, Wis., offers a full line of binoculars, riflescopes, spotting scopes, rangefinders, red-dot scopes, monoculars, tripods and other gear.

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

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

Instructor Access for IHEA-US Website

Instructor Discount Corner
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Champions of Hunter Education
For Outstanding Work in the Hunter Education Field

All firearms purchased from GalleryofGuns.com are covered by the Davidson’s GuaranteeD® Lifetime Replacement Warranty.
New Products

**Sig Sauer Whiskey 3 3-9x40mm Riflescope**

Designed for traditional hunting rifles as well as modern sporting rifle platforms, the Sig Sauer Whiskey 3 scope is ideal for short-, medium- and long-range shooting. With this scope, Sig Sauer engineers have fused together superior high-definition glass and military-inspired design to achieve maximum clarity, accuracy and reliable performance. Built with a rugged chassis and with a durable lens coating, this scope is designed inside and out to withstand the elements and the demands of hunting. The Lensarmor abrasion-resistant lens coating ensures your scope stays sharp, bright and clear, while the Spectracoat ultra-wide broadband, anti-reflection lens coatings reduce surface reflections to extremely low levels, providing superior light transmission.

And, it features the SIG Ballistic Turret (SBT), a custom laser-etched elevation dial that (with inputs such as bullet specifications, ballistic coefficient, muzzle velocity and other factors) allows for correct bullet-drop compensation and pinpoint accuracy at any range. That’s right, they actually send you a dial customized to your caliber and ballistics choice. You can dial in the exact shooting range of your target and hold the reticle directly on point of aim, providing better accuracy than holding over your target. For instance, if your target is at 300 yards, you simply adjust the dial to 3 and hold right on target, knowing your scope will compensate for bullet drop.

It also features an easy-to-see fiber-optic power indicator, so you can see the magnification setting even in low-light situations, and a fast-focus eyepiece.

For more information, check out sigoptics.com.

**Buck Selector 2.0—A Field-Dressing Tool Kit On Your Belt**

The Buck Selector was originally produced in the early 1990s, an ahead-of-its-time replaceable-blade system based on their ultra-popular 110 Folding Hunter. The basic idea of the original Selector—and the new Selector 2.0—is that in one handy pouch you have all you need to field dress game animals. Blade selections include drop-point, gutting, saw, caping, sheepfoot and wharncliff.

The blades are housed in separate compartments in the sheath, which attaches to a belt or pack, with plastic covers to protect the edge and your fingers. When you see “replaceable blade,” don’t think “disposable blade.” These are real Buck blades that you can resharpen—and not worry about breaking, leaving dangerous sharp pieces inside your animal or littered in the field. With a long family history of Buck knives passed down from generation to generation behind him, the late great Chuck Buck, then chairman of the company, didn’t like the idea of creating a disposable Buck blade, something designed to be thrown away. Rather, he said, let’s make true Buck blades that can be resharpened and used for generations.

The Selector 2.0 opens like any folding lock-back knife, the blade locking solidly, ready for use. When you want to change blades, it is recommended to replace the plastic cover, which locks into place for added safety. Then, push the lock on the Selector’s handle and hold it in the unlocked position, rotate the blade to 90 degrees, perpendicular to the handle, and slide the blade off the pivot. Then slide the new blade onto the pivot, release the lock and you are in business. Thanks to the unique design, the blade must be oriented 90 degrees to the handle for the exchange. It will not come off during normal use, only when the lock is held down and the blade at a 90-degree angle. Also, you’ll hear a satisfying click as the blade locks solidly in place.

Like all Buck knives, the Selector 2.0 is likely to become part of your family’s hunting heritage.
FOLLOW YOUR COMPASS

FOLLOW YOUR T/C COMPASS DREAM TRUCK GIVEAWAY

YOU COULD WIN THIS TRUCK!

Purchase a new T/C Compass™ rifle between July 15, 2016 and December 31, 2016, and enter for the “Follow Your Compass Dream Truck Giveaway” sweepstakes from Thompson/Center Arms Co., Inc. of Springfield, Illinois.

No purchase necessary to enter or win. Winner will be selected at random from all eligible entries. One winner will be selected by random drawing. Winner will receive a new T/C Compass™ rifle valued at $20,000. Winner will be contacted within 15 business days of the date of the drawing. Total retail value of prize $20,000. Odds of winning depend on the number of eligible entries. Approximate retail value of prize $20,000. Taxes, if any, and other expenses associated with the prize are the sole responsibility of the winner. Offer open to legal residents of the U.S. void in Quebec, Canada and where prohibited or restricted by law. Void where prohibited or restricted by law. Some restrictions may apply. Purchase period begins at T/C 300 CTG .30/30 or .30/30 in early 2016, ends at T/C 30 KOR .300 Win. Canada: Offer open to legal residents of Canada (excluding Quebec and New Brunswick) and where prohibited or restricted by law. Void where prohibited or restricted by law. Some restrictions may apply. Purchase period begins at T/C 30 S&W in Canada, ends at T/C 30/30 Win. in early 2016. For official rules and details in the retailer’s store. For more information, visit www.tcarms.com or call Thompson/Center Arms Co., Inc., at 800-346-9779.

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