Lessons Learned from the Elders
Be Careful, the Land is Listening

Hunter Education
On the Shoulders of Giants!

Strategies for Dealing with Negative Peer Pressure

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Recently received a report from the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) entitled “Hunter Education Graduates’ Proclivity to Purchase a Hunting License.” The purpose of the study was to identify the percentage of hunter education graduates who go on to purchase a hunting license after completing a hunter education course, and how frequently they continue to purchase in subsequent years. These results are intended to help us understand if and where intervention efforts may be needed to maintain hunting participation among newer hunters.

Twelve state wildlife agencies participated in this project. The study consisted of profiling the hunter education graduate class of 2006 and their subsequent license buying habits over the following six years (2006 to 2011).

Some very interesting points were discovered. It was determined that a significant percentage of our hunter education graduates will not buy a hunting license after graduating from a hunter education course. Approximately 33% of graduates did not purchase a hunting license from 2006 to 2011. As instructors, we know that a good portion of our students take hunter education for reasons other than hunting. Students may take the course for the firearms safety aspect, survival and first aid, or to simply learn more about the outdoors. This may also reinforce the need for programs to assist the students after graduation from a basic hunter education course in order to create active hunters.

It was also determined that hunting participation rates drop significantly soon after graduation. From 2006 to 2011, the pool of graduates who bought hunting licenses shrunk by 34.5%. After six years, only 44% of graduates were observed buying a license. More interesting facts: graduates from highly urbanized areas showed the greatest dropout rates and younger people in college or military lifestyles are more likely to stop renewing their licenses within six years of graduating.

All of these findings point to a greater need for intervention efforts. Many states have already implemented advanced hunter education courses, including species-specific hunting skills and wing shooting clinics, just to name a few. These programs contain a great deal of information and they are wonderful programs. The problem with a non-mandated course is the fact that people will simply not attend these advanced course offerings.

Mentored hunts are also offered by many state agencies. These programs are very popular and attendance is typically high. Mentored hunts are expensive, however, and require a lot of staff and volunteer support. Volunteer instructors and hunter education administrators need to think hard about how we can take these students that come through our classes and create a lifelong hunter out of them. I know that as innovative and intelligent as our hunter education instructors are, we can find solutions to these problems.
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Hunter Education: On the Shoulders of Giants!

By Steve Hall, Executive Director IHEA-USA, exdir@ihea.com

In planning future strategies, a former manager impressed on me the notion of “where we’ve been; where we are and where we are going…”

I’m old enough to have been personally influenced by some of the greatest minds in conservation and hunter education; but I’m also young enough to know that professionals among us, some who began their careers only yesterday, hold the keys to making even greater strides and accomplishments in hunter education—significantly enhancing hunting and the shooting sports for future generations.

Hunter education, bowhunter education, archery and NRA hunter and firearm safety history is fascinating—largely borne on the shoulders of some great men and women with the same passion as the volunteer hunter education instructor—dedication towards passing on a “safe and responsible hunting heritage…”

Some of the giants that greatly influenced my career in the 80s and early 90s in hunter/shooting sports education include: Delwin Benson (Colo. St. Univ.); Bob Caskey (CO); TD Carroll, Darrell Holt and D. Terry Erwin (TX); J.D. Peer (TX/OK); Bill McKittrick (Ontario); Casey Pendergast (Nova Scotia); Ernie McCallum (New Brunswick); Charles ‘Butch’ Olofson and Sonny Satre (IA); Dick Turpin (NE); Homer Moe (WI); Jim Dabb (MI); Dykes Reber (AR); Ed Cornia, Clair Huff and Lenny Rees (UT); Steve Dakai (AZ); Slim and Joy Borsay (RI); David Woodward (TN); Wilton Pate (NC); Ed Tyer (FL); Wendell Kam (HI); Eric Nuse (VT); Bill Hastie (OR); John King (NV); Tim Pool (MT); Bud Carpenter (LA); Herb Foster (VA); Steve Leggans (KS); Gary Anderson (ME); Jim Wentz (OH); Bud Eymon and Bob Staton (MO); L.J. Smith (MS); Bill Shattuck (SD); Alan Madison (Madison Films); Maureen Liang (Outdoor Empire Films); Brian Thurston (Focus Group); Ed Kozicky (NAAHSC); Sandy Woods and Rosalie Cullen (Winchester); Bill Stevens (Federal); Jack Heath (Remington); Dennis Eggers (IN); Bob Davis and Bill Poole (NRA); Lanny Bullard and Ron Howard (4-H Shooting Sports); Mike Hampton (NSCA/NSSA); Bob Byrne (WMI); Bill Christy (Virginia Tech); Jack Lorenzo and Joshua Winchell (IWLA); Jim Posewitz (Orion); William Wadsworth and Marilyn Bentz (NBEF); Richard Enriquez, Bob Jones and Gene Stephenson (USFWS); Max Peterson (IAFWA); Bob Norton and Bob Jackson (Univ. of Wisconsin - LaCrosse); Christine Thomas and Tammy Peterson (Becoming an Outdoors-Woman) – just to name a FEW. I know I am missing many names and could certainly include all hunter education administrators and USFWS representatives during those decades. As I mention each of these names, I distinctly remember very significant, individual accomplishments by each in elevating national programs and standards in shooting sports, hunter and bowhunter education and reaching new audiences. And this list includes only the professional agency, conservation and industry folks. There were literally hundreds of volunteer hunter education instructors (CO and TX) who influenced me considerably—such as Albert Ross, Dr. Tom Behr and Billy Holt who took me under their wings as a young professional involved in shooting sports and hunter education. Some have been involved in NRA’s firearm and hunter safety programs since the 1940s and 50s—nearly 70 years of involvement in the mission—WOW!

Fast Forward to the Present

Movers and shakers in hunter education today have the same passion and are looking at how to Recruit, Retain and Reactivate (3 Rs) hunters and shooters with the task to maintain critical support for conservation efforts in North America. The goal in the 20th century was developing safe, law-abiding and ethical hunters and shooters. Today, the objectives are largely the same; however, each hunter education volunteer and professional will also tell you that his or her job duties has increased four-fold to include the 3 Rs—including guiding, mentoring and participating in outreach that attracts urban, young, female and minority audiences—most with little to no farming, ranching, firearms or hunting influences, background or upbringing.

We certainly have our work cut out for us! But I have extreme faith in the fact that the “Giants of Hunter Education” today, such as those featured in the Journal, will be long-remembered for their efforts to “continue the heritage of hunting worldwide…” into the 21st century and beyond. Power to them! Shoot Straight!

Send Us Your Stories!

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

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

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I knew how my elk season was going to turn out. Six bulls, six-point or smaller, had already offered themselves to me at distances of 30 yards or less. Lucky for them I was focused on finding the huge bull that had looked me in the eye, and then vanished in an instant at first light of opening day. With each passing bull the hunting lessons taught me by Koyukon and Gwich’in elders started to echo in my thoughts. “If an animal offers itself to you, you take it. Don’t be like those fishermen who catch a fish, then let it go. That is playing with your food. If you do that, animals will stop giving themselves to you.”

It has taken two years since that season before a bull elk has finally given itself up to me again. Maybe it is my blend of Scottish and Finnish heritage that gives me my tenacity. Whatever it is, that tenacity often equates to longer spans of time before a lesson sinks in. However, hit me upside my head enough and I will learn, eventually. The key is to keep learning. That is the great thing about hunting. No matter how old you are there are lessons to be learned. That is certainly true as I continue to refine my personal set of hunting ethics. Every once in awhile I believe it is also good to solidify what is in your heart by articulating your thoughts.

One of those moments for me was in the remote Koyukon village of Allakaket. The Allakaket Village Council was up in arms. I had just shared with them my plans for teaching a hunter education class to their students. While the Council unanimously agreed that firearm safety was a needed training for their children, the portion of my class that dealt with hunter ethics had them upset. I was bluntly asked, “How can a white guy teach us hunting ethics?”

I knew what this meant. Having sat through endless village meetings as a wildlife manager, I would hear complaint after complaint concerning “sport” hunters. Each fall an invasion into their traditional village hunting areas by airboats, planes, and off-road vehicles would result in reports such as moose minus their antlers left to waste or hunting camps filled with stinky, rotting meat. True or not, this was the prevailing perception of white hunters by the members on the Council. My opportunity to teach hunter education in Allakaket was teetering on the edge.

Fortunately my answer to the question in Allakaket tipped the scale for me, gaining Council approval to teach the class. I spoke from my heart. I shared that I loved to teach hunter education because it also allowed me to learn. My hope was to have their Koyukon elders lead the discussion on hunting ethics so I too could learn. “Besides” I said, “I don’t think my hunting ethics are much different than yours.”

That raised several eyebrows. Before any of the Council members could respond I continued that hunting ethics for me boiled down to three main points:

- Respect Wildlife
- Take Only What You Need
- Use All That You Take
With nods of agreement, the Allakaket Village Council supported me leading a hunter education class in their school, as long as my class was open to elders and others who wanted to participate in it. Perfect, that was exactly what I was hoping for all along.

Actually, I could quickly share the three succinct premises at the core of my hunting ethics because I had heard them before. Pearl Kennan, a Tlingit elder from Teslin, Yukon and other Yukon Territory First Nation elders had expressed them in the “Living with Abundance” video developed for Yukon Territory hunter education classes. As far as I am concerned, these should be the basis for discussing hunting ethics in all hunter education classes:

– Respect Wildlife
– Take Only What You Need
– Use All that You Take

“Take Only What You Need” and “Use All That You Take” seem fairly straightforward ideals. Sure, I continue to salvage legs, gizzards, and hearts from birds that others just use the breast. Still, my definitions for both concepts have evolved, especially after being exposed to other hunting cultures. Now if I take an animal and can logistically manage, it is used in ways I wouldn’t have dreamt of before moving to Alaska. Take my last moose for example.

The head, stomach fat, and the lower intestines were distributed among three or four different elders who consider them delicacies. The liver, which was large enough to fill a wheelbarrow, went to a friend making liverwurst. The hooves and leg bones were used by a Native artisan for her fabulous creations. The skin of the lower legs to an elder making skin boots, the hide to other elders for smoke tanning, and much of the meat was shared with neighbors and friends who either helped me cut and wrap or were low on meat. That only left the lungs, stomach, and bones of the spinal column at the kill site. Perhaps still too much left by the standards in some cultures but then again I don’t feel that it was wasted. A meager offering, but it did give back to the web of life from which the animal came.

“Respect Wildlife” is the concept where cultures seem to diverge. Flushing birds to make them fly before shooting them is perceived as teasing by the Alaska Native elders I have spent time with. Despite the scorn of Paul Williams Sr., my 77-year old Gwich’in hunting partner, I continue to waiver before pulling the trigger on a flock of geese sitting on the water due to how I was raised. At least I am not judgmental anymore when in the company of people who elect to shoot a grouse on the ground.

After all, does it really matter when I put meat on the table for my family if the bird was sitting still or shot on the wing? What does matter is that wildlife is respected so there continues to be healthy wildlife populations in order to be able to hunt. This also goes hand-in-hand with the wild landscapes that support them.

Still, there are other practices of respect from Paul’s culture that I now totally embrace. Like giving my prey a mouthful of food and a prayer of thanks for offering itself to me or respectfully returning discarded parts to the woods instead of throwing them in the trash. Granted, some of the respectful Athabascan practices that I now faithfully follow had to be learned the hard way. Especially during one memorable Stephen King-style trip to float the remote Kilolitna River. Our small party gratefully caught a ride out in an Alaska Fire Service helicopter that was called in to extract us after we experienced a bear attack and a near drowning. Now I always start each of my adventures with a “peace” offering to the land and try hard not to mention the name of a certain “big animal” (grizzly bear) when wandering their range so not to offend them. As Paul would say, “Careful, the land is listening.”

Note: The following dilemmas I created for use in my hunter education classes in Alaska for small group discussions of each crisis. The groups reconvene as a class, where each group shares their crisis situation and their answers with the class. As an instructor, my message to the class is: “Sooner or later you will be faced with a first aid/survival crisis. Likely it will involve a partner, friend, loved one or yourself. First aid/survival training and maintaining currency is cheap insurance in those situations.”

Also, as a homework assignment I give each student a small container, such as a prescription bottle, and have them create a personal survival kit at home. Students share the contents of their kits with the rest class. Discussion highlights that a person’s greatest asset and greatest weakness in a survival situation is our own brain and how we use it. Also, a survival kit is only worthwhile if it is with you.
**CRISIS CARD**

You have just downed an elk that has come to a stop wrapped around a tree on a steep side-hill. You are happy that it didn’t slide further down into the canyon because you are by yourself. However, as you start to cut the hind leg off at the joint while pulling back with your left arm, your left arm pops out of socket.

---

**CRISIS CARD**

You and your partner are crossing Beaver Creek in an inflatable kayak to hunt moose. The eddy at the bottom of the rapid causes the boat to flip in water well over your heads. It is 25 degrees out and your partner has lost his firearm.

---

**CRISIS CARD**

It was a grueling day getting to the camp but it was all worth it. You and your partners are cooking fresh steak on willow sticks over an open fire. All of a sudden Ken jumps up, while making a faint sound. You suspect that a piece of meat is lodged in his throat.

---

**CRISIS CARD**

The weather forecast was way off. Your hunting partner wasn’t prepared for the drizzle, wind and quick drop in the temperature. He is soaked in his jeans and shaking. Your vehicle is still four miles away.

---

**CRISIS CARD**

You and your grandfather are working on a large bull moose that you dropped in a willow thicket. Grandpa sits down to take a rest. You notice he is having a hard time catching his breath and is sweating heavily. He says he is fine but is rubbing his left arm.

---

**CRISIS CARD**

You have crossed the Delta and Black Rapid Rivers in your raft to sheep hunt near the Black Rapids Glacier. Since a snowstorm has created treacherous hiking on the steep slopes, you have wisely elected to come back another day. Unfortunately a grizzly has found your stashed raft and has shredded it.

---

**CRISIS CARD**

The small irritation at your belt line has grown infected. You try draining it but it continues to grow. You are planning to camp out for another three days.

---

**CRISIS CARD**

On your first outing of the season, your partner flushes a grouse. When he fires, the barrel explodes sending fragments into his arm and eye. There is a lot of bleeding.

---

**CRISIS CARD**

The hunters camped near you are not up yet. They had talked about getting an early start. When you check their tent you find the three hunters unconscious. You suspect carbon monoxide poisoning from a defective heater.

---

**CRISIS CARD**

You have just downed an elk that has come to a stop wrapped around a tree on a steep side-hill. You are happy that it didn’t slide further down into the canyon because you are by yourself. However, as you start to cut the hind leg off at the joint while pulling back with your left arm, your left arm pops out of socket.

---

**CRISIS CARD**

It is a hot opening day of sheep season. In the hurry to get to a band of rams, you left your water at camp 3,000 feet below. No problem you thought, since there should be water somewhere along your route – not. Now you have a terrible headache and are extremely thirsty but the rams are close.

---

**CRISIS CARD**

Climbing to a tree stand your uncle slips. The fall knocks him unconscious, and an arrow shaft has gone all the way through his arm. He is starting to moan and slowly move.

---

**CRISIS CARD**

From a hillside above, your partner and you spot a large bull moose about 3/4 of a mile away. Your partner is experienced, has a GPS, but has not hunted in the area before. Since the bull isn’t responding to a moose call, she decides to sneak in on it. That was three hours ago, there have been no shots, and it has started snowing. It is now dark.
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Perhaps you or someone you know had the experience of someone trying to influence you or another to act in a way you didn’t think was proper. Many hunting-related situations come to mind, such as encouraging someone to shoot at distant birds with a small gauge shotgun or someone urging you to let your dog flush birds on private land where you do not have permission to hunt.

The force created by friends or a group to influence behavior is commonly referred to as ‘peer pressure.’ Peer pressure can be external, where someone tries to influence your behavior, or it can be generated internally, where you decide to conform to the values or behaviors of the other person or group. These examples are of negative peer group pressure. Positive peer pressure exists, of course, such as when students in a hunter education class try to live up to the values expressed by the instructor. This article deals with negative peer pressure and offers four strategies for overcoming negative pressure.

Strategy One: Understanding Peers and Pressures

In the American justice system, a criminal defendant is entitled to a “jury of his peers.” What’s a “peer?” As a lawyer who has practiced criminal defense law, I share that determining a peer is based on loose standards: essentially a person that had not committed a crime and is not overtly biased against you. More generally, a peer is someone having similar characteristics such as age, experience or status. Whether or not you like your peers does not change their status.

Different kinds of peers will likely have different abilities to pressure you. A peer you like will influence you more than a peer you dislike. A peer that hates hunting will likely have less influence on you than a peer that is an avid hunter.

The ‘pressure’ part of peer pressure is complex. Pressure can be internal...
and/or external and it often has layers of
degree. On a hunting trip, your father,
for example, is likely able to generate
more pressure on you than a stranger. If
you want to be accepted into a group,
you are likely to exert more pressure on
yourself to act in a conforming way than
if you didn’t care much about it.

Two skills come into play at this
point: knowing the value you place on
the peer creating the pressure and under-
standing the ethical implications of or
the cost you might pay if you gave in to
the pressure. The greater you value the
peer, the more difficult it is to reject the
pressure. In extreme cases you may
jeopardize a friendship. The greater you
value the peer, the stronger you have to
be to resist the pressure.

Understanding the cost of giving in to
the pressure can, and should, develop
the inner strength needed to reject the
pressure. If you take the time to think
through the consequences of giving in,
you are more likely to develop the will
to reject the pressure. Taking this step
requires knowing your character, your
values and committing to living up to
those values.

Strategy Two: Know Your
Limitations

“Regarding the Hunter:
whatever his acts, they are
dicted by his own
conscience, rather than by
a mob of onlookers. It is
difficult to exaggerate the
importance of this fact.”
— Aldo Leopold

The iconic lawman Harry “Dirty
Harry” Callahan said in Magnum Force,
“A man’s gotta know his limitations.” In
the hunting context, knowing one’s limi-
tations has profound moral significan-
c. Injury or death to the hunters and the
animals can and do occur. Confiscation
of property and/or criminal prosecution
can result from improper decisions. If
you know your limitations, you can
develop strategies and the moral will to
overcome them.

What are your limitations? Some limi-
tations are technical. Do you have the
right caliber, bullet selection, arrow or
skill to make a clean kill? Other limita-
tions relate to character. The most
important is the most obvious: do you
know right from wrong? Ethical from
unethical? Legal from illegal? Your abil-
ity to make these distinctions is the
result of preparation for the hunt, your
humility, your ability to anticipate the
consequences of different actions and
the moral clarity of your values.

If you have a female tag and you are
not sure whether the bear two hundred
yards away is male or female or if the
deer is out of range of your shooting
skill level, knowing your limitation
should give you the willpower not to
shoot, even if someone is telling you to
take the shot. Awareness of your limita-
tions can give you the inner strength to
overcome pressure to act improperly or
foolishly. Doing ‘good’ is not easy. It
requires skill, discipline, confidence and
courage.

Strategy Three: Have a Plan

“Pressure usually comes
when we have no plan.”
— Jim Smoke

Ask yourself these questions: “What
would I do if my hunting partner asked
me to trespass or shoot an animal I
didn’t have a tag for, or shoot an animal
backed against a fence, or asked to use
my rifle although he was drunk?” If your
answer is “I don’t know what I would
really do,” then your default position is
you would do the wrong thing. If your
answer is that you won’t do those things
no matter what, then the likelihood is
you would reject the pressure to act
illegally or unethically.

Great lawyers and executives, as well
as athletes, spend considerable time
thinking about what they can or might
confront during their work or perfor-
mances. Shooters see target presentations
in their minds and ‘see’ when they
should shoot the target. Lawyers imagine
arguments and counter arguments. All of
them see themselves becoming success-
ful and triumphant.

To strengthen resistance to peer pres-
sure, hunters should do the same. They
should anticipate problems and legal and ethical challenges and craft ethical arguments and actions to immunize themselves against the pressure. Hunters should visualize saying ‘no’ to a buddy that asks the hunter to do something improper. Aristotle wrote: “It is easy to be moral in our sleep.” Hunters must be moral when they are awake. Planning nurtures confidence and confidence nurtures moral strength.

**Strategy Four: Choose Your Peers**

“Voluntary adherence to an ethical code elevates the self-respect of the sportsmen, but it should not be forgotten that voluntary disregard of the code degenerates and depraves him.”

— Aldo Leopold

You may have a lot of peers, but you don’t have to hunt with all of them. Triumphing over negative peer pressure is easiest when you choose peers that share your values, which, I shall presume, are virtuous values. Sometimes your ability to choose your peer on a hunt is limited—your dad or aunt invites you—and, in such an instance, peer pressure can be substantial. It is easier to reject the pressure from a friend who says: “Try to make that shot!” than from a parent that says: “Take the shot or we’ll never hunt again.”

If you know a peer is troublesome, choose not to hunt with that person. If the nature of the relationship or past experience might cause you to succumb to negative pressure, don’t accept the hunting invitation. Why act in a way that you will regret later? Exercising choice and judgment is the essence of being human; it separates humans from the primal ooze.

This strategy works best when you understand that peer pressure is a two-way street. Think about the person exerting the pressure on you and ask, “What kind of person wants to pressure me to act unethically or illegally?” Certainly not a peer that cares about you. Friends don’t compromise the moral values of their friends. Any peer willing to compromise your ethics should be rejected, even if it means alienating a friend. Why would you outsource your morality to another person and give that person such power over you? You know what is right and wrong. Why replace your judgment with that of a person who is undercutting your best interests? Looking at the situation in those terms, you likely will develop the confidence and moral strength to reject negative peer pressure.

Also realize that you can assert peer pressure on the other person. Again, it’s a two-way street. You can try to positively influence the other person rather than allow the other person to undermine you. An intriguing study was done by The Hunting Heritage Trust and the National Shooting Sports Foundation on the impact of peer influence on youth participation in hunting and target shooting. Two of the key findings were:

- **Today’s young hunters are role models.** They are looked at by their peers who are forming personal opinions of hunters, so young hunters need to be mindful of how they portray themselves and hunting.

- **The more familiar youth are with individuals their own age who hunt and target shoot, the more likely they will support and participate in these activities.**

My friend, Colorado hunter education instructor Wendell Winger, teaches that every hunter is an ambassador. Every hunter has the potential to influence other hunters. The teaching of the Roman philosopher Seneca is as relevant today as it was two thousand years ago: “The most powerful person is he who has himself in his own power.” When you are pressured to do something improper, resist. Do not be a bystander in your fate. Do what’s right.

For further information see:
- IHEA-USA
- Peer Influence study
  - [http://nssf.org/hunteredpledge/](http://nssf.org/hunteredpledge/)

Michael Sabbeth is a lawyer in Denver, Colorado. His email is michaelssabbeth@gmail.com. He lectures on ethics and rhetoric to law associations and civic and business groups. He is the author of _The Good, The Bad & The Difference: How to Talk with Children About Values_. Please visit his [www.kidsethicsbook.com](http://www.kidsethicsbook.com).
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.
The National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) has recognized Robin Ball, owner of Sharp Shooting Indoor Range and Gun Shop, in Spokane, Washington as a “Local Champion” for her efforts to promote firearm safety in the community. The recognition comes as NSSF continues its “S.A.F.E. Summer Across America” campaign as part of its ongoing Project ChildSafe program to emphasize the importance of responsible firearm storage – particularly while children are home from school and more likely to be unattended.

Ball was selected for bringing the Project ChildSafe program to the attention of the Spokane County Sheriff’s office and facilitating their commitment to the program. With this partnership, she hosted an open house at the Sharp Shooting Indoor Range and Gunshop on gun safety. The Spokane County Sheriff’s office sent two crime prevention deputies to discuss gun storage and safety with the citizens and distribute free Project ChildSafe gun locks and firearm safety kits.

“As a retailer, it’s important that I help people understand the responsibility that comes with owning a gun,” Ball said. “The more retailers that spread the message about taking responsibility to secure a firearm to their local communities, the more cohesive the safety message will become across the nation. It is crucial to spread the gun safety message consistently so that it becomes a habit for everyone who owns a firearm.”
“My hat’s off to Robin, NSSF and the Sheriff’s department for bringing Project ChildSafe to our town and taking action that will help prevent accidents and even save lives.” – Amanda Furrer

S.A.F.E. Summer Across America is an extension of NSSF’s S.A.F.E. Summer campaign, first launched in 2013. Consistent with Project ChildSafe’s overarching message of “Own it? Respect It. Secure it,” S.A.F.E. Summer Across America is a reminder that proper firearm storage is the #1 way to prevent firearm accidents, theft and misuse.

“S.A.F.E.” serves as an acronym for Store your firearms responsibly when not in use; Be Aware of those around you who should not have unauthorized access to guns; Focus on your responsibility as a firearm owner and Educate yourself and others about safe firearm handling and storage. The effort is focused on providing education and tools that helps gun owners take responsible action to keep their families and communities safer.

USA Shooting athlete and 2012 rifle Olympian Amanda Furrer, who lives in Spokane and is a customer at Sharp Shooting, said she is proud to see someone in her town recognized for their commitment to this important issue.

“Storing firearms safely and securely protects our families and our community,” Furrer says. “My hat’s off to Robin, NSSF and the Sheriff’s department for bringing Project ChildSafe to our town and taking action that will help prevent accidents and even save lives.”

“We’re very grateful for the work of people like Robin,” added NSSF president Steve Sanetti. “They are great examples of how the firearm owning community is committed to responsibility, and their work is instrumental in helping reduce firearm accidents.”

NSSF launched Project ChildSafe in 1999 (prior to 2003 the program was called Project HomeSafe) as a nationwide initiative to promote firearms responsibility and provide safety education to all gun owners. While children are a focus, Project ChildSafe is intended to help young people and adults practice greater firearm safety in the home. Through partnerships with more than 15,000 law enforcement agencies, the program has provided more than 36 million free firearm safety kits to gun owners in all 50 states and five U.S. territories. That’s in addition to the more than 70 million free locking devices manufacturers have included with new firearms sold since 1998 and continue to do today.

Project ChildSafe was originally supported by federal grants provided by the U.S. Department of Justice. Since 2008, when this funding was cut, the firearms manufacturing industry has solely funded the Project ChildSafe program through the members of NSSF.
in Mississippi, shooting facilities have not kept pace with the growth of the sport or demand from the shooting public. The Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP) has only one other department-operated and maintained public shooting range, known as the Turcotte Shooting Range, which is located in Madison County. This facility is in the central part of the state and is mainly visited and used by residents in the Jackson area.

On May 29, MDWFP held an Open House at the new McHenry Shooting Range located in South Mississippi near Perkinston. The facility opened to the public on May 30.
This lack of shooting facilities makes an acceptable site such as the new McHenry Project site, within 25 miles of Biloxi and Gulfport and 45 miles of Hattiesburg, a highly desirable location for maximum usage and growth, providing new opportunities to meet the growing demand for safe and well-maintained shooting ranges from new and seasoned shooters alike.

With a land base of 177 acres, the new McHenry Shooting Range includes:

- A pistol range with 20 shooting lanes with ranges of 5, 10, and 20 yards. Shooters will utilize target stands and frames provided by McHenry Shooting Range.
- Two rifle ranges, with ten shooting tables per range. The facility provides movable target stands which shooters can engage out to 170 yards.

The McHenry Shooting Range is another great example of how MDWFP, and state fish and wildlife agencies across America, are successfully implementing the “Pittman-Robertson” Wildlife Restoration Act Program, and continuing to support demand from the hunting and shooting public for safe, well-designed, and well-managed shooting facilities.

When sportsmen and women purchase sporting arms and ammunition, a portion of each purchase is transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR), which returns the funds through approved grants to our Nation’s state fish and wildlife agencies. The McHenry Shooting Range was made possible through state funding and by a grant from WSFR. This longstanding state/federal partnership, along with the public who purchases these items, are referred to collectively as the “cycle of success”—a system that has worked to deliver opportunities for hunting and shooting to the U.S. sporting public for more than 75 years.

Visit http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/GrantPrograms/WR/WR.htm for more information about WSFR and the Wildlife Restoration Program.

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**Shooting Tip #22:**

**Sight Pictures and Stances by Mark Hotaling**

**Hunting sight picture and stance:**

While hunting birds or shooting clays, the shooter will have an off-set stance with his shooting side foot set back behind him. The sight picture should be two eyes open, focusing on the target with the sight in his peripheral vision.

**Tactical sight picture and stance:**

Very different than a hunting stance, the tactical shot gunner should have both feet roughly shoulder width apart, toes pointed at the target. The shoulders are nearly squared up with the target and the shooting side foot is only a couple of inches back from the other. The sight picture should be that of shooting a rifle or pistol – front sight aligned with the rear sight and when the trigger is pressed, his eye is solely focused on the front sight. With the proper tactical sight alignment, sight picture and front sight focus, the tactical shotgun can certainly be employed in a surgical manner and the HiViz sight makes target acquisition much faster and more accurate.

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Repairing 3-D Decoys for Hunter Education

By Denise Harmel-Garza, Extension Associate, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
Photos by Keith Howerton

Introduction

Using three-dimensional (3-D) decoys in training exercises can be an exciting part of any hunter education experience. They are a valuable tool for an instructor, used to discuss shot placement, wildlife identification, and safe shots. However, cost can limit their use as 3-D decoys can be expensive. New decoys can range in price from $300 to $800, especially for big game species. Decoys with slight imperfections, called seconds, can be bought significantly cheaper but may be hard to find. Another alternative to buying new or ‘second’ decoys is to refurbish or repair used ones. You may be able to find used decoys from archery clubs. This fact sheet explains how to make minor repairs and repaint 3-D decoys to rejuvenate and extend their use. It does not describe how to replace an entire target area of a decoy. If the entire target area of a decoy needs to be replaced, you can buy the replacement parts from the same company that made the decoy.

Materials Needed

- Expanding foam insulation
- Hacksaw blade
- Wood or drywall screws
- Rasp
- Glue
- Mask
- Gloves
- Plastic drop cloth
- Phillips screwdriver
- Grit sandpaper (any grit)
- 1 gallon exterior outdoor grade latex primer
- 1 gallon exterior/indoor latex paint

Repair How-To

The decoys we repaired were over 18 years old; they had holes in them from being shot with arrows (Fig. 1). They were missing pieces (Fig. 2) and all the paint was flaked off, exposing the brittle foam underneath. To begin the repair, holes were filled with expanding foam insulation (Fig. 3).
For a complete Instructor Resource catalog go to www.IHEA-USA.org, call (303) 430-7233 or write to: IHEA-USA • 800 East 73rd Ave., Unit 2 • Denver, CO 80229

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The foam was allowed to dry and the excess was cut off with a hack saw blade, then sanded flush with a rasp. Body parts, such as ears, were reattached using glue and long wood screws. Liberal amounts of glue were used in between the parts and the wood screws were inserted into strategic places to help hold the pieces together. Screws were drilled slightly below the decoy’s surface and were left in place. Once the screw head went below the surface, the foam usually closed up around it and the screw was not visible. After the decoy was repaired, it was given a light sanding and was wiped clean with a rag.

Fig. 3 – Spray-foam insulation was used to fill holes.

Fig. 4 – Several coats of interior/exterior latex primer were painted on the decoys.

Fig. 5 – Interior/exterior latex paint was color-matched to original decoy color.
Exterior outdoor grade latex primer was used to paint the decoys. Some decoys only needed two coats of primer, while others required three. The decoy was then painted with exterior indoor/outdoor grade latex paint that was color-matched with the original decoy color (Fig. 5). A coat of paint was applied, allowed to dry, and then followed by a second coat. Even though the paint was dry it remained tacky until cured. The latex paint took approximately three days to cure. If the decoy came in contact with another surface before it was cured, the paint would stick to the other surface and peel off the decoy. We made a stand using 2x4s with holes drilled into it to hold the decoys, while they were painted (Fig. 6). The rack also allowed for the decoy to cure without touching anything. Once the paint cured, it was very durable. We have been using one of the repaired decoys now for three years and it is holding up remarkably well.

**Summary**

We repaired 18 decoys at an approximate cost of $225 or $12.50/decoy with this process. The cost included paint, primer, sandpaper, brushes, expanding foam, and 2x4s. The cost of labor and equipment was not included. A Boy Scout made decoy repair his Eagle Scout project. The low cost and ease of repairing old used decoys makes their use in a hunter skills trail an affordable option, and there is a notable change in the decoy quality (Fig. 7-8). These 3-D decoys will increase the effectiveness of any presentation made in a hunter education classroom or on a hunter skills trail.
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The ammunition for each is plentiful and economical. You may also use this as an opportunity to teach the differences between airgun optics compared to firearm optics, the differences between types of pellets and calibers of pellets and to reinforce other hunting safety skills.

Squirrel hunting is at the top of the list as one of the best ways to hone your hunting, marksmanship and woodsmanship skills. Additionally, in some states, you can take advantage of one of the longest hunting seasons of any regulated species with the least amount of competition for game.

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One of the cardinal rules of firearm safety, one you will find clearly posted at every formal shooting range, is to always wear eye protection while at the firing line. While no serious firearm enthusiast would argue the value of wearing shooting glasses, anyone who has had their shooting glasses fog over knows it is very tempting to take them off just long enough to wipe them dry or let them clear.

Removing your shooting glasses while on the firing line however, is not only unsafe, but also a good way to earn a stern lecture from the range safety officer. Moreover, “If you can’t see anything, and you take your eye protection off, you have no eye protection,” said Jimmy Bowman of Smith Optics. One way to avoid that is to step away from the firing line before breaking out the glasses towel. Another is to limit the chance of having your lenses fog up in the first place.

One of the keys to fog prevention is understanding why it happens in the first place. When Bob Smith founded Smith Optics in 1965, his main goal was to create a goggle that would not fog. After 49 years in the trenches, the folks at Smith believe they have the fog factor figured out. The bottom line is “fog cannot be eliminated, it can only be delayed.”

“We take a lot of steps to make sure our stuff won’t fog, but if somebody tells you their stuff will never fog, they’re lying. There is no such thing as 100-percent fog-proof,” said Bowman.

Fog becomes an issue when the temperature of your shooting lens and the humidity level between the lens and the shooter’s face cross the Dew Point. That is the point where temperature and humidity intersect, and below which water vapor in the air condenses on your lens.

There are three tools Smiths uses to mitigate fogging on shooting and other lenses: anti-fog lens coatings, quick-release features, and air flow. While the coatings help, the single best mitigation tool is air flow. Air flow can be gained by removing one’s shooting glasses or goggles but, as pointed out, that is not always practical. So the folks at Smith Optics created a unique passive air flow system for its goggles that permits air to flow in through small vents in the lens, across the face and then out through vents in the goggle structure.

Bottom line? Anti-fog coatings will help, but only for so long. If you want to reduce the chances that your shooting glasses will fog at an inopportune moment, select a pair that permits good air flow over the lens.
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NOTHING SHOTS FLATTER HITS HARDER OR IS MORE ACCURATE
A number of years ago, during one of our yearly hunter education instructor conferences I saw a chart, simply and statically drawn, depicting the trajectory of a bullet in flight. This keyed my thinking into the idea that there must be a way to show the same thing but in a more dynamic way.

My first thoughts were to somehow use strings and levers to be able to show the dependencies of each aspect of the flight on the others. Of course, this “Rube Goldberg” type contraption would have been unwieldy, to say the least. My first “practical” try at a feasible trainer was a pair of 6-foot pieces of plastic doing the same job. Although it worked, it was very clumsy and I sought a better way. I eventually came up with the present, much simpler form that I use in every Hunter Education class I teach. A family member simply suggested that I mount the parts on a board. That’s the way I use it today with my fellow instructors Steve Balbo and John Smith.

The aid itself is built on a piece of white-faced particle board. Two long, flat pieces of plastic represent two important features of bullet flight. One is the line of sight (LOS). It is shown as a strip of colored tape marked “Line of Sight” on one of the plastic strips. On the other plastic strip I glued a section of black painted plastic tubing to simulate a rifle barrel complete with front and rear “iron” sights. Another strip of plastic tape labeled “Line of Departure” (LOD) simulates the bullet’s path as it leaves the muzzle. Both lines pivot at the “front sight.” This is because with iron sights we properly focus our eyes on the front sight, effectively making it the point which is always on the target. Everything else changes in respect to that point.

Of course there must be a target which forms the ultimate aiming point. All the parts are held in place by Velcro pads as they’re repositioned as needed during a demonstration. One last thing must be accounted for: the actual trajectory for which some kind of tapered rod is needed. It must be tapered to simulate the bullet’s velocity continually decreasing from air resistance. Therefore the trajectory must continually steepen with range. Luckily a bunch of split bamboo fishing rod blanks, one of them thin and flexible enough, provided the ideal thin tip. This rod, when inserted into the simulated barrel provides the “trajectory.” One day, for my copyright application, the trainer had to have a name. My son came up with its present name, “Flying Lessons” which made me chuckle. That’s its present copyrighted name. The trainer turns out to be a very good analog of actual bullet flight and can simulate many aspects of it.

Since looking down the barrel to aim is impractical with the gun’s action closed and a loaded round in the chamber making that rather difficult. External
sights are provided. These must be aligned with the target to hit it. The trainer can be set up to have the two lines, LOS and LOD, set to converge at the target, along with the simulated trajectory. However, all being straight can only occur in outer space where the effects of gravity do not exist. In our real world gravity does exist and it is simulated through a tiny hole in the thin end of the “trajectory” rod. A three-ounce fishing sinker hooked into this hole drags the rod down, showing gravity’s effect on an actual trajectory. To compensate for the drop, the LOD can be tilted upward and held in position. The rear sight is now grossly out of position. The rear sight is raised by a taller strip of black painted plastic. This demonstrates the most important principle of sight adjustment: moving the rear sight in the direction the bullet impact must be moved.

A number of other aspects can be demonstrated, such as why a hunting rifle is sighted in to hit an inch high, say, at 100 yards. A helpful tool to use in concert with the training aid is a manufacturer’s published ballistic table. Any of the commercially available tables will do, but the best choice is the one containing the actual ammunition to be purchased by the student. In deer hunting as an example, the vital area is an 8″ circle, the heart, lung, liver area, 4″ above and 4″ below the aiming point. Ammunition data close to this can be found in most tables. Midpoint trajectory, on the trainer, represents the actual midpoint range as stated in the table. Suppose the only rifle range available for sighting is 100 yards. The trainer shows that at 100 yards the bullet will always be higher than LOS. How much higher is in the ballistic table. That’s where the group center must be located to maximize “point blank” range.

By rotating the board counterclockwise in its plane, and without making any other changes, to somewhere higher than 60° above horizontal can demonstrate that the bullet will print high at any elevated range. Continuing to 90° shows gravity’s effect to be zero although there is a slight velocity effect. Rotating the board clockwise to about the same angles shows that the effect is the same except a very slight tendency to increase velocity at this -90° angle.

I am proud to say that I have had frequent compliments on this training aid over the years.

For questions or comments, please email me at southbayhe@gmail.com.

Sol’s first exposure to firearms was in what he called, “a small ‘little known’ community on the East Coast – Brooklyn, NY.” There he had easy access to a world-famous amusement area called Coney Island. In those bygone days, the shooting galleries sported real guns with real ammunition and he got hooked with his first shot. He stated, “Shooting and hunting have, since then, been a most enjoyable hobby for me, and the firearms technicalities of very great interest.” His interest naturally led him to become a Hunter Education Instructor and he is in his 25th year as a volunteer with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. He also is an Endowment Member of the NRA.
The longer you spend time in the field in pursuit of game, the heavier and more awkward your binoculars can seem to become. A binocular often starts out feeling like just a pound or so, but after time spent hiking and climbing it suddenly begins to feel like the neck strap is cutting through the back of your neck. What little weight there is becomes a constant reminder. Your chest is sore and you are aggravated from the number of times the binocular has bounced off your sternum as you jumped a log, or stood quickly from a crawl. Let’s not forget to mention the constant chest thumping that gets delivered from all day hunting on horseback.

Binoculars with neck straps are often banged into a fallen log or bounced off a tree as hunters navigate obstacles, or especially while making a stalk or low crawl – very often spooking game at the worst possible moment. Another concern with the neck strap is getting up and down a treestand safely and quietly. What you need to eliminate such problems is to try a good Bino-Harness for your next hunt.

The Bino-Harness passes over your shoulders in an “X” pattern away from the neck, putting the weight and strain on the bones and muscles of your shoulders and back area, providing much better support and ultimately more comfort. The best harnesses attach to the binos via free-sliding fixtures which move up the strap as you raise them to view. With such a system held at eye level there is no strain at all. The straps are continuous, passing through the fixtures and around your back. This means that the binoculars are held much closer in to your chest at all times, no matter what you are doing. This eliminates sternum discomfort and provides a secure, easy way to carry and protect your binoculars as long as you need to be in the field. Harness up for Bino comfort…you will never go back to a neck strap.

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 Lawhern

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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.
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THE NEW AMBUSH "ALL SEASON SCENT" GIVES YOU A HIGH QUALITY DEER SCENT THAT DELIVERS YEAR-ROUND RESULTS—FROM A CALMING COVER SCENT TO CHALLENGING LOCAL BUCKS—AMBUSH IS ANOTHER VALUABLE WEAPON IN YOUR DEER HUNTING ARSENAL.

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Fall is the perfect time for hunting with a muzzleloader. Some hunters avoid this bonus season and miss out on the added opportunity to get afield to harvest some venison for the table. In many cases the reluctance to pick up the “smoke pole” is simply because of the required cleaning regiment.

Black powder and powder substitutes create thick and heavy fouling which absorbs moisture from the air. This will lead to corrosion due to the salts and nitrates used in making powder. Some black powder substitutes even have chlorates, which are extremely corrosive to steel. The other negative effect of this heavy fouling is the rapid decrease in accuracy if the bore is not swabbed after every 1 or 2 shots.

The good news is that there is help available for this process. Remington® has recently developed a new line of MZL™ gun care products. MZL™ is both a super-aggressive carbon eater that attacks hard, caked-on fouling and a unique die cut fiber-free synthetic patch system. Combined they make swabbing the bore and seating the bullet much easier for more time shooting and less trouble maintaining your muzzleloader.

At the range, the Remington® MZL™ Patch & Bore and MZL™ Patch & Lube offer a convenient pre-saturated patch system to maintain the bore’s peak performance. Be sure to swab the bore every 1-2 shots for an express clean and a noticeable difference in both accuracy and ease of loading. After hunting season or a long shooting session, use the MZL™ 4 oz Bore Cleaner on a brass brush to thoroughly scrub the bore from carbon, plastic, lead and copper fouling. The MZL™ Premium Synthetic Patches are perfect to clean, dry and lightly oil the bore for corrosion-free storage.

To view more innovative solutions in firearms maintenance, visit online at www.shopremingtoncountry.com.
In appreciation of outstanding and uniquely committed volunteer efforts of Hunter Education instructors around the United States, Gallery of Guns is excited to recognize the second set of six instructors crowned Champions of Hunter Education for their outstanding work in the Hunter Education field.

These instructors break the confines of average teaching, giving selflessly to the future of hunting and setting standards in their state for safe and ethical hunting teachings, and recruitment and retention of thousands of students.

John Bowe of Shushan, NY

In thirteen short years, John Bowe of Shushan, New York, has impacted the face of hunting in his state in a meaningful and loud way. John became a Sportsman Education instructor in 2002 and followed that up immediately in 2003 with certifications in Hunter and Bow Hunter Education. Within three short years, John had also completed requirements to become a Master Instructor. It became pretty clear in New York that John was serious about teaching safe hunting.

In his own Warren County and its neighbors, when someone mentions “outdoor mentor,” John’s name immediately rises to the top. Mentoring apprentices in three adjacent counties in addition to teaching his own six classes/year, John regularly brings many individuals into the program, who later become instructors. Mentoring is a massive job that has John patiently working with 6-8 apprentices annually (the standard is 2-3), helping them to learn all aspects of the NY program until all involved feel that the skill is mastered. Sixty instructors in nine years have been certified under John’s watch.

Breaking down barriers to access, John has also been instrumental in bringing both standard and unique programs to students in New York. For instance, in cooperation with other instructors, John helped establish the regular use of laser-enhanced guns for real-life shooting scenarios on properties that prohibit the use of actual firearms and for students under the age of 12 offering new options for a hands-on experience.

John was also instrumental in bringing hunter education and archery back to willing school systems in partnership with the Extended School Day program and physical education.

He also helped to cooperatively establish the Sportsman Education Super Weekend in Warren County to facilitate six classes on one location to meet the demands of busy families and instructors.

John has also continued to develop the 4-H Shooting Sports program in Warren Co, NY as well as the state, as the assistant director of Shooting Sports for NY. Many of the students who go through the Sportsman Education Program continue with John in the 4-H program to further develop their shooting skills.

Highlights
– Youth DEC Summer Education Camp Volunteer Instructor
– Assistant Director of Shooting Sports – NY
“Constant and never-ending improvement,” is the mantra of Chief Hunter Education Raymond Mowen of Royal Palm Beach, Florida. And in all Ray touches, the improvement is obvious.

Teaching tirelessly since 1991, Ray was the Chief Instructor of 62 classes in the last four years reaching 2,376 students and donating 1,180 hours of his personal time to Hunter Education.

Ray’s main objective is to create a classroom environment that offers students not just a certification, but also a hands-on, real-life experience. This experience begins with Ray’s partnership with the Everglades Youth Conservation Camp. Called “home” by Ray, this camp offers actual woods at the instructor’s disposal, giving them opportunities to get out into the field for things like tree stand safety, hunting from boats, and setting up safe hunting scenarios for effective hunter decision-making.

Classes are staffed with a uniformed wildlife officer that helps students understand what the FWC does, enhancing the program’s ability to teach not only safety, but also outdoors ethics.

Ray has assembled a team of over 20 folks that specialize in a number of hunting and outdoor disciplines and applications. They bring their equipment, their life experiences, and their ability to teach real-time to students, taking them out of a “book” environment, offering real-life foundational teaching around actual equipment use, responsible hunting, fair chase, shot placement, and maneuvering the woods in a responsible manner. They cross-train, tag-team, and ensure that no one burns out, and that they offer as a team, the absolute best Hunter Education experience possible.

Ray also avidly continues to recruit new instructors, and reaches out to the community. Working hand-in-hand with conservation and shooting organizations, Ray has helped fill their classes and enabled them to gain perspective on powerful ways to teach the outdoor experience.

A loving husband, father, and care-providing son to his parents, Ray still had room to put his heart and soul into his program in Florida, and it shows.

**Highlights**

- Six years active duty with the United States Marine Corp.—Intelligence
- President of the South Florida Fair Conservation Pavilion Exhibitors Group for 5 years
- Director of the South Florida Dog Hunters Association
- Founding member and Director of the Board of the Everglades Regional Dog Hunting Association
- Founder and President of the Florida Quail Federation
- Member of the Florida Airboat & Half-Track Association
- Member of the Moose Lodge and American Legion
- VA Medical Center volunteer
New Products for Your Students

A Quickly Adjustable, Stable Rest for Your Range Day

Designed to perform time after time, shot after shot, the Champion Enhanced Rifle Rest offers quick, precise elevation adjustment, giving shooters a stable, even rest. The adjustable feet offer a secure grip on any surface and produce a level platform to cradle any firearm – a great tool for giving your students confidence and accuracy on the range.

Features and Benefits
– High-grade rest for steady, repeatable performance
– Durable cast aluminum and steel tube construction
– Compatible with most magazine-fed rifles
– Ambidextrous design
– Rapid elevation adjustment, up to 2.25 inches

For more information, visit online at championtarget.com or ask your local Champion retailer.

Drag Smarter, Not Harder with the Game Glide Deer Sled

Altus Brands, LLC, the company for the outdoor enthusiast, is excited to introduce the new Game Glide Deer Sled. This ultra-light deer sled makes dragging your deer up to 46% easier, so you can bring home your next trophy deer with ease.

Made with the Tough&Slip sheet material, the Game Glide is both durable and recyclable. Best of all, the ultralight Game Glide fits into your pocket, so it’s always there when you need it.

With simple attachment in seconds using only three strings accommodating most mid-sized game, Game Glide is disposable, so there’s no need to scrub and sanitize for reuse.


iON CamoCAM is the First POV Camera Skinned in Official Realtree XTRA-Designed Camo

Outdoor sports enthusiasts can now shoot and share high-quality video images while benefitting from the compact, lightweight, fully-waterproof, easy-to-use iON CamoCAM, which now comes in Realtree™ XTRA.

CamoCAM boasts a 14-megapixel sensor capturing up to 60 frames per second HD video. Unique one-touch recording also allows silent activation of the camera with the flip of a switch, preventing scaring of game and allowing hunters to activate video in the thick of the hunt.

Skinned with official Realtree™ XTRA-designed camouflage, CamoCam also comes with a Realtree XTRA camouflage mount with easy-lock technology, making it perfect to affix to the barrel of a firearm or stabilizer bar on a compound bow.

Find complete details on the CamoCAM and iON’s full line of cameras, mounting kits and accessories at www.usa.ioncamera.com/camo-cam.
‘Be Weatherby’ Sweepstakes Offers Chance to Win Rifles, Shotguns

“Be Weatherby,” a new online sweepstakes, allows participants to vote for the Weatherby® ad that describes them best and enter a monthly drawing for a Vanguard® Series 2 or WBY-X™ rifle, or a PA-08™ pump shotgun. The ads, which can be viewed at www.beweatherby.com, feature the following Team Weatherby members and the character traits they exemplify: Ed Weatherby, president and CEO of Weatherby, Inc. – “Faithful”

Willie Bloomquist, Major League Baseball player with the Seattle Mariners – “Committed”

Luke Branquinho, Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association four-time World Champion Steer Wrestler – “Strong”

Brendon Clark, professional bull rider and 14-time qualifier for the Professional Bull Riders World Finals – “Courageous”

Jessie Duff, champion competitive pistol shooter – “Driven”

Chad Mendes, Ultimate Fighting Championship/Mixed Martial Arts featherweight title Contender – “Fearless”

Jessy Nelson, professional Motocross/Supercross rider – “Fast”

Bear Pascoe, National Football League player with the Atlanta Falcons – “Relentless”

Darryl Worley, platinum-selling country music artist – “Passionate”

One Weatherby gun will be given away each month to a random drawing winner in August, September, October, November and December. The Be Weatherby sweepstakes ends December 31, 2014. No purchase necessary. To be eligible, entrants must be a legal resident of the United States and at least 21 years of age. Those who are legally disqualified from possessing a firearm are not eligible. To vote and enter the sweepstakes, visit www.beweatherby.com. Drawing winners can choose from the following Weatherby guns: Vanguard Series 2 Synthetic rifle, Vanguard Series 2 Stainless rifle, WBY-X rifle, PA-08 Upland pump shotgun or PA-08 Synthetic pump shotgun.

For more on Team Weatherby, visit www.teamweatherby.com.

Founded in 1945, Weatherby, Inc.’s line features the new WBY-X™ products as well as the popular Vanguard® Series 2 and legendary Mark V® rifles (production and custom), Threat Response® shotguns and rifles, semi-auto and pump shotguns, premium ammunition and security/shooting accessories.

For more information, visit online at www.weatherby.com or Facebook at www.facebook.com/Weatherbyinc.
Currently, nineteen undergraduate college students receive scholarships from SCI Foundation. Five of these are classified as juniors or seniors at the time the awards are offered. SCI Foundation has two separate programs for undergraduate students. One is awarded to entering freshmen. The other is awarded to juniors that have declared a major field of study. Scholarship applications will be available January 2015. Applications are due April 15 to the SCI Foundation Tucson headquarters office. Email kcrehan@safariclub.org or call 1-520-620-1220 ext. 231 for an application.

Sables’ Hunting Heritage Scholarships were created by Sables, an SCI membership group within Safari Club. They created and raised funds that fully fund endowed scholarships at five universities. This collective endowed investment of $500,000 makes it possible for selected college students to realize their education dream in a field of wildlife ecology. Sables Hunting Heritage Endowed Scholarships are at Unity College in Maine, University of West Virginia, University of Idaho, University of Montana and Texas A&M University – Kingsville. Applications for Hunting Heritage Scholarships are submitted to the college or university. For more information about who to contact at the school send an email to: kcrehan@safariclub.org.●
L yman – a leader in the field of reloading and shooting accessories – has introduced a variety of cleaning hardware for hunters and shooters. Offering this new product line at special discounts to Hunter Educators, instructors can now buy everything from their new Universal Bore Guide Set, 26 Piece Jag and Brush Set or Universal Cleaning Rod System.

Liz Friedmann, Manager of Marketing Services states, “Lyman is proud to offer our products at a discount to instructors in appreciation for all they do to ensure that the next generation of hunters and shooters is safe and successful.”

**Universal Bore Guide Set**

Designed to direct and center the cleaning rod and jag through the chamber, this set protects both the chamber and the bore from abrasion by the cleaning rod during regular cleaning. “Universal” means that this set will fit most bolt actions and even includes a special adapter sleeve for the AR-15.

**Complete 26 Piece Jag and Brush Set**

Lyman’s new 26 Piece Jag & Brush Set keeps your bore cleaning necessities protected and organized in a durable, hinged storage container. Organized by caliber, this set has slots for each jag and brush from .17 to .45 calibers.

**Universal Cleaning Rod System**

Lyman’s new Universal Cleaning Rod System covers all handguns and rifles with two 12” and two 36” rods that thread into the ergonomic swivel handle. Chemical resistant, the rods are machined from spring steel and have a tough, non-abrasive proprietary epoxy coating. They are threaded to mount standard 8-32 jags and brushes like those in Lyman’s new 26 Piece Complete Jag and Brush Set.

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**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.

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

Other Instructor Discounts are available from the following Journal partners:
Consider it Another American Revolution. The 100% American-made Ruger American Rifle® is now paired with the 100% American-made Redfield® Revolution™ 4-Plex™ Riflescope, creating a new American icon. Available in most popular calibers, the rifle maintains all the features of the full-sized Ruger American Rifle®. The riflescope offers resettable stainless steel finger-click Accu-Tac™ adjustments, 4-Plex™ reticle for combination of speed and long-range precision and a Rapid Target Acquisition eyepiece. Complete with the Redfield® full lifetime warranty, the Revolution™ offers best-in-class durability, image quality and field of view—all in a waterproof, fog proof and shock proof package.
FIVE REASONS WHY GANDER MOUNTAIN IS AMERICA'S PREMIER SHOOTING SPORTS DESTINATION.

1. WE'RE FIREARMS EXPERTS.
   Our associates working in our Firearms Super Centers are firearms experts. So whether you are an experienced instructor shopping for yourself, or have recommended Gander Mountain to your students who may be new to firearms, our sales associates will be able to provide expert advice and equip everyone properly. And Gander Mountain has all the firearms brands that you know and trust like Sig Sauer, Winchester, Smith & Wesson, Remington and many, many more. We also have the best selection of equipment. Whatever you need, whatever your shooting sport, you'll find it at Gander Mountain.

2. WE HAVE THE LARGEST SELECTION OF FIREARMS
   Not only does Gander Mountain have the most firearms brand names, we also have the largest selection – over 5,600 new and used firearms. So you can buy, sell or trade. Whatever you are interested in, our firearms experts can help you find the right firearm, ammunition and shooting sports gear that you need.

3. WE RECEIVE OUR AMMUNITION SHIPMENTS FIRST
   When you're looking for hard-to-find ammunition, Gander Mountain is your best bet. We receive our shipments first, so if there's a particular caliber of ammo you're looking for, we're the most likely to have it in stock.

4. OUR AMMO CLUB EMAILS KEEP YOU WELL INFORMED.
   When you sign up for our Ammo Club, you'll receive email notifications that allow you to see scheduled shipments to our stores, check current supplies of ammo and receive special offers. For people who are very serious about their shooting sports, it's a must-have service, and it's entirely free.

5. IT'S ALL UNDER ONE ROOF
   And one more reason Gander Mountain is America's premier store for firearms: convenience. We have all this in one place. We're your one-stop shop for everything you need for shooting sports.

For the store nearest you, or to shop online, visit GanderMtn.com