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STREAMLIGHT
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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My heartfelt thanks goes out to each of you who placed your trust in me to serve as president of the IHEA-USA. I really appreciate the opportunity to serve such a great group of people. I won’t let you down.

My first introduction to the IHEA crowd was in 2006 at the IHEA annual conference in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. As a wildlife officer I had taught hunter education for over 17 years. However, being around so many hunter education administrators with so much knowledge and experience was a little overwhelming. Some groups tend to shun or look down on new arrivals, but not these folks; everyone I met at the conference was really hospitable and I felt welcomed. I am very fortunate to be among the ranks of hunter education instructors and administrators.

We have been through a lot of changes in the last few years, but thanks to the leadership of our past president we have emerged a stronger organization. Now that the grueling work of rewriting by-laws and board policies, and the search for a new executive director is behind us, we can concentrate on items that this association should be focused on.

As an association, we have a lot of projects that need our attention. First and foremost are the hunter education course standards. Administrators have discussed and argued these standards for years and there are differences of opinions between us. But despite our differences, much more unites us than divides us. Now it is time to collectively work together and press toward the creation of standards that are effective, and address the questions of “What does a proficient hunter look like?” and “What are the core proficiencies a hunter must have in order to be prepared to hunt?”

At the Administrators Only meeting in Texas it was very refreshing to see all the state hunter education administrators unite and want to begin work on a set of standards that are more relevant for today. We have taken the first step in the creation of these standards by asking for each state’s help in completing a comprehensive hunter education course survey. The association will need guidance and input from hunter education administrators and staff, volunteer hunter education instructors and hunter education students in order to create solid course standards.

I know that this association can come together and create strong and viable hunter education course standards. We have a record doing just that, and we have the strength, experience and judgment to accomplish this goal.

By Randy Huskey, President IHEA-USA • President.IHEA@hotmail.com
A WHOLE NEW LEVEL!

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WILDLIFE RESEARCH CENTER
As noted in the last issue of the Journal, hunter education is changing considerably with the transference of information, registrations and purchases via the Internet, at web sites and on handheld devices. Phone conversations have given way to finger tapping, especially with the Millennials and even more so with this next generation. Hand-held information, visuals, videos and applications are becoming the norm (even for rural hunters)—fast, fun and convenient. Many of us boomers learned to text or use social media and related applications just to keep up with our kids and grandkids.

So go the discussions about how hunter education should be delivered in today’s world. States are strategizing how to take advantage of these media to: 1) increase opportunities and reach more customers (potential students/hunters), 2) improve service and convenience for those seeking hunting information and training, and 3) provide a suite of options that satisfies the demand for quicker, easier ways to get trained and certified so that “one can go hunting today, if need be…”—goals and challenges, incidentally, that have not changed over time.

Discussions have reached the regulatory levels in many states. In pursuit of the goals listed above, some top-level commissioners and agency professionals have openly stated, “Hunter education is a key barrier to hunting!” even though the data have shown that mandatory hunter education is towards the bottom of the list of barriers/factors relating to hunting participation. (Responsive Management and the National Shooting Sports Foundation 2008. The Future of Hunting and the Shooting Sports). But, since hunter education has proven successful in significantly lowering accident/incident rates, improving behavior of hunters and enhancing the image of hunting, especially among the non-hunting public, policy/rule makers have been wise not “to throw the baby out with the bath water”.

What those officials are really saying is that the hunter education community, in serving its customers, ought to focus on core objectives in the introductory/required courses, provide more advanced opportunities for voluntary/follow-up participation (species/method specific, outdoor safety, etc.) and find even more ways to deliver hunter education anytime, anywhere—“just like with other types of training.” Some constituents are telling them, “We want more convenient options to locate and complete hunter education...” relating to basic knowledge of safe and responsible hunting principles and practices, “…than to travel hundreds of miles, wait for up to a year to find a course in one’s area, or listen to a boring instructor lecture for ten hours or more.”

As educators, those of us that have invested many years in hunter education know that most graduates have been pleased with their training experiences and that hands-on, experiential learning is the best way to increase knowledge, skills and attitudes (and advocacy on behalf of the agencies and conservation). To most hunter educators, especially VOLUNTEER instructors, “field
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“Field courses” represent the most effective approaches to training (and also afford states added volunteer hours/matching dollars towards their receipt and use of Wildlife Restoration/federal funding). Many of us believe that the development of “proper” skills and open/facilitated group discussions are what’s missing from the transference of information (knowledge) solely over the Internet, social media and in the handheld world.

The crux of these discussions is: How can we achieve the most convenient, easy path to hunter education certification while, at the same time, delivering a meaningful, effective and FUN learning experience to our customers?

Solutions in today’s world will need to achieve both convenience and learning effectiveness, and state agencies and their hunter education administrators will, once again, rise to the occasion to find win-win solutions—just like they did with shooting and hunting safety in the post-war era, responsibility and ethics in the 70s and 80s and home study/Internet delivery combined with a field course follow-up in the last two decades. Moving forward, the use of handheld devices and social media will undoubtedly be linked to successes in delivering hunter education information and services in the next decade.

To assist states with meaningful solutions, IHEA-USA is currently revisiting core outcomes that again answer the question, “What safe, responsible and knowledgeable actions are expected of every hunter no matter what species they hunt or method they use or in which state they hunt?” Once the core objectives are reviewed and revised, outputs using current technologies can then be more easily identified, “How can hunter education programs be more effectively delivered to satisfy growing demands and meet core learning objectives?” Beyond these two questions, the next is, “What advanced hunter education training can be offered that compels hunter education graduates to be more actively engaged in hunting, hunter education and conservation over their lifetimes?”

We have our work cut out for us—but the technology should enable us to streamline many parts of hunter education while providing more hands-on field and advanced experiences to our customers. I look forward to the involvement of IHEA-USA in moving forward on these issues.

Shoot Straight!

Hunters use their phones to call, text, and take photos, as well as GPS units—enhancing communications, safety, social support and more. Such devices also aid in hunter education training and registration efforts.

A hunter education instructor’s best role is to “coach” students in skills such as: 1) proper muzzle control and basic firearm safety (e.g. operating actions; proper loading and unloading; entering/exiting vehicles/boats/stands; handling, carrying and shooting sporting arms in a manner that keeps muzzles always pointed in a safe direction), 2) proper marksmanship/shooting to reduce wounding loss (e.g. positions; proper target identification; shot angles; shot placement; vital zones; distance estimation), 3) hunter safety trail (e.g. entering/exiting vehicles, boats, ATV/OHVs, ground blinds; safely crossing obstacles; elevated/tree stand safety considerations; safe and legal considerations; shoot/don’t shoot scenarios; proper tagging and field dressing), and 4) facilitated, open discussion of hunting responsibilities (e.g. dilemma methods; trigger videos; brainstorming, processing and feedback; case studies/examinations).
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It was Thanksgiving break and I was returning home to southern Michigan during a semester break from college. I was a very experienced hunter at this point and had taken several nice deer in my hunting career. My friend’s Grandpa had a farm in southern Michigan where he was taking me to hunt, for the first time. The afternoon of the hunt, we checked in at the farm-house, reviewed our hunting plan and planned our strategy. We were told we were the only ones with permission to hunt and had the entire area to ourselves. There were also no livestock on the property so we would be able to hunt this area without worry.

Michigan strictly requires hunter orange, so we both ensured that we had on our fluorescent orange vests, and had our shotguns as it was shotgun only hunting in this area. Since my friend had a stand, the plan was for him to go sit on one side of the farm and I would go to the other side and still hunt before finding a place to sit for the evening. It was about mid-afternoon, we split apart in opposite directions and I was eager to explore this new hunting area. After some time, still hunting through a thick bottom area along a hillside, I came upon a small field approximately 5 acres in size. While I was sneaking through the brush, I noticed a herd of about 15 deer feeding in the field. I slowly crept continuously closer to the field and spied several does. This was fine since I had both a doe and a buck permit so could take either sex, but I wanted to try first for a buck. As I reached near the edge of the field, I could see that all of the deer in the herd were does. Suddenly, I noticed out of the corner of my eye on the extreme right edge of the field, a big buck feeding alone. Just as I was raising my gun, one of the does blew out and all of the deer were instantly gone with the herd of does leaving the field to my left and the buck quickly disappearing to my right and up the forested hill.

Since it was early in the evening, I decided to set up a make-shift stand downwind from the field and waited to see if the deer, especially the large buck, would return. About a half hour later, the first doe returned from the left side of the field. Over the following 45 minutes, all of the does returned to feeding in the field. “But,” I wondered, “where was that buck?”

As I scanned the right side of the field up the ridge, I suddenly saw a piece of brown near the top of the ridge. The hill in this area appeared to be selectively cut a number of years before and consisted of large hardwood trees intermixed with young stands of pine trees, representing perfect deer cover. As I watched, I could
see occasional glimpses of the deer moving between the thick trees heading toward the field where all of the does were now feeding. I could not see any antlers but the way it was moving, slowly and deliberately, and the occasional large brown patches showing between the young pines indicated that it was a large deer, probably the same buck that had left through a very similar route earlier.

I could see the deer moving very slowly through the trees and then it stopped with what looked like the shoulder, a big one, showing between two trees. It was probably 80 yards off. I aimed the gun carefully and took off the safety and was ready to fire. I was about to take the shot, however I hesitated because something was just not right. I waited and thought that, even if it was not the big buck it really did not matter since I had a doe permit anyway and a large doe would be good eating.

As I paused to deliberate on my final decision, suddenly, one of the does blew and the entire herd ran out of there. I turned my head to see them flee and my initial thought was that this was strange as I was positioned carefully downwind. My next thought was that I better take a shot at the buck right away before he leaves. Then suddenly, the deer stepped forward and in a clearing for the first time, and I could see it was another hunter, dressed totally in a light brown farmer’s jacket and light brown overalls that were a color which almost perfectly matched the color of a whitetail deer.

I instantly lowered my gun and put the safety back on. I was shaking all over. I had never once thought that this object I watched, for perhaps 10 minutes, was not a deer. With the deer now spooked, the man was quickly walking down to the field. Suddenly, he stopped and saw me. He then turned and very quickly, almost running, went back up the hill, obviously trespassing on the property. I was so stunned that I did not move, yell, or anything.

It took me a while to recover that evening. Only I knew how close I was to pulling the trigger. I have thought of this incident many times since that day and it still gives me chills today. It was a very close call that never should have happened since this was a private farm, which we alone had permission to hunt, and the trespasser had willingly disobeyed Michigan’s strict hunter orange law and even worse, chose to wear an outfit, appearing as a deer. Moreover, it was a perfect set of circumstances for an accident, with the trespasser sneaking very slowly and carefully upon a deer herd which he must have spotted from the top of the ridge and coming by chance along the same route which the large buck had left previously. However, by grace this hunting accident never happened but this incident clearly reinforces the fact that you must always make absolutely sure of your target before pulling the trigger; you can never call the bullet back, a life can be ended tragically forever.
Almost a full school year has elapsed since the addition of Hunter Education in the Schools at the local middle school in my home town. After researching the program I scheduled several meetings, and made a multitude of phone calls explaining the program to the principal and members of the school board. I have been a hunter education coordinator and teacher for going on five years, but this was my first introduction of the program to a school district. To my pleasure the district was very much in favor of pursuing the program. I had heard about a neighboring district that had been very difficult to institute a program in the schools, and was surprised at the ease I was having locally. Overall, the school board, a teacher with firm interest, and one of our state program coordinators for hunter education took the suggestion and ran with it. The teacher became certified as an instructor. The school then offered hunter education as a nine week elective. We have had an excellent group of students take interest and pass the class. I organized a field day for the first quarter class, complete with shotgun shooting, archery, and a lengthy trail walk. The interest and support for the class grew immensely, and the class size increased. Many of the students told me they were very pleased with the chance to take it while at school because it would not interfere with extracurricular activities or their parents’ work schedule. With the students having the choice to elect taking the class it made for a well rounded class that was willing to learn about the subject. Many students might wait until they are old enough to drive before attending a hunter education class so they can get back and forth. The chances are high that the same student will encounter a firearm or accompany someone on a hunt prior to making it to that benchmark. Some kids may never get around to taking the class due to schedule conflicts, and might never get the chance to experience what an amazing opportunity hunting is. Or worse yet, they decide to hunt without education and are not only breaking the law in most cases, but might have a horrible and preventable accident. These are excellent and obvious reasons to get hunter education in as many schools as possible. It is hard for me to imagine reasons why we haven’t gotten more schools on board. I understand the horrible tragedies that have occurred lately in our schools might make it more difficult to get schools on board, but we need to try. Firearms do not enter the school for our local class. The kids become familiar with firearms in the classroom by alternate methods, and then go hands-on at a separate location.

With the rising cost of firearms and the current difficulty to find ammunition it is likely many kids without access to an equipped mentor might face financial problems with the start-up costs of hunting.
during the field day.

With the rising cost of firearms and the current difficulty to find ammunition it is likely many kids without access to an equipped mentor might face financial problems with the start-up costs of hunting. Hunter education lets them try it out, see what firearms they like more and the proper way to select size, weight, and fit.

The tool is available and it needs to be utilized. Other coordinators in my area have had very good success at implementation of the program into their local school districts. My goal is to incorporate it in two more districts prior to next school year. I hope you give it a try and wish you luck in your attempts. If you have any questions about my experience with the program so far feel free to contact me. Let’s do it for the kids, do it for the resource, and do it for the future.

Left: The class starting the trail walk
Right: Ben Womelsdorf handing an imitation firearm to a student
If one-third of medical school graduates did not pursue the profession for which they prepared, it would be alarming. If a third of teachers who earned their certification chose not to teach, our educational system would likely be in big trouble. If nearly a third of your hunter education graduates chose not to buy a hunting license during the first six years following their certification, hunter recruitment would suffer a real blow.

Well, feel the breeze!

The National Shooting Sports Foundation® contracted with research company Southwick Associates to conduct a study to identify the percentage of hunter education graduates who purchase a license after completing their training, and learn how often they continue to purchase a license in subsequent years. The results of the study are intended to help the hunting community understand if and where intervention efforts may be needed to maintain hunting participation among newer hunters.

Twelve state wildlife agencies participated in this project based on their willingness and ability to share hunter education and license sales data. The analysis consisted of profiling the hunter education class of 2006 and their subsequent license-buying habits over the following six years.

The results were eye-opening. Nearly one-third of the hunter ed graduates in those 12 states’ class of ’06 didn’t purchase a hunting license for the first six years after their certification. That actual number was 32.2 percent.

“The initial results were a bit of a surprise,” said Jim Curcuruto, NSSF director, industry research and analysis. “Upon further review we find some understandable explanations for this number. Nevertheless, improvements can be made,” Curcuruto added.

Young people 16 to 24 years of age were less likely to follow up with a license purchase. College students and military personnel were other types identified as less likely to purchase a hunting license. Graduates from highly urbanized areas showed the greatest drop-out rates.

In any case, the overall figures indicate a need for improvement, likely in the form of follow-up after being certified. It would seem that most certified hunter education graduates who lack family support would be those most likely not to exercise their newly earned privilege. Going afield without experience, or without a mentor to help provide some experience, is an intimidating prospect for many would-be hunters. Not knowing about public hunting land opportunities and not having connections with private landowners are understandably discouraging to the potential first-time license buyer.

The key may be assuring the proper connections before the students ever leave your class. If a silver-bullet solution to hunter-ed graduate recruitment existed, we would all be practicing it today.

However, some simple suggestions, perhaps not so simply implemented,
would seem to have potential. Those suggestions are based on additional education in your class and follow-up mentoring after certification.

In your class, do you familiarize your students with all of the local sportsman’s and conservation organizations? Local rod and gun clubs can provide facilities for sharpening their shooting skills, possibly land for hunting and, perhaps most importantly, companions and mentors. Local chapters of national organizations, such as the National Wild Turkey Federation, Ducks Unlimited and Pheasants Forever, might present instructive programs and also allow for connecting with experienced sportsmen.

Do you provide your students with information on where to sharpen their shooting skills? NSSF’s website, WhereToShoot.org, lists shooting ranges across the continent and provides the opportunity for a simple, customized search. WingshootingUSA.org provides a similar website to search for shooting preserves. Shooting ranges can provide shooting practice and instruction; shooting preserves can offer guaranteed opportunities, overseen by experienced hunters with trained gun dogs.

The New York Department of Environmental Conservation once implemented a mentoring program in its Region 3 (the Hudson Valley-Catskill Mountain region) that allowed students, upon earning hunter education certification, to opt for a hunting mentor. A pool of volunteers, experienced sportsmen, all would fill that role. The mentor-mentee partners were committed to spending a minimum number of hours together. That time could have been spent watching hunting programs on television, walking the aisles of a local sportsman’s show, spending time at the range gaining valuable shooting experience or actually hunting afield.

“The program was aimed particularly at students who did not have family support to gain hunting experience, and we hoped it would be especially attractive to single-parent households headed by a mother,” recalled Glenn Cole, who directed wildlife-related programs for the region during that time. “In some cases, the program was very successful. There were difficulties, however. Lining up volunteers was a challenge, as was getting mothers to feel comfortable entrusting their youngsters to relative strangers.”

Those challenges and other issues, such as the consideration of liability, may be road blocks to such a program, but the concept undeniably has merit.

Perhaps some of those same concerns have prevented you from taking some of your graduates under your wing. The benefits of such a program are so promising, however, that it is worthy of consideration on a statewide level and on an individual basis.

Nearly one-third of your graduates are not buying licenses in the first six years after leaving your class, and as important as you were in their getting their certification, that’s how important you could be in assuring that they actually become hunters.
A couple of years ago I read the book ‘Duct Tape Marketing’ by John Jantsch. As I read the book, I thought maybe I could write a book on Duct Tape Teaching. Recently, I attended a conference where Heath Moss, an EMT from Pennsylvania taught a class ‘Duct Tape Use in Medical Emergencies.’ It was a fun class. Sitting, listening, doing and learning in Heath’s class caused me to again think about writing a book about duct tape learning. Writing the book is in the future. For now, let’s explore the concept.

Duct tape teaching is about facilitating learning that sticks—‘duct tape learning.’ In teaching, instructors make decisions about what is most important to be taught, when, in what sequence and to what depth. The instructor then creates strategies to motivate and engage students in learning.

As I spaced off thinking about duct tape teaching during Heath’s class, he introduced Gorilla Tape. Wow! We explored how to use it in a survival situation—making a bowl. We used regular duct tape in constructing a travois and duct tape rope to drag an injured person out of the wilderness. Teaching and learning can be so practical, exciting and fun!

The Gorilla Tape stimulated my line of thinking. I thought back to the one time I bought some fancy purple and patterned duct tape because I thought it would be fun. I discovered it didn’t perform as well as regular duct tape in a wilderness camping adventure. Here is an analogy to teaching…sometimes we try creative strategies that just don’t make what we are teaching stick. Fancy duct tape is fun, pretty and gets attention. Then what? How do we get what we are teaching to stick? Duct tape can be purchased in varying strengths. That led to thinking about how Instructors can polish their teaching styles to meet a diversity of learning styles. Gorilla Tape is awesome because it holds lots together and it sticks. That concept represents finding the right instructional strategy that capitalizes on learning.

Heath’s advice to us is that adding more duct tape provides stronger holding power. That caused me to think that learning takes more than one presentation in one manner. Repetition and application of what is learned in multiple situations produces longer term learning.

The notion of ‘duct tape teaching’ and ‘duct tape learning’ may be a bit of a stretch in thinking about teaching and learning. However, I hope the next time you prepare to teach hunter education or shooting sports you think about how to teach that results in ‘duct tape learning’ that really sticks!

Send Us Your Stories!

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

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

Send your submission to Susie Kiefer at susiekiefersmsn.com. No computer? You can mail your submission to: IHEA-USA Journal, PO Box 432, Wellington, CO 80549.
"Heart-stopping accuracy. I put my name on it."

Ed Weatherby
The Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program each year apportions money to States that are received from excise taxes and customs duties. A portion of the Wildlife Restoration (Pittman-Robertson) money is then used by States for Hunter Education. This year there have been some twists to the usual that affects the funds that States will receive.

We have heard from hunters across the nation that if you go into your local box store seeking ammunition, you are likely to find the shelves are bare. Manufacturers are telling the media that they can’t keep up with the demand. But then, on top of all of this information, we are working under a budget sequester. What does all this mean for Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration funding?

Tax Receipts

Tax receipts from the second quarter of the 2013 fiscal year show there is an increase of over 40 percent in sales from the same time period in 2012. The 2014 Wildlife Restoration apportionments will be based on the 2013 sales receipts, so for the second year in a row, States will get a “bump” in their apportionments. Since 2007 receipts have almost doubled, but not consistently. From 2007 to 2010 there was a rise. Then, it dipped in 2010 and 2011, with an upswing again in 2012. Whether this trend will continue, or whether it will fall again is a game for the financial experts and those who closely follow the industry to determine.

Although it sounds like excellent news when we hear that there is more Federal funding, some States will have trouble managing the increase because they are required to match the Federal funds with 25 percent of non-Federal money. Often, State budget years are set already when the Federal apportionments are announced, so States must make do with what they have in their State budget until next year. With such a large increase, some States won’t be able to manage the match at all and may be forced to return money. Funds not used by the States within two years revert to the Service for carrying out the provisions of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act. These funds go to the Service’s Division of Realty for land purchases. The Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act also requires the Secretary of the Treasury to invest the portion of the fund not required for current year spending in interest-bearing obligations to be used for projects under the North American Wetlands Conservations Act.

Sequester

We have all heard that word on the nightly news, flying through the internet, and in print. The basis for sequestering the Federal budget comes from the Gramm-Rudmann-Hollings Act, also known as the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act. The Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program has dealt with sequesters in 1985, 1989, and 1993 also, so this is not a new challenge. Because the Wildlife Restoration funds are part of a trust fund, the monies held back through sequester cannot be used to pay the government’s bills. However, the way the laws are written we cannot distribute the sequester amount to States. The sequester amounts will be held in the trust account for future use.

The result of sequestration for fiscal year 2013 is that States will receive less money than they should for Hunter Education programs, if based on tax receipts. However, this will be offset to a certain degree by the increase in receipts over the past few years. The funds that are sequestered in the Wildlife Restoration account for States cannot be used for another purpose, so the money will remain in the account, but the sequestered funds for administration of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program is fixed by Congress and is treated differently. The result is that once administrative money is sequestered, it is lost to the program for administration.

The Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program will continue to offer funding and assistance as we are able to during these unusual fiscal times. We will continue to build on the partnerships we have established, and look for new ways to work together to further hunter education and continue the traditions from our 75th anniversary into the future.

Train The Trainer

Rodney L. Smith, GA Hunter Safety Instructor

As we know, firearms handling and hunting are passed down from one generation to the next. If our trainers are not adequately trained, how can we properly pass down these traditions? As a certified firearms instructor and Hunter Education Instructor, I developed training curriculum to train the trainers. My “train the trainer” concept consists of basic rifle and handgun training for trainers (mentors). These lesson plans include, but are not limited to, firearms fundamentals, range safety, analyzing targets and firearms cleaning.

While performing dry fire drills and practical training exercises, each student trainer will perform the duties of a coach. Each coach is responsible for their student’s safety, muzzle control, proper grip, sight alignment, trigger control and analyzing their targets. These hands-on lessons will give the student trainers the opportunity to enhance their instruction techniques and reiterate what it will be like training their students in realistic situations.
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Six years of 4-H shooting sports has honed 15 year-old Marin Dey’s skills both competitively and in the hunting fields. Marin participates in the precision air rifle, .22 rifle, air pistol, shotgun, and archery disciplines in Laramie County’s active 4-H shooting program. She excels particularly in the rifle disciplines and has a room full of ribbons and trophies from county and state matches to prove it. She scored 361 out of 400 possible points in precision air rifle at the 2012 Wyoming 4-H State Shoot earning a 2nd place trophy and inspiring her to set her sights higher in 2013, “I hope to win 1st place in precision air rifle this upcoming year at the Wyoming 4-H State Shoot.” One of her short term goals is to score highly enough at the 2013 Wyoming 4-H State Shoot to earn a trip to the NRA Wittington Center in Ratone, New Mexico. She expects to compete in several upcoming matches including the Wyoming State USA Shooting Junior Championship. Longer term, her goal is to continue shooting through college. To achieve these goals, Marin spends hours every week at the range, “I work on improving the small details in each position and being consistent week to week.”

Marin has translated her shooting interest to the hunting fields. It was no surprise when she won the prestigious Outdoor Skills award sponsored by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department at the 2008 4-H State Shoot. Hunter education coordinator Jim Dawson remembers she was a star pupil when he taught her class a few years back. Dawson said, “Marin is very special young lady with a high level of maturity and an incredible passion for Wyoming Wildlife and wild places. I wish we had a program in place to capture the skills this type of young person could add to HE classes. As it is now, I have invited Marin in to several WGFD projects and she has been a great role model for younger kids.” Along with her two sisters and dad, Marin pursues and harvests doves, pheasant, geese, pronghorn and elk. She took her first elk in 2011, a fat cow, and then a bull in the 2012 season. “I enjoy being able to apply my practices to real life. The skills I learned while shooting have helped me improve my hunting skills and accuracy. Plus, the reward of a good steak is always worth it.”

Hunting Tip—Defective Riflescope?

By Zeiss Field Staff

A common problem is running out of windage or elevation adjustment.

Step 1: Rule out a defective mounting system. Inspect the mounts to ensure they are attached securely and square. Return the scope’s reticle back to “factory center” by counting the total number of clicks for both windage and elevation turrets and then moving each back by ½ that total amount. Check if the scope tube is square with the firearm’s receiver and barrel. Pull the bolt and with the rifle in a stable rest, look down the breech end and through the barrel to center the bullseye in the bore diameter.

Without moving the gun, raise your head to look through the riflescope. If the crosshairs are not on paper at 25 yards you have an alignment problem.

Step 2: Switch the rings 180 degrees to see if the adjustment difficulty reverses itself. If you run out of adjustment in the opposite direction then you have isolated the problem to the rings. Turn one ring back around or use another ring set. If these combinations do not yield success, then it is time to use the same reversal method to diagnose the base. Look at the base to see if there is too much play between the hole size and the anchoring screw. Switching brands on rings or bases is an effective solution.

Step 3: Check the drilling on the rifle. To detect misalignment use a “connect the dots” approach with a laser or straight edge extending the line beyond the receiver. Another encounter called barrel runout pertaining to barrel and bore straightness can cause adjustment deficiency. For these problems, consult the rifle manufacturer.

Step 4: The last common culprit is the actual scope adjustment sticking, jumping or not responding. This can be diagnosed by centering the reticle then watching the crosshairs move while using a boresighter. If the crosshair does not move at all the turret gear assembly is defective. If it moves but not the entire specified adjustment range (½ the total range in each direction) something is binding—verify the rings are not over tightened or the tube bent. If the crosshairs jump erratically the reticle retention springs are defective. Use quality steel rings and bases and avoid shimming. Shoot straight, be safe, and get out there.
Ruger
John A. Sears

John was born in Geneseo, Illinois, raised on the family farm near Atkinson, Illinois and was educated in the Atkinson School system. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and trapping during his school years.

Serving in the U.S. Navy from 1963 through August 1967, John had major duty stations of Great Lakes Training center, Argentina, Newfoundland, USS Wilkinson DL5 and Naval Support Detachment, DaNang, RVN.

A 1969 graduate of Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Ill, John has a BS in Engineering Technology. In September 1969 he married Margo Ann Young and they had two children. His current outdoor interests are hunting, shooting sports, fishing, hiking, gardening and timber management.

From 1969 until 1979 John worked as a farm manager for egg and crop production for Young Farms in Richmond, Illinois and then as an application engineer for traffic control and emergency communication systems for G&W Eagle Signal out of both Iowa and Texas. He then worked as a senior engineer for John Deere Ottumwa Works from 1979 until 2009. John retired in 2009 and is now a part time project engineer and project manager at John Deere Ottumwa Works and recently completed a project to upgrade the factory’s 180 machines to current OSHA/ANSI/ISO specifications.

John has been a volunteer hunter education instructor since 1983, and part of the teaching team at the Ottumwa Izaak Walton League. He currently leads a team of ten instructors for both the traditional course and the internet field day courses. John holds Iowa certifications for hunter education and bow hunting instructor and additionally has certifications as NRA range safety officer and NRA rifle instructor.

John has volunteered for the IOWA Youth Hunter Education Challenge for the last twenty years and has participated in the design and staffing of the shotgun event. He has also rewritten the exam portion of the YHEC event to more closely align with the NRA Hunter’s Guide.

For the last two years he has served as a volunteer at the International YHEC, working with the shotgun event the first year and working on the rifle event this year.

In June of 2012, John completed a third nonconsecutive term as president of the Iowa Hunter Education Instructor Association. As a founding member, John was part of the team that wrote the bylaws. During his terms they upgraded their working relationship with the Iowa DNR and have offered new education and training opportunities to the Iowa instructors.

John can be reached by email at: jamasea.913@gmail.com.

Jose A. Gonzalez

Born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, Jose and his dad would go to many parks with hills, lakes, reservoirs, and trails when he was young. They enjoyed bird watching and nature’s wonderful beauty together.

Jose graduated from LaGuardia Community College with an Associates Degree in computer technology. He then went to Queens College for two years in advanced mathematics and physics courses. He has worked for Xerox Corporation for the past 25 years. He works in the service department and enjoys service because it puts him in the front line, with the customer.

He has been married to his lovely wife Donna for 20 years and they have twin daughters who are now 14 years old. He grew up with military and patriotic values and believes it is our job to be involved citizens, as inheritors of this great nation, to ensure our privileges can be secured and handed down to the generations to come.

Jose has been teaching hunter safety (gun) for New York since April 2010. He teaches at a rifle range in Nassau County (Long Island). The DEC provides instructors with five .22 caliber bolt action rifles that their students get to shoot. Currently the secretary of the Greentree Rod & Gun Club, he has been a member since 1994. He hunts deer, turkey, pheasant, rabbit, squirrel, and coyote.

Trained by State Forest Rangers in Wildland Search Skills (search & rescue), he enjoys mountaineering and has climbed Mt. Washington in New Hampshire several times in the deep winter as well as some of the highest peaks in the Catskills. This year he plans to climb Mt. Marcy, the highest peak in the Adirondacks. He also enjoys ice & rock climbing, snow boarding, scuba diving and running.

With his newest adventure as an Instructor Advisory Committee for IHEA-USA, his love for the outdoors and the sportsmanship of hunting and wildlife management will have a new platform to reach out to more kids and newcomers to the sport.

Jose can be reached by email at: lordlefty@earthlink.net.
Louis H. Stithem

Louis was born on a small farm near Milburn, NE on January 3, 1938. His family lived in several small rural communities in central Nebraska where they owned and operated restaurants and service stations. He attended Broken Bow Public Schools from the 4th through 12th grade and graduated in 1956. He has always loved hunting, fishing, camping and all shooting sports.

He attended the University of Nebraska 1956-57 and enrolled in electrical engineering. In November of 1956 the Co-op that he lived in was badly damaged by a fire and he lost most everything that he owned. He transferred to Kearney State Teachers College in 1957 and graduated in 1961 with a BA in education, with teaching endorsements in mathematics and physical education. He returned to Broken Bow in 1961 to coach and teach mathematics. In 1969 he completed an MA in Secondary Principalship from the University of Nebraska at Kearney and became the Middle School Principal in Broken Bow where he remained until 1997 when he retired. He also completed an Educational Specialist Degree in 1989 from the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

He married his high school sweetheart, Gwen Fenster on June 28, 1959 and they have three children, seven grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

Louis has been a volunteer hunter education instructor since May, 1973. He serves as a Master instructor for Game and Parks with responsibilities of recruiting, training and being a mentor to new volunteer instructors in central Nebraska. He is also certified as a tree stand instructor and live fire instructor in shotgunning and holds a boat safety instructor certification. He volunteers as an instructor at skills camps, public expos and other Game and Parks events across the state where shotgunning is presented to youth and adults and still manages to teach one class of hunter education in Broken Bow and help with other classes in the area. Louis also volunteers to help at 4-H shooting events and Pheasants Forever mentor hunts and helps in the youth shooting program for the Nebraska One Box Pheasant Hunt where there are 40-45 young people in a six week instructional shooting program each spring.

He has and will continue, as long as he is able, to be an advocate for shooting sports and hunting as promoted by Nebraska Game and Parks. Louis can be reached by email at: LS40425@msn.com.

John Roybal

Born in Las Vegas, New Mexico, John enjoys sports, hunting, fishing, shooting sports including archery, gardening and classic car restoration.

John has been a volunteer hunter education instructor for 21 years, with over 10,000 students taught during that time. He currently leads a team of instructors for both the traditional course and the internet conclusion courses. He holds certifications for hunter education and bow hunting instructor.

He is married to Diana Medina and they have four children and seven grandchildren. He worked for the Colorado Government from 1975 until he retired in 2009.

He has served on the Board of Directors for the Colorado Wildlife Federation, Outdoor Buddies and Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK) organizations.

John can be reached by email at: Nmman50@hotmail.com.
The drawing for the tenth annual IHEA Heritage Hunt was held in February. Three very lucky students along with two instructors are the Grand Prize winners of an all-expense-paid hunt to Rock Canyon Ranch in southwest Texas sponsored by: Hunter’s Handbook, Rock Canyon Ranch, Safari Club International Foundation, Gander Mountain, Federal Ammunition and Weaver Binoculars. Winners will stay in the magnificent 7,000 square foot lodge, and one parent will accompany each student. The hunt itself will be filmed for airing on Americana Outdoors television show, appearing on NBC Sports Network. Winners will be flown to the lodge in mid-October where they will enjoy three days of big game hunting. This year’s winners are:

**Students**
- Alyssa Johnson, Hoisington, KS
- Howard Noon, Stafford, TX
- Justin Triplett, Dade City, FL

**Instructors**
- Tim Whitford, Sullivan, MO
- Arthur Kasson, Jr., Front Royal, VA

The only way students or instructors can enter to win trips is to fill out the form in Hunter’s Handbook or visit us online at www.huntershandbook.com. The 22nd annual edition of the Hunter’s Handbook was recently shipped to all state and provincial warehouses for distribution in classes. If you have not received your copies, be sure to contact your state/provincial administrator for free copies for your students. Then, make sure you and your students register for next year’s drawing!

In addition to the trip winners, 15 students, their instructor, and their state/provincial administrator all won secondary prizes for entering in the hunt. These entries were among thousands Hunter’s Handbook receives annually via its entry forms.

### PRIZE WINNERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Winner</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Administrator</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Prize</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austin Norton</td>
<td>Dave Boyce</td>
<td>James Reed</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>Alpen Shasta Ridge Binoculars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stacey Witcher</td>
<td>Mark Ostroski</td>
<td>Mark Ostroski</td>
<td>DE</td>
<td>Barnes Bullets $50 gift certificate and Leupold 10x42 Acadia Binoculars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marcus Copeland</td>
<td>Casey Mullen</td>
<td>Randy Huskey</td>
<td>TN</td>
<td>Birchwood Casey Ground Strike targets, Buck knife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alex Negrete</td>
<td>Shawn Edens</td>
<td>Joe Huggins</td>
<td>AR</td>
<td>Bob Allen gun case and Hodgdon $50 gift certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honey Low</td>
<td>Kevin Willden/</td>
<td>Gary Cook</td>
<td>UT</td>
<td>Case Knives and HS Truetalker/ Rattling Bag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tracey Davis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owen Siford</td>
<td>Kenneth Neely</td>
<td>Lt. Tim Coleman</td>
<td>WV</td>
<td>Crimson Trace gift certificate for free product, Hevi-Shot waterfowlammo, hat and t-shirt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakota Steinberg</td>
<td>Levi Anthony</td>
<td>James Dawson</td>
<td>WY</td>
<td>Tasco binoculars and Dokken Dead Fowl Dog Trainer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carter Morrill</td>
<td>Jeff &amp; Kathy Hinkle</td>
<td>Mark Cousins</td>
<td>CO</td>
<td>Daisy/Winchester airgun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew Fontaine</td>
<td>Marsha Womack</td>
<td>Roy Griffith</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Gander Mountain $100 gift card</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garrett LeDoux</td>
<td>Dwight Leifheit</td>
<td>Sgt. Carl Klein</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>Lacrosse boot certificate, hat and t-shirt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ariel Avilla</td>
<td>Jim Cole</td>
<td>Chuck Dente</td>
<td>NY</td>
<td>Leatherman Rebar Multitool, LED Lensor flashlight/headlamp and Thermacell unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curtis Krug</td>
<td>Gary Moser</td>
<td>Keith Snyder</td>
<td>PA</td>
<td>Montana Decoy muley decoy, Muck Boot certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brent Mock</td>
<td>John Sears</td>
<td>Megan Wisecup</td>
<td>IA</td>
<td>Shotlock 1911 SoloVault, Shotlock for shotgun, and Winchester prize package</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joshua Schwarz</td>
<td>Kent Volkmer</td>
<td>Michael Streeter</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>Buck Bomb package and CRKT free range knife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marshal Lebel</td>
<td>Rebecca Lebel</td>
<td>Michael Sawyer</td>
<td>ME</td>
<td>Wildlife Research Center Scent Killer package and UnderArmour Jacket</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory is expected to sign legislation passed by the state’s House of Representatives that will allow new hunters to go afield under the guidance of a licensed adult mentor before taking a hunter education course. Upon the bill’s signing, North Carolina will become the 35th state to enact Families Afield legislation.

The law will establish a Hunting Heritage Apprentice Permit that is available to persons of all ages, making it possible for youth or adult newcomers to try hunting if accompanied by a licensed adult hunter or a license-exempt landowner.

While Families Afield was designed to encourage youth to try hunting, an unexpected benefit of the program is that it has created both an interest and a pathway for adults to experience hunting before committing to the comprehensive hunter education course.

Families Afield-style legislation has led to more than 1 million apprentice hunting licenses being purchased nationally since the program’s inception in 2004.

“Mentored hunting is safe and, as so many have discovered, a great way to experience your first hunt,” said NSSF Director of Recruitment and Retention Melissa Schilling. “By passing this Families Afield bill, North Carolina is doing its part to help protect the tradition of hunting.”

The Families Afield program was established by the National Shooting Sports Foundation, U.S. Sportsmen’s Alliance and National Wild Turkey Federation to bring a new generation of sportsmen and women to the field. The coalition also receives assistance from the National Rifle Association and Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation.

Families Afield legislation seeks to lower age barriers to hunting and create new opportunities to hunt, thereby making it easier to pass on hunting’s heritage. Program research shows that many apprentice youth and adults go on to take hunter education.

Both chambers of the North Carolina legislature passed their own version of identical bills back in April, and it was left to the House to approve the Senate’s version, which it did today, before sending it to the governor’s desk to sign.

Learn more about Families Afield at www.familiesafield.org.
Win A Bad Boy Buggy Recoil iS From Thermcell

Have your students enter to win the new ThermaCELL Mosquito Repellent Appliance contest before time runs out. Thermacell is giving away a device in RealTree APG every day in August, 2013. Winners are selected daily from all entries prior to that date in August, so encourage them to enter once per day, and refer friends! Upon entry, students will receive a code that they can send to their friends. For each friend that enters, your student gets one point toward winning the Bad Boy Buggy Recoil iS worth $13,499! The student who refers the most friends that enter gets the most points to win. Second place receives a Lifetime Membership to the North American Hunting Club. For more information visit: ihea-usa.org/hunting-and-shooting/hunter-education/special-offers-for-students.

New Cool Series Collection With XpressCool™ Technology Gives Sweaty Feet the Boot

The Original Muck Boot Company™ introduces the Cool Series with XpressCool™ technology. A unique evaporative, cooling liner featured in Wood Sport Cool boot for Spring Summer 2013. As the foot begins to sweat, the XpressCool fabric rapidly pulls moisture away from skin as the lining absorbs and spreads the moisture back out across the boot. Most importantly, as the moisture spreads and dries, it creates a cooling effect which keeps your feet cool and dry in warm weather. In cold weather, the lining keeps bone-chilling moisture away from the foot, keeping it warm and dry.

Woody Sport Cool™, is an all terrain hunting boot and gear staple for any outdoor sportsman. Engineered with 100% waterproof materials, the Woody Sport Cool, provide support, comfort and protection for any type of terrain condition; swampy areas, streams, or wet tall grass. A full mossy oak camouflage provides full coverage.

If you spend your day wading, climbing, balancing, slogging or lugging in the harshest conditions, the Wood Max Cool is your boot!

For more information visit online at www.muckbootcompany.com

New Products For Your Students

Want Versatility In A Compact Yet Lethal Sight?

Weighing just 3.7 ounces and featuring a non-reflective bead blast finish, the Aimpoint Micro H-1 is a high-quality electronic red-dot sight that can be utilized across multiple hunting seasons. This compact non-magnifying sight is small enough to be used as a faster, more visible alternative to iron sights on nearly anything you carry into the field, and can be used interchangeably on rifles, shotguns, handguns, and bows just by changing the mount. With the same features that have made Aimpoint sights famous throughout the world, these small sights are able to offer the modern hunter the same speed, accuracy, and ruggedness of full sized Aimpoint sights while adding negligible weight to your firearm. Now available with a 2 MOA or 4 MOA dot, a single battery provides 50,000 hours (over 5 years) of continuous operation. For more information on Aimpoint, call (877) 246-7647 or visit www.aimpoint.com.

Bring Some Fun To Your Range With The Promatic Running Boar

PROMATIC, largest worldwide producer of commercial clay target throwing machines has introduced the Promatic Running Boar. The Running Boar was designed as a moving rifle target to allow you to improve your skill set with a hunting rifle.

The Running Boar features a 150’ track, wireless remote for operation, speed control and directional target board that auto turns at each end of the track ensuring the target is always facing the correct direction.

The new Promatic Running Boar is available now and will be a great addition to the Promatic lineup that includes over 60 clay target throwing machines and a full range of ground management systems.

Worldwide installation available.
Razor-Lite Replaceable Blade System

Never sharpen your knife again with Outdoor Edge’s new Razor-Lite. This strong, replaceable razor-blade knife features a black oxide coated blade support system so there’s no more broken blades. Changing blades is safe and easy. Simply push the lock button to remove and insert a shaving sharp new one. Rubberized TPR handles, available in black or blaze-orange, ensure a secure non-slip grip, even when wet. Black model comes with a black nylon belt sheath. Blaze-orange model comes with a Mossy Oak nylon belt sheath. Each knife includes six surgically sharp 420 stainless steel razor-blades. Additional packs of six replacement blades (Model RR-6) are sold separately.

Visit www.outdooredge.com or call 800-447-3343 for more information.

Instructor Access to IHEA-USA Website

Hunter Education Instructors can access many free resources and services at the “Instructor’s Only” section of the IHEA-USA website! For your exclusive access go to www.ihea.com/instructors/instructor-resources/index.php and enter “instructor” as your username and “gohunt” as your password. These are both lower case with no space.
2013 Offers Several Great Discounts On Products For Instructors

Shotlock™ Offers Overall Hunter Education Discounts Along with a Super September Discount.

Shotlock™ of Sedro Woolley, WA would like to remind IHEA-USA instructors that it offers discounts on its Solo-Vault™ line of products. And, for every Shotlock product purchased, the IHEA-USA receives a donation.

Don Fenton, Sales and Marketing Director for Shotlock states, “The 70,000 instructors of the IHEA-USA play a critical role in setting examples for the 750,000 students that pass through hunter education courses annually. The message they deliver with regard to firearms safety goes hand-in-hand with the product we build. We here at TruckVault/ShotLock feel that it is our duty to offer this group of educators a special discount in an effort to further promote secure storage of firearms in the home.” Shotlock is offering a 10% discount to all certified instructors and administrators.

As an added bonus for instructors, for the month of September, you can get Shotlock online for only $129 total when using the code IHEALOCK.

Take advantage of safe gun storage and call Shotlock direct at 800-967-8107 for details.

Mission Archery Reminds Instructors To Take Advantage Of Discounts

Perfect for the first-time bowhunter, Mission offers fully adjustable, fantastic bows that can be adjusted to fit all members of the family. Matt McPherson, founder of Mission Archery states, “We introduced the Mission line to make high-quality bows more accessible to new archers and are always looking for ways to support the growth of the sport.”

Interested instructors can download a discount form at IHEA-USA Special Offers for Instructors and take it to an authorized mission retailer with a copy of their certification.

Crosman To Offer A Special Instructor Program On Airguns And Airgun Ammunition

Crosman Corporation announced a special instructor program on airguns and airgun ammunition at the spring 2013 IHEA-USA conference. Jennifer Lambert, Vice President of Marketing states, “Crosman and the IHEA-USA share a common goal of providing a foundation to safely and responsibly introduce future generations to the joys of hunting. We’re excited to provide the volunteers who teach Hunter Education the means to achieve that goal.” Crosman offers a range of Crosman and Benjamin airguns that offer options for the beginner shooter or experienced hunter. Access this discount at the IHEA-USA website under Special Offers for Instructors.

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

![Aimpoint](image1.png) ![Smith & Wesson](image2.png) ![Crimson Trace](image3.png)

![Henry](image4.png) ![Otis](image5.png) ![Leupold](image6.png) ![Lyman](image7.png)

![Weatherby](image8.png) ![Atsko](image9.png) ![Hunter Safety System](image10.png) ![Zeiss](image11.png)

![Savage Arms](image12.png) ![Buck](image13.png) ![TruckVault](image14.png)

28 Hunter & Shooting Sports Education Journal • Summer 2013
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.

NSSF.ORG/SAFETY
IHEA-USA Conference
April 2-6, 2013 San Antonio, TX

Presentations on the opening day of the Conference included Scot McClure, Dallas Ecological Foundation and his presentation about the more than 180 schools using the Outdoor Adventure curriculum, a program that is mostly in Texas schools but is expanding nationwide. It includes hunter education, archery and other topics taught mainly by physical education/outdoor education teachers. In the afternoon, Paul Gillin, with his own communications company, offered up insights for hunter educators and administrators to more effectively use social media—a hot topic when reaching out to and attracting those seeking hunting and hunter education information.

More topics ensued the following day such as reaching out to Hispanics by TPWD’s Maria Araujo and a Partnership Panel presented by Texas Parks and Wildlife employees and their external partners—covering the gamut of those who can assist hunter educators and administrators in their work, locally and at the statewide levels. Dave Oakes talked about the “Power of Tradition”—using the theme of the Conference “From Deep in the Heart...the Tradition Continues” to motivate the audience on how to connect with the public. Matt Dunfee, with the Wildlife Management Institute, covered evaluation tools, sequences and models to improve program efficiencies even more.

On the final two days, speakers included Lance Meek, Oklahoma Hunter Education Coordinator, Bill Creighton, Executive Director with the Council to Advance the Hunting and Shooting Sports, Gil and Vicki Ash with Optimum Shotgun Performance, Dave Oakes covered how hunter education instructors can be great, and Tony Crow with INJAM gave an emotional speech on his personal quail hunting incident—causing permanent blindness. Additional presentations were Allegra Lowitt of ThermaCELL and Edwin Waddell, father of Michael Waddell and fellow “Bone Collector”.

In true Texas spirit, the educational and after-hour events were spectacular, including everything San Antonio is famous for—a special after hours historical tour of the Alamo, Cowboy Action trick-roping by Kevin Fitzpatrick, a Birds of Prey presentation by Last Chance Forever, Texas Longhorn steers, Armadillo races, Mariachi music, and a Ballet Folklorico Festival dancing of Mexican cultures. Conference attendees also spent an afternoon at the National Shooting Complex enjoying various shooting sports activities and a wild game feed by the Texas Game Warden Association.

The 2014 IHEA-USA Conference will be June 2nd-5th in Charleston, South Carolina.

Your 2013-2014 IHEA-USA Board of Directors

President
Randy Huskey, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

Vice President/Treasurer
Megan Wisecup, Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Secretary
Melissa Neely, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Region I Representative
Mark Cousins, Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife

Region II Representative
Larry Morrison, Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Region III Representative
Josh McKay, New Hampshire Fish & Game Department

Region IV Representative
Bill Balda, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

AFWA Representative
Dan Forster, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division

Instructor Advisory Committee Chair
John Sears, Iowa

Executive Director (Non-voting)
Steve Hall

By Steve Hall

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Executive Director, Mr. Carter Smith (above), and NRA CEO Wayne La Pierre (left), opened the ceremonies at the annual IHEA-USA conference. Photos Courtesy of Chase Fountain, TPWD
Awards Ceremony

IHEA-USA 2013-2014 Executive Board Members are welcomed to Texas Longhorn-style!

Back Row: (l to r) President Randy Huskey (TN), Secretary Melissa Neely (NY), Instructor Advisory Committee John Sears (IA), and Vice President Megan Wisecup (IA) Front Row: (l to r) Regional Board Reps, Josh Mackay (NH), Bill Balda (KY), Larry Morrison (IN) and Mark Cousins (CO) Board Members Not Pictured: Dan Forster (GA Exec. Dir.) - Assoc. of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA)

Back Row: (l to r): Newly elected IHEA-USA president, Randy Huskey, outgoing IHEA-USA president John McKay and Executive Director Steve Hall, enjoying the conference speakers.

NEW / TERRA
Pure performance. Clearly ZEISS.

Three premium lines. One legendary brand.

Victory // Conquest // TERRA

Starting at $349

See the new TERRA Riflescopes and Binoculars at your authorized ZEISS Dealer.

Introducing TERRA, a new line of hunting optics that combines German design with the performance features you’ve come to expect from ZEISS. TERRA offers best-in-class image quality and clarity, comfortable ergonomics, robust construction and is backed by ZEISS’ leading U.S. warranty. Your adventure begins at www.zeiss.com/sports.

Facebook.com/KarlZeissHuntingUS

We make it visible.
The 2012-2013 IHEA-USA Executive Board received the “Ed Kozicky Award” as selected and presented by the President, John McKay (NV), for their hard work reorganizing the Association to better align with AFWA.

Federal Premium Ammunition / ATK’s “Volunteer Instructor of the Year” for 2012 Monty Montenegro of Baldwin Park, California, was selected as the “Volunteer Instructor of the Year,” an award sponsored by and presented by Ryan Bronson, Federal Premium Ammunition/ATK. Mr. Montenegro has served as a volunteer hunter education instructor for the California Department of Fish and Game since 1962, over 50 years! He has certified more than 6,000 students, and since 1995, he’s taught more than 1,700 students in over 60 classes. Still going strong, in the last two years, Montenegro taught six courses certifying 316 students. Monty Montenegro was not on hand to personally accept his award at the conference, so Captain Roy Griffith, CA Hunter Education Administrator accepted the award on his behalf and presented it to Monty at a later date.
Tim Lawhern (on right) from the Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources, and awards chairman for IHEA-USA, announced Alan Hoover as the recipient of the “Gladney Davidson Award”, which is the single highest honor bestowed by the Association. Missouri Hunter Education volunteer and past board member of the IHEA, Hoover was instrumental over many years of elevating the level of volunteer participation and stature at the national level. Accepting the award on behalf the Hoover family was Tony Legg, Missouri Hunter Education Administrator.

Lawhern presents the “Volunteer Hall of Fame Award” to another California instructor, Gary Brennan, from Santa Cruz. As volunteer instructor, Brennan was honored for his lifelong achievements in hunter education both in his state and nationally. He has been teaching hunter education since 1999, bowhunter education since 2002 and advanced hunter education clinics since 2004.
Steve Hall, IHEA-USA Executive Director presents Tim Lawhern with the “Professional Hall of Fame Award” for his many years of service as Wisconsin Hunter Education Administrator, President and board member for IHEA-USA for over a decade.

Tim Lemon (right), of Roaring River, N.C., was recognized by Bob Davis, Hunter Services Director for the NRA with the “Hunter Education Professional of the Year Award”. This award recognizes top hunter education professionals in the field. Among Lemon’s many achievements cited for the honor were his dedication to increasing youth involvement in hunting, increasing the number of volunteer instructors in his region by 140 percent and increasing the number of schools fielding a youth shooting sports team from 12 in 2001, to 49 in 2012.

On behalf of former executive director for the IHEA-USA Wayne East, the “Executive Director’s Award” is presented by Steve Hall to Heidi Rao, TPWD Hunter Education Specialist, Houston, for her hard work this past year assisting East in his duties. She took on the task of coordinating the annual IHEA-USA conference in light of the transitions of leadership occurring in both Texas and at the national level.

IHEA-USA president, Randy Huskey, Tennessee, presents Robert Ramirez, Texas Hunter Education Coordinator, with the “Host State” Award for his and his agency’s excellent work putting on the IHEA-USA international conference.
John McKay (on right), Nevada Outdoor Education Coordinator and IHEA-USA President (2011-2013), “Passes the Gavel” on to Randy Huskey, Tennessee Hunter Education Administrator and newly elected IHEA-USA President.

Following the passing of the gavel, Tim Lawhern, Awards Chairman, presents John McKay with the “Past President’s Award” honoring his years of service as leader of the association.
Miscellaneous Conference Photos

All Photos Courtesy of Lee Smith, TPWD
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In addition to the benefits listed above, each new IHEA-USA Lifetime $450 Membership will include:
• $100 Cabella’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
• Cabella’s brand Duffel Bag (29”L X 16”W X 14”H) embroidered with “Lifetime Member”

Membership rewards are subject to change.
The lessons learned by youth enrolled in a marksmanship program evade today’s mainstream media. Lack of sensationalism blinds assignment editors, and the few reporters dispatched to cover events rarely have the time to unearth the polished responsibility, respect and concentration that will serve youngsters well for the rest of their lives.

Luckily, Daisy Outdoor Products has never lost sight of those benefits, and for 48 years the company’s quiet dedication to America’s youth has been on display during the Daisy National BB Gun Championship Match. This year’s event took place June 27 to July 2 in Rogers, Arkansas, and the number of teams from across the nation that qualified to attend was a record setting 55.

The shooting athletes range in age from 8 to 15 years old, and each team’s five shooters and two alternates must battle their way through stiff state competitions for the privilege to attend what is the “Oldest and most prestigious match of its kind in the world,” according to NRA National Rifle Manager H.Q. Moody. Daisy Outdoor Products awards $1,000 to each team to help underwrite the expense of making an often long trip, along with a variety of other scholarships given to the shooters. This year the inaugural Daisy Sportsmanship Scholarship went to Elisabeth Keeler for her community service and ability to recover from a broken arm in time to help lead her Tennessee team back to the championship.

An Olympic-style opening ceremony that saw each team honored individually on the podium officially launched what is the largest national 5-meter BB gun match. Each of the speakers who followed, including the Mayor of Rogers, reminded the shooters that regardless of the outcome in the next two days, each and every one who qualified was a winner. Nearly 2,000 people were in attendance at the John Q. Hammons Convention Center, which hosted the entire competition.

According to the parents, the sport is about much more than competition. “I want my children to be familiar with guns and the safe way to handle and operate them,” explained Jarrett Bialas, from Armour, S.D. Stacy Miron, from Sioux Falls, South Dakota, said her son loves it, “It’s taught him a lot…patience, gun safety, teamwork and respect.”

How do the kids feel? Fifteen-year-old Morgan Messersmith from Sioux Falls said, “It’s fun. It’s discipline and safety.” As for the coaches and their long-term dedication, James Aberwein from Alma, Kansas has been working with the kids for 20 years and explained the self-discipline can’t be just turned on and off. “I have a lot of kids who have been struggling in school, and a lot of parents who tell me their grades have gone up.”

Sandwiched somewhere between the barter bar, swim party and newfound friendships, the match took place and this year’s official team winner was the Palymra BB Gun Team from Pennsylvania. Individual aggregate winners (combined scores for prone, sitting, kneeling, standing and the test) were, in descending order, Taylor Slusser (PA), Devin Lien (SD) and Tana Pearson (KS). There was only one perfect test score, a feat accomplished by William Oram (TX).

Darrel Cross, from Pennsylvania, probably best summarized everyone’s feelings in regard to Daisy and its involvement. “We have to give kudos to Daisy. They bend over backwards for us. Anything we need, they’re there.”
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<td>Increased situational awareness so you know what’s going on around you</td>
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<td>ACET Technology</td>
<td>Single red dot is proven to be the fastest type of reticle to place on target</td>
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<td>Rugged Design</td>
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<td>User-Friendly Controls</td>
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<td>Easy to see even when wearing gloves</td>
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