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"A PATTERN OF EXCELLENCE. I PUT MY NAME ON IT."

Ed Weatherby
The International Hunter Education Association – United States of America (IHEA-USA) is an organization involving some 53,000 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 600,000 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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Recently, while conducting interviews for the IHEA-USA Executive Director position (more on this later in this column and edition) a candidate mentioned he had canvassed trusted friends and contacts in the outdoor community for their assessment of IHEA. He quite candidly explained his research of the organization revealed a history of “ups and downs,” periods of prominence and relevance followed by times where IHEA almost disappeared from the public eye.

It was less than two years ago I was elected president of IHEA. Coming out of the 2011 annual conference this organization faced one of those downs with numerous, seemingly insurmountable challenges, including some that threatened its very existence.

The rocky route back to stability and promise hasn’t been easy or without controversy. But, in just over 18 months, more major work and projects have been undertaken and completed than perhaps in any other similar period of time in IHEA’s 40-year history.

The list of accomplishments is long and includes:

- Reorganization of the association into affiliates (IHEA-Canada, IHEA-USA) that better reflect the reality of the delivery of Hunter Education in today’s world.
- Amalgamation and complete revision of the Constitution and Bylaws into a single, current document addressing numerous long-standing issues such as conformance with Illinois non-profit law (the state in which IHEA-USA is incorporated), committee makeup and voting member eligibility.
- Creation of an Instructor Advisory Committee (IAC) with eight volunteer instructor members to better represent rank and file instructors from across the United States.
- Creation/election of a new Board of Directors that includes four United States regions (West, Midwest, Northeast and Southeast), a representative from the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and the chair of the IAC.
- First time ever comprehensive survey of membership to assess needs/desires for IHEA-USA.
- Revised/updated IHEA-USA Strategic Plan to reflect reorganization and results of member survey.
- Authored comprehensive IHEA-USA Business Plan in support of dues increase request.
- Held nationwide informational meeting in October 2012 and special conference in November 2012 where membership passed the first agency dues increase since 1985.
- Complete review/revision of Board Policies that, for the first time, included a strict conflict of interest policy/acknowledgement and updated membership dues/benefits structure.
- Complete rebuild of IHEA-USA website.
- Conducted a lengthy nationwide recruitment for Executive Director.
- These are just the highlights of the huge volume of work that has been completed and there’s still much more to come. But most of the work going forward will center on doing what IHEA-USA does best; aiding our members in the delivery of Hunter Education to students across the country. To help guide those efforts, Steve Hall has been hired as the new IHEA-USA Executive Director. Steve is an IHEA-USA life member and dedicated supporter of Hunter Education and the shooting sports. Steve retired after a 26 year career with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and since retiring from TPWD, has been the Executive Director of the Texas State Rifle Association. Steve has served as IHEA president, vice president and chair of the Hunter Education Standards national team, board vice president of the National Bowhunter Education Foundation and has been a board member of that organization since 1998. He has been certified as a Hunter Education instructor in Colorado and Texas and inducted into the IHEA and Texas Hunter Education Halls of Fame. IHEA-USA is fortunate to have Steve come aboard.

The last two years have passed quickly and I can’t say enough about the hard work, conviction and passion of our membership, the IHEA-USA Board and our industry partners and supporters. I’ve met and worked with many, many folks who have at heart been doing what’s best for hunting and Hunter Education and that bodes a bright future indeed. Much has been done and much remains to be done, including revamping the IHEA-USA awards program and taking a fresh, top to bottom look at our course standards.

As we move forward tackling known, and as of yet unidentified challenges, I firmly believe IHEA-USA has been rebuilt to never again ride the roller coaster of ups and downs that has plagued us in our past. The organization is truly on the rise and poised to once again do great things for Hunter Education and the future of our hunting heritage.

**Disclaimer:** The Hunter & Shooting Sports Education Journal welcomes article submissions expressing individual or organization views and opinions. Articles submitted do not necessarily reflect those of the IHEA-USA, IHEA-USA board of directors, IHEA-USA management, the editor or publisher. The IHEA-USA will continue to support the safety aspect of all hunting activities and methods. In addition, we encourage anyone who wishes to submit a rebuttal to published articles to send them to susiekiefer@msn.com.
Protection from mosquitoes and the diseases they can carry has never been more important. During 2012, infection and even death from many mosquito borne diseases were at decade-long highs.

There are a number of mosquito borne diseases in the USA including West Nile Virus, dengue fever and several forms of encephalitis (most common being EEE). There is no known cure for any of these diseases.

2012 was a particularly striking year for West Nile Virus and no part of the country was immune. Texas recorded 1,739 cases, with 76 of those resulting in death.

Protection is available in a number of ways. An area repellent such as ThermaCELL has many benefits.

### WEST NILE CASES in 2012

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<th>State</th>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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Moving On—Passing The Torch

By Wayne East, Past Executive Director IHEA-USA

After five years at IHEA/IHEA-USA, I have tendered my resignation in order to pursue another opportunity. I have truly enjoyed my time here, working with the many volunteer hunter education instructors, the state agency hunter education staffs, and our industry partners.

During my time here, I have been fortunate to travel all over the US, and even Canada, and have met many of you. As hunter educators you are saving lives, and are ambassadors for the hunting community. Each and every one of you make a difference and help us to continue the heritage of hunting worldwide by developing safe, responsible, knowledgeable and involved hunters. I am eternally grateful for what you do.

My replacement has already been hired and many of you may know him. Let me be the first to welcome Steve Hall as the new Executive Director for IHEA-USA. I have the utmost respect for Steve, and I know he will do a great job leading this organization in the future. During the transition, I will do everything I can to help Steve and IHEA-USA succeed. Best wishes and safe hunting!!

HOWDY!—In it for Life

Steve Hall, execdir@ihea.com

With Wayne’s departure comes an opportunity for me to get involved again in an organization in which I’ve been active for 28 years—a true privilege and honor! I have had the sincere pleasure of working with Wayne over the past five years and know that he has put his heart and soul into the organization—and I hope to succeed with his same passion and motivation for “continuing the heritage.”

I have also been fortunate to have worked directly with former executive directors Gary Berlin and Eric Nuse, as well as being on the IHEA board when we hired David Knotts back in the mid-1990s. I am also old enough to have worked with executive directors, Ed Kozicky and Clair Huff, who schooled me on the heritage of conservation education in North America. I’ve worked with many of you and am thankful to once again be working side-by-side to achieve our goals and accomplish great things on behalf of our agencies and conservation partners.

We’ve much work to do!

Just like with changes in hunting, the landscape, technology and information, hunter education has changed considerably since I first became certified in Colorado as a student in 1972, an instructor in 1980, and an administrator in Texas in 1985. Back then, we verified student records by manually thumbing through four large computer batch printouts labeled A-G, H-M, N-S and T-Z.

Today, we must be ever more mindful of hunters’ mobility and use of computers, social media and apps to acquire information at the speed of light. Knowledge is a mere fingertip away. Our best roles are relegated to teaching actual skills (e.g. pointing muzzles in safe directions, demonstration of safe handling of sporting arms, distance estimation, shot angle/placement, live firing and game cleaning). We must continue providing opportunities for open/peer discussions on legal/appropriate and illegal/inappropriate actions. We must serve as ambassadors, coaches, “huntmasters” and mentors afield. Our collective duty is to ensure that future generations have the social network to experience hunting and shooting sports as a “way of life”. We must help our agencies and partners maintain and find new places to go hunting and seek out organizations—including ours—to support efforts that create advocacy for a bright future.

I’m completely energized and would like to thank the current executive board for entrusting me with the responsibility of moving IHEA-USA forward. I am excited for, once again, having been given the privilege to serve our agencies, the hunter education administrators and most importantly, the instructors who dedicate themselves to a volunteer role I have personally enjoyed for over 30 years.

Most of us are “in it for life”—hunter education, conservation and passing on safe and knowledgeable outdoor practices.

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Get Them Out Of Their Chairs, They’ll Learn More  By Curt Miller

“So, who’s teaching the hunter education class this weekend?” Standing near the counter in a neighborhood tire shop, I wasn’t expecting the question and I didn’t recognize the guy who asked it. But, since I am a hunter education instructor, I knew the fellow probably had a son or daughter who had recently gone through one of the classes I helped teach. I told him I wasn’t aware of any classes being offered. And then he proceeded to tell me something that really made me feel good.

I took my boy, and a couple of his friends, rabbit hunting last week and he remembered a lot of the things you guys taught him,” he said. “He reminded everyone to watch their shooting lanes and stay in a straight line so no one moved ahead or fell behind the other hunters. I also saw him watching how they carried their shotguns to make sure they were pointed in a safe direction. I was really proud of him. I want to thank you guys, again, for spending your weekend teaching safety to all of those kids.”

Four of us teach one of the many basic Hunter/Trapper Education courses for the Pennsylvania Game Commission. It’s a state requirement for all first-time hunters and trappers before they can apply for a hunting license in the Commonwealth, regardless of age. Most of our students are youngsters. The kids in the class must be at least 11 years old to enroll. But we do get a few first-time adult hunters in each class and we also have hunters who are planning to hunt out-of-state in regions where proof of successful completion of a hunter education course is required.

We teach our classes at the Millvale Sportsmen’s Club, located about 13 miles north of Pittsburgh. We’re all members of the club and the fellow in charge of our program, Jay Pegher, has been teaching for many years and really is the leader for each class. The other instructors are Matt Schultz, Tony Wight and myself.

Our weekend course looks like this. From 6 pm to 9:30 pm on Friday and 8 am to 5 pm on Saturday we cover:
• Responsible hunting behavior
• Knowing your firearm equipment
• Wildlife conservation and management
• Outdoor safety
• Basic and advanced hunting techniques
• Trapping and fur taking basics
• Basic shooting and hunting skills
• Expanding your opportunities
The real highlight of our course comes when we take our students outside, usually between 2:30 and 3:45 pm on Saturday. They’ve been sitting in our classroom for several hours Friday evening and again Saturday morning. I’ve helped teach the same course at several other clubs and, unlike our classes, students remained in the classroom for about a day and a half at each of those other locations. Even with a number of scheduled breaks and time off for lunch on Saturday, 12 or more hours sitting in class seems like a long time to some of the students, especially the youngest ones. Keep in mind that these are kids who have grown up with interactive video games, Wi-Fi, and iPhones. They get bored easily if they sit in one location listening to one presentation after another. That’s one reason we get them out of their chairs and take them outside. Of course we also want to see if they’ve learned the fundamentals we have been talking with them about.

We have an ideal outdoor location. The Millvale Sportsmen’s Club is located on about 140 acres. Most of it is wooded and it’s bordered by 1,400 acres of state game lands. Classes average between 75 and 100 students. With more than a 100 students the clubhouse gets a bit crowded. When we go outside, the class is separated into three groups. Jay takes one group to the edge of the woods at the end of the parking lot, selects a tree, and demonstrates the use of a climbing stand. Matt and Tony take a second group down into the woods and work with them on identifying game and recognizing a shoot-versus-don’t-shoot situation. They carry wooden guns provided by the game commission and one of the activities this group has to complete is safely climbing over a fence. The third group stays with me at a fairly level grassy area, also at the edge of the parking lot, and practices walking in a line as if they are hunting rabbits or pheasants. We also stress the importance of knowing where other hunters are in safely conducting a deer drive. The three groups rotate positions so that everyone has an opportunity to participate in all three activities.

In Pennsylvania, of the number of hunting accidents that happen each year, many of them occur when people fall out of treestands during deer hunting season. Think about it. You’re standing on a small platform just a little longer and wider than your boots. A climbing stand is designed to hold itself against the tree by making use of your weight on the platform or while you’re seated in a chair that is part of the contraption. It’s a mechanical device so it can fail. In your hurry to get in position before first light, you may not have it secured as well as it should be secured. You can fall asleep while sitting or standing on the stand.

So, if you do fall, what’s the one thing that’s going to save you from serious injury…or worse…if you fall out of the stand? It’s your harness. And this is where Jay places the emphasis when he looks down from his tree stand and talks to the students about safety. He points out that this is the one item of all the hunting equipment they have where they need to have the very best available. Not the gun, not the miracle fabric clothing or boots, not even the tree stand itself (although this isn’t exactly an item you want to skimp on, either). It’s the harness that’s going to keep them safe if something goes wrong while they are in the tree. And then, he purposely steps off the stand eight feet above the ground and dangles by his harness—which is a top of the line harness—and shows them why this is the case. Now they understand the importance of the harness and why it makes sense to use one of good quality.
Instructors Tony Wight (left) and Jay Pegher demonstrate the parts of a full body tree stand harness. Shoulder straps on Jay’s harness are covered by an attached camo vest and are not visible.

As part of our indoor class we show the students a great DVD about tree-stand safety provided by the game commission. Jay and Tony also demonstrate how to put on a harness and talk about the importance of using a good one. But nothing drives the safety message home as much as taking them outside, having them watch Jay climb the tree with his stand and harness and then seeing him step off that platform and have the harness keep him right up beside the stand.

Meanwhile, the group walking down through the woods is learning other lessons. Some of these kids are only 11 years old, so Matt doesn’t take them through thick brush or up and down steep terrain. But they do walk through woods similar to much of what they will encounter on a typical hunting trip in southwestern Pennsylvania. The first obstacle they come to is a section of split rail fence with a metal gate at one end. They are carrying wooden guns provided by the game commission and they need to get from one side of the fence to the other. Most do just fine, handing their gun to someone else while they climb over the fence or sliding the gun through on the ground and then climbing over. What never fails to surprise us is that none of them try to open the gate, which is unlocked, and simply walk through to the other side. That’s fine; we want them to demonstrate that they can climb over a fence safely. But we also emphasize that they need to close the gate before they walk away.

This group is also exposed to a number of shoot-or-don’t-shoot situations as they continue walking through the woods. Animal targets used in our club’s 3D archery competition are placed along the trail and students are asked to point them out immediately upon seeing them. We ask them “Do you have a shot, or not and…if not…why?” There is a deer with only its rump visible, a wild turkey at the top of a ridge, a black bear, a fox, and more. We throw in an assortment of other Styrofoam animals, even including an alligator (which they are never going to encounter in Penn’s Woods) and they seem to enjoy this phase of the course.
While one group walks through the woods and another group watches Jay in his treestand, I teach the third group about hunting in a line, as if they are driving game. This is done in a grassy area near the parking lot and I walk six of them at a time with wooden guns. Here, they are learning about safe zones of fire and keeping up with the line so no one gets ahead or drops behind. I walk behind and throw a frisbee ahead of the group to simulate a pheasant or along the ground as a running rabbit. The raise their guns and “shoot” while the remainder of the group stands on the sidelines and watches to see if anyone shoots across anyone else and if everyone remains in line. We’re also watching to see how they hold their guns and that they keep them pointed in a safe direction at all times.

The whole time we are outside, we emphasize points we’ve covered in the indoor portion of the course, as well as key information they’ve seen in the game commission DVDs. We usually complete this part of the course in about 2-1/2 hours. Then, they go back inside for a short break, followed by a written exam, which takes an hour or so, to complete.

Our students do well on the test. And, I’m convinced one reason for that is because the outside portion of the course really drives home many of the points we make in the indoor session and that they see in the DVDs.

Look, you don’t have to have 140 acres of land to do what we do. If you have a tree on your property suitable for demonstrating a climbing treestand and harness, use it. And you don’t need an actual split rail fence to show them how to climb over one. Just tie a rope between the backs of two chairs. That’s really all you need. Finally, if you don’t have any grassy areas to teach them safety while they are driving game, use your parking lot.

The point is this: your students will learn more by doing and having you critique them than they will by simply watching a DVD or listening to you lecture. Other students, likewise, will learn more by watching their classmates and critiquing them, as well. Oh, don’t skip over the indoor stuff. Slides, DVDs, demonstrations, getting them to participate in discussions are all important, too. But, afterwards, take them outside and reinforce what they’ve learned with some hands-on activity. They’ll love it…and you’ll love the results.

Youngsters today are used to being entertained. They are participants whether they’re playing a number of sports, texting one another, playing video games, or doing homework on their computers. What they are not used to is sitting for long periods of time and listening to someone tell them how to do something. They are easily bored and quickly tire of sitting in one spot for even a little while. As one wise old sage said a long time ago, “The mind can absorb only so long as the seat can endure.” Do you want your hunter education students to absorb more? Get them out of their chairs. Take them outside.

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Where exactly does an urban youngster go to learn how to shoot, hunt and fish?

Getting Kids Outside

Where does he or she even go to hike?

By J.R. Robbins, Managing Editor, NRAhuntersrights.org
Photos Courtesy of Cathy Buchheim

Those are the questions officials at the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department (SDGFP) struggled with more than a decade ago, as they saw Sioux Falls getting more and more urbanized. While South Dakota is a premier destination for various types of hunting and fishing, it was becoming evident that children and even many adults in the cities were not being exposed to the outdoors.

The answer they came up with is The Outdoor Campus, an educational facility in the heart of Sioux Falls funded by SDGFP and staffed with both paid and volunteer personnel. They teach a full slate of outdoor skills—hunting, gun safety, fishing, canoeing, outdoor cooking and more.

They are not just giving the students the skills and exposure they need to enjoy the outdoors, they are generating more people who buy hunting and fishing licenses. Virtually all state game and fish departments in the country are struggling with the same problems of getting kids outdoors, and many state efforts are underway to give kids more exposure to hunting and fishing. But South Dakota is investing $700,000 a year in their program, and we thought it would be a good model to take a look at. So we asked Thea Ryan, director of The Outdoor Campus, to tell us how it came to be.

NRAhuntersrights: What was involved in actually getting The Outdoor Campus off the ground? Whose idea was it? Who did the planning, got the property acquisition underway, designed the buildings?
Ryan: The idea originated with a Game, Fish and Parks cabinet secretary whose enthusiasm for outdoor skills education was contagious. A group of Pierre and Sioux Falls, South Dakota folks got together to start the process rolling.

First, they created a partnership with the City of Sioux Falls. The City was looking for a way to partner with an outside group to help create a science-themed park in one of their newer city parks—Sertoma Park. The building was designed by Sioux Falls architectural firm, Koch, Hazard, Baltzer and was completed for opening in June 1997.

NRAhuntersrights: What, if any institutional barriers were faced?
Ryan: Creating a new idea in the midst of several government agencies is never easy, but GFP and the City forged ahead with their plan to create one of the first outdoor skills learning centers in the U.S.
NRA huntersrights: How much funding was needed and where did it come from?
Ryan: The building was a $3.2 million project in 1997. Part of it came from a fundraising campaign. The land was contributed and still is maintained by the City of Sioux Falls and the remainder of building costs was paid for with license dollars from SD Game, Fish and Parks.

NRA huntersrights: How long did it take from funding approval to actually opening the school?
Ryan: We had a couple glitches along the way. Our governor died in a plane crash in 1993 after having approved the project. That put us on hold for a while. Our next governor eventually approved us to move forward, but he was defeated in the election. Our next governor finally approved the project in 1996, at least three years after it was formally begun.

NRA huntersrights: Can you describe the physical facilities and property?
Ryan: The Outdoor Campus lies in 100-acre Sertoma Park. The park itself has 2 miles of walking trails that take visitors through tall-grass prairie, riparian areas, eastern South Dakota woodlands and a large garden planted specifically for native butterflies. Discovery pond is only two acres in size, but hosts many fishing, fly fishing, ice fishing, kayaking and canoeing classes throughout the year. The building has two classrooms, one theatre, a museum with hands-on fun for kids, a wildlife viewing area and a large gallery space for additional programming or events.

NRA huntersrights: Can you list all the courses currently taught?
Ryan: We teach many different hunting classes throughout the year. Our hunting classes start with basic knowledge about wildlife management, including classes about game animals and habitat. All our classes are age-appropriate. The school session programs meet many of the state education standards, including science, math, social studies and physical education. Kids have the opportunity to take BB gun, target shooting and air rifle classes on site.

We also offer a program, Step Outside, in a 20-county area during the summer months that features actual range shooting. Some of our classes focus on deer, turkey or waterfowl hunting specifically. These classes typically include decoy placement, calling, cleaning and cooking if appropriate to the topic. We also do archery, fishing, outdoor cooking, game cooking, gps, orienteering, photography, hiking, birding and many other outdoor skills classes.

NRA huntersrights: Where do you get your instructors? How many hours a week might they work?
Ryan: Our instructors are staff members for the most part. They work 40 hour weeks as educators. We do have some volunteer instructors as well.

NRA huntersrights: How many total students came to the school last year? Has the number generally gone up since you opened?
Ryan: Last year we had over 100,000 visitors to The Outdoor Campus. Also last year, around 21,000 people attended programs here. Our programs are free to attend. They are all funded by the sale of hunting and fishing licenses in South Dakota.

NRA huntersrights: How have public schools reacted to The Outdoor Campus? Do groups such as Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts come to the school?
Ryan: Schools in our region send thousands of kids to The Outdoor Campus for programs. They know we will help them meet the education standards, so they don’t have to work hard on convincing their principals or administration that a
class at The Outdoor Campus is a good idea. We also have thousands of groups that attend our programs including Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, church groups, camps, reunions, and other organized groups.

**NRA huntersrights:** Is there a full-time staff that runs The Outdoor Campus?
**Ryan:** We have five full time staff: a director, secretary, volunteer coordinator, community and group program coordinator, and a naturalist.

We also have a part time night and weekend manager and two contract teachers from the Sioux Falls School District to teach our classes and create curriculum. We pay the salary of two 10-month contract teachers. There are also seasonal paid internships available throughout the year.

**NRA huntersrights:** Are the students charged a fee?
**Ryan:** No. The only time a fee may be charged is if supplies for the class are more than our budget would allow. For example, we have a rod building class where the participants purchase their own rod components. The class is free, and we teach them how to put it all together.

**NRA huntersrights:** What is your annual operating budget?
**Ryan:** The operating budget is approx. $700,000 annually.

**NRA huntersrights:** What evidence do you have that kids who go to The Outdoor Campus actually buy a hunting or fishing license?
**Ryan:** In a study done by Dr. Chris McCart in 2008 specifically on our fishing programs, she discovered, “Results also demonstrated an association between Outdoor Campus fishing program participation and an increase in fishing license sales.”

**NRA huntersrights:** What do you think the ultimate value of the school is?
**Ryan:** Ultimately, we’re working to preserve South Dakota’s outdoor heritage. We don’t want kids to experience Nature Deficit Disorder as described in Richard Louv’s book, *Last Child in the Woods*.

Beyond that, people are always concerned about how sportsmen’s dollars are spent. We work hard to create a program that creates new sportsmen and women—ethical, educated and safe. After the last 16 years of work, people seem satisfied that we are helping preserve our outdoor heritage and spending sportsmen dollars wisely.

**NRA huntersrights:** What advice would you give another state fish and game agency that wanted to open a similar school?
**Ryan:** Come visit us! We opened a second facility on the west side of our state a year ago because of the successes we have here in Sioux Falls. We have a great model for other states that want to have partnerships with other government organizations, as well.

Learn more about The Outdoor Campus at: [http://gfp.sd.gov/outdoor-learning/outdoor-campus/](http://gfp.sd.gov/outdoor-learning/outdoor-campus/)
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*The color red for a cap is a trademark of Wildlife Research Center, Inc.
The program distributes free firearms safety kits through law enforcement departments throughout the country and in all of the American territories. The kit consists of a cable-style gun lock and information on keeping firearms secure and safe, especially in homes with children.

“We like the cable-style gun lock because it requires that firearms be unloaded before it’s installed,” said Bill Brassard, NSSF director, communications. “This provides an extra level of safety. The safety brochure covers safe-handling skills and safe-storage techniques in the home.”

More than 35 million firearms safety kits have been distributed through law enforcement departments. Project ChildSafe now distributes approximately 200,000 each year. Although NSSF’s firearms safety kit distributions received federal funding for several years, today Project ChildSafe is funded solely by the firearms, ammunition, hunting and shooting sports industry.

As hunter education instructors, you certainly cover all of the safety pointers regarding firearms safety in the field. In the last hunter education class I personally observed, the teacher even stressed how firearms should be positioned while stored in transit, that is, even before the hunter leaves the vehicle.

Do you, however, emphasize to your students the importance of safely securing their firearms and storing their ammunition in a separate, equally well secured place at home?

Kudos to you if you do.

Why not incorporate Project ChildSafe into your own class?

By going to the Project ChildSafe website (www.projectchildsafe.org), you can learn more about the program and access a handy map of the 50 states. By clicking on that map, you can learn which local law enforcement agencies are participating and may have a supply of locks on hand. If you are fortunate enough to have one of those agencies nearby, perhaps you can arrange with them to provide you with enough firearms safety kits to equip each of your students. If your local law enforcement agency is not listed, why not ask it to participate by applying for safety kits?

Of course, gun safes provide maximum security, and you should be promoting these to your students as well. Do some homework and investigate the gun-safe options. You might even take the initiative to see if any manufacturers or local retailers might provide a discount or other favorable promotion for your graduating students.

As a hunter education instructor you do an outstanding job of delivering the message of safety in the field, and it is through your efforts, and those of your counterparts across the nation, that hunting accidents continue to decrease. However, a responsible firearms owner must exercise gun safety before he or she ever goes afield. The NSSF implores you to incorporate into your curriculum the message of preventing unauthorized access to firearms in the home. And if that message is already in place, then give it even more emphasis. It is that important!
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Observing, listening, and positive thinking processes are skills I learned as a child growing up on a small hobby farm. Nature taught those skills to me. Those basic skills enriched my learning ability during my school years and have carried forward throughout my life. I learned about domestic animal behaviors that caused me to move along a path of observing behavior of all animals and to learn how to work with them. I became more curious about all things in nature.

I spent time sitting near the creek with my horse viewing water movements, little creatures living in the creek, and tree limbs and other vegetation hanging over the water. I would lay in the hayfield observing the cloud formations and viewing the night sky. In winter, time was spent building snow caves in order to get out of the cold and still be able to be outdoors with nature. I listened for what there was to hear in nature.

I always feel centered in the outdoors. When my feelings were hurt or I felt sad about something I would go to nature to find balance within myself, so that I could return positive and productive to the world of people.

I didn’t know as a young person how my childhood activities would influence my entire life in positive ways. To this day, I spend the time I can with nature. It calms me. I listen to it, observe it, and try to learn from it. When I live or work in areas that are consumed with human-made stuff I recreate nature in my mind. I learned years later this is a form of meditation practiced by some people.

As a young girl, I learned that just as we cared for animals on our farm, we are also responsible for wildlife that surrounds us. My Dad taught me how to create habitat for game species like pheasants and fish. I learned to hunt squirrels and other small game. The habitat which we had provided for animals, in turn provided food for our family.

Through these experiences, I became a conservationist. I thank nature for all that it has taught me and provided in my life. I thank my Dad for introducing me to Nature and producing opportunities for Nature to be my teacher.

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In 2012, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service along with State and industry partners celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR). The landmark Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937 establishes a program which provides a funding mechanism to implement the principles of what came to be known as the “North American Model” of Wildlife Conservation, the national conservation system that is the envy of the world. Along with this Act, the Service also acknowledged and celebrated the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act of 1950, the law that is recognized as establishing the corresponding WSFR restoration program for sport fisheries.

To celebrate the 75th anniversary, the Service published Celebrating the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program: 75 Years of Conservation and Partnership Success. The Service printed a limited number of copies for major stakeholders and partners, including State fish and wildlife agencies, industry organizations, and conservation partners. It has been released to the general public in digital format at: http://digitalmedia.fws.gov/cdm/singleitem/collection/document/id/1307. (Please Note – due to file size, this may take a minute to download, depending upon your internet connection speed).

The publication’s special focus is the good work the Service and its partners have accomplished together over the past twenty-five years. It provides a series of articles written by State, Service, and industry representatives from around the nation. Learn how the WSFR program and revenue from hunting and fishing licenses continue to be the lifeblood for state game and fish agencies.

The anniversary publication features a foreword by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, who draws a link between WSFR’s funding model and the Obama Administration’s “America’s Great Outdoors” initiative. This effort seeks to establish a new conservation ethic for the 21st century, a goal every hunter education instructor can identify with.

Hunter education is a great way to introduce or reconnect young people to the natural world, and it is a key strategy to build the next generation of hunters, who have been—throughout American history—some of the most dedicated and successful conservationists.

Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe also reflects on the past 75 years in a foreword to the publication. Speaking on behalf of the Service, he states, “We salute the sporting arms, archery and fishing equipment manufacturers who pay an excise tax on the equipment they produce, as well as the millions of sportsmen and women who effectively pay that tax through the purchase of equipment to hunt, fish, shoot and boat.”

The Director reminds us that the Service last celebrated the successes of the WSFR Program in 1987, with the publication of Restoring America’s Wildlife. As part of the 75th celebration, this historic document has also been digitized, and is available at: http://digitalmedia.fws.gov/cdm/singleitem/collection/document/id/1308. Hunter education and safety are prominent subjects in this earlier publication, which covers some of the success stories of the first fifty years of the Wildlife Restoration Act.

WSFR Assistant Director Hannibal Bolton takes us through some of the important historical drivers that eventually led to the two Acts, including the “tragedy of the commons,” wherein early uncontrolled harvest of wildlife led to rapid decline of many wildlife species. As Mr. Bolton writes, with the dawn of the 20th Century, State wildlife agencies began to step into the picture, to regulate hunting and game harvest through license programs. They employed game wardens who enforced the new laws being written to protect wildlife.

Without a dedicated source of funding, however, they often operated on a shoestring, since license revenue was insufficient to support the young agencies’ needs. Since 1937, the Wildlife Restoration Program has pumped more than $14 billion into State fish and wildlife management, restoration of species, research and monitoring, hunter education, and public access.

A feature article by Mr. Steve Hall, your new IHEA-USA Executive Director, describes the key Amendments to the Act—the Dingell-Hart (1970) and Dingell-Goodling (1972) Amendments—which “bolstered Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration (Pittman-Robertson) funds, giving states opportunities to further develop one of the greatest volunteer-led programs in the history of conservation—Hunter Safety Education.”

The past year has been a great opportunity to evaluate the success of WSFR, and to strengthen the partnerships that have been the foundation of that success over the past 75 years. While we should be proud of what we have accomplished in the past, we must continue to dedicate ourselves to educating sportsmen and women, and also to recruiting and retaining new hunters. Hunter education is a large part of that future, and we look forward to many years of continued success, together.
If a sportsman true you'd be
Listen carefully to me...

Never, never let your gun pointed be at anyone. That it may unloaded be matters not the least to me.

When a hedge or fence you cross though of time it cause a loss from your gun the cartridge take for the greater safety's sake.

If twixt you and neighboring gun bird shall fly or beast may run let this maxim ere be thine

"Follow not across the line."

Steps and beaters oft unseen
Lurk behind some leafy screen.
Calm and steady always be
"Never shoot where you can't see."

You may kill or you may miss
But at all times think this:
"All the pheasants ever bred
Won't repay for one man dead."

“Early Instruction”
By Carl Kauka
C. 1902

Written by Mark Beaufoy of Combe House, Shaftesbury, Dorset, England, in 1902, on presenting his eldest son, Henry Mark, with his first gun. Reproduced here by permission of the author's granddaughter, Mrs. P. M. Gould.
I was with my sisters, mom, and my mom’s boyfriend when we went hunting. It was my first time hunting after completing Hunter Ed. My mom bought targets to practice shooting at. My mom’s boyfriend, Dustin, brought his .410 shotgun, his bow and also my mom’s bow. I practiced a lot, every once in a while I would miss by a lot but Hunter Ed taught me a lot about gun safety, how to shoot a gun and many accessories of hunting safety.

Every morning we would get up at 5 or 6 o’clock in the morning just to get ready. When we got loaded in the truck, Dustin had some camo face paint, so we put that on. When we found the perfect spot we got out and walked for a bit, me with my gun and mom and Dustin with their bows ready. We found a bird called a “Grouse”. If you shoot at one and miss, they will just move to the side. Once I had a great aim, I shot it. I nailed it right in the head. I thought I missed but Dustin said I nailed it. My mom was so happy for me. I was so excited to go hunting and use a real gun! When I get excited I also get loud. Dustin and my mom told me to be quiet. It was so hard!

The next morning we got up and headed out. That day we saw many grouse! I was so excited! I shot three, Dustin shot three with his bow, and my mom did the same! We went home and started to skin them. They felt so weird on my skin. They were very bloody but after we skinned them, we kept them in a zip lock baggie.

The second to the last day there, Dustin saw a doe and shot at it. He saw that the arrow went right through, so we had to go find it. We found a whole bunch of blood, even blood that was bubbling! Dustin said it was lung blood and that he probably shot it between the shoulder and the lungs. We started tracking for blood. Then we saw that the blood stopped and we were very worried. We thought that it got away but it was getting darker, so we weren’t sure if it did or not. Mom went to camp and brought flashlights just in case. It got too dark to where we couldn’t see it. “We’ll look for it in the morning”, Dustin said. “Let’s hope the wolves won’t get to it!” So we went back to camp.

The next morning we walked a whole mile or two. It was hard going up and down steep hills. We kept going until we finally found it! It had run past two downhill roads and we found it at the bottom of the hill! I could hear water. Dustin went to see how far away the water was. In less than three minutes, he came back. We gutted it and I had to carry the heart and liver. It was so bloody. It was really gross, but still very cool. When we brought it home, we cut it up and cooked the meat. I tried the meat of the birds first and the deer last. I liked the grouse. I even got tricked into eating a cooked heart of the grouse. I was surprised how it tasted. It tasted really good! I would totally recommend this to anyone because it was fun! Even though I was nervous about taking Hunter Ed, it was fun. I got my hunting license, and it was totally worth it because I got to spend time with my mom and Dustin!
When it comes to teaching new hunters about successful hunting, *Hunter’s Handbook* is the go-to publication outside state curriculum guides and test-books in which students can get immediate information in the classroom. In an effort to really help students understand scent and attractants in the field, Buck Bomb has partnered with *Hunter’s Handbook* for 2013. Their new commitment to education of new hunters offers students a candid history of scents and attractants as well as tips and tools on how they work today. Buck Bomb will also be working on product supply programs for the 70,000 Hunter Education instructors in North America.

“Buck Bomb is excited about our sponsorship of *Hunter’s Handbook* in 2013,” said Darren Brown, Vice President of Marketing. “We really want the students to understand how attractants can contribute to them having a successful hunt. We want them to understand that they can really increase their odds for success as well as hunt areas that wind direction previously would not allow. Buck Bomb really is a tool that can get first time hunters on deer, hooking them on hunting for life.”

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

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

Send your submission to Susie Kiefer at susiekiefer@msn.com. No computer? You can mail your submission to: IHEA-USA Journal, PO Box 432, Wellington, CO 80549.

Every submission chosen for print receives a gift from supporting manufacturers.
Airguns For Hunting And Marksmanship Skills

Airguns have long been considered a stepping stone to more powerful firearms, ‘pellet pushers’ are now capable of taking a beginning shooter through the entire cycle of learning, from basic safety and marksmanship to actual success in the field. This is a boon for hunting educators faced with the high costs of shooting and gun maintenance. In particular, firearm ammunition costs are on the rise and supplies are increasingly difficult to find. In comparison, airgun pellets are less than ten dollars for a 500-count tin, or a box of 1,250 can be found for under $14.00. Because air is the propellant, there’s no gunpowder to clean from the barrel after all that shooting.

The advantages of airguns go beyond just ammunition; consider the cost of gas to drive to a gun club, weather conditions, and noise. Air rifles and pistols win in every category; an airgun range can be set up in a backyard or even a basement, allowing the shooter to get valuable trigger time without ever leaving home. They can be quietly fired in the backyard without disturbing neighbors. These same advantages are compelling for hunters: low noise means game won’t spook at the pull of the trigger, and low recoil lets shooters concentrate on the task at hand rather than the aftermath. Hunting with airguns is also a great way to hone spot and stalk techniques since most air rifles require a close range shot, making the experience even more exciting.

Most appealing about shooting with airguns is that they provide marksmanship training for all experience levels, in addition to being a fun family activity. There is little recoil to frighten beginners and air rifles produce little noise, making them ideal for shooters with little or no experience. Unlike traditional stick-and-ball sports and event firearm shooting, airgun shooting is an activity where families with children and even grandparents can participate together.

For 2013, Crosman has stepped up its commitment to IHEA-USA and Hunter Education Instructors by offering discounted pricing on select air rifles, ammunition, optics and accessories. If you’ve been considering using airguns for instruction, this program is available to you online 24/7 at crosman.com/IHEA where you may order online at your leisure. For more information on hunting with airguns, visit the Crosman website at crosmanhunting.com.
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THE FUTURE IN SIGHT
Carl W. Edmiston

Carl was born and raised in Beaver, PA a small town northwest of Pittsburgh. Here, he had his first hunting experiences when he and his Dad would hunt on local farms and in the State Game Lands throughout the hills of western Pennsylvania.

He has been an Alaska resident for the past 35 years and involved in the Alaska Hunter Education program for 10 years where he is a basic hunter education instructor with over 500 volunteer instructor hours. Carl was selected as the Alaska Volunteer Hunter Education Instructor of the Year for 2011. He has also served for two separate, two-year terms on the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) Hunter Information and Training (HIT) Steering Group. This is an advisory group representing volunteer hunter education instructors and provides input to ADF&G staff on issues concerning hunter education instructors and the hunter education program.

During the past few summers Carl assisted ADF&G staff members in their summer Outdoor Youth Camps by teaching firearm safety and supporting range activities for young people attending the camps. He also teaches hunter education for the Becoming an Outdoors Woman Program sponsored by the Outdoor Heritage Foundation of Alaska.

Carl is a member and past chairman of the Rabbit Creek Shooting Park Advisory Board. This is an advisory board providing input and recommendations to the ADF&G operated shooting park in Anchorage. As an active volunteer Range Safety Officer (RSO) at the Rabbit Creek Shooting Park and an NRA certified Chief Range Safety Officer, Carl was selected as RSO of the Year on three different occasions.

Carl has been a member of IHEA since 2004 and was a member of the group that developed the initial IHEA On-Line Instructor Training Course. He also wrote an article for the Hunter & Shooting Sports Education Journal which was published in the fall of 2009.

Carl earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Charleston Southern University (formerly Baptist College at Charleston) and a Master’s degree from Central Michigan University.

Carl is a retired Senior Master Sergeant from the US Air Force after 20 years of service, and a retired Organizational Development Consultant and Program Coordinator from the Federal Aviation Administration. Additionally, Carl spent 17 years as an adjunct professor and instructor, teaching evening classes for Chapman University, University of Alaska, Anchorage, and Alaska Pacific University. He also worked as a part time Human Resources Graduate Program Advisor.

Carl is a member of the National Rifle Association, Ducks Unlimited, the Alaska Rifle Club, the Matanuska Sportsman’s Association, and the Alaska Volunteer Hunter Education Instructor Association. He is an active shooter with a passion for firearms safety and educating young people, from the very beginning, on the proper ways to handle firearms both on the range and in the field.

Carl can be reached by e-mail at: carledmi@ptialaska.net.

George Haas, PhD

George majored in wildlife management at Utah State University (B.S.) and the University of Minnesota (MS and PhD). He worked 40 years in the field of wildlife management, first in research then in management. He is currently a hunter safety instructor in Massachusetts and teaches the basic course, trapping and waterfowl identification programs there. He is also an instructor for the Massachusetts Becoming an Outdoors Woman program and for the Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow program. He has been a fisherman for over 60 years, a hunter (bow and firearms) for over 50 years, and the occasional trapper. He currently resides in Western Massachusetts with his wife of 45 years.

George can be reached by email at: haasden@verizon.net.
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My Turn—Streamlining The Process

By Gary Berlin, Master Hunter Education Instructor, Colorado

In the fall 2012 issue of the Hunter & Shooting Sports Education Journal, IHEA president John McKay wrote about the need for the delivery of hunter education to evolve to better serve our clientele, the future hunters of America. John noted, “We also shouldn’t be surprised if there’s a call for more online courses, available 24/7/365, that reduce, or yes, even eliminate time spent in classrooms.” John’s message was right on target and timely.

While at the 2013 SHOT Show, I had the opportunity to meet with Bill Creighton, president and CEO of the Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports and many of the State Wildlife Agency Directors who serve as Council members. One thing I heard loud and clear from meeting with Bill and the Directors is that something significant has to be done to streamline the process for new hunters to obtain their hunter education certification and move to becoming license buyers.

As Agency Director of Outdoor Roadmap LLC (ORM), I often have the opportunity to speak with State agency heads and their Hunter Education Administrators about the future of hunter education and the evolution of hunter education training. I can see clear evidence of the increase in the number of states and instructors who are currently making the transition to online training and reducing the number of traditional classroom sessions. As John McKay wrote and evidenced by what state directors and Bill Creighton shared with me, I too have no doubt that additional states will embrace online instruction for their future hunters.

Colorado’s State Hunter Education Administrator, Mark Cousins, has been ahead of the curve. For the past three years during his annual instructor training academies, Mark has offered internet-based Hunter Education Workshops to his 400+ instructors. At these workshops, Mark reviews the online course offerings and reaffirms what we, as instructors must teach during the 4-hour field day conclusion course and live fire exercise.

At the business meeting and the course content standards committee meeting at the 2013 IHEA Conference in San Antonio, State Administrators discussed ways to streamline hunter education training. I am anxious to see what transpires—hopefully actions that will help instructors increase the number of hunters we serve through the simplification of the delivery of hunter education.

Gary Berlin is a Master Colorado Hunter Education instructor and former Executive Director of the IHEA. Gary now serves as the Agency Director for Outdoor Roadmap LLC. (ORM)

www.OutdoorRoadmap.com

Teaching Tip

My teaching tip is to provide a rest for the rifles during the Hunter Education live fire requirement. I did this in order to keep the rifles from getting dents and scratches from fired cartridge cases during a cease fire and between relays. I bought a section of wood banister and cut it into sections of nine inches and then glued foam rubber piping insulation on it. The flat bottom of the banister wood keeps it steady and the piping insulation holds and cushions the rifles.

Paul Gresky, CO Hunter Education Instructor
Tip #28: Adjusting a rear sight

One of the easiest things you can do to improve your shooting is to make sure your rear sight is adjusted for windage and elevation.

If your grouping is too far to the right, move the windage adjustment to the left. If the grouping is too far to the left, move the windage adjustment to the right. If the grouping is too high, move the elevation adjustment down.

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Taking Care Of Your Optics

By Gary Brennan, CA Master Instructor

When we teach our students about handling guns in the field, we often times cover the topic of gun cleaning. What usually goes untouched is how to care for all of the optical gear we carry in the field. Most of us carry some form of optic glass. Binoculars, spotting scopes, rifle scopes, laser range finders, cameras, and shooting glasses all have one thing in common; they get dirty while we are using them in the field. Before cleaning any part of a firearm, make sure it is unloaded by opening the action and checking the magazine and chamber.

While hunting in Wyoming last fall, we hunted in very windy, dusty conditions which reduced our visibility because of dust and dirt buildup on our lenses. The next day we were hunting in rainy weather crossing fences by laying my rifle on the ground on the far side so I could cross safely. Each day when we returned to our camp each night, we had to clean our rifles scopes, binoculars and range finders due to all of the dirt, dust and mud they collected throughout the hunt.

We all know that rifle scopes and binoculars cost from under a hundred dollars to well into the thousands. If you can’t see through the glass and identify your target because of the dust and dirt buildup, you could miss the shot of a lifetime, or worse, be unsafe!

There are numerous pre-made cleaning kits available from camera companies as well as other outdoor companies which you can use to clean your glass. Most kits...
come in small watertight containers or even in camouflage zippered pouches and can be purchased for less than $20.00.

There are also numerous single use, pre-moistened and anti-fogging wipes. A normal optical maintenance routine will prolong the life of your rifle scope, binoculars and range finders for years.

The cleaning process for optics glass is pretty simple but it takes a few items which can be found at most major outdoor outfitters, camera shops or online. The basic four items you should have in your kit include:

- **An optics cleaning brush**, that has fine optic brush fibers which are ultra-soft for cleaning the delicate surfaces of lenses, binoculars, spotting and rifle scopes and which fully retract within the base to completely protect the brush while it is in your backpack. The brush is used to remove all of the larger dirt particles and dust from the lens and the threads on the insides of both ends of the scope or binoculars.

- **Anti-fog cleaning fluid**, either in a spray or drops can provide anti-fog protection for up to 7 days depending on the manufacturer’s specifications. Most anti-fogging fluids are safe on glass as well as plastic lenses. The fluid will break up any dried dirt which may be on the lens and it helps the lens tissue remove the dirt. Use just enough to get the job done.

- **Premium grade lens tissue** can be found in matchbook size. Lens tissue can be used to soak up the fluid and polish the glass after all dirt has been removed. Most lens tissue booklets hold approximately 25 tissues per book.

- **A thick chemical free, ultra-soft cleaning cloth** is perfect for cleaning rifle or spotting scopes, binoculars, cameras and shooting glasses as well as your duck and goose calls. Most are microfiber cloths which are super soft and will complete the cleaning process by removing the rest of the fluid residue and bring the glass to a high polish. These cloths can be hand washed or placed in the washer and then dried—just don’t use fabric softener.

I now carry either the small cleaning kit or some of the wipes in my hunting pack and my truck so I can take care of problems as they occur in the field. I also discuss the cleaning procedures with my hunter education class.

Pre-moistened wipes and the simple optic cleaning items listed above will remove dirt, dust and possibly some misplaced cleaning solvents off of your equipment, extending the life of your optical gear and keeping money in your pocket.
Maryland Hunter Education Instructor Matthew Marsh Wins NAHC 2012 Mentor Of The Year Award

The North American Hunting Club has bestowed their 2012 Mentor of the Year Award to Matthew “Herk” Marsh. The Mentor of the Year is an annual award given to a deserving hunter who has shown his or her dedication to introducing others to the outdoors. Mentors are nominated by North American Hunting Club (NAHC) members and then are ultimately voted upon by the entire NAHC membership group.

Matthew Marsh, known to most as “Herk,” is a Maryland hunter education instructor who has also been volunteering as a hunter education instructor for West Virginia for the past two years. He is also an NAHC Life Member and a NRA Chief Range Officer. In addition, Herk is a muzzleloader, bowhunting and treestand safety instructor. With Herk, mentoring has also become a family affair. His wife, Jackie, and

Hunting Tip—Purchasing New Sports Optics

By Joel Harris

If you are in the market to lay down some cash for new optics to be used afield, there often are many pieces of information to consider, establish the value and make what you believe to be an informed decision. In a world of catchy marketing terms and gadgetry, what matters most is you get a product that fits your particular application and ultimately makes you happy for many years to come.

After determining the model, size, magnification etc… Always try to purchase the best quality you can possibly afford. In order to help you through this process here are a few guidelines.

Binoculars:
A new binocular should fit your hand properly – evaluate handling, ergonomics and balance. Check the function of the operating elements for ease of use. You should be able to “feel the quality” in the mechanical focus, the eyecups, and protective armor. Ask yourself if the product seems durable to withstand the rigors of hunting. Considering optical performance by looking for color fringing, edge to edge clarity, resolution and most important, brightness. Evaluating light transmission can often be accomplished in the store by looking into dark corners or areas with your naked eye and then again through the binoculars. Learn how to adjust the diopter setting to your eyes, and if you don't know how to test the binocular, ask the attendant for help. Always compare several models and if possible do some research on the internet or in publications before entering the store.

Riflescopes:
Once you’ve determined the objective size and magnification range, determine if you require an illumination feature or not. Hold the scope and try to judge the workmanship and overall appearance. Is the finish durable and the quality what you expected? Look at the lines of the scope tube body and determine if there is ample mounting space and that the weight and length make sense for your rifle and your hunting style. Are the mechanical features of the windage and elevation adjustments precise, or do they feel “mushy”? Do the knobs protrude where they could snag or move accidentally? There shouldn’t be any internal debris visible on the lens surfaces. Make sure there is no shift in eye relief with magnification change. Try to judge color, fidelity, edge to edge clarity and most importantly the low light performance.

Always check the warranty and the reputation of the brand. Think of optics as a long term investment. With proper care your new optics will provide you years of success and enjoyment. Shoot straight, be safe, and get out there.
young son, Josh, are both Maryland hunter education instructors as well, with Josh being a junior instructor.

“ar have been deemed worthy of this nomination by my friend and fellow NAHC Life Member and peers is humbling,” said Marsh on his nomination. “Then I was notified that I was selected as one of the Top 5 finalists, which totally blew me away. Like a lot of other mentors across the country, I don’t do it for the recognition—I volunteer my time for the young people and new outdoorsmen out there. To win this award is a true honor and a highlight of my life—one I will always treasure. I appreciate it very much and thank all members who voted for me.”

Marsh has provided mentoring and instruction for the following groups: Jennings Randolph Lake Handicapped/Challenged Hunts (for physically challenged individuals); the Boy Scouts of America (where Herk and Jackie started out as Cub Scout pack leaders, teaching scouts to shoot bows and pellet guns); and with the Cumberland, Maryland, 4-H Shotgun Shooting program.

The Jennings Randolph Lake Handicapped/Challenged Hunts are for both youth and adults, and they give physically challenged hunters the opportunity to experience a deer hunt. Herk and others help them overcome their disabilities so they can be successful in the hunt and be able to enjoy the experience.

Marsh credits his late grandfather for teaching him everything he knows about hunting, fishing and the outdoors—and especially about ethics and conservation. Herk’s been passing on these lessons to his son, nephews, nieces, a younger brother and many of the Maryland, West Virginia and Pennsylvania youngsters that he’s worked with through the years.

“I was fortunate enough to have a grandfather who loved being in the outdoors,” added Marsh. “He shared his love for these activities with his children and grandchildren. He taught us to appreciate nature’s beauty, to protect it, and to share it with others. ‘Pap’ taught us from an early age to fish, shoot and hunt and to be respectful of the outdoors and the wildlife that’s a part of it. It’s because of his dedication to us kids that I enjoy working with youth and adults, passing on what he’s taught me. It’s always a joy to have some younger approach me and tell me I was one of their instructors when they took their hunter education class, or that I’d helped them with their shooting at one of our local Jr. Hunter Field Days.”

As part of winning this honor, Marsh received a trip to Las Vegas to attend the Shooting, Hunting, and Outdoor Trade (SHOT) Show, a spring turkey hunt and other prizes from sponsors.
New Products For Your Students

New Realtree Xtra® Camo Brings Pattern Realism to New Level

When camo pattern leader, Realtree®, puts its brainpower together, the woodlands come to life on your body. New for 2013, Realtree Xtra and Realtree Xtra Green camo patterns offer three distinct fields within one camo pattern: a foreground, midground, and background giving hunters an even better ability to blend into their environment offering more success to their hunts.

Check out the details of these exciting new patterns from your fellow experts in the field on realtree.com.

Winchester Unveils Innovative AA® TrAAcker™: Show Your Students Why They’ve Been Missing

A fired 12-gauge shotgun shell unleashes a column of shot from a shotgun barrel at about 1,200 feet per second—too fast for the human eye to see the pellets in flight. This can make it extremely difficult to master the correct lead on flying clay targets or game birds.

What if that changed? What if it was possible to track the flight of the shot string? Thanks to Winchester® Ammunition, it’s happening in 2013.

Legendary innovation at Winchester continues with the AA® TrAAcker™, the first shotgun shell to feature a weighted wad that actually tracks with the shot string. This allows the students or instructors to quickly determine where the shooter is missing—making it easy to adjust and nail flying targets shot after shot.

Go to www.winchester.com to learn more about this awesome tool for your classroom.

New Hunter Safety System ELITE Vest Raises the Bar on Safety and Design

Instructors, meet the HSS-Elite Series vest, a newly engineered treestand safety harness from your friends at Hunter’s Safety Systems that perfectly fuses the elements of form and function in a high-performance zippered vest.

Weighing less than 3 lbs., the fully featured Elite is surely destined to become a favorite for all-season hunting.

And, the Right-Fit™ zone keeps the Elite snug and smooth, no matter your size and is lined with HSS’s own Comfort Cool fabric that wicks moisture when the heat is on.

Easy to put on and a necessity in the woods, the new HSS-Elite is available in the new Realtree Xtra® at most outdoor retailers for $159.99.

OSP Shooting School Unlocks the Secrets to Shooting

24/7 ACCESS TO BETTER SHOOTING - ANYTIME - ANYWHERE!

As an instructor, finding new tools to help your students have a successful shooting experience is a must. No one is more aware of this than world class shooting instructors Gil and Vicki Ash. They are the geniuses behind OSP Shooting School and its new tool, KNOWLEDGE VAULT.

KNOWLEDGE VAULT offers the most comprehensive source of shot gunning knowledge available today. Accessible from your desk, tablet, or in your pocket on your smart phone, KNOWLEDGE VAULT offers shooters access to 30 years of teaching tools from OSP Shooting School on one easily accessible and searchable premium site. These tools can also be applied in the field, while physically teaching students or just shooting on your own.

Check out ospknowledgevault.com for your Hunter Education classroom, and experience the latest in technology for shooting at your fingertips.

Light up the Night with the ProTac® HL™ from Streamlight

Six hundred lumens of power in a compact 5 1/2” light from Streamlight can help you and your students signal for help, find your way safely to and from the field, and is a super asset just for camping out.

New from Streamlight the ProTac HL is a programmable flashlight. You can set it up for exactly what you need. Offering three different programs, the ProTac HL offers a high/strobe/low program, high only program, or low/high light program. Waterproof with push-button one hand operation, the ProTac HL offers an amazing 253 meters of beam distance—allowing you to see everything you need to see at night in the woods. Available at Cabelas, Bass Pro and other great outdoor retailers.

It’s Not Just a Gun—it’s a Lifestyle

Check Out WBY-X from Weatherby

Check out the WBY-X line—a stylish, unique product line from Weatherby offering everything from uniquely patterned synthetic stocks on their shotguns and Vanguard Series 2 rifles to cool t-shirts and hats.

WBY-X speaks to “being different” and embracing it. Offering unique patterns like “Black Reaper”, “Kryptek” and “Whitetail Bonz”, WBY-X combines a one-of-a-kind, different look on their stocks with the timeless, esteemed quality of Weatherby firearms. Say goodbye to plain black synthetic stocks, and hello to a hunting rifle that is not only renowned for accuracy, but now also offers a look and feel that new hunters can completely call their own.

Hog Reaper
Kryptek
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 almost 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 the www.nssf.org and order your materials today. All the help you need is at your fingertips.
When it comes to scent elimination, there are a lot of products on the market, and in many cases, not a lot of knowledge or thought behind teaching incoming hunters how exactly to use them. The Hunter & Shooting Sports Education Journal is excited to let instructors know that long-time experts on smelling invisible, Wildlife Research Center, will be back in Hunter's Handbook with the scent and scent elimination category for 2013.

Veterans in the category, Wildlife Research Center will educate students on the whole process of scent elimination including critical steps in preparing for the hunt as well as for eliminating scent for the duration of the hunt. John Bergeson, owner and avid supporter of hunter education comments, “Helping students understand scent elimination so that they can have successful hunts gives Wildlife Research Center® a real sense of accomplishment. There are thousands of hunters every year who miss out on their chance to shoot a nice buck, because their smell alerted him. And a lot of the time, the hunters didn’t even know it and never saw the buck. We want to help these first time hunters to have a better chance of having a successful experience, making them hunters for life.”

Wildlife Research Center® Helps First Time Hunters Succeed With “The 4 Steps To Beat A Buck’s Nose”

Dr. Julio Carrera López, former IHEA Zone IV Vice-President passed from this life earlier this year while on a fishing trip with his son in Tamaulipas, Mexico. Dr. Carrera was a former Secretary of Interior for Mexico, and considered by some to be the Father of Hunter Education in Mexico. He was an IHEA-USA Lifetime Member and during his term as IHEA Zone IV Vice-President, had attended several IHEA conferences. Julio also served as president of the Mexican nonprofit organization Profauna, one of Mexico’s most respected environmental organizations. He will be greatly missed by many.
**10 Commandments of Firearm Safety**

**Limited Edition Commemorative Patch Order Form**

**Mail your order to:** IHEA-USA • 2727 West 92nd Ave., Suite 103 • Federal Heights, CO 80260

**Method of Payment (US funds only):**
- [ ] Check/Money Order
- [ ] American Express
- [ ] Master Card
- [ ] Visa

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**Lifetime OR Annual Membership**

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**Lifetime Membership Payment Plan (3 Consecutive M. Installments) ...$150.00**

**Total Payment** $______

**Matching lapel pin included if available.**

**Individual ANNUAL or LIFETIME Membership Information**

**Name:** ____________________________

**Address:** ____________________________

**City:** ____________________________

**Province/State:** ____________________________

**Postal Code:** ____________________________

**Phone:** ( ) ____________________________

**Fax:** ( ) ____________________________

**E-mail:** ____________________________

**I prefer (check one):**
- [ ] E-Mail
- [ ] Paper correspondence

**Note:**
- $100 Cabala’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”)
- “Lifetime Member” Lapel Pin
- Cabala’s brand Duffel Bag (29”L X 16”W X 14”H) embossed with “Lifetime Member”

**Mail to:** IHEA-USA • 2727 West 92nd Ave., Suite 103, Federal Heights, CO 80260

**Website:** www.IHEA-USA.org • **Phone:** (303) 430-7233 • **E-Mail:** info@ihea.com

**Membership rewards are subject to change.**
Ever thought of using a laser sight in the classroom to show students exactly where they are aimed? Now, you can equip yourself with the latest in technology for the classroom from Crimson Trace at a hunter education instructor discount price.

Kent Thomas at Crimson Trace is excited to announce this new program for instructors. “The Training Community has been a part of the success of Crimson Trace since our inception in 1994. With well over 1 million CTC laser sighting systems now in the marketplace, there’s no question we’ve all been able to help so many people become more accurate and confident shooters, but it all starts with basic safety and training from the expert, certified training community. At Crimson Trace, we believe that no handgun is fully equipped without a laser sighting system and, with all the new gun owners in the country, we strongly recommend they seek the professional training required to make them safe and responsible. We’re excited to be partnering with the training community through IHEA-USA to help today’s gun owners safely protect family, home and country.”

Weatherby, Incorporated is proud to offer all certified hunter education instructors special pricing on their entire catalog of products and accessories. “Weatherby, Inc. is proud to support hunter education instructors,” states Ed Weatherby. “Their dedication to ensure safe and responsible hunting is a cornerstone of our hunting heritage.”

To enjoy an amazing 35% off retail program from Weatherby, Inc., contact John Long at 805-227-2653 or by email at jlong@weatherby.com.

Aimpoint, worldwide leader and originator of red dot sights, is excited to begin offering discounts on their premium reflex sights.

Kristie Drawe, Director of Marketing comments, “Aimpoint is proud to support the IHEA-USA and all hunter education instructors. The time, energy and dedication they give to new hunters is imperative to ensuring a future of safe, responsible hunting. We look forward to providing instructors with the opportunity to learn more about Aimpoint red dot sights and the advantages they have in the field.”

Interested instructors can find the Aimpoint discount at Promotive.com.

For more information on these special discounts and offers for Instructors, go to: http://ihea-usa.org/special-offers-for-instructors.

For instructor-only discounts click on the "Instructors" tab and go to "Special Offers for Instructors." When prompted, enter "gohunt" as your password.
Who knew a bow with 40 lbs of weight adjustment could be this fast, this smooth and this quiet?

Who could've imagined getting all that for $299? Our competitors say, it's crazy. We say, it's the Craze."
the buck bomb

blows away traditional scents

doe in estrus

buckbomb.com