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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 lifetime enjoyment of hunting and the shooting sports.

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As hunter education instructors, we want to believe our teaching activities have an impact on our students. That is essentially why we give up our weekends and freely volunteer all those long hours. Well, I can say that, beyond a shadow of a doubt, hunter education instructors have made an enormous impact on the students they have taught.

Before hunter education became mandatory in Tennessee, the hunting incident rate averaged 4.43 hunting incidents per 100,000 licensed hunters. Hunter education was mandated in Tennessee in 1985 and now Tennessee averages 1.79 hunting incidents per 100,000 licensed hunters. Hunting incident rates across the nation mirror the incident rates in Tennessee. Hunter education programs have made a big impact across the nation.

I always tell new instructors that, undoubtedly, something they say in class will save someone’s life. I have heard testimony after testimony from hunter education students that reinforce this fact. I have heard students say things such as, “I double-checked the action of my unloaded firearm and it was loaded,” or “I tripped and fell and remembered that the most important thing I could do was to control the direction of my muzzle.”

Of course, firearm safety is not the only aspect of hunter education that impacts student behavior; ethics and attitude of the instructor also leave lasting impressions on students. Instructors who model good hunting ethics and abide by all the game laws will leave a long-lasting effect on their students. Students remember their instructors; that is why it is so important for us to model good behavior and impeccable ethics in and out of the classroom. It is a little overwhelming when you actually think about the impact that instructors have on their students. I realize that instructors don’t take this responsibility lightly.

Webster’s dictionary defines impact as “to have a strong effect on something or someone or to hit something with great force.”

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I have to admit, I have not taken a big game animal with a rifle in the past ten years, but have chosen instead to sit with my son or daughter and their friends to kibitz, teach, learn and enjoy their experiences taking exotics, whitetailed deer, hogs, javelinas (collared peccaries) or turkeys. As a “huntmaster” in the Texas Youth Hunting Program (tyhp.org), I have also guided and mentored many young hunters and their parents, and many adults as well. My personal motivations have me pretty much in the “Sportsman Stage” or, as I took the liberty to add to our Texas hunter education manual in the late eighties, the “Give Back” (6th) stage — to reflect hunter education and mentor contributions beyond the “Five Stages of Hunting.” (Dr. Bob Norton, PhD 2007. The Hunter: Developmental Stages and Ethics)

When I do hunt, it is either with shotgun or bow. During such hunts I typically revert back to the “Method” or other phases—especially when I desire to cook a wild game dinner or two. I especially love to hunt feral hogs with bow, and doves, waterfowl and upland game when I can get away—all in the presence of friends and family—a ‘must’ for me on my hunting trips these days. It’s especially rewarding to watch a friend’s or family member’s dog at work in the field, either pointing or retrieving, as it reminds me of the years rearing my two Brittany spaniels on quail and pheasants—some of my fondest memories.

My favorite hunt nowadays is an archery elk hunt in Colorado, which I was privileged to enjoy this past September.

Elk hunting with bow and arrow has been both a passion and a curse of sorts. The passion is spending time in high aspen meadows and lodgepole/spruce woods—wild places in which I spent much of my youth. We often hike 4-8 miles a day, making ‘stands’ or calls every quarter mile or so. I hunt with my brothers, in-laws and friends from Colorado and Texas. It is the companionship that I most relish...the stories, tales and jokes—reliving each hunting (and even bird watching) moment that day. Of course, hunting from my eldest brother’s cabin is a real luxury, too—coming ‘home’ to a warm meal, shower and soft bed (versus the primitive tent camping experiences of my college/post-college days).

The curse has been not actually taking an elk (limiting-out or trophy stage?). After years of close encounters and even
guiding or helping others field dress and/or pack out their elk and other game, the mighty wapiti has eluded my skills, always making me feel, “Next year – it’s my turn!” I’ve taken pronghorn, mule deer, white-tailed deer, coyote, grouse, hogs and peccary with bow and arrow. You would think elk would be easier. It’s not been the case for me. As I relive calling in, but not taking the mighty beast in past years, I reflect on what it is that keeps escaping me. I’ve come to the conclusion that elk, for me, really are the “gray ghosts” of the woods. A figment of my imagination…something that haunts my soul each year. Yet every time I think about bow hunting the majestic, bugling bull, it brings a smile to my face. Maybe next year will be my time to break the curse—but if not, I get to keep trying until I can hike in high country pastures no more.

The latter is what haunts me most!

Cutting wood for winter fireplaces is just one of the many aspects of companionship with relatives and friends at elk camp.

Hunting with our kids is what motivates many of us as parents in the ‘Sportsman’ phase or hunter education instructors/mentors in the ‘Give Back’ stage – Sarah (left) and Ryan (right).
Mr. Steve Hall,
Your column on the giants in hunter safety and hunter education was very well written. You gave credit to many of those who were important to the safety record and included some Colorado names. I have been a Colorado Hunter Safety Instructor for forty years and have had the honor and privilege to work with some great state coordinators from Oliver Franklin, to Bruce McCloskey, to Bob Caskey, to Mike McLain, and to Mike Stone.
Each of these individuals made specific improvements and worked well with the volunteer instructors:
A) Oliver Franklin: gave great support to new instructors
B) Bruce McCloskey: listened to instructors and took direct advice when converting from the old state test to the new state test
C) Bob Caskey: incorporated behavior style recognition and some European concepts of respect in hunting to move Colorado from the short form Hunter Safety to the Hunter Education Certification program which resulted in decreasing fatalities and injuries
D) Mike McLain: brought about more recognition to instructors for their service
E) Mike Stone: one of the very best educator coordinators who had a professional approach and a personality that made all instructors reach higher levels. Mike was also recognized by the IHEA as the member of the year.

All of the above past State Coordinators were in a unique class because their behavior incorporated the characteristics of leaders and educators. They all had the ability to listen and to hear the input from instructors. Many can “listen,” but few can actually “hear” as well as did Franklin, McCloskey, Caskey, McLain, and Stone.
In more recent years there seems to have been a shift occurring from a characteristic of “leadership” to “management.” Many years ago Peter Drucker, a business analyst, studied organizations and defined the difference between a “manager” and a “leader.” It is my observation that shifting to a “badge heavy manager style” from what has earlier been an “educator leadership style” will overall negate the safety achievements of hunter safety and hunter education.
Drs. Norton and Jackson did accurately assess the “Behavior Styles of Hunters” in 1977. Their study has remained valid to this day although I anticipate that a “mentor” category may eventually be incorporated. I believe it is important to both the IHEA and the states to accurately assess the need for real personnel leadership styles in order to maintain the forward progress in hunting safety programs for all states. That will be even more important in the future as wildlife commission membership appointments do not always include anyone with a hunter safety instructor experience and background.

Paul Gresky, Colorado Master Hunter Education Certification Instructor, Fort Collins, Colorado

Thanks for your comments, Paul! I could have easily mentioned more ‘giants’ including hunter education instructors like you who have served in each administrator’s tenure and recognize the shifts or changes that agencies and staffs have undergone, especially in this ever-more-technical age. Thanks too, for mentioning Bruce McCloskey and Mike McLain, other mentors of mine who I inadvertently omitted. We referred to the ‘Mentor’ category as the “Give Back” stage—but whatever you call it—that those that ‘give back’ their hunting and shooting sport knowledge, skills and time are the true GIANTS IN HUNTER EDUCATION! I expect today’s administrators and instructors have much different audience motivations such as handheld technologies, but I firmly believe they will, again, rise to meet such demands. Again, power to them!
–Steve Hall, IHEA-USA Executive Director
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Survival Tips—What to Do When You’re Lost  
Article and Photos by Peter Kummerfeldt

Becoming lost is the preeminent reason for people having to spend a night out that they hadn’t planned on, so before you begin the process of trying to unravel the mystery of where you are, you must first be able to control your immediate actions. The fear you are experiencing can quickly become full-blown panic if you don’t take control of the situation. Here’s a proven technique to employ when things don’t seem right and the adrenaline is beginning to surge:

SIT DOWN. GET OFF YOUR FEET

The urge to keep moving when you are no longer sure which direction is the bearing that will get you out can be very difficult to control. When confronted with frightening situations, adrenalin and cortisone will flood through your body, putting you into a “freeze, flight, or fight” response that sometimes gets out of control. You may feel your body temperature rising. You will begin to sweat. Your breathing may become rapid and shallow (hyperventilation) and you may feel the urge to move. Sitting down is the first step in gaining control of yourself and the situation you find yourself in. You can’t walk when you are sitting on your behind and that’s a good thing!

ADMIT IT

Say, “I’m lost” out loud so that you can hear it. Face reality. You are going to spend a night out. Hopefully you are prepared to make it an “inconvenient” night out, not a “life threatening” one. Say to yourself, out loud, “I’m OK. I can survive. I know what needs to be done. I will be rescued.”

TAKE SOME DEEP BREATHS

When you hyperventilate, you are exhaling carbon dioxide at an abnormal rate. Carbon dioxide is the trigger that stimulates you to breathe. When you hyperventilate your organs, particularly your brain, do not get the oxygen they need to function properly. Gaining control of your breathing is the second important step in controlling the urge to panic. Slow your breathing down. Breath deep. Oxygenate your brain!

HAVE A DRINK OF WATER

A drink of water has a very calming effect on an otherwise panicked person. It “washes the taste of fear out of your mouth.” Don’t worry if the water hasn’t been disinfected—drink it anyway. The doctors can fix the medical issues related to drinking water that has not been boiled, chemically disinfected or filtered. What they can’t fix is “dead!” In North America you will die sooner from the complications of dehydration than you will from Giardia, for example.

SIT TIGHT FOR 30 MINUTES

It takes at least thirty minutes for the effects of adrenalin and cortisone to recede from your system to the point that your head clears and you can begin to think clearly again. Once your head clears you will have a much better chance of making good decisions—decisions that may affect the outcome of the situation.
THINK
Engage your brain! It is your best survival tool. Recall your previous training. Mentally connect with your family—they are a powerful reason to live. Think through each step in the process before you take action. If you can’t make it work in your head, the probabilities are that it won’t work in the real world!

OBSERVE
What are the current threats to your safety? What resources did you bring with you to help you survive? What resources can you obtain from the environment?

PLAN
What needs to be done first? Next? What can be put off until later? Assess your medical condition and the condition of your companions. The sequence of events could be: medical care, fire, shelter, signals and water but your situation may drive a different sequence of actions.

IMPLEMENT YOUR PLAN BUT BE FLEXIBLE
- Perform any medical care that is necessary
- In cold conditions build a fire quickly while you still have hand dexterity
- Seek or make shelter
- Make ready your signals
- Locate sources of water

Getting lost is not the end of the world. If you work or recreate in the outdoors, the odds are that you will get lost sooner or later. The reasons for this are many, however regardless of the cause, the end result is the same—a period of confusion, disorientation, uncertainty, doubt and, for many, panic. George Carlin’s, (the comedian) comment that “we should teach people to panic since that’s what they going to do when they get lost,” has a ring of truth to it. Everybody is going to panic to one degree or another. It’s what you do in those first moments of panic that may well determine the eventual outcome of the event.

Emergency Shelters
If we are to believe the survival manuals and the “how-to-survive” articles published in the popular outdoor press, building a shelter from natural materials in an emergency should be a piece of cake. After all, look at all the trees, bushes, bark and other natural materials you have got to work with. Based on what we read, there should always be a convenient hollow tree, rocky overhang or cave for a person in trouble to use for shelter. It’s strange how, when you are not in trouble, any number of suitable shelters can be found, but when you really need one—they are in short supply. Murphy’s Law, I guess!

I have always believed that if you are going to need a shelter, you had better have the materials you need with you to build it. I believe it is impossible to build a waterproof, windproof shelter from natural materials. Some of you may take issue with that statement but consider this: when does a survivor first realize they need a shelter? Usually with the realization that they are going to spend a night out that they hadn’t planned on. It’s late in the day (maybe even dark already), the temperature is dropping, the wind’s picking up, and it’s beginning to rain. This is not the time to be scrambling around trying to find the natural materials you need to build your home for the night—especially if you are injured! To build an effective shelter from natural materials requires skill, time, natural resources, and a fully functional survivor. These commodities are often in short supply in an emergency.

So what is available with which to shelter yourself?

Mylar space blankets and bags
Mylar space blankets are lightweight, inexpensive, compact and largely USELESS in an emergency. Again, consider the scenario I laid out earlier—it’s late in the day, cold, rainy, windy and the survivor is injured or hypothermic or both. Space blankets are difficult
to get out of the package, they are difficult to unfold and drape around yourself, especially if you are one-handed in a windy situation. They are usually too small for an adult and require the constant use of at least one of your hands to keep the blanket wrapped around yourself. They are very noisy, which might preclude you from hearing the rescuers, and tear easily if nicked or punctured. Bags made out of Mylar are also available, however, other than the fact that they are a “bag,” these devices suffer from all of the same flaws that blankets suffer from. I do not recommend products made from Mylar plastic for emergency shelters. Similar bags and blankets sold under the SOL label are much tougher and do not tear when punctured. I recommend them.

**Thermal blankets** are similar to space blankets but are made from heavier material reinforced with fiberglass threads and grommets in each corner. Thermal blankets can be used as a body wrap but once again, depending on the size of the person, they are often too small to completely protect an adult. Some survivors have attempted to use a thermal blanket as a shelter roof by tying off lines to each corner and stretching the blanket between various anchor points. In benign conditions this may work, but in windy conditions or with snow loading, the grommets pull out very quickly and the blanket is destroyed.

**Tube tents** can also be pulled over the body to provide a quick shelter from the elements or they can be used as a “pup tent.” To erect a tube tent shelter, tie off a line about chest high to an anchor point (a tree), run the line through the length of the tube tent and tie it off to a second anchor point. The tent is then spread out along the length of the line. The height of the horizontal line above the ground should be such that the tent can spread out enough to accommodate the occupant. The plastic that tube tents are made from comes in a variety of thicknesses. With one popular brand the plastic is only one mil thick and tears very easily. The thickness of the plastic should be at least three mils – four mils is better to better meet the needs of a person having to spend the night out.

**Tarps.** Sheets of plastic, painter’s drop cloths, canvas or other similar materials can be used to erect a wide variety of effective survival shelters. “Blue Crinkly” tarps are a readily available, inexpensive product from which emergency shelters can be quickly built. These tarps, which can be purchased from most hardware stores, come in a variety of sizes and are usually blue on both sides with grommets in each corner and at intervals along the sides. An eight- by ten-foot tarp is needed to provide an adult protection. Tarps of this size weigh about twenty six ounces and can be rolled up into a tube six inches in diameter by twelve inches long, which makes them very convenient to carry on the outside of a daypack or fanny pack. Tie ten feet of parachute line to each corner grommet before you go outdoors to expedite erecting the shelter when time is short.

Tarps can be erected in a number of styles depending on the weather conditions that the survivor is exposed to. To erect a lean-to tarp shelter, first select a line long enough to stretch between two trees far enough apart for the tarp to be stretched tight. Using a Timber Hitch, tie off one end of a line, about chest height, to an anchor. Then, rather than passing the line through the grommet eyes, insert a bend in the line through the grommet eye and place a short stick through the eye in the line. Repeat this process for each grommet, stretching the tarp tight each time. With the tarp attached to the line, tie off the other end of the line to the second tree, again stretching the line as tight as possible. The lower edge of the tarp is then pegged to the ground or anchored with large stones or tied to a log. When making pegs, select a length of wood 1½ to 2 inches in diameter and about three feet long.
BE COMMITTED

Whether it's in the batter's box or in a blind, there is no room for error. That's why I shoot Weatherby.

WILLIE BLOOMQUIST
Professional Baseball Player

Using a saw, square off the ends, then make one 45º cut at the midpoint of the stick. In this way, one cut produces two pegs, both of which are sharp enough to drive into the ground using a mallet.

If possible, orient the shelter so that the lower edge points into the prevailing weather, however if a fire is to be used in front of the lean-to, the front of the shelter should be parallel to the prevailing wind. Oriented in this manner, the wind will carry the smoke away from the shelter rather than into it.

When using material without grommets, use improvised buttons instead of cutting a hole in the tarp to attach a line. A small smooth pebble, pine cone or similar object is placed under the material and bunched up as shown in the accompanying photographs. Using a Girth or Clove Hitch, attach a line to the “button” that is created. This method of attaching a line to a tarp is much stronger than tying a line through a hole cut in the fabric and will not tear out nearly as quickly.

**Plastic bag shelters.** Large, heavy grade (3-4 mil) orange or blue plastic 55-gallon drum liners make good short-term, emergency shelters. It may be difficult to warm up and dry out after becoming cold and wet and consequently you need a shelter that you can crawl under, or better still, crawl into quickly when weather conditions deteriorate. A large plastic bag serves this purpose very well. Totally encapsulating yourself inside a plastic bag is not a good idea. Apart from the need for oxygen, the water vapor contained in the air you exhale and your perspiration will condense on the inner surfaces of the bag and the occupant can get quite wet. To minimize this problem, cut an opening in the closed end along one folded edge of the bag, just large enough to allow you to pass your head through. The bag is then passed over your head until your

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**Teaching Suggestions to Instructors:**

- Have a student demonstrate wrapping up in a space blanket. Limit them to the use of their non-dominant hand/arm
- Puncture the space blanket fabric with the tip of a pencil or nick the edge of the blanket to demonstrate how flimsy the material is when damaged
- Emphasize the importance of having a waterproof, windproof material to use as a reliable shelter rather than believing a satisfactory shelter can be found or erected
- Emphasize the use of clothing as a shelter
- Demonstrate the value of a large blue or orange plastic bag for an expedient emergency shelter

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face aligns with the hole. When creating the hole, cut the plastic at ninety degrees to the fold to reduce the likelihood of the bag tearing along the seam.

Being able to protect oneself from the onslaughts of the weather is a fundamental survival skill. Not to do so is an invitation to die from hypothermia! Too many people venture into the outdoors without carrying a shelter or the materials to make a shelter, thinking that they will be able to build one from whatever natural materials they find. Many of these same people find out too late that the clothing they are wearing is adequate when they are active but totally inadequate when they are stationary. Sheltering, i.e. defending your body core temperature from dropping below 98.6º F, begins with selecting appropriate clothing. With good clothing, you may not need any other shelter. With inadequate clothing you had better have something in your gear to protect yourself from precipitation, wind, and temperature extremes.

In the final analysis, the only shelter you can count on is the shelter provided by your clothing. Pick it carefully! The only heat that you can count on is the heat your body is producing. Don’t waste it!

Peter Kummerfeldt Bio – Peter is the owner of, and chief instructor for OutdoorSafe Inc., an organization that conducts outdoor safety skills seminars, survival training programs and travel safety seminars throughout the United States. In 1992, concerned with the number of accidents that were occurring in the outdoors each year he started the Survival Consultant Group which later became OutdoorSafe Inc. and has since addressed over 40,000 people as the featured speaker at numerous seminars, conferences and national conventions. His efforts have reduced the number of people becoming injured, ill or dying in the outdoors each year and have heightened traveler’s safety awareness especially when traveling overseas. Today he is renowned for his informative programs, his highly developed speaking skills and his ability to work with federal, state and local government agencies, as well as numerous civic organizations, schools and other groups interested in receiving quality wilderness safety training.

Website: www.outdoorsafe.com
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Rob looked over at me since, after moving to Texas years ago and giving up my Club membership to open up a spot for Jim, he knew that a Texan would know how to pronounce ‘pecan.’ (I didn’t take the bait.)

Originally chartered in 1905 and thought to be the oldest hunting and fishing club in Colorado, my grandfather joined the “Lake,” as we came to call it in our childhood after it reopened in 1946 (closed down during WWII). Passing on hunting and fishing lore, knowledge, and skills was the passion of many of the charter members at the Lake, just like it is for many of the current members and hunter education instructors today. Hunting clubs created hunters then; they create new hunters today—“continuing the hunting heritage worldwide!”

But are hunting clubs a dying pastime?

To answer that, one needs simply to look at land use patterns in the United States, and especially along the Colorado Front Range. Any one of the 50 paying members of Foster Lake, not too far from Longmont, and a few “elders” that still manage to get up to the Lake, now place their goose decoys near pits in full view of a new school built fairly close to the property boundaries.
The “creep” of an entire housing development has crawled to fields adjacent to Foster Lake. Talk of “shutting her down” and selling out to land developers worries members at clubhouse meetings each year. It also gets tougher for club members to find the time to get to the Lake to enjoy the outdoor experiences due to work, their kids’ soccer and football and the thousand other duties in their daily lives.

But on this morning, opening day of the Colorado waterfowl season, Jim Horvat, Rob Starks, and a handful of other members did manage to escape the hectic pace to see if there were early season ducks or local Canada geese milling about.

Traditions abound at the Lake. The same old board depicting duck blind locations graces the wall of the main cabin where, one night in front of the poker players, my brothers and I dumped a gunny sack full of toads onto the floor. This was after the men tried to get rid of us kids by introducing us to “snipe hunting.” Luckily, one of my older brothers knew about the ruse and we double-crossed them. Our wiggly sack certainly raised the eyebrows and curiosity of the older men. We giggled wildly after we dumped the amphibians and bolted out the cabin door into the dark night. We could hear a much younger Ray Bolig, the most senior member today, yelling at us, but doubled over with laughter.

Today’s members are a hard-working bunch, but they have the same thing in common as do most club members across this country—they live to hunt! Doctors, insurance agents, school teachers, engineers and drink distributors, you name it, many professions are typically represented on opening day, an hour before legal shooting time—the time for drawing cards and selecting blind locations. ‘Members only’ is the rule on opening weekend, though guests and especially youngsters are encouraged...
Dr. Zach Shpall (r), Mike Smith (back) and Mike Thompson (left) with their opening morning harvest, aided by their trusty “warm-blooded, four-legged, retrieving device.”

every other day throughout the season. On this day, Jim and Rob selected blind #3, though later they ended up on the other side of the cove. Weeks before, during the semiannual ‘work day,’ members were unable to install the blind due to unusually high water this year.

As it turned out, the shoreline they selected proved effective. The only flight of Canadas that flew into the Lake noticed the floater goose decoys and flew directly overhead of Jim and Rob, each of whom took a nice honker. They also took some teal, a wigeon and a couple of mallards—all in all, a fair opener for the pair of college buddies.

Another duo, ‘the Mikes,’ took ten ducks down on the river including a pair of wood ducks, a nice prize for early season. But they also were visited by a local park ranger from the public area adjacent to Club. This was due to a park patron’s complaint of a dog not being on a leash. It turned out that it was Mike’s lab retrieving ducks from the river. The experience reminded me of yet another casualty of urban sprawl—public ‘attitudes’ and perceptions. The ranger apparently shook his head, politely checked each Mikes’ license and went back to let her know that the hunting Lab was on a neighboring property.

For several hundred years, hunting clubs have long maintained the American outdoor traditions of hunting and fishing across the United States. Clubs run the gamut from elite, high-cost lodges and memberships to local, affordable leases secured for friends and family members. American presidents and congressmen and women to working families frequent hunting clubs and carry on rich hunting and shooting traditions. More and more though, clubs are closing down, due mainly to buy-outs of prime water property for housing, energy projects and other developments. Those that are managing to preserve such locations find themselves addressing higher costs, competition for space, access issues and noise and other complaints from ex-urbanites who have moved to proximal areas.

Despite such woes, hunting clubs like Foster Lake continue the spirit of what was, what is and what can be in the future. I was told once that we almost lost the Club back in the sixties, and that it was my grandfather that went up to the Lake and met at the dinner table with Mr. Anderson, the farmer and landowner. As kids, we liked Mr. Anderson. He would grow two rows of sweet corn next to the cabin, just for us members. After some negotiations and a supposed bottle of whiskey, the Club was restored. I did not know it then, but my grandpa would decide my and another brother’s career around the farm table that night.

We can only hope that the Club lives on through future challenges and enables new generations of Front Range denizens to go hunting—for an entire lifetime!

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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

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.
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IHEA-USA Partners with NSSF® to Support Project ChildSafe® Program

The International Hunter Education Association (IHEA-USA), the world leader in developing safe and responsible hunters since 1949, has become a promotional supporter of NSSF’s Project ChildSafe® program.

“Respect for firearms is an integral part of responsible hunting,” said Steve Hall, Executive Director of IHEA-USA. “Safe hunting begins with hunter education, and firearm safety is foundational to that education. We’re joining forces with NSSF and Project ChildSafe to emphasize the importance of responsible firearm use and storage in the field or in the home with hunters and their families.”

Through its partnership with Project ChildSafe, IHEA-USA will help spread the message of “Own It? Respect It. Secure It.” and “Store Your Firearms Responsibly” by working with its statewide directors and hunter education instructors through its newsletter, website and social media platforms.

“IHEA-USA is a vital organization helping to promote safe enjoyment of hunting and the shooting sports, and we are extremely pleased to have them involved in echoing the Project ChildSafe messages of personal responsibility and firearm safety,” said Steve Sanetti, President and CEO of NSSF. “Proper storage is the number one way to help prevent firearm accidents, and we’re proud to have IHEA-USA’s help in sharing important firearm safety reminders with hunter education instructors and hunters.”

Hunting with a BDC Turret vs. the Ballistic Reticle

With the advent of laser rangefinding technology, superior bullet designs, improved factory ammunition and the choices of many excellent out-of-the-box rifles in about any price category, the decision to outfit your new long range hunting rig with the best sighting device is a decision that you have already faced or will most likely have to consider in the near future. Two popular possibilities include the BDC turret or the ballistic reticle.

The BDC turret has some very positive characteristics. The main benefit is that no matter what magnification you have your riflescope set to, your center crosshair remains zeroed. This is especially helpful if shooting conditions are affected by heat mirage or low light. Today’s quality custom turret manufacturers offer knobs that are extremely precise, well-designed and easy to read for fast dial to target distance. Some negative possibilities would include unwanted movement if the turret is not lockable, or forgetting to reset the knob from one encounter to the next and therefore blowing a close shot by assuming the knob was back to your original zero setting. Spooking game with extra body movement at critical shooting times, or not being able to see the dial clearly in low light conditions can also be troubling. Of course, windage turrets will require the purchase of a second knob as the elevation turret does not offer any hold reference point(s) for windage.

Ballistic reticles, on the other hand, allow for much lower profile turrets and often contain reference points for both elevation and windage. Quality-designed reticles are fast on target as there is no need for hand movement or to dope clicks before the shot. Ballistic reticles also don’t require the necessity to read the elevation dial, so you can focus on the quality glass and the benefits of low light transmission that you paid for. Numbered holdover bars reduce the chance of error by accidently using the incorrect bar in a stressful or heart-pounding situation. The main drawback is that ballistic reticles are often designed for long distance targets and a well-designed reticle will have a finer subtension, which can sometimes be difficult to see in very low light.

There are many options available and none are the perfect-world solution when considering every variable encountered while hunting or shooting afield. Pick the system that is most comfortable for you, keep your awareness level up at all times and only shoot within the means of your ability. Shoot straight, be safe and get out there.
Always identify your target. Simple as black and white. Right?

Thanks to hunter education and blaze orange, hunting today is relatively safe, yet there are numerous stories every year of hunters being mistaken for game and shot by a fellow hunter. Two out of three victims are shot by a member of their own hunting party. Around half are wearing blaze orange and the average distance from shooter to victim is 40 yards.

Contrary to popular belief, these accidents often involve experienced, responsible hunters who knew the rules and always thought they identified the target.

Unconscious factors such as inattentional blindness and confirmation bias mean any hunter (no matter how experienced or careful) is capable of making a deadly mistake. The mind can effectively trick the eyes into seeing what it expects to see—or ignore what it doesn’t expect to see. Ironically, hunting accidents caused by incorrect target identification are more likely to involve experienced hunters.

Additionally, unconscious error is a well-documented cause of death and injury in high-stakes occupations such as aviation and medicine, and it affects everyone. It’s not about having a bad attitude or being negligent, it’s simply about how our minds work. A responsible attitude and best intentions can’t prevent errors we don’t know we’re making.

For hunters, an effective way to guard against unconscious error is to use an impartial, external intervention. This is why Hunter Safety Lab from New Zealand developed the world’s first Hunter Safety Detection System called IRIS. This award-winning InfraRed Retrorreflector Identification System gives the shooter an audio-visual warning if they inadvertently target another hunter using the system.

The IRIS sensor mounts on a scope or shotgun barrel and uses a wide-angle infrared laser to detect special infrared reflective patches on Hunter Safety Lab’s IRIS-detachable vests and caps. The detection range has been optimized for between 10 and 100 yards—in which the majority of hunting accidents occur.

Like any piece of safety equipment, IRIS provides an additional degree of protection but will never replace common sense or the basic rules of hunter safety. No device can tell the difference between a human and an animal, or indicate whether it’s safe to shoot. That remains the hunter’s responsibility. What IRIS can do however, is warn a hunter when it is not safe to shoot in situations where they’re falsely convinced they’ve targeted an animal.

Considering the majority of fatalities are caused by a member of the same party hunting in the same area, this is where the system will be of most benefit. IRIS is also useful for teaching muzzle awareness in a classroom or range environment.

A pack containing an IRIS sensor, IRIS-detachable vest (in either blaze orange or camouflaged), 1-inch scope mount, and five self-adhesive accessory patches retails for $399. Hunter Education Instructor discount and IHEA membership rebate applies. Find out more and purchase online at www.huntersafetylab.com.


The IRIS sensor provides an audio-visual alert to the shooter if they mistakenly target another hunter using the system.
It wasn’t until 1970 when a 10 percent excise tax on pistols and revolvers was amended into the Act, which allowed for funding hunter education and shooting range development. Another amendment followed in 1972 that placed an 11 percent excise tax on archery equipment providing additional funding. These amendments opened the door for state agencies to begin investing in shooting range facilities for recreational shooters.

It’s no mystery to shooting sports enthusiasts that finding a safe and convenient place to shoot is becoming more difficult. As our population continues to increase, areas that were once remote are now residential and commercial developments. Even in South Dakota with a population of only 845,000 there are areas in the state where finding a safe shooting range nearby can be a challenge.

It is estimated that there are over 20 million recreational shooters in the U.S. As the popularity of shooting sports continues to grow, there is a real need to provide safe and friendly shooting ranges for the public and there will be a continued demand for shooting ranges available to the public.
Competitors at the top of their game have learned the vital importance of hard focus on their target.

The proper visual technique is to pick a specific target or bird and focus intently on it. If it’s a game bird one’s focus should be on its head (1).

On clay targets one should focus on the leading edge (2).

This intense focus should be maintained through the delivery of the shot including follow-through. For the hunter this means staying focused on one bird until you see it take the shot and then go after the second bird for a double. Likewise the target shooter should maintain focus on the first target until it starts to break apart or it is clear that it was missed. Using intense specific focus will result in far fewer misses.

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A recent look at national Hunting Incident data (2005 through 2012) indicate that Falls from Elevated Stands are the most common types of hunting incidents, followed closely by careless handling of firearms and swinging on game outside of a safe zone-of-fire. As hunter education instructors, the most important learning objectives that we teach deal with safe firearm handling, hunting and outdoor safety. Among the list of hunting safety objectives, covering “falls from tree stands and other elevated positions” is imperative, even if not prevalently used as a hunting technique in our area. (Hunters are mobile! There are many hunters who use one technique in one state that may choose to hunt from elevated stands in another state or country – such as on a guided deer hunt in the Midwest or South, or a bear hunt in Saskatchewan.)

And, from the recent IHEA-USA Conference presentation by Michael Wydner, Hunter Safety Systems (see instructor discount offers at ihea-usa.org), it is extremely important to focus our teaching on being strapped in and secure the moment our feet leave the ground, ascending and descending from the stand itself – where the mishaps are actually occurring.

From the approved list of IHEA-USA Hunter Education Standards (see list at ihea-usa.org), can you pull the learning objectives in priority order that will further reduce these types of incidents?

## Ten Most Common Hunting Incident Causes

**Hunting Incident Data Analysis (2005-2012)**

- **FALLS FROM ELEVATED STANDS** - Falls from Elevated Stands/Failure to Use Haul Line/Safety Harness (n=589)
- **FAILURE TO POINT MUZZLE IN SAFE DIRECTION** - Careless Handling of Firearms/Failure to Control Muzzle (n=549)
- **FAILURE TO OBSERVE SAFE ZONE-OF-FIRE** - Shooter Swinging on Game Outside of a Safe Zone of Fire (n=513)
- **VICTIM BEYOND TARGET** - Victim Out of Sight of Shooter/Failure to Check Background (n=465)
- **VICTIM MISTAKEN FOR GAME** - Failure to Properly Identify Target (n=391)
- **STUMBLING/DROPPING FIREARM** – A Shooter Stumbled and Fell/Dropped Firearm (n=169)
- **TRIGGER CAUGHT ON OBJECT** - Trigger Caught on Object (n=165)
- **VICTIM IN FRONT OF TARGET** - Victim in Line of Fire (n=146)
- **LOADING/UNLOADING FIREARM IMPROPERLY** - Improper Loading/Unloading of Firearm (n=139)
- **LOADED FIREARM IN OR AROUND VEHICLE** - Removing/Placing Firearm in Vehicle/Discharge in Vehicle (n=125)
ALWAYS HAVE THE UPPER HAND

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I put together a new prop for Hunter Education. I call it the Visible Muzzleloader and use it to teach proper loading of a traditional sidelock muzzleloader.

**Parts Needed:**
- muzzleloader stock, surplus or handmade
- fluorescent tube guard
- 1-1/4 PVC cap
- 1/4 nylon barb
- dowel for ramrod
- 1/4-inch copper cap

**Assembly**
I used a surplus synthetic stock (though even a 2x4 could be used). It is painted blaze orange to match the other training guns we use in class. Paint the barrel white before painting it orange to match blaze orange. The barrel is a length of fluorescent tube guard which is a clear protective sleeve for long fluorescent light tubes. These are available in most hardware and building supply stores. Tube guards come in 8-foot lengths, but are easily cut to length with a power saw. It snugly fits in a 1-1/4 PVC cap, which will capture the tube barrel at the breech.

Shape the PVC cap for a snug fit to the barrel and screw or epoxy glue it to the stock. I suggest adding a nipple to also use in safe habits demonstrations. Drill the cap for a 1/4 nylon barb hose fitting and screw into place. A 1/4-inch copper tube cap fits just right as a percussion cap. A rubber band holds the barrel to the stock since it is easiest to unload by removing the barrel.

**Loading**
Black beans are my black powder, pre-measured in a ketchup squeeze bottle. The patch can be anything as long as it is a color easy to see. I found a sponge ball the right size to be my round ball (next I need to make a saboted bullet). The ramrod can be any dowel that will reach all the way in. I attached a small funnel to my ramrod to better push the sponge ball down the barrel. Notice the ring mark on the ramrod. We teach using the ramrod as a measuring stick to check if it is loaded or not. The ring marks how far the ramrod goes into the barrel when empty.

This can be as simple or fancy as you like. I have had many students volunteer to be the loader. They all wanted to try it when formerly, they admitted to being a little intimidated by traditional muzzleloaders.
10 Commandments of Firearm Safety
Limited Edition Commemorative Patch Order Form

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Indicate which patch ordered and how many:

**SAMPLE:** 2005 Patch... (3 )

□ 2000 Patch... ( ) □ 2005 Patch... ( )
□ 2001 Patch... ( ) □ 2006 Patch... ( )
□ 2002 Patch... ( ) □ 2007 Patch... ( )
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4. IHEA-USA Membership Patch.
5. IHEA-USA Responsible Hunting static cling Window Decal.
6. Special early bird invitations to IHEA-USA events (www.ihea.com).
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 IHEA-USA are provided with Volunteer Liability Insurance up to $1,000,000 per occurrence. This policy provides protection for a bodily injury or a 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 IHEA-USA Lifetime $450 "Membership will include:

- $100 Cabela’s Gift Certificate
- Recognition on the IHEA-USA website as a Lifetime member.
- Certificate signed by the Executive Director of the IHEA-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.
“I don’t even remember entering for the hunt,” said Rick Rowell, a dedicated instructor running 40-60 students through Hunter Education in his spare time in Oconto, WI. “I actually had to verify that the call was legitimate with my Wisconsin Hunter Education Coordinator.”

Each year it’s the same thing we go through when delivering the awesome news around the IHEA Heritage Hunt. Brian Thurston makes the call…no one takes the call. Recipients Google him, check on us, and finally come to the conclusion that although they may have forgotten when they entered for the IHEA Heritage Hunt, it is for real. Let’s talk about how real! The hunt consistently offers awesome whitetail hunting including travel to outstanding lodges with world-class food, taxidermy and great accommodations—no exception this year at the Hixon Ranch in Cotulla, Texas.

Student winners, Jacob Stanislawczyk and his dad Jay along with Curtis Williams and his dad Gerald met the news with similar skepticism.

When the phone rang in Keyser, WV, Jay didn’t even tell Jacob about the hunt because “He wanted to be sure it was legit.” When Jacob finally found out, he “was super excited” about going to Texas. As the date for the hunt drew closer, he became very anxious. His anxiety was rewarded quickly at Hixon Ranch in Cotulla, Texas. His first night there Jacob harvested an awesome 169 lb., 16-3/4” spread 8-point. As he called his uncle to break the good news, he discovered he was able to gloat even more—his uncle had missed a 6-point just that day, but was overjoyed to hear the success of his nephew’s first hunt.

“My younger brother Alec was also pretty jealous. He took Hunter Education in the same class as me, but obviously didn’t get chosen. I’m pretty excited about getting this trophy home to show my family,” Jacob smiled.

And like all Hunter Education students that are awarded our hunt, Jacob not only is a solid shooter and a kind kid, but he also has some serious accolades in self-discipline: a black belt in Taekwondo and Tang Soo Do.

Curtis Williams from Sedan, KS didn’t have the beginner’s luck that Jacob experienced. His hunt was grueling—in and out of the field for all days of the hunt before harvesting a great buck the final evening.

The evening that they rolled in with Curtis’ buck, his smile stretched all the way back home to Kansas, and his dad Gerald’s smile may have been even bigger. “I am just so proud of him. I knew he
Curtis is a solid contributor to his home community as well. He loves being outdoors, plays high school basketball and golf, and is manager of the football team. Active in 4-H, Curtis won several photography awards including having a couple of photos chosen for the Kansas 4-H Foundation Award of Excellence and the Kansas Traveling Exhibit. He also just recently received County Champion Record Book Award and the “I Dare You” Award.

Probably the least skeptical of the bunch was instructor Robert Clemans from Golden, CO. An accomplished forestry expert and big-hearted grandfather, Robert just really enjoyed being out there. In addition to a decent whitetail, he also harvested his first javelina, which he was thrilled about. “For me, it’s just about getting kids outdoors and teaching them the basics of firearms safety. Being awarded this hunt for doing the basic things that I love to do is just neat.”

Being a hunter education instructor is a pretty special thing, and we at Focus Group so appreciate everything that you do. As I watched Steve Hall, director of the IHEA take the time to give one of the most amazing five-stand instruction sessions with our students and instructors that I had ever seen, I was solidly hit in the face with the commitment of folks like Steve, Robert and Rick to the future of hunting. It’s mind-boggling to think of all the volunteer hours that these folks dedicate to the future of hunting.

With the end of the hunt drawing near (and after showing instructor Rick Rowell a copy of his entry card), we glowed as we watched our winners show off their trophies. “I just really like kids. I love to watch how happy they are when they graduate from the hunter education course. I just love to see them smile.”

The IHEA Heritage Hunt gives us the opportunity to award instructors and first-time hunters a fantastic opportunity in the field. It presents unique opportunities to talk about wildlife management and conservation, introduce students to unusual species, talk further about safe firearms handling and successful shooting experiences, and gives Focus Group and its sponsor partners the opportunity to hook first-time hunters on to a lifetime of hunting experiences.

A special thanks goes out to the Hixon family and Mike Hehman, Ranch Manager. Thanks, too, to our partners: Safari Club International Foundation/Sables, Cabela’s, Federal Premium Ammunition, Buck Knives, Wiley X, CarecoTV, Under Armour, Pro Ears, HIVIZ Shooting Systems, Sun Optics, GrovTec, and Otis Technologies. Without you, this once-in-a-lifetime experience would not be possible.
A re you looking for education resources and instruction techniques to use in teaching hunter education and firearms safety? Would you like to meet other educators from a variety of youth learning environments to tap into their teaching experiences? Do you have hunter education students that are looking for advanced conservation education and the positive role of hunting?

The American Wilderness Leadership School (AWLS) located near Jackson, Wyoming in the Bridger Teton Forest has six summer workshops for educators and one workshop for youth ages 16-18. The focus of the conservation education curriculum is the North American Model of Wildlife Management and the positive role of hunting. Field trips deliver first-hand observations of wildlife habitat and human conflicts and how state and federal agencies manage them. Participate in lively discussions on the topic of legal vs. ethical hunting. Learn how this instruction technique can be effective. Learn how the North American Model of Wildlife Management is applied and how results affect hunting opportunities. The AWLS workshop shooting program includes earning instructor certification for the National Archery in the Schools Program that is used not only in schools but in non-school organizations. Experienced instructors will share their teaching techniques using firearms: shotgun, rifle and handguns. The AWLS 3-D archery range is an introduction to bow hunting. These hands-on learning experiences are fun and life-changing.

Now is a good time to plan for 2015 summer workshops and tuition sponsorships to AWLS are available. Space is limited—240 educators and 30 high school students will be accepted to attend in 2015. To request an application or obtain more information, contact Sue Hankner, SCIF Director of Education at shankner@safariclub.org or at (520) 620-1220. You may also visit online at www.safariclubfoundation.org/education/awls to find workshop dates, applications and more.

Conservation Education for All

By Sue Hankner
Ever have the feeling that when a hunt or a hunting season comes to an end there is a rush to put your favorite firearm away until you can “get to it later?” Different circumstances sometime force us to act with haste and not give a firearm proper care. Even worse are when damp conditions or perspiration from excessively hot weather is present.

Always remember to stop and take that extra few minutes to at least give the exterior components a wipe down with a good corrosion inhibitor. Nothing is worse than pulling out your firearm from the gun case only to find unwanted surface rust or fingerprints forever etched into the bluing.

Today there are several convenient tools available to use in a pinch. Pre-moistened Rem® Oil Wipes are available in a 60 count pop-up canister. These large 7”x8” disposable wipes are ideal for the workbench or the pickup truck. I also recommend the individually-wrapped version. Tuck a few away in your backpack, range bag and rifle case to always have ready for a quick emergency wipe-down.

Another favorite product from Remington® is the Rem® Cloth with MoistureGuard™. This 10”x10” reusable cloth instantly and safely protects all metals from rust and corrosion. The volatile corrosion-inhibitor technology penetrates into the smallest crevices and is very easy to use. You will rest much better after using this product, especially when time is limited and a good wipe-down is required before closing that case.

Always go back and do a complete and thorough cleaning of the barrel and internal components. For long-term storage, use a dehumidifier or desiccant.

To view more innovative solutions in firearms maintenance visit online at www.shopremingtoncountry.com.

Why have stock when you can have the racing model?

There's stock... and then there's super stock—the TacStar Adaptive Tactical M4 Stock is the fastest way to take your Ruger 10-22® from standard to a tactical racing machine in one easy, no gunsmithing, do-it-yourself step. The TacStar's fully adjustable buttstock fits a wide range of shooters and is equipped with two, handy storage compartments for standard Ruger magazines. In addition, the TacStar stock features a barrel insert to accept standard or .920 bull barrels, as well as a reversible rail in the forend of the stock for easy mounting of Picatinny accessories, and an optional monopod that conceals in the pistol grip for additional stability. The Adaptive Tactical M4 is available in black or a variety of camo patterns too: Legends, Muddy Girl, or Kryptek Highlander. Take your reliable 10-22® into the fast lane with the TacStar M4 Adaptive Tactical Stock!
In appreciation of the outstanding and uniquely committed volunteer efforts of Hunter Education instructors around the United States, Gallery of Guns is excited to recognize the third 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.

Steven Moranda
St. Augustine, FL

Twenty-nine years doesn’t seem like much time when you are twenty-nine years old…but imagine yourself as a mid-aged adult reflecting on giving twenty-nine years of your life to one cause? Imagine volunteering for most of your life to one organization and one purpose. Meet Steven Moranda, the first winner in our Winter issue of the Davidson’s Gallery of Guns Champions of Hunter Education award.

Described as an inspiration to all he mentors to teach and carry out the business of safe and ethical hunting, Steve treats every class like it’s his first with his passion for training all people on firearms safety/ethics.

Instrumental in helping Florida convert from traditional lecture method teachings of Hunter Education to “hands-on” skills day, Steve has served in every role possible at skills day from chief instructor to range officer, mentor to encourager.

Not only does Steve organize and run state HE courses, but he also teaches the Boy Scouts of America and 4-H Shooting teams in St. Johns County and Putnam County. He hosts camp-outs at an area shooting range where scout leaders bring their troops to gain another experience in the outdoors and complete their hunter safety course requirements. And, after their hunter safety course work is completed, Steve works with them to gain their rifle and shotgun shooting merit badges. Steve also works with women teaching NRA First Steps, then encourages them to take his Hunter Safety course with their friends and family members. This outreach makes women in his community more comfortable with firearms, and often leads them to hunter safety courses.

Thank you so much Steven, for all of your amazing work in Florida.

Highlights
- 29 years—Hunter Safety certified volunteer instructor
- Taught 114 classes
- Graduated 2,946 students
- Donated 4,226 hours to the Hunter Safety program.
- Crucial in working with a local landowner in range development
- NRA instructor
- BSA—Boy Scouts of America merit badge counselor
- 4-H Shooting Sports instructor
- IDPA local team
- Eddie Eagle program
When it comes to unique programs that make a difference in his community, Terry Boyce’s innovation and desire to cultivate engaging platforms for students to learn safe and ethical hunting standards rises to the top. Since 1992, Terry has supported Hunter Education in creative and meaningful ways.

Described as a “stable and constant presence” with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Hunter Education program, Terry has helped instruct over 170 Hunter Education courses, volunteering 2,000 hours of his time. He has also been instrumental in the development of a promotional safety pamphlet designed for courses and has facilitated programs in conjunction with manufacturers where students could be awarded hunting products through drawings—connecting the dots between the students and the outdoors companies that deeply care about their first-time experiences.

Developing the Dream Hunt and Fishing Program in 2001, this program is an awesome brain-child of Terry’s…a non-profit wish-granting program for children with critical illnesses, diseases or disabling physical handicaps that are interested in hunting and fishing. Not only does it offer unique experiences to children, but through this program Terry has been able to put together a Wildlife Education Trailer that exhibits wildlife education and taxidermy and is available to all Hunter Education Programs and other wildlife and conservation events around North Carolina. Terry’s talents don’t end at just teaching; they go on into deep development of tools and real-life experiences.

Thank you so much Terry, for all you do for the students and outdoorsmen and women in North Carolina.

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**Highlights**
- Two-time District Instructor of the Year
- Wounded Warrior Hunts
- NC Wildlife Federation Member
- North American Hunter Life Member
- Quail Unlimited Member
- Quality Deer Management Member
- NRA Member
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Member
- Ducks Unlimited Member
- NWTF – Albemarle Chapter, Vice President
- Buckmasters Life Member

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**Terry Boyce**

**Elizabeth City, NC**

When it comes to unique programs that make a difference in his community, Terry Boyce’s innovation and desire to cultivate engaging platforms for students to learn safe and ethical hunting standards rises to the top. Since 1992, Terry has supported Hunter Education in creative and meaningful ways.

Described as a “stable and constant presence” with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Hunter Education program, Terry has helped instruct over 170 Hunter Education courses, volunteering 2,000 hours of his time. He has also been instrumental in the development of a promotional safety pamphlet designed for courses and has facilitated programs in conjunction with manufacturers where students could be awarded hunting products through drawings—connecting the dots between the students and the outdoors companies that deeply care about their first-time experiences.

Developing the Dream Hunt and Fishing Program in 2001, this program is an awesome brain-child of Terry’s…a non-profit wish-granting program for children with critical illnesses, diseases or disabling physical handicaps that are interested in hunting and fishing. Not only does it offer unique experiences to children, but through this program Terry has been able to put together a Wildlife Education Trailer that exhibits wildlife education and taxidermy and is available to all Hunter Education Programs and other wildlife and conservation events around North Carolina. Terry’s talents don’t end at just teaching; they go on into deep development of tools and real-life experiences.

Thank you so much Terry, for all you do for the students and outdoorsmen and women in North Carolina.
Hunter Safety Lab Offers Free IHEA Membership and Product Discounts on IRIS™

Available now in the United States for the first time, Hunter Safety Lab is excited to offer its IRIS hunter safety detection system to valuable IHEA influencers at a 25% discount—and with free IHEA membership for one year.

Developed in New Zealand, the award-winning IRIS (Infrared Retroreflector Identification System) helps prevent hunting accidents by warning a hunter they’ve mistakenly targeted another hunter using the system. Easily mounted to a rifle-scope or shotgun barrel, the IRIS sensor uses an infrared laser to detect special infrared reflective patches attached to clothing.

Michael Scott, co-founder of Hunter Safety Lab states, “IRIS is not a replacement for human judgment, or the number one rule of safe hunting—identify the target beyond doubt—but anyone can make a mistake, and IRIS is an impartial tool that can save a life in situations where the hunter is falsely convinced they’ve targeted an animal.”

IRIS is also a valuable training aid in the classroom, helping teach muzzle awareness and giving students immediate feedback if their firearm strays off the training range towards instructors or range staff.

Mission Archery® Reminds Instructors of Discounts on their Game-Changing Crossbows

With the growth in states allowing crossbow hunting, now is the perfect time to remind IHEA Instructors about great discounts on the latest in MXB® crossbow technology from Mission.

Unsurpassed in speed, size, and reduced recoil, all MXB® crossbows are great for use in the classroom or the field.

The MXB-400™ is a fast, 400 FPS crossbow built on a lightweight frame allowing shooters to achieve tighter pin gaps without sacrificing mobility thanks to a 14” power stroke and balanced frame.

At just 30 inches, the MXB-Dagger™ can go anywhere. With a power-stroke of just 10” and a physical weight of only 6.3 lbs, the Dagger™ is Mission’s lightest, most compact crossbow. Both bows are compatible with Mission’s RSD System™—the first silent mechanical cocking device on the market.

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

Instructor Access for IHEA-USA Website

Hunter Education Instructors have the opportunity to purchase many items at a discounted rate on the “Special Offers” section of the IHEA-USA website! For your exclusive access go to: www.ihea-usa.org/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.

Additional Instructor Discounts are available from the following Journal Partners:
New Products for Instructors

T/C Venture Compact Rifle Now Available in .223 Rem

Smith & Wesson Corp. today announced that Thompson/Center Arms™ has expanded its award winning T/C® Venture™ series with a new Venture Compact model chambered in .223 Rem. Designed to address the needs of smaller statured shooters, including youth and women, the new bolt-action rifle is now available in the popular centerfire caliber.

The newest addition to the T/C Venture Compact lineup offers reduced recoil for beginning shooters while aiding hunters in preparation for predator season. Lightweight, well-balanced and guaranteed MOA (Minute of Angle) accurate, the new bolt-action rifle is sure to be frequently sighted in hunting camps this fall.

At the heart of the rifle is the T/C Venture Compact’s roller-burnished receiver and nitrate-coated fat bolt design with 60-degree lift that helps ensure a solid, smooth action. A user-adjustable trigger enables hunters of all skill levels to pre-set their preferred pull rate while the rifle’s 20-inch free-floating blued barrel complete with 5R rifling and target crown provide consistent, reliable accuracy. For improved handling in cold environments when extra layers are needed and to assist with growing shooters, the T/C Venture Compact rifle features an overall length of 40-3/4 inches and is standard with a one-inch adjustable spacer included in the stock.

“Thompson/Center understands that while no two shooters are exactly alike, each one expects the highest levels of quality and dependability in their hunting rifle,” said Danielle Sanville, Brand Manager for Thompson/Center Arms. “The latest addition to the T/C Venture Compact family pairs the versatile .223 cartridge with an innovative rifle platform that delivers premium features, value and performance. Perfect for new shooters as well as for youth and female hunters, the T/C Venture Compact has been expertly engineered to meet the requirements of any owner.”

www.tcarms.com

New Upgraded Mechanical Locks for ShotLock Shotgun and Handgun Products

ShotLock, manufacturers of the shotgun, handgun and AR platform ShotLock Solo-Vault single unit home defense line of single gun safes, announced today the release of its new shotgun mechanical lock. “2013 presented some challenges for us with the product,” said Sales & Marketing Director Don Fenton. “We had great demand for the product and a solid growth curve, we just got to a point where our lock manufacturer could not supply that demand. We made a decision then and there to commit to developing our own lock, and to make it better. It’s been a learning experience for sure but one that we and the product are the better for.”

The new ShotLock is more durable and features a more ergonomic eight-button design with more spacing to help eliminate missed combo entries. Also new is a lock-clutch feature that prevents someone from continuously spinning the lock handle in an attempt to break in. Most importantly is a new key override feature that enables access to your firearm if you have somehow forgotten your combination.

www.shotlock.com

Dillon Precision Releases 101 Classic Firearms by John Marshall


“Fans of John Marshall’s column in The Blue Press won’t want to miss out on their copy of 101 Classic Firearms. As a fan of John’s wonderful writing, putting this book together for Dillon was a labor of love,” added Pixler. “101 Classic Firearms is sure to be a welcome and prized addition to the library of any serious firearms aficionado.”

Published by Dillon Precision and printed and bound in the USA, 101 Classic Firearms is a high-quality full-color 11.5” x 9” hardcover with 224 pages packed full of insights and history on some of the world’s most important firearms.

101 Classic Firearms: A Chronological Foray into the Golden Years of Firearms Development is available online from Dillon Precision for $29.95.

John Marshall is an accomplished photographer and freelance writer whose articles have appeared in The Blue Press, The Gun Digest, Guns & Ammo’s Handguns, and American Gunsmith.
“Introducing Kids to Firearms and Hunting”

In today’s society, there is a huge disconnection of kids who did not grow up in a firearm/hunting-friendly home, with those who did. As adults, we have a responsibility to introduce our youth to our national traditions of firearms and the sport of hunting. When we do, it is crucial we shape them with high moral and ethical standards to advocate our sport. The future of hunting rests in our young hunters. If we do our part to inspire our children with the values and traditions we hold close to our own hearts, they will in turn become the devoted hunters that will carry on our hunting heritage for generations to follow.

We must revise, modify, alter, adapt, adjust, and whatever else it takes toward our own hunting behaviors to set the best example we can. For the rest of our lives, our children now become our responsibility to guide and educate. We need to teach them how to interact with the woods, waters, and fields. Involve them so they understand and respect the land. Kids need to learn how to study and appreciate the wildlife, learn their biology and how they are connected to the environment. Everyone needs to commit to a high level of ethics, respect and good sportsmanship in the manner of your hunt. This cannot develop overnight, but will take a lifetime of commitment and dedication to perfect.

Hunting is an activity that requires research, organization, proficiency, responsibility and dedication. These requirements are essential because there is a high expectation from others to do the right thing when in the field. If you come from a long line of hunters, this process of passing along these traditions to your children could be relatively easy. Hunting families already have a social structure in place where you can turn to for advice and direction while guiding your youngster. If you do not come from a traditional hunting background, there are ample opportunities to get you headed in the right direction. These include the many state, federal, and private organizations to help guide you into being a mentor to a young hunter.

Regardless of the intent—hunting, protection, or just collecting—our children deserve to have the same rights as we have enjoyed. If kids understand at an early age that gun ownership is a right and that legal activities involving firearms are dependent upon that right, their children’s children might have the same opportunities as our own kids.

Kids WILL be exposed to guns, and our book is a guide to help introduce and educate kids about firearms—the correct way—safely.
“Entering the World of the Predator”

As the title suggests, this book educates the reader on how to coexist with wildlife, especially wildlife predators such as brown bears, black bears, mountain lions and wolves.

There are five large predators remaining in North America that pose a real threat to outdoorsmen and women who engaged in hunting, fishing, camping, or just enjoying the great outdoors. These individuals could be families going to a state or national park, a boy scout going to camp, or someone going on a nature walk. These big five predators are brown bears, black bears, mountain lions, wolves, and alligators.

North America is also home to several species of pit vipers and one type of elapid and all are venomous! The pit vipers native to North America are rattlesnakes, copperheads, and water moccasins. The only venomous snake in the elapid family native to North America are the coral snakes, related to the infamous cobras, mambas, and kraits.

There are techniques and skills that the outdoor enthusiast can employ to minimize a deadly encounter with a large predator. It starts with the knowledge of the risks that can be encountered, and the knowledge of the predator that poses the risk. It is as simple as being prepared and having a plan. Knowing what to look for to predict an unintended encounter and what to do if an encounter is inevitable can mean the difference between a tragedy and an enjoyable outing.

More information can be found at NorthAmericanOutdoors.org

Website: northamericanoutdoors.org • Blog: outdoorwomenadventures.com
Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/NorthAmericanOutdoors

Design and Performance – Look for Them Both in Your Shooting Glasses

By C. Douglas Nielsen

Perhaps the single most important piece of equipment a shooter needs is a quality pair of protective glasses, but at the same time, those glasses are the last thing a shooter needs to worry about when the time has come to perform on the range or in the field. The key is finding a pair of shooting glasses with a design that not only fits well and looks good so you will actually wear it, but also provides you with the performance and protection you need.

Some shooters simply choose to wear sunglasses purchased at the local budget mart, but there is more to protecting your eyes than covering them with plastic lenses. I was reminded of this while hunting mourning doves in Nevada in 2014 and was showered by shotgun pellets from a neighboring shooter. Luckily I came away unscathed, but the incident was sobering nonetheless.

“Design is more than just how stylish a product is,” according to the folks at Smith Optics Elite. “Design is also how all the aspects of a product’s functionality are brought together.”

Smith builds on this concept through a military process known as Human Systems Integration (HSI). This process takes into account multiple human variables such as fit, optical performance, ballistic performance and fog mitigation. The only shooting glasses Smith makes that are not manufactured to military specifications are their prescription lenses, but those still meet ANSI specifications.

Another factor to consider when purchasing a pair of shooting glasses is their optical performance—the ability of the glasses to let the shooter see things as they are and not from a distorted perspective. Lenses can create what is known as the Prism Effect. This occurs when light is refracted as it passes through a lens. This can make the target appear to be in one location when it actually is in another. Also, looking through a distorted lens can lead to eye fatigue, much like looking through a pair of binoculars that are not real clear.

Look for lenses designed to counter refraction. Smith Elite for example, combats the Prism Effect through what the company calls Tapered Lens Technology. This involves cutting the lens with a taper from the optical center of the lens to its outer edges. As a result, images are clear and accurate.
1. **Just TOO Much**—‘Covering’ or cramming all of the learning objectives into fewer, shorter sessions versus teaching over longer periods could lead to ‘cognitive overload,’ especially in hunter education where there are so many learning objectives to cover. “The brain can only absorb what the butt can endure” is an adage used by many instructors. Teaching 5-7 items (max.) per session (day) is typically enough.

2. **First and Last**—The first (primacy) and last (recency) items in a learning sequence are more likely to be remembered than items in the middle. Start and finish your learning sequence with the most important points.

3. **“Practice Makes Perfect – Practice”**—It is better to practice skills such as marksmanship, distance judging, archery, etc., for shorter lengths of time such as marksmanship, distance judging, archery, etc., for shorter lengths of time (e.g. ½ hour) over multiple days (4 days) than all at once over one day (2 hrs.).

4. **In it for the Long Run**—Long-term memory occurs in the emotional area of the brain and thus, motivation plays a big role in long-term learning. Using humor, powerful analogies and stories, and praising and keeping it positive DO play a big role in hunter education. Hunting accident scenarios, true survival scenarios, warning scenarios and repercussions are just a few examples of motivating accounts of what can happen when things go wrong.

5. **Association**—(From known to unknown, simple to complex)—Long-term memory is improved through association and analogies to what is known. For example, comparing “treat a gun as if it was loaded” to a loaded mouse trap gets the point across and ‘sticks’ with a student as an icebreaker activity on shooting/firearm safety rules.

6. **Chunking**—Lessons should be grouped into “chunks” of information that are related and similar such as the “Ten Commandments of Shooting Safety,” the 3-4 functions of a survival pack, the 7 “Sisters” or pillars of the North American Wildlife Conservation Model. Transitions should also be developed that make sense in going from one lesson to another, such as from firearm safety to hunter safety to outdoor safety.

7. **Spiraling Back**—Revisit or review previously learned material in review for the test, at the end of lessons or from time to time to both repeat the material (See #11), to gauge understanding or to further motivate students such as skill exercises that are rewarding and fun (e.g. shooting, distance estimation).

8. **Stair-casing**—Building future, more difficult knowledge and skills on a solid foundation such as having a foundation of firearm and hunting safety—prior to safe muzzle control—prior to field carry demonstrations—prior to “safe shooting zone” or “fence crossing” activities; etc.

9. **Sequencing**—Combining #5, #6, #7 and #8 above leads to sequencing, an order in which to teach new skills. By teaching a basic skill such as 1) safe muzzle control, then adding 2) basic field carry techniques, then reviewing 3) safe zones of fire using Frisbees as flushing/flying birds, as a way to teach 4) how to safely hunt pheasants—three hunters abreast walking through a field—is an example of stair-casing, spiraling back, chunking and association.

10. **Keep it Short and Simple** (‘KISS’ Method)—Similar to #1 above; concepts that are “short and simple” are desirable even for adult learners. In today’s era of social media, the “12-second sound bite” and short attention spans, keeping all material and words in their most basic form is better than the “complexities of cogitating the meaning of conversational jargon.” And, as they also say, pictures are much better than words.

11. **Repetition**—A typical person needs to hear and/or see something seven (7) times in the proper context before he/she can begin to commit it to long-term memory. Although learning depends on motivation, innate abilities and related factors, reviewing and repetition over 2-3 learning episodes enhances the learning process.

12. **Whole-Part-Whole**—By demonstrating/explaining how to properly take an archery shot (whole) then performing each of the 11 steps (parts) “…to archery success” (NASP), we then can practice (see #3) it all together by smoothing out transitions between parts.

13. **Tell ‘Em; Show ‘Em; Let ‘Em Show You**—Considering different learning styles is good, but researchers have found that a lesson using as many senses as possible simultaneously, works best for most students. Hunter Education instructors know that using audio, visual and kinesthetic techniques while instructing is more effective than using just one teaching style. Explanation (auditory), demonstration (visual), and performance or doing (kinesthetic), has generally been a good teaching approach for each lesson.

**Instructor Access to IHEA-USA Website**

Hunter Education Instructors can access many free resources and services at the “Instructor’s Only” section of the IHEA-USA website! For your exclusive access go to www.ihea.com/instructors/instructor-resources/index.php and enter “gohunt” as your password, all lower case with no space.
A BOW FOR THE AGES

The Mission® CRAZE® is loaded with hyperadjustability and lethal performance for any age or experience level. $299 MSRP.

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The 100% American-made Ruger American Rimfire® bolt-action rifle builds on the enormous success of the centerfire Ruger American Rifle®. With many of the standard Ruger American Rifle® features, this new line also combines several design innovations from the popular 10/22® rimfire rifle. This combination, along with the rifle's adaptability, will appeal to all bolt-action enthusiasts — young or old, novice or experienced.