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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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H ave you got your turkey calls tuned up and ready to go? Get those box calls chalked and those slate calls ready.

Is your favorite turkey hunting vest fully prepped? Clean out the old candy bars and rotten apples from last turkey season.

Have you set up your favorite turkey blind and removed all the leaves and debris from last year?

Are your decoys looking as irresistible as they did last year?

Have you patterned your shotgun in preparation for opening day of turkey season? Pattern your shotgun at different distances using the same ammunition that you intend to use while turkey hunting.

Turkey season requires a lot of preparation and you typically get out of it what you put into it. The same amount of preparation needs to go into our planning for teaching hunter education classes during the spring.

During the spring season, hunter education instructors will shift gears and focus more on turkey hunting safety. Turkey hunting is one of the most challenging types of hunts; therefore, the typical hunter will use concealment and imitation to lure a thundering gobbler into shooting range. Because of this, hunter education instructors will teach students how to become defensive turkey hunters.

What does a defensive turkey hunter look and act like? A defensive turkey hunter will sit against a stump, rock or tree that is wider than his/her shoulders and higher than his/her head when calling turkeys. He/she will select an area in open timber to set up in, rather than setting up in thick brush. A defensive turkey hunter will wear only camouflaged clothing and would never wear anything red, white or blue.

A defensive turkey hunter will resist the urge to stalk turkey sounds. It is nearly impossible to sneak up on a turkey. When the urge hits to put the “sneak” on an old tom, think like a defensive turkey hunter. Realize that those sounds may be another hunter.

The defensive turkey hunter knows that one of the primary causes of turkey hunting incidents is failure to identify the target. The hunter may see movement, hear a sound, or see a flash of red, white or blue and shoot. This poor judgment often causes severe injuries and sometimes even death to another hunter. A defensive turkey hunter knows that being 99.9 percent sure isn’t good enough. Make absolutely sure you see your target and that it is a legal turkey.

As thousands of turkey hunters enter the woods in pursuit of wild turkeys, don’t allow safety to get pushed to the bottom of the preparation list.

Please Remember the IHEA-USA When Writing Your Will

A s 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 will help to ensure that future generations will get to experience the same kind of outdoor experiences that you hold so dearly. Please read this testimonial:

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

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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"

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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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It may be perceived that HANDS-ON educational opportunities are declining these days, especially with the popularity and convenience of ON-LINE education approaches – sites that are growing exponentially across the World Wide Web. With hunter education, seven states are now allowing “on-line only” certification as part of their suite of course offerings, and the list will continue to grow to better meet demands.

HOW HUNTER EDUCATION IS DELIVERED is the proverbial “elephant in the room” when it comes to looking at reciprocity issues between states and minimum “Hunter Education Standards” which we, the hunting community, expect all hunters to meet – no matter what species is hunted, no matter where someone hunts, and no matter what hunting method and techniques are used.

On one hand, online education is about convenience and customer service – completing minimum education requirements 24:7. Online hunter education course-work allows would-be hunters to educate themselves in KNOWLEDGE-based objectives where, and when, they want to – with access to a computer or even a hand-held device in some cases. Just like with online hunting license sales, instant access allows someone who is invited to go hunting tomorrow to jump through the necessary hoops (requirements) today. In the last three decades, this has not been possible for hunters in most states… that is, if someone was trying to comply with the hunting license and/or hunter education requirements of those states. But with apprentice programs such as Families Affield® and advances in technologies these past ten years, not only is such education possible, it is soaring in most fields of study, especially among those ages four through 34. User numbers are growing – thus enabling states to reach more customers – this is good news!

On the other hand, the traditional model, the use of trained staff/volunteers to provide classroom and/or field-based coursework, is considered the most successful conservation education story in the history of the Pittman-Robertson era. The use of
volunteers to teach hunter education to the masses has formed the backbone of delivery methods used by most states. And because of this model, the clear success of hunter education over these last 60+ years include:

1) greatly reduced hunting and shooting accident (incident) rates
2) improved compliance to wildlife regulations
3) improved image of hunters and hunting, especially by non-hunters

All are factors heavily cited as those which will enable us to continue the hunting heritage in North America. This, too, is good news!

Perhaps the most powerful teaching method used in the traditional model has been the HANDS-ON approach to increase the probability of retention and motivation in students – but most certainly what is known as the FUN factor, too. Formatted as a “Field Course,” the hands-on approach is still considered the best teaching and learning approach within academic circles (Note: Experiential Education is another term used to denote the hands-on training approach).

The downside to online learning has been the use of hands-on methods to train people in the SKILLS that are necessary to be safe, responsible shooters, hunters and outdoor users – some of us would say the essence of why hunter education should be taught in the first place. Other downsides include:

1) the lack of connection with real people like game/conservation officers, biologists and those who might know where to gain access to hunt,
2) the creation of advocacy for the agency and its programs through the building of relationships, and
3) my personal favorite, the missed opportunity to openly discuss hunting ethics with peers, the one face-to-face activity that has been shown to positively influence such behaviors afield (Jackson, Norton et al).

The downside to the traditional model has been course availability, certainty and consistency, especially access to field-based, hands-on experiences in proximal locations and at all times throughout the year.

Requiring training of would-be hunters (demand) while not making courses extremely available (supply) is at the crux of ‘problem’ for many hunter education programs – despite a state’s and volunteer’s best efforts. There can simply never be enough courses offered to meet everyone’s personal desires or situations.

What is the overall solution? Certainly, those states that have tried both – delivering knowledge-based objectives online while providing ample, more available and accessible half to full-day field/skill courses in many locations throughout the year is, perhaps, the best approach.

The IHEA-USA Standards Committee is currently looking at this issue and will provide recommendations and/or “best delivery” practices as an addendum to a set of revised national standards. If a state provides all available deliveries/approaches, it will most certainly reach more people (widen the funnel of hunter recruitment) – and, if the state also focuses its volunteer efforts and training on providing more HANDS-ON introductory or follow-up field/skill courses, I am confident that the masses will continue to be attracted to these opportunities even if they aren’t required to attend or they pass the basic requirement online. Most people still want to learn how to shoot and gain new hunting skills and confidence by going to someone who knows about such – the hunter education instructor!

I personally believe we can have our cake and eat it, too – use ON-LINE education and processes to attract a wider, younger and more diverse audience and follow it up with more HANDS-ON opportunities to help new and even traditional audiences how to (safely and responsibly) handle sporting arms, shoot and hunt – while having a fun time. One repercussion of going online so much, is that eventually it should drive us crazy enough to want to go back outside and enjoy actual outdoor experiences!
Every once in a while I get asked an interesting question and in March of 2013 I was approached by Iowa Hunter Education Instructor Brandon Burrows about setting up a hunter education class. This may not seem like such an unusual question but you have to read the rest of the story to understand.

Brandon currently works for the DNR as a Wildlife Technician at the Otter Creek Wildlife area near Chelsea, Iowa and is a Volunteer Hunter Education Instructor. He is also a member of the armed forces and has served several tours in Afghanistan. At the time Brandon was stationed at the QEN Forward Operating Base in Afghanistan and had sent me an email stating that he had been asked by some of his junior enlisted officers if he could teach a hunter education class for them. My first thought was is this possible and secondly this is a great idea and I want to make this work. I checked with Megan Wisecup and we were able to relay teaching materials to Brandon via email so that he could start the class as soon as possible. During a period from May 2nd through May 9th Brandon taught the first-ever Iowa hunter education class that I know of to our troops overseas.

When Brandon Burrows returned from Afghanistan later this summer I met with him to finalize the paperwork for the course that he had taught. We talked about how the class progressed and the challenges he faced when teaching in the environment around them at the time. He said he thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to teach the class and was overwhelmed by the support he received from his junior officers. The course was a big hit and Brandon was soon finding out that there were soldiers at other company locations that had heard about the class and wanted him to teach more hunter education classes. Due to time constraints this was not possible to do.

Brandon later on sent me an email with his own perspective on the class that was taught and included some quotes from some of the soldiers that attended his course. In the next few paragraphs Brandon and his fellow officers explain what this class meant to them.

Quotes from Instructor Brandon Burrows and some of his junior officers that attended the class:

**CW3 Brandon Burrows**
Instructor, MEDEVAC pilot

“I was surprised when I had several fellow soldiers approach me about providing a Hunter Safety course while deployed. I was extremely surprised and excited to see how many folks signed up to take the class.”

“I thoroughly enjoyed teaching the class. I am passionate about the outdoors and enjoy sharing my enthusiasm, knowledge, and experience with people whom have never experience the excitement of a hunt. I found many people sitting down with me to enjoy one of my favorite hunting videos.Keep the Tradition, Keep It Safe, and Pass It On

Keep the Tradition, Keep It Safe, and Pass It On

By Pat Jorgensen, NE District Recreational Safety Officer, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Law Enforcement Bureau
during a period of ‘down time.’ One of the soldiers has been sending me at least one picture per week of him posing with his first duck, quail, pheasant, or goose or maybe a limit of birds him and his buddies had harvested that morning. Since we have returned, I have actually been able to mentor a few of these students on their first waterfowl hunts and they can’t seem to get enough.”

The class took place at QEN Forward Operating Base (FOB). The class was spread out over the course of a week to accommodate all members’ work schedules and duty cycles to ensure all students received range time as well as attended all portions of the classroom instruction. I was able to provide instruction to 18 soldiers who have never hunted and had seven additional soldiers attend the class that had already been through the hunter safety training, but were looking for updated information or a refresher on what they had learned many years prior. The class involved 10-12 hours of classroom material presented via Powerpoint presentations in our mission briefing room. The mission briefing room was inside a glorified tent that had a decent-sized TV on which we conducted our daily mission briefings. During that we covered the required material, a few videos, shoot/don’t shoot scenarios, regulations, hands-on firearm safety, ethics, and preparation for the test. We were also able to schedule a three-hour block of hands-on firearms training and live-firing on 9mm pistols, 5.56mm rifles, and 12 gauge shotguns. The group was divided into three groups of approximately 8-10 soldiers per group to maximize the quality of instruction and ensure a safe training environment.

We then completed the written exam and the hands-on field portion of the testing. Each soldier completed the hands-on portion on a “make-shift” course. This was the most difficult portion of the class, just trying to find resources to set up a fence-crossing scenario! The class included a wide range of experience. One student had been hunting for over 40 years and was not required to have hunter safety. Most of the students had no firearm training outside of the military and most of them had no experience hunting. After the completion of the first class, I was approached by several other soldiers at some of our Company’s other locations if I would be able to teach more classes. Due to the time constraints and the logistical nightmare, I was unable to
provide another class. There were also several folks that sat in on parts of the classroom instruction or the live-fire exercises that did not receive their certificates because they were not present for all of the training. We fired approximately 1,500 rounds of 9mm, 4,500 rounds of 5.56, and 3,000 rounds of 12-gauge slugs/buckshot (all divided amongst the three groups). (I was not a huge fan of Benelli shotguns until we put 3,000 rounds through two shotguns in a relatively short period of time with little to no issues.)

CW2 Jason Custforth, 31 yrs old, never hunted, MEDEVAC pilot
“The only firearm training I have had has been through the military. As great as the military is about teaching basic shooting fundamentals, it does not always go into depth on safety as it pertains to shooting for sport outside of military operations. Our hunter safety course was instructed by a true sportsman that gave us the tools and knowledge to truly understand why safety is such an important part of the sport. It brings me joy to be able to pass this knowledge to my children so they may grow and enjoy the sport with more confidence while being safer in the process.”

CW4 Charles Sharkey, 54 yrs old, never hunter safety trained, been hunting for over 40 years, MEDEVAC pilot
“The Hunter safety course was a great refresher on safe firearms procedures and helped me build a greater awareness of what I should expect while hunting with others. It also provided me with updated information and clarification on regulations that may be new or changed since I began hunting over 40 years ago.”

WO1 Rob Ghabel, 35, never hunted, Medevac pilot
“As a person who has never hunted, I am now looking forward to taking my children hunting and exposing them to more outdoor experiences. I feel the course has prepared me to safely take my family afield and enjoy the outdoors with other family and friends.”

SGT Alex Kane, 27, never hunted, Flight Medic
“As a person who was never interested in hunting, the hunter safety course has sparked a new interest in hunting and the other shooting sports. Mr. Burrows taught an engaging class that relayed many experiences and information and is passionate about what he teaches.”

SGT Jesus Garbiso, 22, never hunted, Aircraft crew chief
“The course was fun and interesting to learn about the history of the hunting tradition in Iowa while deployed to Afghanistan. Having completed the Hunter Safety course, I plan to share my newfound enthusiasm for hunting with my family so we can build our own hunting traditions.”

Conclusion
Hunter education serves many purposes and after reading these great quotes it reminds me that hunter education is something special that everyone can benefit from. For those who have never hunted to those who have ample experience, hunter education teaches us all about the values of safety, wildlife conservation, ethics and survival which provides the passion in us to pass these values on to the next generation of hunters in our lives. Keep the tradition, keep it safe, and pass it on.

As the Northeast District Recreational Safety Officer I would like to first thank instructor Brandon Burrows for teaching this class and doing such a great job. I would also like to thank Brandon and his fellow soldiers for their service to this country. If it were not for their sacrifices there would not be an opportunity for the people of this country to enjoy hunting and the outdoors like so many of us do. We should be so grateful to all of our service men and women for what they do day in and day out to keep us free.
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Ultimate hunter education experiences occur when an instructor is able to lead his or her students on an actual hunt – as an extension of the course – especially first-time hunters and their families. As hunter education instructors, we plant seeds! As hunting guides/mentors, we are privileged to see those seeds take root, grow and even blossom as mature plants.

For the 11th year since its inception, I've been privileged to serve as “Huntmaster” for what has come to be called the “Superhunt.” Each year, approximately 65 young hunters and their parents/guardians have the opportunity to experience first-hand the thrill of hunting white-tailed deer, axis deer and feral hogs near the town of Fredericksburg in the “Heart of the Hill Country.” Add to that another 50 to 60 volunteers, guides, landowners and guests, and you have what Doug Dubois, Jr., Superhunt’s Lead Huntmaster, Texas Wildlife Association board member and hunter education instructor, says is the “largest youth deer hunt in the world.” (You know us Texans – everything is bigger in the Lone Star State!)

Originally begun by landowner Ronnie Ottmers as part of the Cave Creek Wildlife Management Cooperative Association, and the Austin Woods & Waters Club past president, lead huntmaster and fellow hunter education instructor, Kent Brenneman, Central Texas

Charles Klein has hosted groups at his ranch every year including 2004 (1st yr.) and 2014 (11th yr.) hunters – more than a decade of memories with TYHP!
landowners were looking for a way to harvest more of their out-of-control deer and free-roaming exotic populations that occupy a high percentage of this part of the Central Texas plateau region. They also wanted to give back to future generations and to the hunting heritage.

Enter the Texas Youth Hunting Program (tyhp.org), a partnership begun by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Texas Wildlife Association. Started in 1996, the program was the brainchild of former Texas A&M Wildlife College Dean, Wallace Klussman, and was further developed by a think tank of Texas conservation leaders concerned with the future of hunting in Texas (and beyond).

TYHP has taken off in Texas and currently reaches well over 1,200 young hunters plus their families each year. These youth get to hunt on private lands otherwise closed to such opportunities – except, perhaps, for more costly and less youth-friendly leasing operations.

The largest of the TYHP deer hunts is the Superhunt, though there are other hunts beginning to grow to 40 and 50 youngsters strong. (I have also personally taken part in a TYHP waterfowl hunt involving nearly 80 young hunters from the Houston area.)

With meager beginnings atop of the Cave Creek Knob, featuring an old pavilion and an historic one-room Cave Creek school house, the first hunt went as planned despite monsoon-like rains. And, each hunt since has been enhanced – based partially on an evaluation following each hunt on how to improve for the coming year. Each hunt also is based on the continued generosity of landowners and the heart and desire of the volunteers – no different than the attributes of all hunter education instructors who gladly give of themselves and their experiences – instructors who tirelessly attract and train new hunters to become...
There have many successful first-time hunters at the Klein Ranch including 2009 hunters Jasmoné and Suzonne Goudeau and their dad, Leonard, and 2010 hunter Cortney Johnson with her mom, Cindi.

Long-time Lead Huntmaster and hunter education instructor, Doug Dubois, Jr. issues instructions to the 2011 hunters.

Hunter Education Instructor, Buddy Martin, leads live-firing and sighting-in activities during 2008 Superhunt. Participants are required to turn in a marksmanship form prior to a TYHP hunt, to ensure they are familiar with their own firearms and enable the parents to be involved in their first big game practice shots.
a part of this cherished hunting heritage.

As part of the Cave Creek Wildlife Management Cooperative, over 15 landowners have opened their lands for the Superhunt which harvests from 60 to 80 deer each year. Early on, TYHP developed a training program of volunteer huntmasters, addressed landowner liability issues (e.g. insurance, training, risk management, live-firing, hunter education, etc.), and actively managed the program statewide as part of the conservation education programs of the Texas Wildlife Association (www.texas-wildlife.org), a 501 (c) 3 and (c) 4 organization that champions private land and property rights and helps to safeguard and foster conservation and the hunting heritage in the Lone Star State.

As assistant huntmaster at the Superhunt, I’ve coordinated hunter education and hunting activities at a ranch owned by Charles Klein. With enough space to house six young hunters, Mr. Klein allows his young hunters to shoot whitetailed deer doe and spikes, axis deer doe, coyotes and hogs. Having been involved in all 11 hunts at the Klein Ranch, Charles, his son Robert and his family (and his late, dear wife, Mary Lou) have become close friends. Like many Hill Country landowners, they open up their arms in true Texas fashion to allow young hunters, many of them first-timers, to hunt each year, most of whom have claimed it to be “the hunt and experience of their lives.”

What a way to enjoy the fruits of our hunter education labors!

This article is dedicated to the memory of Jimmy Cobb, longtime lead cook for many of the Superhunts.
any programs that have helped increase participation in hunting and target shooting in the past 18 years can trace their roots to NSSF Industry Summits. That’s not surprising given the creativity and expertise of industry leaders who attend these gatherings every two to three years. The latest edition of the NSSF Industry Summit is slated for June 9-11 in Springfield, Mass., where once again leaders will share ideas and work hard to help shape a positive future for hunting and the shooting sports.

As a hunter education instructor, you are the gatekeeper to hunter recruitment. You welcome, instruct and congratulate new hunters into our ranks with every completed course you teach. It is important to hear from hunter education instructors to learn what they are observing in today’s newborn hunter. You are in a position to not only learn from leaders in the field, but also help educate attendees as well.

“It is important to have hunter education instructors at the NSSF Industry Summit,” said Melissa Schilling, NSSF Director, Recruitment and Retention. “They, more than anyone else, know best what is happening in their state regarding the recruitment of new hunters—and recruitment of hunters remains the focus for the industry.”

Registration for the NSSF Industry Summit is now open to individuals representing hunting and shooting sports organizations, conservation groups, state and federal wildlife agencies, and the firearms and ammunition industry—or are simply there for themselves, because of their influential connection to hunting and shooting sports recruitment. You can register at nssf.org/IndustrySummit/. The Summit is sponsored by the National Shooting Sports Foundation, the trade association for the firearms, ammunition, hunting and shooting industry.

This year’s Summit will feature a strong lineup of speakers and experts. Among them are:

Jeremy Gutsche—Innovation expert, award-winning author and founder of the world’s No. 1 trend-spotting website, TrendHunter.com


John Robinson—Well-known speaker and author devoted to introducing inner-city youths to the outdoors.

Emily Miller—Washington Times senior editor of opinion, award-winning journalist and author of “Emily Gets Her Gun.”

Katie Pavlich—News editor at Townhall.com, Fox News contributor and award-winning author of the best seller “Fast and Furious.”

Energized by discussions and workshops at past Summits, many organizations have launched new programs, redoubled their efforts, removed barriers and created new access and opportunities to better meet the needs of sportsmen and women. That is why the Summit and NSSF are well on their way to achieving a five-year goal of 20 percent increase in target shooting and hunting by the end of this year.

Through the years, the Summit has spawned many campaigns, initiatives and programs launched by participants. NSSF, the host, can point to several such examples, including its popular and successful program, Step Outside, and its shotgunning competition for
students, the Scholastic Clay Target Program. The former brought thousands, perhaps hundreds of thousands of new sportsmen afield through invitations and mentoring by friends and family members. The latter continues to flourish under the guidance of the Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation.

Attendees at the 2014 NSSF Industry Summit will be brought up to date on the latest “Models of Success,” an approach that was rolled out during the 2011 Summit with the goal of having states share and adopt proven recruitment initiatives. Several “Model” programs will be presented and discussed at the NSSF Industry Summit in Springfield.

With its 2014 Industry Summit, NSSF has every intention of adding to the legacy of past Summits. Make your ideas part of our industry’s future by attending this year’s Industry Summit.

More information about the NSSF Industry Summit, registration, schedules and accommodations in Springfield can be found at the Summit website.

Teaching Tip
Jim Gust, Indiana Master Naturalist and Volunteer for LaGrange County Parks

Critter Bag
Teach Hunter Education Kids About Being an Ethical Hunter

I bring a grab bag with me on the day we discuss ethics in Hunter Education class. In the bag are various animal replicas, pelts, or parts. I have game and non-game in the bag.

As a conversation starter I have a student reach in the bag and pull out a critter. We then make sure everyone knows what the animal is, then give some nature facts about it such as preferred food and habitat. Early in the segment I make sure the snake comes out and present the question, “What do you do when you find this on the trail while you are out hunting?” Often someone responds, “Shoot it!” The door is now open to guide the discussion to game and non-game, game seasons, legal responsibilities, and ethical behavior.

This is very effective in offering a point of view that many of our students have never been presented or even considered before. Using a Critter Bag was shown to me by Pat Bolman, a professional interpreter in northeast Indiana, and I have used it ever since. I hope you find it useful too.

Jim Gust, Indiana Master Naturalist and Volunteer for LaGrange County Parks

SHOOTING TIP #8
Pistol Grip by Mark Hotaling

A proper two-handed grip is critical to firing accurately and managing recoil. First, using your firing hand, grip the pistol high on the grip tang with no gap between the webbing of your hand and the beaver tail. With your finger indexed on the frame of the pistol, wrap your three fingers around the front of the grip.

Next, place the “meaty” part of your support hand against the grip (there should be a gap big enough to fit) and wrap your four fingers around the front (over your firing hand fingers). Your thumbs should lie on top of each other, against the frame and pointed at the target.

If the total “squeeze” of both hands is 100%, 40% or less should come from your firing hand and 60% or more should come from your support hand. When you place your finger on the trigger, press the trigger with the pad of the finger, not the tip or the knuckle.

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After decades of declining numbers of hunters afield, we can celebrate increased support of our hunting heritage with growing numbers of new hunters and a return of lapsed hunters. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation showed a 9% increase in hunting participation between 2006 and 2011. Responsive Management, a research organization specializing in natural resources and outdoor recreation, determined there are several elements that contributed to the increase. One of the most significant elements points to State agencies that conduct hunter recruitment and retention programs. Colorado can pat itself on the back for assisting in this positive effort.

About 10 years ago, the Colorado Division of Wildlife, which is now Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), developed a strategy to bring new participants into the hunting culture. The “Colorado Hunter Outreach Program” received the full commitment and support of the agency. The mission of the program is to “recruit and retain current and future generations of hunters in Colorado by developing a system of programs that implement the Strategic Plan, enhance hunter skills and opportunities, and cultivate an informed consent of hunting by the general public.” The program is supported and implemented by a full-time State Coordinator located in the central office, with support through regional education staff, and by a cadre of fully trained volunteers. The success of the program is largely because of the combined effort of full-time staff and volunteers.

A major component of the Colorado Hunter Outreach Program is offering guided hunts to mentored youth and novice hunters that include big game (moose, elk, deer, and pronghorn), and upland birds such as turkey and waterfowl. The success and enjoyment of the hunts are guided by five principles that are embraced by the Program: a positive “threshold experience,” access to equipment, access to resources, having a guide or mentor, and providing social support. These principles allow a novice hunter to experience a hunt with support and resources, planned and delivered by knowledgeable and experienced staff and volunteers. They do not have to commit to purchasing equipment before they hunt for the first time. Staff and volunteers show them good places to hunt, and give them hands-on guidance and training on hunting skills and rules. Hunting and the love of the hunt is a process requiring the participant to make a commitment to learning the skills, enjoying the outdoors, and sharing that experience with others. The goal is to have the safe and educational experience lead the participant to become a lifetime hunter and encourage others to support hunting.

For all this planning to become a reality, the Colorado Hunter Outreach Program needs human capital to operate the program. Though there are agency personnel to implement the program, there is a need to recruit safe, knowledgeable, and capable volunteers. The program developed three categories of volunteers to conduct youth hunts and other associated seminars and clinics. The first volunteer level is the “Huntsman.” To become a Huntsman, a volunteer attends a one-day training course. After completing the course, the Huntsman may assist with regional and statewide hunting events. If a volunteer wishes to instruct at the next level, he or she can train to become a “Huntmaster.” This level requires an individual to complete a 34-hour training course and assist on a minimum of three outreach events, during which they must receive a positive evaluation. The “Huntmaster” level allows an individual to plan, organize, and run hunts. The final level is the “Senior Huntmaster” which requires an individual to run a minimum of five hunts. They are evaluated by the
The 100% American-made Ruger American Rifle® is another engineering innovation from America's leading firearms manufacturer. It is available in a variety of calibers and in both standard-size and compact models. Compact models feature a shorter length of pull and a shorter barrel for a reduction in overall length of more than five inches. The Ruger American Rifle® combines the rugged reliability of Ruger's past with the award-winning ingenuity featured in so many of Ruger's products.
The "Senior Hunter" also serves on the policy board and evaluates teaching teams. This helps to maintain and improve the quality of the program.

In addition to conducting youth hunts, the Colorado Hunter Outreach Program offers skills seminars and clinics for the general public. These opportunities are available for those who cannot participate in a mentored hunt. The seminars and clinics are normally one day or less, but still provide participants with hands-on opportunities to learn hunting skills, practices, and techniques. Clinics cover information on specific species such as elk, waterfowl, grouse, big horn sheep and mountain goats. This information is not only useful to novice hunters, but also benefits experienced hunters wanting more knowledge on a specific species. There are also clinics for women only, which address the increasing interest of women wanting to participate in hunting activities.

Due to the popularity of elk hunting in Colorado, the Colorado Hunter Outreach Program developed a comprehensive online elk hunt education course named “Elk Hunting University.” The program provides a thorough curriculum on everything and anything related to elk hunting. The curriculum is delivered through a series of articles, videos, and other educational tools. It truly helps new and experienced hunters on the “how-to” for a successful elk hunt in Colorado.

Jim Bulger is the State Coordinator of the Colorado Hunter Outreach Program. He stated that he believes the Colorado Hunter Outreach Program is one of the many recruitment and retention efforts that can take credit for the increase in hunting participation in North America.

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.

Send Us Your Stories!

Every submission chosen for print receives a gift from supporting manufacturers.
Worldwide, mosquitoes transmit the arboviruses responsible for malaria, yellow fever, dengue and several forms of encephalitis to over 700 million persons annually, resulting in as many as 3 million deaths. In North America, we simply think of them as those nasty pests that buzz in our face just as we are getting the bead on that magnificent 12-inch bearded tom, or right as we draw back on that beautiful 8-point looking the other way.

Whatever you do, don’t think we are alone and isolated in the world. West Nile Virus continues to be a problem with over 100 deaths attributed to WNV in 2013. Every single state in the United States of America reported some West Nile Virus activity in 2013. With mosquitoes found all over the world except in Antarctica, there is no reason not to prepare your students for the inevitability of encounters with mosquitoes, especially in the spring turkey, early squirrel and archery seasons.

### Three Ways to Fight Mosquitoes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What it is:</th>
<th>Clothing with Repellent</th>
<th>Sprays with DEET</th>
<th>ThermaCELL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clothing with insect repellent built in.</td>
<td>Sprays and lotions with DEET.</td>
<td>Area Repellent device.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Best Uses:</strong></td>
<td>Good protection for the body. Needs to be used with additional protection for face and hands.</td>
<td>Good for spot and stalk hunts where you are constantly on the go.</td>
<td>Ideal for hunting in a stand or anywhere you will be stationary. Less effective while walking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pros:</strong></td>
<td>Provides protection without applying DEET to the skin.</td>
<td>Reduces mosquito bites.</td>
<td>• Provides a 15x15 ft mosquito free zone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Can spook game. • Must be sprayed on the skin. • Can take finish off guns. • Doesn’t keep bugs from buzzing around you.</td>
<td></td>
<td>• No game spooking odor. • Silent, lightweight.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cons:</strong></td>
<td>• Wears off after a few washings. • No protection for the face and hands. • Doesn’t get rid of the bugs flying around you.</td>
<td>• Can’t keep bugs from buzzing around you.</td>
<td>• Costs around $25. • Not ideal if you are moving quickly.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For a PDF tearout of this for your class, go to the Thermacell Special Offers section at IHEA.com.
"Shooting Hours" vs. "Hunting Hours"

Does “shooting hours” mean the same thing as “hunting hours?”

Is there a difference? Why is this important?

I would like to take this opportunity to share my thoughts and see what other Hunter Safety Education Instructors think. I have been a hunter safety instructor in Rhode Island for 25 years. I have always stressed to my students to be very aware of the beginning and ending times regarding the game they are hunting. I have always reminded them NOT to load their firearms or nock an arrow until “legal hunting hours” begin. Likewise, I remind them to UNLOAD or remove the arrow from the rest when “legal hunting hours” end. I use the term “legal hunting hours” to try to make it clear that there is a right and wrong time to be loaded or unloaded. It should be clear-cut and not up for interpretation. I have seen on many occasions hunters waiting to unload until they reach their vehicle, well after legal hunting hours – in the pitch dark. When I ask them why they are still loaded they look at me like I have two heads. I typically ask them, “Legal hunting hours ended twenty minutes ago; so why are your firearms still loaded?” They have to think for a minute, then they either say “Well, I wasn’t hunting,” or “I know shooting hours ended twenty minutes ago, I wasn’t going to shoot.” Or they say, “Shooting hours means the hours I can shoot – so as long as I don’t shoot, I’m okay!”

The term “shooting hours” does seem to imply this! Are some hunters just using the term “shooting hours” as a loophole to continue hunting or is it laziness to wait until they get back to the vehicle to unload?

I stress to my students and try to make a point when I ask them, “Why, if ‘legal hunting hours’ are over, would they still carry a loaded firearm or bow?” If they can’t legally shoot, why would they want to risk an accidental discharge? In the dark, a hunter has a much higher chance to trip, fall or have brush get into the trigger guard or even work the safety off. This applies to being in a treestand up to the very last minute legal hunting hours are over; but then they must immediately unload and properly lower the firearm or bow down using a haul line. This would be the same thing for duck hunters in a blind, to unload when time is over before gathering their decoys to leave. I tell my students if they are checked by a wildlife law enforcement officer with a loaded firearm or bow before or after legal hunting hours, it looks as if they are hunting illegally and they could possibly be fined, and possibly have their equipment and game seized.

I hunt in many states throughout the country and I often see in the hunting regulations the term, “shooting hours.” You may not think this is a big deal because such regulations indicate to a hunter the time frames within which game can be legally taken. However it does not necessarily address when a hunter can “legally” load or unload. Loaded firearms or bows outside of the shooting hours are not what we want to see as hunter safety instructors for the safety of our hunters or the general public who might also be out there. I believe the more correct term would be “legal hunting hours.” This would send a clearer message that a hunter’s sporting arm should not be loaded outside legal hunting hours.

Being hunter safety education instructors, and even though some state hunting regulations may not clearly address all safety concerns, we need to instill in our hunters the individual responsibility to be as safe as they can be. I think states should move in the direction of calling “shooting hours,” “legal hunting hours” which would give all hunters a clearer understanding of when they are required to load or unload their sporting arms. The term “hunting” should also be clearly defined in regulations and be included in state regulations.

I would be interested to hear your thoughts on this matter. Thank you.

Michael DiPietro,
RI Hunter Safety Instructor

Mr. DiPietro:
I appreciate your submission and agree whole-heartedly on the merits of loading only when absolutely ready to shoot/hunt, and unloading immediately when no longer planning to shoot/hunt – no matter what legal hunting hours dictate. I will be interested to hear from other hunter education instructors on the point you are making regarding the semantics of ‘legal hunting’ versus ‘shooting’ hours.

Outside of some obvious “public safety laws” (e.g. shooting across public highways, shooting within close proximity of public facilities), I personally believe that it is not practical or it would be extremely difficult to legislate and/or regulate “safety, ethics and related individual responsibilities” since most of these types of regulations would begin to infringe on individual rights and liberties. Given the myriad of regulations that would be necessary to ensure ‘safe’ and ‘responsible’ behaviors or to enforce such regulations, one would eventually be afraid to walk outside – lest he/she be cited and fined. In many states, there are practical reasons to have loaded firearms before or after ‘legal hunting hours’ (for some game species), such as the legality to hunt at night for other species (e.g. varmints, feral hogs, rattlesnakes, exotics, etc.); 2nd Amendment rights; and concealed carry laws. The solution for me would be to ensure that (the act of) ‘hunting’ and ‘legal hunting hours’ are well defined in a state’s hunting regulations and that hunter education instructors continue to stress safety regardless of what the legal hunting hours are for a jurisdiction.

Steve Hall, IHEA-USA Executive Director
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ENDURANCE TESTED FIELD PROVEN
“It’s been a good run!”

By C. Douglas Nielsen, Nevada Department of Wildlife

Those are the words Don Helm used to sum up his 40-year career as a volunteer Hunter Education instructor for the Nevada Department of Wildlife. During that time, Helm has seen students and instructors come and go, but his staunch support of the program has never wavered. Neither has his desire to serve the rising generations by introducing them to hunting and the shooting sports.

“I got involved with it because of my interest and involvement with scouting. I was with the Clark County Sheriff’s Department then, and we were close to Hunter Safety,” said Helm, who is a retired member of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. “I wanted to do something for the youth and knew I could have fun with them. I was educated to be a teacher, so teaching was my forte and I enjoy teaching them about safety.”

That desire to make a difference, to work with and teach the youth, kept Helm coming back year after year and class after class.

“Don has long been one of the ‘go-to’ Hunter Education instructors in the Las Vegas area. Whatever the task; teaching his regularly scheduled classes, covering for another instructor’s last-minute cancellation or his service in any of the other myriad community organizations he’s involved with, Don will never let you down. He is a man of honesty, integrity and selflessness. Men like Don don’t come along often and he is an incredible asset to our programs and the outdoor education coordinator for the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW).

To honor Helm for reaching the 40-year milestone, NDOW presented him with a .300 Weatherby Magnum Vanguard rifle topped with a 4-12 x 40 Leupold VX-II scope. And since a rifle is not much good without the correct ammunition, Helm also received two boxes of shells. But there is much more to the story.

After decades of waiting to draw one of Nevada’s coveted bull elk tags, the 76-year-old Nevada native finally found success in the spring 2013 tag draw. While Helm was noticeably elated after learning he had drawn his long-awaited elk tag, he also was unsure whether he would get a chance to use it. Not because he had something else to do that week, but because he had just been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and his future was uncertain.

Upon learning of Helm’s health concern, McKay reached out to Brian Thurston, publisher of the IHEA-USA Journal and huge supporter of Hunter Education, who agreed to facilitate the acquisition of a rifle to commemorate Helm’s years of service in Hunter Education. McKay’s hope was two-fold. First, to have the rifle in Helm’s hand, sighted in and ready to hunt, by the opening day of elk season. And second, that Helm would be well enough to make the trip.

Thurston then turned his attention to the good folks at Weatherby and
Leupold who were kind enough to donate the rifle, ammunition and the scope. On the magazine floor plate Weatherby inscribed Helm’s name and designated him as a “40 Year Instructor.”

When the sun came up on opening day of his elk season, Helm carried with him the new rifle that so many had worked to make available. His health made trudging across country impossible, so Helm and his partners drove the roads looking for a bull. Fresh snow gave them hope.

“I thought, man, this is cool because I’ve got four inches of snow on the ground. We can see if anything is moving,” Helm said.

While it was still early, Helm saw two bulls, but “they were headed south like somebody had scared the (stuffing) out of them. They were moving!” he exclaimed.

Don and his friends tried to get in position for a shot, but it wasn’t meant to be. “They were just hell bent for election,” said Helm as he relived the morning’s events. “Maybe if I had one of those computerized scopes I might have got a shot, but no, they just moved completely out of range.”

As the day wore on, the snow kept falling and by the next afternoon the group was pushing snow with the front bumper. After two days, lots of miles and one motorist assist it was apparent that Helm was going home without filling his tag, but he did so with no regrets.

“We had a good time. We had a very good time,” mused Helm, obviously thinking back again to those two days in the field, and perhaps to a few others that came before. “It was fun!”

Though Helm didn’t get the chance to fill his elk tag with the Weatherby, he had nothing but praise for his new rifle. He said, “Oh, I took that new gun. Oh yes, and it shoots beautiful…that gun is sweet. It was really sweet. At 50 yards I covered a silver dollar with two shots.”

With those shots fading into memory, Helm’s thoughts turned back to Hunter Education. He said the most rewarding part of being involved with Hunter Education is “probably associating with all of the kids that I have been able to hunt with, that I have put through Hunter Safety. I could take and name them all, my own grandkids for example. I put five of them through it, and took them all on their first hunts. And my friend Jim’s kids, I took them on their first hunt. So it’s been very rewarding to see the kids, to see the expression on their faces, to be with them when they actually take an animal and take it properly.”

I asked Helm if he had the chance to do Hunter Education again from the start if he would do it all over. His answer was simple, yet it said much. “Absolutely. Yep!”

And why not? After all, “It’s been a good run.”
We dream of a future where our hunting heritage continues to play an important role in conservation. We dream of a future where we continue to enjoy the time we spend in the outdoors in nature’s finest wildlife habitat. Our dreams are in the hands of today’s young people as they become decision-makers and advocates for hunting.

Safari Club International understands that investment in youth is the future of our hunting heritage. SCI, through Education Sables and the SCI Foundation programs, are investing in young people.

Education Sables, SCI members that dedicate their time, energy and resources to education, provide support to partner organizations and to its own American Wilderness Leadership School (AWLS). Education Sables have full oversight of all SCI Foundation education programs.

- SCI Foundation is the exclusive sponsor of the Outdoor Writers of America Norm Strung Youth Writing Contest. The authors are young people in grades 6 – 12 writing about their outdoor experiences.
- SCI Foundation provides support to the International Hunter Education Association-USA's Hunter’s Handbook.
- The 4-H National Shooting Sports Ambassador program receives financial support from SCI Foundation as it trains young competitive shooters to become advocates and ambassadors for shooting sports. Twenty-nine youth attended the 2013 Ambassador training.
- The Salvation Army Outdoors and SCI Foundation have created conservation education and shooting sports programs that are offering tens of thousands of young people an introduction to conservation, shooting sports and hunting.
- The SCI Foundation American Wilderness Leadership School program teaches educators the importance of conservation and how to integrate lessons into existing curriculum content. Each AWLS attendee earns certification as an instructor in the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP). SCI Foundation contributes funds toward the National NASP Tournament and SCI Chapters are purchasing NASP equipment for AWLS alumni to start NASP in their schools.
- The Boy Scouts of America Venturing Program is the most recent organization to partner with SCI Foundation. We look forward to building upon the Venturing Program that offers teen boys and girls conservation lessons, shooting sports and hunting experiences.

Today’s young people have many opportunities to become involved in outdoor activities. Hunting, shooting sports and conservation projects can be passed on to them through partner organizations. Safari Club and Safari Club Foundation, through partnerships, are investing in our youth – the future of hunting.

In appreciation of the committed volunteer efforts of Hunter Education Instructors around the United States, Gallery of Guns, one of the most progressive firearms wholesalers in America, announces their Champions of Hunter Education program.

Champions of Hunter Education is designed to recognize Hunter Education Instructors that break the confines of average teaching, give to the future of hunting and set a standard within their own state for safe and ethical hunting. This program is executed in partnership with the IHEA-USA, and Hunter Education Administrators are encouraged to nominate instructors within their states that meet specific criteria setting them apart from other instructors in their area. All recognized instructors will receive a Ruger American rifle and will be featured in 2014 issues of the IHEA-USA Hunter & Shooting Sports Education Journal.

In addition to awards and recognition for instructors, Gallery of Guns is also excited to announce the Future Leaders in Conservation scholastic scholarship. Through this program, your hunter education students with a passion for hunting have the opportunity to submit a 500-word essay and win $5,000 in scholarship funding. The recognized student will also be featured in the IHEA-USA Hunter & Shooting Sports Education Journal and Hunter’s Handbook, the official student publication of the IHEA-USA.

Applications can be obtained through state Hunter Education Administrators or online at the IHEA-USA website (ihea-usa.org).
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Smoke still hung in the air as I rubbed the sting out of my cheek. It was a painful reminder of the importance of wearing protective eyewear when participating in the shooting sports, something I have been teaching Hunter Education students for more than 20 years.

Luckily I was wearing glasses when the rifle discharged and sent multiple tiny fragments in my direction, but the impact zone was close enough to my eyes that the incident left me asking a few questions. What if the fragments had hit a little higher on my face? What if they were just a little larger? Are the glasses I was wearing that day sufficient to protect my eyes from a direct impact? I wonder.

Traditional shooting glasses are bulky and, well, ugly. So many shooters have chosen to wear sunglasses instead, something with a little more pizzazz and a lot more comfort. Sunglass manufacturers were quick to recognize this market niche and reached out to the shooting world with stylish sunglasses that met standards sufficient to label them as “ballistic eyewear.”

Do an internet search for ballistic eyewear and you’ll see phrases like “impact resistant,” “rugged enough for military and law enforcement applications,” and “maximum eye protection.” According to ANSI (American National Standards Institute), standard eyewear can receive the “ballistic” label if it can stop a .25 caliber steel ball traveling at 150 feet per second. Not bad, but consider this – a standard Red Ryder BB gun shoots a .177 caliber steel ball at 350 fps. According to the folks at Smith Optics, eyewear could pass the ANSI test and yet fail when impacted by a projectile shot from a typical Red Ryder BB gun.

That is why Smith Optics stepped things up a notch by making their ballistic glasses to military specifications, which calls for more protection than the ANSI standard. ANSI standards are designed for typical workplace hazards while MilSpecs are for products that might very well end up on the battlefield.

“MilSpec glasses are 660 percent stronger than those that meet the ASNI standard,” said Jimmy Bowman, marketing manager for Smith Optics Elite. “For example, our sunglasses and eye shields will withstand getting hit with a .15 caliber projectile at 640-660 feet per second. Our goggles will take even more, a .22 caliber projectile at 550-560 feet per second, and beyond.”

More information about MilSpec ballistic glasses can be found online at https://elite.smithoptics.com.
We have all heard the phrase; “Bigger is better” and in certain hunting applications or Texas locations this often has some merit. However don’t be so quick to follow this adage especially when selecting the best riflescope and objective size for your hunting application afield.

Will dumping extra cash into an XL or XXL objective size buy you additional moments of valuable time in the deer stand during the critical moments of early or fleeting daylight? The answer is definitely “yes”…well maybe. That is if the premium lens designs and multi-coatings are also performing in harmony. I’ve hunted whitetail deer in the Southeastern USA where legal shooting time is one hour after sunset. Sitting in a box blind over a crop field or in dense South Carolina pines is where the 56MM really fits this hunting application to perfection. A large exit pupil and the ability to crank down to lower power magnification will always help to make an ethical and legal shot.

However don’t let mega objective size be your only driving factor. Let’s first consider your primary use. For example; are you hunting off horseback? If so chances are 50MM is border line to fit into a scabbard. If you plan on being extremely mobile or actively climbing in steep terrain the benefits for those extra few minutes of shooting light are quickly going to fade when compared to the added weight and bulk you are lugging around all day, every day. Consider a good quality 36MM to 44MM size here.

High profile scope mounts are going to cause added difficulty to fit a comfortable shooting position and the correct cheek weld. The larger “top heavy” profile is often difficult to maneuver in thick brush or confined spaces. Added height above bore is also going to consume more of your available elevation adjustment – something to consider if planning on mounting a custom BDC turret for long distance shooting.

With the recent developments and benefits in premium lens coatings and new glass types like the proprietary Zeiss Victory HT, don’t underestimate the performance of a smaller objective size. Premium optics in conjunction with illuminated reticles will often make up for the lack of a huge block of glass in the front of your scope. Shoot straight.

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In most locations, setting up a BB gun range is easy. Likewise, starting a BB gun program – even putting together a competitive team – is something outdoor education leaders may want to consider.

Young people who like to shoot enjoy competing in shooting matches with their peers. BB gun shooters ages 8-15 can join a 5-meter team, shoot the Daisy AVANTI Model 499B in four positions and compete at local and state levels. They may even qualify to come to the Daisy National BB Gun Championship Match (The Daisy Nationals), hosted each summer in Daisy’s hometown, Rogers, Arkansas. To help offset travel costs, Daisy annually awards one thousand dollars to every team which qualifies for and competes at the Daisy Nationals. To qualify for National, a team must place 1-3 at a sanctioned state competition.

Airgun shooters (ages 15-18, and still in high school) compete in 10-meter, three-position Sporter and Precision category matches, shooting pneumatic, CO2 and compressed air rifles and pistols. Several universities have air rifle teams and offer NCAA scholarships, and airgun competition has been an official Olympic sport since 1984.

The Daisy Shooting Education Program

Daisy’s Ten Lesson Curriculum for Shooting Education provides lessons for the instructor as well as lesson goals, personnel requirements and material requirements. That curriculum is available online in the Education section of Daisy’s website, www.daisy.com, for the use of anyone interested in teaching a program and establishing a competitive BB gun team. Daisy also offers special market pricing to non-profit organizations on its line of competition airguns, equipment and accessories.

Teaching America to Shoot is Daisy’s Passion

Feel free to contact Daisy’s Customer Service Department at 1-800-71DAISY. You can also download or order copies of The National Rifle Association and Civilian Marksmanship Program’s 5-meter BB and 10-meter air rifle match rules and equipment information (http://competitions.nra.org/official-nra-rule-books.aspx; www.odcmp.com/3P/Rulebook.htm).

Being the leader in shooting education remains Daisy’s honor and passion. “Daisy is grateful to the many mentors, volunteers, instructors and coaches who devote their time, energy and resources to teaching young people shooting safety and marksmanship skills,” stated Daisy’s President & C.E.O. Ray Hobbs. “Only with their assistance has it been possible for the company’s programs and materials to have positively affected so many lives.”

Gold, Silver and Bronze Medal teams at the 2013 Daisy National BB Gun Championship Match, held each year in Daisy’s hometown of Rogers, Arkansas. Center: Gold Medal Team from Palmyra, Pennsylvania and their coaches Frank Pulli and Doug Hetrick, Left: Silver Medal Team from Highmore, South Dakota and their coaches Larry Kerr, Matt Kutz and Colleen Harris and Right: Bronze Medal Team from Britton, South Dakota and their coaches Mike Craft and Harlan Hilleson.
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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.
By Brandon Hallmark, IA DNR

“This is a pretty cool story of an individual’s journey who grew up in India where deer hunting was illegal and now that he lives in the states his drive to get hunter education, learn how to shoot, and participate in his first deer hunt. Along the way he also recruited two other individuals with similar backgrounds to accompany him. Really shows our new hunting demographic and also the importance of social support in hunting.”

–Megan Wisecup, Iowa Hunter Education Administrator

Parasailing in Key West, Florida, fishing, a cruise and whitewater rafting in Colorado are just a few of the adventures Jaffer Mohamed Ali has experienced since coming to the United States seven years ago. Recently, he was able to add deer hunting to the list.

In India, where Jaffer is from, deer hunting is illegal and can carry a fine and a prison sentence of seven to eight months.

“In India, nobody can eat deer, it isn’t possible. We can’t get it there. Here, we can eat the deer.”

Jaffer still wanted to hunt deer. Being in the United States gave him that opportunity.

“I really wanted to know what it tasted like,” Jaffer said.

Jaffer learned about the various hunting seasons while working at the Iowa Department of Natural Resources as a contracted employee of the Lance IT in August, 2010.

“There are a lot of families living in Des Moines, but a lot of them don’t know about deer hunting and DNR adventures. A lot of people from other countries, like me, don’t know about any of these things. I’m the first one in my community, so now it will spread. Nobody knew this was going on at the Springbrook Education Center.”

After he expressed an interest in hunting, he was put in touch with Megan Wisecup, Hunter Education Administrator, to assist Jaffer with getting into a hunter education class. Jaffer completed a traditional classroom course this fall and obtained his certification.

Megan then put Jaffer in touch with Ajay Winter, DNR Training Specialist, who agreed to find a mentor for Jaffer. Winter also showed Jaffer how to use a gun and allowed him to practice shooting targets at the range in his backyard. Jaffer signed up to participate in the Mentored Outdoor Experience hunt at the Springbrook Conservation Education Center in Guthrie Center. The weekend-long event featured various classes with basic and safety information about hunting as well as the mentored hunt itself.

On November 22nd, Jaffer left home for the Springbrook Conservation Education Center. After arriving, he attended evening presentations on deer biology/hunting as an effective conservation tool and Iowa hunting laws.

“The Springwood Center is good for hunting,” Jaffer said. “They teach a lot.”

The next day, after participating in a mock safety trail and additional practice at the range, Jaffer, along with his mentor, Mark Fields, and the rest of his group, headed out to their blind around 2:15. Before getting there, Jaffer saw the first deer.

“When we reached the area, I saw a deer. I took a shot, but I missed.”

Undaunted, they continued their trip to the blind to wait for deer to come by. They didn’t have to wait long.

“I saw the first deer after about half an hour,” Jaffer said with a grin. “It was more than a hundred yards away and crossing our area. The trees were in the way so I couldn’t get a clear shot, so I waited until it was closer, about forty-five yards. I shot it and got a hit. After that, I gave a big hug to my mentor and called my wife and told her.”

The group packed up and headed to the deer. The deer, according to Jaffer, was about 70-80 pounds.

Jaffer took plenty of pictures before they cleaned the guts out.

However, being at the bottom of a hill, they had to pack the deer up the hill.

“We were at the bottom of the hill and we wanted to take it to the top so the Polaris Ranger could come to pick up our deer,” Jaffer said.

After getting it to the top of the hill, the deer was collected and taken to the butcher’s.

Jaffer asked that the deer be butchered for him. The butcher gave a demonstration on how to do it.

Rather than stay for the final day, Jaffer decided to head home.

“I was so excited I wanted to see my wife and show the pictures to everyone,” he said.

Jaffer got about 30 pounds of meat and bone from the deer on Tuesday (the 26th), but being out of town, he wasn’t able to eat it until that Friday.

“Friday, my wife cooked the deer and we tried it for the first time,” said Jaffer. “It was really, really good.”

“It was a really good experience,” said Jaffer of the hunting experience. “It was really, really awesome.”

Jaffer plans to continue hunting in the future. He is going deer hunting again with a friend on December 7th.

“I gave three of my friends each a pound, but I have others who are asking. If I shoot another deer this Saturday, I’ll give all my friends some.”

He also plans to go turkey and waterfowl hunting next year, in addition to mentoring at next year’s hunt.

“I already volunteered to mentor next year,” Jaffer said. “Next year, a lot of guys I know are going to come with me on the mentored hunt. This is a good experience for anyone.”
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MISSION ARCHERY
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After looking at and reading the article titled Safe Muzzle Control Regardless of the Carry Method that printed in the Winter 2013 Journal, penned by Cpt. Michael J Pierdinock, I find that I must comment on the method of carry that is outlined.

While this particular method may be just fine for a well “tramped” path somewhere in Africa or the hallway in an office building, I really insist that no one recommend this method to anyone hunting in terrain or timbered areas. The problems that the photo indicates are outlined below.

1. The hand grasping the rifle is far ahead of the balance point of the rifle
2. The sling is not secured by any means on the shoulder (tensioning by a grasp of the hand)

While hunting “on the march,” which means I am transporting myself and my equipment from camp to a desired location to sit and watch, I would never expect to use the firearm. Most likely I would not really be hunting so much as transporting. In this case the firearm would of course be unloaded (at least in the chamber—most likely be de-cocked and the safety engaged—safe maybe to the point of redundancy.) The many times that I have personally been “on the March” I have found myself using many different methods of “carry.” The main concern has, of course, been muzzle control (keep the firearm pointed in a safe direction); however bear in mind that controlling the entire firearm is tantamount to muzzle control. Lose control of the firearm and you have lost control of the muzzle, regardless of which direction it may fall. Because of fatigue, many different methods of carry will be used in these sorts of situations.

In order to maintain control of the firearm, one must have a good grasp on it or its sling. I have never allowed nor would I recommend anyone to carry a firearm in such a way that a tip, turn, twist, stumble, short loss of balance, or even the branch of a tree or brush could interfere with their control of the firearm. Many, if not all, of these conditions have NOT been considered by the
individual in the photograph on page 30. Notwithstanding, if and in fact, this person having arrived at a clearing has adjusted his carry to a relaxed position for a rest, and will resume his march or hunt with better muzzle and firearm control involved.

If one were still hunting—creeping through the woods or terrain in hopes of spotting a specified game animal either on the move or using its own cover for protection—one may have a live round in the chamber, of course the safety would be engaged. I, however, have been taught and teach using the following axiom: “If you haven’t got the time to rack a round in the chamber, you haven’t got time to make a good shot anyway.” So, no matter the hunting situation in my opinion, it is best not to have a round in the chamber. While still hunting, I never suggest that a hunter have a round in the chamber and I strongly recommend that the hunter use the two-hand ready carry.

The scenario I visualize with the method of carry pictured is this: The hunter slips, twists, turns, loses his balance or a branch or bush interferes with the sling over his shoulder. At any one of these points the sling may be displaced off the shoulder, the heavy end of the firearm (that being the action and butt stock—maybe the scope—being behind the grasp that the hunter has on the firearm) would result in the heavy end of the firearm dropping down which would obviously cause the muzzle to be pointed directly or nearly directly at the head of the hunter.

This reaction could possibly be minimized by the hunter including the sling in his grasp. By this means he would be able to keep it tight on the shoulder. However I would still NEVER recommend this or demonstrate this method of carry to any of my students.

With my sincerest regards,
M. Dean Blanck,
Colorado Volunteer Hunter Education Instructor

Dear Mr. Blanck:
Thank you for your very thoughtful response. You bring up valid points, so we are including your response in this issue of the Journal. Cpt. Michael Pierdinock’s article was published to give insight on practices used (in this case African), that are not included in our typical teachings of “Safe Carry” practices in the United States. As stated in the article, “Ultimately, regardless of the carry method, it comes down to muzzle control.”

Such practices are ideally dictated by what the data show. Unfortunately, we do not have data on this specific carry method, so we are left with open discussions to improve our awareness and teachings – which you’ve done – so thanks again!

Steve Hall,
IHEA-USA Executive Director

www.IHEA-USA.org
Put Your Instructor Discount to Great Use on the New ZEISS CONQUEST HD 56 Model Binoculars

Carl Zeiss Sports Optics, the world’s leading manufacturer of premium, high performance sports optics, introduces the new CONQUEST HD 56 binocular models. These 56mm objective lens binoculars offer hunters an unprecedented edge in spotting and scoring big game at long ranges in low-light conditions.

Built using a high performance Abbe–Koenig prism that maximizes brightness and image resolution, Zeiss offers this binocular in three models featuring the revolutionary HD lens system and the proprietary ZEISS T* multi-coating, which contribute extraordinary image quality and color fidelity.

“We’ve done our homework in developing the three new CONQUEST HD 56 models,” said Michael A. Jensen, President of Carl Zeiss Sports Optics. “CONQUEST HD 56 binoculars will make every moment of shootable light count, expand a hunter’s vision to put them on game faster, and deliver that extra edge of clarity that’s critical when they’re in pursuit to harvest a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.”

Check them out at http://sportsoptics.zeiss.com/hunting.

Scent Killer® Clothing Spray

Like to smell invisible…all the time? Wildlife Research Center, Inc., has introduced a new Gallon Combo that comes complete with their awesome 24 fl oz filled bottle in both Super-Charged® and Scent Killer® Gold® Clothing Spray.

Super Charged® Scent Killer® Clothing Spray works wet and dry and continues to work for days after drying. The special formula works by combating odors at the molecular level and was found to be over 99% effective at stopping replicated human odor in testing at Rutgers University.

Scent Killer® Gold® Clothing Spray With HUNT DRY® Technology is formulated for maximum performance after it dries, so you don’t have to hunt with wet clothing. With Hunt Dry® technology you can spray it onto your clothing – hours, days, or weeks before you hunt.

Successful hunting is the key to retention, so take time to ensure that your time in the field is undetected. More information can be found on this and other scent-related products at wildlife.com.

Benchmaster Sniper Seat 360

Spruce up your student’s target practice on qualification day with the Benchmaster Sniper Seat 360. This versatile seat can not only be used for target practice and scouting, but with features such as multi-position legs that level the seat on uneven terrain and full 360-degree rotation capability, this seat can be used in the field for extreme target shooting and hunting.

Designed for comfortable, long-term sitting, the Benchmaster adjusts up to a 50-degree recline, rotates a full 360 degrees, and offers an arm extension for a gun rest or spotting scope mount. It also offers backpack straps for easy transport.

Experience the ultimate shooting solution, and use a Sniper Seat 360 on your next outdoor shooting adventure.

www.benchmaster.com
Introducing the Ruger American Rimfire Series

Sturm, Ruger & Co., Inc. announces the release of the Ruger American Rimfire™ bolt-action rifle featuring several design innovations from the popular 10/22® rimfire rifle. This unique, youth-friendly rifle promises to appeal to all bolt-action enthusiasts – novice or experienced. The new line consists of four models – full-sized and compact; both are available in .22 LR or .22 Magnum. Each model in the line includes two interchangeable stock modules that provide comb height options for scope or iron sight use. Both calibers feature a detachable, flush-mounted 10-round rotary magazine, but the coolest part is that the .22 LR also accepts all 10/22® magazines. All models also offer the easy-to-use 10/22®-style extended mag release for easy magazine removal.

All Ruger American Rimfire™ have a suggested retail price of $329. For more information, visit Ruger.com or Facebook.com/Ruger.

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.
Instructor Discount Corner

Accessories, accessories, accessories. Check out Sun Optics USA to find a variety of products for the hunter from binoculars and scopes to bipods and lightweight, quality ring/mount systems.

Now offering outstanding discounts for Hunter Educators, Jim Gekeler, President of Sun Optics announces, “We here at Sun Optics are all about supporting Hunter Education. Whether it’s supplying an instructor with much needed product for himself or his/her classroom, we want to help. We are all about the future of hunting — the youth. Consequently, we want to help make every student’s first-time experience a successful one.”

Discover all the unique products that Sun offers in the Special Offers for Instructors section of the IHEA-USA website and be sure to share them with your students.

Protecting eyes on the range has never been more affordable. Smith Elite is excited to offer its high-performance eyewear that delivers outstanding ballistic protection and enhanced visual capabilities at fantastic discounts to Hunter Education Instructors. Jimmy Bowman of Smith states, “Working with the IHEA-USA and their instructors is invaluable. Reaching new hunters as well as seasoned hunters that are educating the hunting community with safe and effective practices is something we take pride in. We at Smith Elite want to make a statement about setting the safety standard high for your eyes – in the classroom or the field.”

Shop online at Smithelite, then head to the Special Offers for Instructors section for a secure link to take advantage of this discount.

We’ve talked about protecting eyes, now how about those ears? Discounts on hearing protection? And they even have electronic muffs sized for youth!

Pro Ears is excited to offer Hunter Ed Instructors a 30% discount on all hearing protections. “Altus Brands is very excited to be working with the International Hunter Education Association in 2014. Proper education is vital to the safety of our customers as they participate in the sport we love so much. We feel that it is our duty as a manufacturer to support these programs and do our part in helping build a community of safe hunters and shooters,” states Charles Ricci of Altus Brands LLC.

Head to the IHEA-USA website to learn more about discounts on Pro Ears.

OnXMaps has the solution and is offering a 30% discount to certified Hunter Education Administrators and Instructors.

OnXMaps offers great “never-lost” map software for Garmin GPS, computers and mobile devices. Matt Seidel, Marketing Director, states, “OnXmaps is excited to partner with the International Hunter Education Association. The partnership will provide instructors and students with a new mapping resource to easily determine land ownership while out in the field. One crucial part of recruiting new hunters is finding and accessing a place to hunt. The ability to easily locate public lands, private land, owner information, and hunting units while in the field makes it easy for new and old hunters alike to enjoy their hunting experience.”

To check out these and other valuable offers in appreciation of your dedication to the sport, go to the Special Offers for Instructors section at IHEA-USA.org.

For more information on these special discounts and offers for Instructors, go to:

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Volunteering as a hunter education instructor is a personal commitment and sometimes challenging. Obtaining quality hunter safety and educational materials shouldn’t be. The National Shooting Sports Foundation® has been supporting hunter education instructors for more than 50 years.

A longtime supporter of the International Hunter Education Association, NSSF has been in the forefront of developing multimedia hunter safety and education materials. We provide printed and electronic materials for volunteer instructors—most of which is free. And when your students graduate and are looking for places to hunt or for additional information to develop their skills and knowledge, the answers are simply a click away!

Log on to nssf.org and order your materials today. All the help you need is at your fingertips.

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