Suspension Trauma: A Relentless Killer

Personal Flotation Devices In Hunter Education

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The Unprepared Man's Guide to Hunting

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The International Hunter Education Association – United States of America (IHEA-USA) is an organization involving some 53,000 instructors across the United States of America. The IHEA-USA is affiliated with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

The Hunter & Shooting Sports Education Journal is the official publication of the International Hunter Education Association–United States of America. It is published four times annually (Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter) and distributed to more than 70,000 administrators and volunteer instructors in Canada, El Salvador, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, South Africa and the United States of America, that are responsible for education programs that total 600,000 hunters annually. The purpose of the publication is to increase the skill and effectiveness of hunter education in administrators and instructors so they can improve the enthusiasm, safety, ethics and proficiency of their students as they embark on lifetime enjoyment of hunting and the shooting sports.

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Anyone that’s read my recent columns should be all too familiar with the basics of IHEA’s recent reorganization. Now that the reorganization dust has settled a bit, the benefits are beginning to manifest themselves and one of the first features to come to fruition is the seating of members on the newly created IHEA-USA Instructor Advisory Committee (IAC).

This eight member panel, with two members from each IHEA-USA region, will elect a chair who sits as a voting member on the IHEA-USA Board of Directors. Once fully functioning, the IAC will gather information and opinions from volunteer Hunter Education instructors across the country. IAC members will then deliberate and reach consensus before bringing any issues or proposals through their chair to the IHEA-USA Board of Directors for consideration. Examples may include: helping develop more or better teaching aids, creating an instructor tenure/instructor association contact database, assist the standards and evaluations committee in the review of videos and other media for teaching efficacy or assist with updating the IHEA-USA Instructor Resources portion of the website. These are just a few possible examples as the IAC is designed to be a forum for instructors to bring issues/information to the Board. While the IAC was created with the idea of providing an information exchange between instructors and the Board, it is not intended in any way to circumvent or supersede the regular communications instructors share with their state program administrators and staff.

The committee roster is nearly complete, but we are still seeking members from the Southeast region. If you’re interested in becoming an IAC member, please contact your Hunter Ed Administrator to discuss your participation. We are looking for instructors who bring a mix of knowledge, skills and experience to the IAC and have the ability and willingness to seriously commit to the time that comes with serving, as the commitment potentially includes travel to two board meetings and the annual IHEA-USA conference for the committee chair (travel expenses paid by IHEA-USA). If you can’t devote the time and effort necessary, please do not seek a seat on the committee.

Besides volunteering as an actual IAC member, now and in the future, becoming a committee member is not the only way you can participate. The IAC’s true value comes with the input received from “rank and file” instructors from across the U.S., without your feedback the committee will be shooting in the dark identifying the issues important to you. So, as the committee gets going, expect regular communication seeking your thoughts and opinions. Please take these opportunities to let the committee know what you’re thinking as we all strive collectively to improve Hunter Education.
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SHOOTING TIP #1: HOW TO DETERMINE EYE DOMINANCE

With both eyes open point your index finger at an object across the room. Now close your left eye. If you are still pointing at the object, as in #3, you are right eye dominant. If it appears you are pointing to the side of the object, as in #4, you are left eye dominant.

There are varying degrees of eye dominance, but this is the most basic test. Previous solutions to cross-eye dominance ranged from switching shoulders to obscuring the vision of the offending eye. Magni-Optic technology solves it instantly!
In the hunting industry the term Recruitment and Retention has been around for many years. Hunters have been asked to take a new or lapsed hunter with them next time they venture into the field as a way to perpetuate the sport of hunting. This past hunting season, I did my part to help. I took two lapsed hunters on their first ever dove hunt.

Small game hunting can be a great gateway into hunting. Pass-shooting doves is nice in that a mentor can stand next to the hunter and teach them about safety and positive game identification. The weather is usually nice, with the season opener being September 1st. It doesn’t entail rigorous exercise when you are pass-shooting. It typically isn’t a day long hunt as most of the activity takes place in the morning and evening, and you usually see a lot of doves. The one downfall is that doves can be tricky to hit, so it can be a little frustrating, especially when the newcomers see some experienced shooters harvesting birds, while they are taking shot after shot and not hitting anything. On our recent hunt, both newcomers did harvest a few birds and had a great time. One of the two planned a pheasant hunting trip to South Dakota after the dove trip, and the other hunter has already made plans to go dove hunting again next year. Hopefully these two will continue hunting year after year.

This fall my family also had a great opportunity to give back. We drew a voucher for a deer tag in southern Colorado. Since neither my father nor I could go, we donated it to a local charity called Outdoor Buddies. This organization helps hunters with disabilities go on hunting trips. Our donated tag went to a wounded warrior who was injured in an RPG attack in Iraq.

So what can you do? In addition to what you are already doing by donating your time as a volunteer instructor, make a commitment to take a newcomer hunting. Spring turkey seasons are just around the corner, and turkey hunting is an excellent way to introduce newcomers to hunting. Or, you could make plans to take a newcomer big game hunting in the fall. Several western state’s draw deadlines are in the spring, so be sure to check the state where you will be hunting to see if you need to submit for a drawing or lottery in the coming months.

Another way to spark interest in hunting is to take a newcomer shooting. Unlike hunting where there are game seasons, you can shoot year round, and a trip to the range takes very little planning compared to a hunting trip. This can help you too. Even veteran hunters and shooters need to practice, so you can take advantage of your time at the range and keep your skills honed for the next hunting season. And if the newcomer has fun, ask him or her if they would like to go beyond shooting and join you on a hunt.

Whether you take them on a hunt or to the range, please share your pictures on the IHEA-USA Facebook page.

Lastly, when teaching your hunter education classes, encourage students to be positive role models, and ambassadors for hunting, by stressing the importance of being an ethical hunter in the field and portraying hunters and hunting in a positive manner in public. Encourage them to ask their friends to go shooting or hunting with them. A recent study by Responsive Management showed the impact of peer influence on youth participation in hunting and target shooting. Using the findings from this report, the IHEA-USA has teamed up with the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), and the Hunting Heritage Trust (HHT) to create the Hunter Education Instructor Pledge Program. To learn more about the program and the peer influence study, go to nssf.org/hunteredpledge. While there check the box next to the Instructor Pledge and you will be entered to win The Hunter’s Path education DVD’s.
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According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, there are approximately 6,000 treestand-related injuries each year. 30% of all hunters will fall at least once in their lifetimes.

A full body harness will save your life, but you cannot just hang in one for very long, you must be able to recover back to a standing position very quickly or Suspension Trauma can kill you.

In 1972, during the Second International Conference of Mountain Rescue Doctors, an Austrian report was discussed in which 10 climbers had become suspended and had to be rescued. Some were using foot loops for Suspension Relief Straps.

The rescues took anywhere from 30 minutes to 8 hours. Two climbers died before help arrived, 3 died shortly after being taken out of their harnesses and the other 5 died over the next 11 days, even when they had felt fine when rescued. None had any external signs of injury. They all died from Harness Suspension Trauma but from different mechanisms of pathophysiology. I will explain how shortly.

The Innsbruck Mountain Rescue Service in Austria decided to do additional circulatory and renal testing after a review of the Austrian Report. They took 10 experienced rescue personnel and suspended all of them in their harnesses with foot slings (suspension relief straps). They were instructed not to move.

They wanted the test to last for at least 30 minutes. Three passed out before reaching 30 minutes and had to be revived. The test was stopped shortly after 30 minutes for the other 7 before developing similar injuries as the Austrian Report victims. All of these test subjects survived.

In their concluding remarks of the Second International Conference of Mountain Rescue Doctors it was stated: “Orthostatic shock and typical respiratory obstruction may lead to death when hanging on a rope; the probability of survival after hanging TWO HOURS is small; death may occur during or after detachment from the rope when rescued.”

Harness Type And Suspension Trauma Factors

A distinction needs to be made between a front attached harness similar to an Alpine, Climbing or an Arborist Sit harness and a rear attached harness that is used in Construction and Hunting from treestands.

A front attached harness is designed for the user to be suspended in them while they work; the very design of these harnesses cause very little pressure...
against the Femoral Vein in the legs, the main vessel that returns blood from the legs. While suspended in this type of harness the upper sections of both legs are more in a horizontal position helping to negate the gravitational pull on the blood. Both of these qualities cause less of an incidence of Blood Pooling and Suspension Trauma injury or death. It can still occur, but the length of time that you can be safely suspended without injury is greatly increased while there is active movement.

A rear attached hunting harness is not intended to be suspended in. Its sole purpose is to stop a fall and then you must get out of them quickly. When suspended in a rear attached harness, it causes an immediate start of the Suspension Trauma Cascade. There is direct pressure placed on the Femoral Vein and Nerve, and the legs are hanging in a vertical position allowing increased affect of the gravitational pull on the blood.

A rear-attached harness is also very uncomfortable and difficult to move in. It will drain all of your energy to exhaustion very quickly. In personal testing and harness development over the past 6 years involving thousands of suspensions, my personal exhaustion limit in trying to recover to a standing position is reached in less than 5 minutes, and the presyncopal or Suspension Trauma symptoms of tachycardia, nausea, shortness of breath and a feeling of increasing anxiety are felt in less than 10 minutes. I believe it would be very difficult for me to remain conscious for more than 20 minutes while suspended.

All of these factors result in immediate Blood Pooling and a very rapid deterioration of overall blood circulation. These factors are responsible for a suspended victim becoming symptomatic within 30 minutes or less. While suspended in a rear attached harness the leg straps cause a tourniquet effect on the Femoral Vein. The venous return from your legs has very little pressure behind it, approximately 1/5 that of the arterial push going into the legs. The leg straps cause more than enough pressure on the Femoral Vein to cause a tourniquet effect and create the Blood Pooling.
The average body has 10 pints of blood; 2 pints are normally in the legs at any one time. As soon as you are suspended in a rear attached harness, those two pints of blood are trapped in the legs and the body has just lost 20% of its total circulating blood volume. You have just entered Class II Hypovolemic Shock. The heart is powerful enough to push the blood past the leg straps and as long as your heart is beating, more blood will be pushed into your legs where it will be trapped.

Your legs can hold 60% or 6 pints of your total blood volume. As soon as your heart has pumped 40% or 4 pints of blood into your legs, you are in Class IV Hypovolemic Shock, which is impending death without immediate medical care.

It is the same as cutting both of your wrists and bleeding out half of your blood, no one can survive with that much blood loss. The blood pressure and oxygen levels drop to a critical point where it causes unconsciousness and death shortly follows in about 5 minutes. If your body was in a horizontal position, you would have a chance of survival, being suspended in a vertical position by a harness; you have no chance of survival.

As soon as you are unconscious, your breathing will slow causing a decrease in the oxygenation of your brain and heart, causing a greater drop in blood pressure which causes a further drop in oxygenation and the cascade spirals downward to death. You will have permanent brain damage in a few minutes and your heart will stop shortly after that when it has a global myocardial infarction or massive heart attack from the lack of oxygen and you die. All of this can happen in less than 30 minutes.

How The 10 Victims From The Austrian Report Died

Again, these victims had prolonged suspensions anywhere from 30 minutes to 8 hours before being rescued, some with Suspension Relief Straps. All of them were in front attached harnesses, or Climbing Harnesses, which allows for longer survival times.

The 2 that died before being rescued died of classic Harness Suspension Trauma when enough blood was pooled into the legs. The blood pressure and brain oxygenation dropped to a critical level where the victims became unconscious and death will shortly follow unconsciousness.

The 3 that died as soon as they were rescued and removed from their harnesses died of Sudden Cardiac Arrest or Pulmonary Emboli. This can be caused by the blood that was once trapped in the legs becoming a toxic acidic sludge with no oxygen, clots, and high potassium. Once the tourniquet effect of the leg straps is removed this blood rapidly returns to the heart causing it to go into a Fatal Arrhythmia and/or clots to the lungs, either one can kill you very quickly. These victims were probably laid down, a possible fatal error if you have been suspended and are still conscious.

The final 5 died over the next few days of hypoxic damage to the heart or acute kidney failure. The kidneys cannot tolerate low blood flow and low oxygen caused by Blood Pooling while hanging suspended in a harness. Tubular Necrosis is the kidney rotting from the inside out and it is caused by Hypoperfusion while suspended. The kidneys can also be permanently damaged by the toxic blood sludge with Myoglobin that was released after taking the harnesses off. It takes a few days before the kidney failure becomes significant enough to make you ill. You will feel absolutely fine for a day or two, and then you can go into acute kidney failure and die.

Although there have been documented accounts where workers have been suspended in their harnesses for over an hour while using a Suspension Relief Strap with no long term affects, it is still clear from all the available reports and studies conducted on Suspension Trauma, that you will never know how much time you will have to survive and even if rescued after being suspended for a prolonged period of time, you are still in very grave danger of dying.

What To Do If Caught Suspended In Your Harness And Recovery Back To A Standing Position Is Not Possible

Do’s:

1. Make sure you have told someone where you will be at all times.
2. If you are using a descending harness or device, immediately lower yourself to the ground. You need to get to the ground or to a standing position as soon as possible, because Suspension Trauma can cause you to lose consciousness in less than 30 minutes and death will shortly follow unconsciousness.
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3. If you are wearing a traditional harness, **use your Suspension Relief Strap immediately.** A suspension relief strap cannot stop suspension trauma, but it can slow the cascade. Alternate your feet if the strap will only hold one foot at a time. **Always keep your Suspension Relief Strap on your body in case it is needed!**

4. After standing in the Suspension Relief Strap, **loosen the leg straps to help blood circulation,** but do not remove them.

5. Try to get your legs up as high as you can, such as propping them up against a tree. The best possible position is to have your **knees up next to your chest.**

6. **KEEP YOUR LEGS MOVING,** active muscle contractions are the only way to pump the blood from your legs back to your heart through the one-way valves in the leg veins. Move your legs like your life depends on it, because it really does.

7. **Try to eliminate any pressure points that are causing pain.** Pain can cause a vasovagal or fainting episode. A vasovagal episode can be created by pain, emotional stress or hypovolemia; all three may be present while suspended in a harness. If you pass out the probability of death greatly increases.

8. If you have **something to drink,** drink it fast. This will increase your blood volume and help keep your blood pressure up.

9. **Get help as soon as you can,** blow a whistle, call on a cell phone or yell.

10. If rescued, conscious and alert, **STAY IN A SEATED POSITION FOR AT LEAST 45 MINUTES.** Do not lie down; it can cause a fatal arrhythmia. Being seated will allow the slow reintroduction of the pooled blood back into circulation. Move your legs gently to help restore the circulation. Do not walk for 45 minutes.

11. **GO TO THE HOSPITAL** and tell them you have been suspended and may have heart or kidney damage. You may need dialysis to prevent kidney failure or death.

12. **Make sure you have repeat blood work in 2 days.** Remember that the acute kidney failure may take a day or two to present.

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**Don’ts:**

1. **Don’t panic,** you must use your head, try to stay calm. Think about how you can safely release yourself from the suspended state.

2. **DON’T STOP MOVING YOUR LEGS,** doing so may increase the chance of death. Take short breaks but keep moving those legs.

3. **Don’t allow yourself to become exhausted:** pace yourself. You may be suspended for a long time.

4. **Don’t pass out;** your survival depends on it. Fight it!

5. **DON’T LAY DOWN IF RESCUED,** remain in a seated position for at least 45 minutes. This will allow the pooled blood in the legs to be slowly reintroduced back into circulation.

6. **DON’T GO HOME, GO TO THE HOSPITAL!**

7. **Don’t be fooled.** If released from the hospital, have repeat blood work in 2 days to recheck kidney function.

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**EMS Rescue Protocol Of A Suspended Victim**

It is important to remember that a victim of Suspension Trauma is not a typical “trauma” victim. Their trauma has been caused by being suspended. The EMS standard of care of supine positioning for trauma victims may prove fatal if a conscious victim has been suspended for a prolonged period of time. Positioning of the victim is critical to allow for the slow reintroduction of the pooled blood back into the circulation. The longer the suspension the more critical positioning becomes.

1. **IF CONSCIOUS AND ALERT,** place the victim in a seated position for at least 45 minutes to allow for the slow reintroduction of the pooled blood back into the circulation. A victim should only gently move the legs to help restore circulation. Do not allow them to ambulate.

2. **IF UNCONSCIOUS OR SEMI-CONSCIOUS,** you MUST place them in a horizontal (supine) position to help restore blood flow to the brain and prevent any further brain damage from hypoxia. This is a gamble but you have no choice. If the victim becomes conscious and alert, slowly return the victim to a seated position as tolerated, to assist in breathing.

3. **Oxygen:** remember the ABCs: Airway, Breathing, and Circulation.

4. **Monitor Cardiac Rhythm, Vitals and Blood Glucose,** BE PREPARED FOR HEART ARRHYTHMIAS. ACLS PROTOCOLS always apply.

5. **IV Fluids, Calcium Gluconate** 10 ml of 10% solution IV can help stabilize the myocardium, counters the hyperkalemic affect.

6. **Insulin R 10U with 50 ml D50W IV and Albuterol,** lowers hyperkalemia and counters the hypoglycemia.

7. **Sodium Bicarb** - acidosis.

8. Get the victim to a facility that has dialysis capabilities.
Bio Of Dr. Norman Wood

Dr. Wood grew up hunting and fishing in his home state of West Virginia. He shot his first deer with a recurve bow when he was 15. As a former West Virginia State Trooper, he was one of the original members of the WV State Police Tactical Team. He received most of his training from the U.S. Army Special Forces.

Next, Dr. Wood was a Special Agent for the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force, San Francisco, CA after graduating as “Honor Graduate”. In 1992, Dr. Wood decided to return to his home state of West Virginia and attend medical school after 16 years in law enforcement. He graduated with honors. In 1998 during his residency training, he fell 20 feet out of a tree while trimming a limb. He was not wearing a fall arrest harness.

Dr. Wood had to drag himself 100 yards, get on his 4-wheeler and drive to his cabin to call for help. He was transported to the Trauma Center where he worked and was placed in the Intensive Care Unit for the first week. He had internal bleeding, broke his pelvis in two places and his left hand. As Dr. Wood states, “when you cannot walk for four months it gives you a lot of time to think”.

During his recovery and up to the present time, Dr. Wood has been working on different safety products that make elevated work and tree-stand hunting safer.

In 2010, Dr. Wood finished his long term project, The Rescue One CDS Controlled Descent Harness, a new revolutionary full body safety harness that eliminates serious injury or death from suspension trauma. The Rescue One CDS Controlled Descent Harness allows the user to safely and quickly lower themselves to the ground if a fall has occurred and recovery back to a standing position is not possible, and it is reusable.

In 2011, Dr. Wood formed Elevated Safety Systems. He has filed several U.S. Patent Pending inventions, including his Firescape EDS, Emergency Descent System. It is a very simple, easy to put on home or office self-rescue emergency escape harness. It allows for the rapid escape and descent from a burning or deteriorating structure, with the ability to take children or pets with the wearer. This device will be available to the public soon.

Dr. Wood can be contacted for speaking engagements on Suspension Trauma and Treestand Safety at his email address elevatedsafetysystems@hotmail.com. Dr. Wood owns and operates Doctors Urgent Care, and lives near Keyser, West Virginia.

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A couple of years ago I organized a hunter education class in a small town. The town is an hour away from any wildlife areas or lakes of substantial size, so most of the local waterfowl hunters either hunt the river and fields, or pack up for a long day and head to water. The particular class I am reminiscing about contained around forty-five students, with most of them in their lower teens. A handful of parents were congregated in the hallway waiting for class to finish. While another instructor was teaching the class about hypothermia and the importance of personal flotation devices, I slinked into the hallway to converse with the parents. As I approached I overheard a gentleman, appearing to be in his forties, telling another parent that the teacher was talking about life jackets. He went on to say it was a waste of time, and it was not a boating education class. You can imagine how hard I had to bite my tongue to maintain professionalism.

I asked the gentleman if he had ever been duck hunting. He kind of shrugged and said no in a gruff voice. I explained that a lot of duck hunting is done either from a boat or by using a boat for transportation to the honey hole. By this time the gentleman had began to hang his head a little, realizing his statement was ill-made. I managed to keep the topic alive and involved the other parents who had overheard the comments. Luckily, one of the parents enjoyed hunting waterfowl. It does not take very much digging to get an avid hunter to talk about his or her passions. We swapped stories about hunts, and how extravagant it is to work a group of ducks right into your ankles. Before long, all of the parents—including the original gentleman—were asking questions about waterfowl hunting. We explained the basics and encouraged them to pair up with experienced hunters. I repeatedly stressed the importance of personal flotation devices during any hunting that involves contact with water. After the class was over, the same gentleman that had been talking about how worthless it was to teach about life jackets in hunter education came up and looked at the multiple types that were available.

As instructors we need to remember that we can only do so much by teaching the students alone. If I would not have overheard the conversation in the hall that day and made the effort to persuade the gentleman’s point of view, he might have taken his kid out hunting on the water someday without a life jacket. If a son sees his father without a life jacket, chances are he probably is going to think it is not that important, no matter what he learned in class. Anyone who has ever been intimately involved with a drowning, or has had to assist with the recovery of a drowning victim, knows the importance of a personal flotation device.

Since that class, I have changed a few things about how I teach. One thing I always try to ask, especially in areas that are a distance from substantial water, is “what role does a personal flotation device play in hunting?” From there I can usually get the class involved, and hopefully get it to stick. I have had other classes since then where multiple students and parents did not recognize the importance initially, but seemed to be firm believers by the end of class. Another thing I have learned to always do is to make sure I mingle with any parents that are present. If they are being cynical about a subject, get involved. There are several subjects that I have found certain parents tend not to find important. If there are enough seats and the parents can stick around, I encourage them to sit by their kid and ask questions with them. They are going to be the teachers again after class is over. We have to do everything we can to promote a lifetime of learning – we are educators, sometimes of educators.
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N early every hunter has considered what the future of hunting in America (much less the world) will be in five, ten or even fifteen years. Many, if not all hunters, have a strong desire to see future generations enjoying nature as we do now. We know that sharing our hunting heritage is as important as enjoying hunting, now. All these emotions require some form of action, and action is what Safari Club International Foundation offers.

Safari Club International members who dedicate their personal time, energy and resources to continuing our hunting heritage through education programs are leaders of SCI Foundation’s “Education Sables”.

A major goal of Education Sables is to increase the number of youth participating in outdoor education and shooting sports. To help meet this goal Education Sables provide grants to SCI Chapters that partner with youth and young adult organizations and like-minded community groups. SCI Chapter youth projects collaborate with such organizations as 4-H, boys and girls clubs, Boy and Girl Scouts of America, National Archery in the Schools Program, and The Salvation Army Outdoors. If you work with any youth or young adult organization, please contact our chapters to join the Education Sables ranks.

Education Sables directly contribute funds to support the National 4-H Shooting Sports Ambassadors, the Outdoor Writers of America Norm Strung Youth Writing Contest, and National Archery in the Schools Program. They provide program development support to The Salvation Army Outdoors youth programs.

Conservation education and the positive role of hunting along with learning archery and air gun safety are components of a 2009 partnership agreement between Safari Club International and The Salvation Army Outdoors (TSAO) character development programs. It began with SCI Chapters and The Salvation Army Outdoors (TSAO) in Michigan; each organization looking to attract youth to become more engaged in the outdoors and interacting with nature. It continued with training TSAO Central Territory staff at the SCI Foundation American Wilderness Leadership School. Additional TSAO programs are developing in more states, so please help SCI Foundation attract more youth and young adults to outdoor activities.

Today, youth participating in TSAO programs are learning conservation education through Project Wild Lessons (a national wildlife ecology curriculum). They are learning archery skills from certified National Archery in the Schools Program instructors.

Fall 2012 marks the introductory implementation of a Basic Rifle Instructor training program developed by American Wilderness Leadership School shooting sports instructional staff. TSAO staff are being trained as air gun rifle instructors. It is a basic firearms safety instructor training module that applies the same essential learning principles that makes the National Archery in the Schools Program so successful. Safety is number one. Learning techniques that lead to success is essential. Engaging in outdoor activities is a primary goal.

To learn more about SCI Education Sables programs and how you can join in on the excitement contact the SCI Foundation Education Department at 520-620-1220 ext. 294 or send an email to shankner@safariclub.org.
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Ed Weatherby
Hunting education certification is a final step in obtaining a first hunting license. With that passport to fun and adventure comes a list of responsibilities, as you well know and teach. Safety first, of course. Hunting ethics are right up there as well—respecting private property, practicing to become accurate, taking only favorable shots and so on. Another social responsibility that can—and should—be exercised by hunters is remembering the needy.

Hunters are generous people. More than 11 million meals were provided to the less fortunate through hunters’ donations of game meat in 2010. As a reminder to all hunters to consider sharing their harvest with those in need, the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) has developed a video and webpage (www.nssf.org/huntersfeed) that encourage making venison donations to food banks and other charitable meal providers. NSSF is the trade association for the firearms, ammunition, hunting and shooting sports industry.

In the video, which can be found at the Hunters Feed webpage, hunters are asked to consider making a donation of game meat if they have the good fortune to tag a deer or other game animal. If it is too late for this season, then remember this opportunity for next season. Perhaps remembering the needy will become a habit—for you, as an instructor, and for your students, as hunters.

What a person gives is returned many times over is a message of the video. If a hunter makes a venison donation to a local food pantry or church kitchen, he or she will receive great personal satisfaction in knowing they have provided many meals to people in difficult circumstances. Furthermore, many of the venison donation programs return a portion of the deer to the hunter.

Acquiring nutritious meat is difficult and expensive, say many charitable food providers. “Without venison donations, some organizations would not have protein to give to people,” said Peter Aldrich, president of Hunt to Feed in Connecticut.

With just one deer able to feed 200 people, it’s easy to see how important hunters’ venison donations are to providers. Programs like Hunt to Feed and others are active in nearly every state, so hunters have plenty of opportunities to participate in a donation program. NSSF’s new Hunters Feed website provides information on how to contact the many active groups that accept game meat donations. If you don’t find an organization near you, NSSF suggests contacting the state wildlife department, a local fish and game club or a nearby food pantry.

Deliver the message that these programs continue through hunters’ generosity not only with their game but also with their money. These programs typically pay the food processors at a discounted rate, but nevertheless, the butchers have to be paid. So, financial contributions are also welcome. Venison and other game meat, however, are the hunter’s donation at the heart of these programs.

“If you have a successful hunting season,” states the video “donating venison is a way to make it an even better and more meaningful one.”

NSSF hopes that you will introduce this video on hunters feeding the needy into your hunter education program.
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Robert D. (Bob) Ford - Maryland

Bob has been employed with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) for 22.5 years. His education includes attendance at two community colleges. Prior to employment with MDNR he attended night school while working in the construction industry as a heavy equipment operator.

In September 1989, he started his career as a Maryland Park Ranger (MPR) and worked various assignments in three of the four regions of the state. During this time a majority of MPRs were commissioned law enforcement officers (LEO), and part of their daily patrol duties included enforcing natural resources, criminal and traffic laws and regulations on all MDNR owned or controlled lands.

Beginning in the fall of 2004, MDNR started consolidation of the LEO duties with the merger of approximately 90 LEO and MPRs into the ranks of the Maryland Natural Resources Police (MNRP). MNRP is the boating, fishing and game enforcement division for the state and trace their roots back to 1868 as one of the oldest law enforcement agencies in the nation.

From January 2005 through September 2010, Bob worked in the upper and middle shore areas, on Maryland’s eastern shore. In September 2010, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and supervised the assigned personnel of Kent County.

In October 2011, he was assigned as supervisor of the Safety Education Section. His current duties include: overseeing all hunter education and boater education courses in the state, supervising four regional hunter education coordinators, two boating coordinators, and an administrative assistant in the Safety Education Section.

He is currently a police firearms instructor for the agency and has attended numerous armory schools and advanced tactical training. He also has served eight years as an entry level firearms instructor, teaching at multi-jurisdictional police academies located on the lower eastern shore.

He has been active in the hunter education program since 1995 and served as one of the state’s volunteer instructors, averaging three to four courses annually. Bob said, “I am a lifelong hunter and fisherman and enjoy being outside in God’s wonderful creation.” He especially enjoys bow hunting for whitetail deer, and the time spent on planning, preparing for the hunt, and travel.

He enjoys mentoring youth and passing on the tradition and ethics to the younger generation. Bob runs two archery camps each summer at Tuckahoe State Park, which introduces youth to the sport and fun of archery. He is a member of The Traditional Bowhunters of Maryland and enjoys the simplicity of traditional bows.

He is married with three children, has four grandchildren and loves to cook in his free time. He has made many lifelong friendships during his tenure with MDNR and always looks forward to sharing professional and personal tips on how to better utilize natural resources with others in similar careers or just casual interests.

He can be reached at the following:
Sgt. Robert D. (Bob) Ford, Maryland Natural Resources Police, Safety Education Section
305 Marine Academy Drive, Suite 1
Stevensville, MD 21666
Main: (410) 643-8502 ext. 2210
Fax: (410) 643-1485
Cell: (443) 239-0535
E-Mail: rford@dnr.state.md.us

Jon King - Wisconsin

Jon King is a Conservation Warden and the new Hunter Education Administrator for the Great State of Wisconsin. He has been employed for over seven years with the state. He attended Madison College and got his Associate Degree in Criminal Justice. In addition, he has been a volunteer hunter education instructor since 2001. He worked for the former Hunter Education Administrator for 7 years where he trained and certified over 200 new instructors.

Jon was introduced to fishing by his father when he was about 4 years old. They would go to a small local stream, fishing. On a good day their crew would take home about 100 creek chubs. While they are a very small fish and extremely boney they are one of the best fish when battered and panned fried.

He was later introduced to hunting when he was about 13 years old. His family spent most of his younger hunting days traveling to the Oak Savanna’s of the Lafayette County area squirrel hunting. While he liked hunting squirrels the taste never suited him. He was able to harvest a rabbit his first year hunting and after having that for the evening meal he was hooked on rabbit hunting.

Every weekend he and his cousin went rabbit hunting until he graduated from High School. Jon started hunting deer with a gun when he was 13 and used his paper route money to buy
Jason Kool – South Dakota

Jason is with the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP) and serves as the Hunter Safety and Firearms Education (HuntSAFE) Coordinator/Program Specialist. He has been with SDGFP since 2010 where he started as a hunter/angler recruitment and retention specialist. He claims this to be his “first real job” out of college.

Jason attended Iowa State University and received his Bachelor of Science in Animal Ecology with a minor in Criminal Justice. He wanted to be a game warden, but no one was hiring when he graduated in May of 2009, so he decided to continue his schooling. He attended the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point on an assistantship from Wisconsin DNR where he will receive his Masters of Science in Human Dimensions/Natural Resources. He is still working on the thesis, but coursework is completed. During his work, he performed an evaluation of the Wisconsin DNR’s Learn to Hunt Program to determine if the program was effective for the recruitment of hunters. He found that it might actually be more of a retention tool instead.

Jason grew up and lived in Iowa and took his hunter education course at age 12. He went on to become an Iowa Hunter Ed and Bowhunter Ed instructor and helped teach courses there. He taught as a volunteer in Wisconsin and South Dakota then eventually went to work for SDGFP.

Jason hunts pretty much everything depending upon the state and species available. He has hunted with shotguns, muzzleloaders and bow. In South Dakota, he’s hunted ducks/geese, turkey, deer, and of course “ditch parakeets” or pheasants as they are literally everywhere. He has hunted in Wyoming for antelope and Wisconsin and Iowa as well for deer, turkey and waterfowl.

He fishes a little more now that he lives in Pierre, SD. However, he said, “Pheasants are fun, but waterfowl probably is my first choice, because I love watching the birds hit the decoys and the dog retrieve.” He commented, “In Pierre, (pier-like a fishing pier), if you don’t hunt/fish you will hate Pierre.”

He has been married for almost two years to a Montana girl and they have a yellow lab named after John Wayne’s horse, “Bo.” He said, “Yes, I’m a John Wayne western fan. I think Rio Bravo is my favorite.”

If anyone wishes to contact Jason, or better yet, experience some of those pesky “ditch parakeets,” you may reach him through the information below.

Jason Kool, SD Game, Fish and Parks, HuntSAFE Coordinator/Program Specialist
20641 SD Hwy 1806
Fort Pierre, SD 57532
Phone: (605) 223-7666
Fax: (605) 223-7686
Email: Jason.Kool@state.sd.us

His first shotgun. When he was 15 he bought his first bow and started shooting instinctively, since he could never get the pin sights to work for him. The next year (he could drive by then), he harvested his first deer on opening day of Archery season (it was a yearling buck).

That fall on Thanksgiving no one else wanted to go hunting because it was cold and snowing. Almost a foot of snow was on the ground. Jon was able to harvest his first deer with a gun. He said it was one of the largest does “known to mankind,” and that he had ever seen. It was all he could do to drag it to the fence line and wouldn’t you know the fence was a woven wire fence that required him to get the deer over it.

There was no way that was going to happen with this deer. So, he went to the truck, installed the chains on the rear tires, because it was 2-wheel drive, and drove it through the foot of snow around the pasture. With a lot of luck, he was able to get the deer into the back of the truck and back home. Ah, meat for the winter!

Since he began hunting, he said he has been lucky enough to hunt turkey, squirrel, rabbit, fox, coyotes, deer, pheasants, and grouse.

He may be reached with the following information.
Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources
Hunt Education Administrator
1500 North Johns Street
Dodgeville, WI 53533
Office/Cell: (608) 575-2294
Personal Cell: (608) 482-4921
Fax: (608) 266-3696
Email: jon.king@wisconsin.gov
Over the past few years I’ve taught hunter safety to students from several different settings, including the Progressive Agriculture Safety Days program, our local 4-H Shooting Sports Club, the annual Kentucky statewide 4-H Shooting Sports Camp, and my regular Hunter Education courses. Every setting requires me to use different teaching techniques, as I find diversity in my student’s ages, level of experience and confidence level.

When teaching hunter safety, it’s always important to remember that not all students have access to the same types of firearms you use for demonstration purposes during the class. In fact, some of your students might not be able to handle all kinds of firearms, and for some, the noise and recoil of a firearm is just too much.

Air rifles are a great tool to use when teaching students about hunter safety. Most youth are already familiar with airguns and might even own one already. Airguns are oftentimes lighter in weight than firearms, and don’t seem to intimidate or scare students who are new to guns like large firearms can. For younger shooters especially, the ease of using an airgun makes them more comfortable learning and shooting for the first time. That level of comfort can make all the difference, and will help by providing a positive first experience. To quote one of my students, “It doesn’t kick like the shotgun did.”

Many students have had little experience around guns before they attend my classes. It often seems easier for them to learn the proper aiming and handling of a gun when using an airgun. In case anyone questions why we’re using an air rifle instead of a firearm, I usually tell them, “If you can’t hit the target with an air rifle, your aim isn’t going to improve with a large firearm.”

It’s all about giving your students an encouraging and confidence-building, first learning experience. Incorporating air rifles into my lessons has certainly helped make that happen. Give it a try!
To assist certified NRA, Hunter Safety, Appleseed, 4-H, Scouting and state instructors in their efforts to provide quality firearms safety training, Ruger offers the following products for purchase at a special discount:

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It all started with a phone call last May. “Is this Joe Schuster?” the voice inquired. Reluctantly, I said yes. “You’ve won the grand prize to go on this year’s Hunter’s Handbook Dream Hunt!” Yeah, right. I have absolutely zero time for telemarketing calls and wanted to quickly put this one to an end. However, after asking a few qualifying questions, I realized that I had Brian Thurston, publisher of the Hunter’s Handbook, on the line. Apparently, I was going on this year’s Heritage Hunt at one of the top exotic game ranches in the country, the Indianhead Ranch in Del Rio, TX. Nonetheless, I would still hold back my excitement until I was on the plane heading to Texas.

2012 marks the 9th year that Brian and his team have organized sponsors to put on this hunt, as his way of reaching out to those students stepping up to take the accredited hunter education courses taught throughout the United States and to our hunter education instructors. This year, I joined female instructor Bliss Lay of Stanton, TX and students Cole Diggins of Moundville, MO, Garrett Christensen of Holyoke, MN, and Kourtney Rutkowski of Bel Air, MD.

We were met at the small Del Rio airport by Laurent Delagrange, owner of Indianhead Ranch and his staff. Now, the excitement began to set in. We stowed our gear in our guest quarters and then gathered at the shooting range to make sure that our shots were on target. However, we would not be aiming at game from a shooting bench. It would be from a bi-pod or tri-pod rest which was very foreign to me as a bowhunter from Georgia. Thankfully, guide Darren Carr came through with some excellent instructions on pod-rest shooting. We then headed back to the lodge for a supper of marinated Oryx fajitas prepared by lodge chef, Ruben. After our meal, all I wanted to do was grab some shut-eye. However, Leaha Wirth of the Hunter’s Handbook had different plans. We gathered around like kids at Christmas as she distributed various gifts from this year’s sponsors. UnderArmour pants, shirts, boots, jackets and hats from Gander Mountain and binoculars from Weaver optics would all serve us well on our hunt. Buck also donated some beautiful, specially etched knives.

I have to tell you that as we gathered together the next morning at “dark-thirty” for breakfast, I started to share the buzz that pulsed through our youth hunters. The hunt was on! We divided up into three groups and left camp in modified safari style trucks to begin our
“spot and stalk” hunts over the 10,000 acres of rocks, mesquite and cactus that make up much of the Indianhead Ranch. I joined student winner Kourtney, her father, and guide Casey Sanford to begin our quest. After about an hour of glassing, we heard a report that young Garrett had just taken an Audad. The Audad is one of the many African exotics located at the ranch. As we met back at the lodge for lunch, I heard the first-hand details from him. Man, was that kid pumped! Soon after lunch, our two-way radio crackled that Cole had shot an Oryx and a little later fellow instructor Bliss had downed an Oryx as well. As for our truck, guide Casey had set Kourtney up on 5 or 6 stalks, but each time tricky winds betrayed their presence and the herds bolted off. As the sun dropped off in the horizon, I saw the lodge in the distance. However, our guide Casey was not about to call it quits. He turned on to another trail for one final move. As we rounded a bend, a Fallow deer stood about 75 yards away, broadside, allowing Kourtney to put a round in his shoulder and drop him. Wow, four out of five of us took animals on the first day! As we met back at the lodge, the ribbing began to set in from the kids as they talked about the pressure I would have the next day as the only hunter left who hadn’t scored. I took it all in stride, because I was thrilled to just be there and see their faces beaming with success and pride.

The next morning we loaded up and began our hunt. However, this time, the camera crew would be filming us. So now, if we saw game, I’d have to take a shot off a bi-pod with tricky winds, a film crew and a truckload of kids watching me. Yes, all of that did cross my mind as Casey quickly spotted a herd of Oryx. We eased downwind of them and settled into place, with the film crew in tow. Casey referenced the “shooter” in the group and I directed my scope to that area. Geez, it looked far off! Casey ranged it and told me that it was about 200 yards. At that point, our film crew wanted to move behind us to get better footage. Casey and I both winced; we were concerned about having our position busted as it had so often the day before. But the Oryx were ambivalent at that distance and presented me with a broadside shot. I squeezed the trigger on my .308 and then watched as the animal dropped among the cactus. Success!

We ended that final day with a little wing shooting at some Texas mourning doves. We dropped our bag limits off to Ruben who began rolling the tiny dove breasts in bacon and jalapenos. Grilled, they made for an awesome appetizer before our final supper.

I have to thank Brian, Leaha and their staff for assembling this first-class hunt of a lifetime. Everything, and I mean everything, is included. Our animals were quartered up, flash frozen and then placed in a cooler for our flights home. As my plane left Del Rio, I saw the Indianhead Ranch below and thought how blessed I was to be a Hunter Education instructor and to win this “Hunt of a Lifetime”!
Bigger Is Better And The Truth About Objective Size

By Robert J. Kaleta, Director of Operations and Product Development, Carl Zeiss Sports Optics, LLC.

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 boarder 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, be safe and get out there.

Please Remember the IHEA-USA When Writing Your Will

As you know, the International Hunter Education Association – United States of America has a commitment to preserving and protecting our right to hunt as well as our hunting heritage. By providing for the IHEA-USA in your will or trust you will help to ensure that future generations will get to experience the same kind of outdoor experiences that you hold so dearly. Please read this testimonial:

“The mission of the International Hunter Education Association – United States of America is so pure that for those of us that hunt and believe in education first and legislation last, I personally have included in my Last Will and Testament 1/2 of my estate to 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 Law Hern

You can set aside:

• A specific dollar amount
• A percentage of your estate’s value
• All or part of the remainder of your estate in your will or trust
• All or part of the proceeds of a Life Insurance policy or Retirement Plan

All donations received from this program will be deposited into our Planned Giving Endowment and will be utilized for long-term funding of the organization. The interest earned from this Endowment will be used for general operations for the IHEA-USA.

We urge you to consult your attorney in preparing your will or trust and hope that the following language will be helpful in providing a bequest to IHEA-USA:

“I give, devise and bequeath ___% of what remains of my estate (or $_______) to the International Hunter Education Association – United States of America (Tax ID # 37-1145157), a charitable corporation presently having offices at 2727 W. 92nd Ave., Suite 103, Federal Heights, CO 80260.”

IHEA-USA is a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Colorado.

Bequests of any size are gratefully accepted and sincerely appreciated. However, while IHEA-USA can accept gifts of land, we are not in a position to hold property for any reason. Any land given outright or bequeathed to IHEA-USA will be immediately sold. The proceeds of which will be used to fund our programs.
Hunter Safety System—Stay Safe All The Time

Hunter Safety System wants to remind instructors that they offer discounts on all of their treestand safety equipment including the HSS Lifeline. 86% of treestand accidents occur when entering or exiting a treestand. The Lifeline is a critical piece of equipment that you can order for yourself and keep on-hand in the classroom. Show your students the necessities of safe treestand hunting with Hunter Safety System Products.

Springtac - Instructors AND Students - Take advantage of Springtac’s 10% discount on holsters to certified instructors. Go to www.holstercollection.com and enter promo code HE2012 to experience their well-designed ambidextrous American-made holsters.

Additional Instructor discounts are available from these companies:

For more information on these special discounts and offers for Instructors, go to: http://ihea-usa.org/special-offers-for-instructors.
I am a rather new instructor in Alaska for the Alaska Game and Fish Department. Like other states, we offer Hunter Education in two formats: an online version requiring a four hour class including a field course and shooting proficiency session, after they’ve completed the online portion of the course and a traditional version requiring a daylong classroom course, with a field course and shooting proficiency. Students attending this class must show the instructor a completed workbook that was accomplished at home.

Alaska Fish and Game does not have a minimum age requirement for the Basic Hunter Education Course, even though age 10 or older is encouraged. Instructors let parents decide, after advising them of all the requirements, if the student has the physical and mental capabilities to handle the information in the study packet and training firearms they’ll encounter.

At a recent daylong Hunter Education session we had a father with twin 10 year old sons in attendance. One of the boys was quite extroverted and the other a bit more introverted. The father was focusing on the quieter of the two, giving him direct coaching and supervision. During the class the outgoing son raised his hand to answer questions, fully participating. The quieter son was encouraged by his father however, he pulled back and became more and more insular during the longer sections of the classroom period.

We had three instructors that day and even though it was a full class, we noticed the dynamics and crafted a plan to separate the father and son pair to allow the quiet son to become more expressive. I was the instructor assigned to coach the boy through the shooting portion of the class.

Out on the shooting range we set up the normal environment with shooter and safety coach assignments. At this point I intervened with the father and asked if he would pair with his more outgoing son and leave the quieter of the two for me. He agreed (with what appeared to be a slight sigh of relief) joining his other boy. I introduced myself to the boy and explained how we
Who knew a bow
with 40 lbs of weight
adjustment could be
this fast, this smooth
and this quiet?

Who could've imagined
getting all that for

$299? Our competitors
say, it's crazy. We say,

it's the Craze.
would work together to show his shooting skills. The Range Master called out the Range Rules and set the shooting session into motion. While we have small frame rifles, sometimes smaller children struggle to gain a stable holding position. That was true in this case. We talked about the various shooting positions and how they varied in stability. He shot from a standing, and kneeling position but was not able to secure the required accuracy due only to strength. I could see the disappointment in his performance both by his physical actions and that of his father. We inspect targets after each shooting stance so both the boy’s father and his brother were aware that he was not performing well, although his attention to safety, breathing, trigger pull and barrel management was excellent. He only lacked strength to hold the rifle steady.

The sitting and prone shooting positions remained. The youth approached these positions with the same focus as the previous sessions but I could tell he expected no difference in results. Alaska generally does not encourage using the prone shooting position for Qualification target shoot as there are so many natural obstacles generally preventing this shooting position from being used in the bush. The sitting position is recommended as it gets the shooter in a stable position and generally can be safely executed in the wild. The young man and I talked about the sitting position and we spent some time setting him up to ensure that he had the best possible stance. Five shots later, he scored 4 within the required ring. WOW, he just beamed and ran over to show his father and brother his success. You could see the immediate increase in confidence. Now came the Qualification Shoot. The boy picked the sitting position for the test and again punched 4 holes in the required grouping with the 5th just slightly outside. Again, he was a beaming young man. “Can I have the target” was his request. “Certainly, but you need to sign it first”, was my answer. He carefully signed his target and carried it with him back to the classroom for the written portion of the day.

The young man had no problem with the written exam, scoring well above the required 80% level.

As instructors our team had several comments among us during the day:
1. Focus on observing the class for inhibitors to participation.
2. Recognize what might appear as inability but isn’t.
3. Agree amongst the instructors a way to affect the situation.
4. Make the intervention.

We ended up with a newly trained student who is ecstatic about his performance and a father who is proud of his sons. It was a good feeling all around.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has always encouraged youth participation in shooting and archery sports. It is a privilege to volunteer with this team.
Mr. McKay,

I would like to start by saying congratulations to the new change to IHEA-USA. I believe this new name and mission is an excellent direction for hunter education. It will distinguish us from our partners in Canada and elsewhere. Good luck.

My name is Jose Gonzalez and I’m a big fan of IHEA-USA. I am a hunter safety instructor for NYS DEC and I teach the firearm course. I also have written a short biography of myself to my Education Program Directors with interest in participating or joining the IHEA-USA family.

I am writing today because I read your latest publication in the President’s Corner (“Gear, Gadgets And Gismo’s”). I agree with you that changes in innovation have changed the way we hunt today. And as instructors, we need to stay current with this technology so we can present these options and features to our students. I am one of those hunters who buy the latest gadgets. I get a kick out of showing my students the cool gear I have collected and explaining how it works. I also always go back to the basics with map reading, compass navigation, fire starting, first aid, etc. There was one part in your article that I wanted to answer. You questioned recruitment. How to create a bigger impact? Well, I teach in Nassau, Long Island New York at a rifle/pistol range. I believe if you are target shooting at ranges, which I’m sure you do to some extent, you will get more candidates for students. Our classroom can only hold about 50 students and we consistently get 45 to 47 students per class. We provide about 7 classes a year. That is almost 650 students a year. I think that the clientele coming to the range: recreational shooters, competition shooters, business license owners, law enforcement, and the average shooter, are already there with their firearm and enjoy shooting. When the customer sees the ad for the (free) hunter education course, they sign up right at the spot. I would suggest that every shooting range, archery range, firearms distributor, and even recreational facility should have information of the nearest Hunter Safety course in their neighborhood. I believe this will impact the largest number of potential candidates that would be interested in the course.

Well, just wanted to share my thoughts. I hope it will help.

Keep up the wonderful job,
Jose A. Gonzalez

Mr. Gonzalez,

Thank you for your email and kind words. The IHEA-USA Board of Directors, staff and membership has worked long and hard over the last year and a half completing the reorganization and it’s gratifying to hear positive feedback.

Thank you for your suggestion as well. It’s a good one that certainly makes sense and seems to already be working well for you. Don’t be surprised if you see others adopt it in their states as state administrators are not shy about sharing (stealing?) each other’s ideas.

Thank you for your service in teaching our next generation of hunters. We couldn’t do it without you and your fellow volunteer instructors.

Sincerely,
John McKay,
President, IHEA-USA
Youth Hunting In The Backcountry Seminar

Offered by Backcountry Hunters & Anglers and Orion, the Hunter's Institute

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This is an afternoon seminar on March 23, 2013.


Or contact:
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Phone: 541-398-0091

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* How backcountry hunting is ethical: no unfair advantage
* How to hunt/retrieve non motorized
* How to pack a backpack (before and after a kill)
* How to make “meat hunting” cool again for a trophy obsessed culture

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In memory of Edward Kozicky:
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These donations help us with our mission to continue the heritage of hunting worldwide by developing safe, responsible and knowledgeable hunters.

We thank each and every one of you for your kindness.

IHEA-USA would like to thank the following people for their kind donations to the endowment fund:

Michael and Margaret Paddock
Samuel and Sharon Roberts
Karen Lee Henderson
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7. Exclusive “Member Only” opportunities to purchase significantly discounted merchandise and closeouts offered by hunting and firearm 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. Note: A similar policy is being pursued for Canadian Volunteer Instructors but is not yet available.

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Membership rewards are subject to change.
Peer Pressure—A Good Thing?

Hunting Heritage Trust (HHT) and National Shooting Sports Foundation® (NSSF®) recently partnered on a study to understand the impact of peer influence on youth participation in hunting and target shooting. The study, which was comprised of youth focus groups and a comprehensive phone survey, was conducted by Responsive Management, a leading public opinion and attitude survey research firm which specializes in natural resource and outdoor recreation issues.

Key Findings From The Report:
- The industry’s estimate of 38 million individual hunters and target shooters age 12 and older represents approximately 15 percent of the total U.S. population of 260 million people age 12 and older.
- In most areas, youth that hunt or target shoot are the minority, for most of their peers do not participate in hunting and target shooting.
- 86 percent of youth approve of target shooting when it is legal to do so, while 93 percent of youth agree that, regardless of their personal opinion, other people should be allowed to hunt.
- 78 percent of youth approve of hunting when it is legal to do so, while 89 percent of youth agree that, regardless of their personal opinion, other people should be allowed to hunt.
- 86 percent of youth approve of target shooting when it is legal to do so, while 93 percent of youth agree that, regardless of their personal opinion, other people should be allowed to target shoot.
- Youth that do not participate in hunting or target shooting but know a hunter or target shooter have a much more positive view toward hunting and target shooting than non-participatory youth that do not know a hunter or target shooter.
- Many youth that do not currently participate in hunting or target shooting would consider participating if asked by a peer. In fact, using U.S. Census population estimates, approximately 15 million non-hunter/target shooter youth between the ages of 8 and 17 would consider participation if asked by a peer.

What You Can Do:
- Encourage your students to ask their friends to take hunter education or invite a friend to the range or the field.
- Inform hunter education students that they are role models and should portray themselves and the activities of hunting and target shooting in a positive light.
- Ask students to spread the good word and teach their friends the benefits and enjoyment of hunting and target shooting.

HHT & NSSF request your assistance in spreading these messages to today’s hunter education students.

Go to http://nssf.org/hunteredpledge/ to review the Fact Sheet, the Executive Summary or the Full Report and feel free to use any of the findings in your curriculum.

To be entered into a drawing for a chance to win 1 of 50 “The Hunter’s Path” educational DVDs, go to the website above and take the pledge.

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NC HE Instructor Inducted Into International Hall of Fame

Kim Tavasso (center) holds his IHEA Hall of Fame award, with Commission Chairman David Hoyle Jr. (left) and Commission Executive Director Gordon Myers (right).

The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission during its August 30 meeting recognized Kim Tavasso, of Winterville, for his induction into the International Hunter Education Association (IHEA) Hall of Fame.

A 20-year volunteer with the North Carolina Hunter Education Program, Tavasso was inducted into the IHEA Hall of Fame on May 30, during the association’s annual conference, held this year in Kansas City, Mo. The Wildlife Commission heard a special presentation by the Hunter Education Program about Tavasso’s achievement as part of its August business meeting.

The IHEA is a professional association for 67 state and provincial wildlife conservation agencies, and the 70,000 volunteers who teach hunter education in North America. The association sets performance guidelines for basic hunter education and the standards used internationally by hunter education administrators.

“This is quite the honor and to be honest, I am somewhat overwhelmed,” Tavasso said. “I was surprised to receive it and it is hard to describe in words how large an honor it is. I am just grateful to the Wildlife Resources Commission and its Hunter Education Program to allow me to reach this level.”

Travis Casper, the state hunting education coordinator, commended Tavasso for leadership and innovation.

“This is someone who is responsible for thousands of people successfully completing hunter education, acquiring hunting licenses and enjoying countless hours outdoors,” Casper said. “Mr. Kim Tavasso is truly a hall of famer.”

In addition to serving as a hunter education instructor, Tavasso supports Youth Hunter Education Skills Tournament teams, National Wild Turkey Federation Jakes events and Youth Conservation Days for the Pitt County Wildlife Club. He established a hunter education committee for the regional wildlife club and became the club’s liaison to the Wildlife Commission. He also serves as a guide at Camp Lejeune Wounded Warrior Hunts.

For more information on the Hunter Education Program in North Carolina, visit www.ncwildlife.org, or call 919-707-0031. All first-time hunting license buyers must complete a Hunter Education Course successfully. The courses are offered free across the state year-round.
Summit Treestands Recalls Hunters’ Tree Stands Due To Fall Hazard

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, today announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. It is illegal to resell or attempt to resell a recalled consumer product.

Name of Product: Crush Series: Perch, Stoop and Ledge Treestands for hunters

Units: About 2,900

Manufacturer: Summit Treestands, LLC, of Decatur, Ala.

Hazard: The tree stand’s hanging strap assembly could dislodge from the treestand or fail to restrain or hold properly on the tree, posing a fall hazard.

Incidents/Injuries: None reported

Description: The recalled hunters’ tree stands have the following names and item numbers: Crush Series Perch, number 82069; Crush Series Stoop, number 82070; and Crush Series Ledge number 82071. The tree stands include the main stand platform and seat with a green cinch strap and a tan tree stand hanging strap assembly, which consists of one nylon strap with a hook and an adjustment portion with a metal buckle and a matching nylon tab and a hook. This hanging strap assembly has the recalled item numbers printed on the safety label attached near the buckle.

Sold at: Hunting stores and in catalogs such as Bass Pro Shops, Cabela’s and others nationwide from July 2012 through August 2012 for between $70 to $100.

Manufactured in: China

Remedy: Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled tree stands and contact Summit Treestands to receive a free replacement hanging strap assembly.

Consumer Contact: Summit Treestands, LLC, call toll free at (855) 375-9808 or visit the website at www.summitstands.com and click on the Recall icon for more information.

To see this recall on CPSC’s website, including pictures of the recalled product, visit the following web address: www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml13/13015.html

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www.IHEA-USA.org 35
To all of you who have been a volunteer hunter education instructor, for only one year or for thirty years, sometimes it feels like there is no tangible way for us to express our appreciation for the boots on the ground that are teaching maximum capacity-filled classrooms of new hunters how to be safe and successful in the field.

With that in mind, the IHEA-USA Hunter and Shooting Sports Education Journal staff was fortunate enough to work with some greatly generous and appreciative partners on a two-fold project. Part one was gathering intelligence: we pulled together critical information from volunteer instructors through an in-depth survey on need, how they teach, where they are, and the kinds of trends we are seeing in the volunteer hunter education instructor world. In order to accomplish this, we needed some solid prizes. I mean, who wants to take another survey, right? We were very fortunate to find some amazing companies that really have a vested interest in your success, and love supporting Hunter Education: Yamaha Outdoors, Weatherby, and Columbia Sportswear.

Long-time partner, Yamaha Outdoors, was really the hinge-pin for the operation. Because, through them, we were able to actually give away a Yamaha Grizzly ATV to one lucky winner. Yamaha Marketing Manager Steve Nessl expressed, “Yamaha is a strong supporter of hunters and hunter education. We work hard to promote safe, responsible use of our products in the outdoors and appreciate the tireless dedication and commitment shown by the volunteer instructors who are making a positive impact on the hunting community through education and outreach.”

Weatherby stepped up as well, offering not one, but TWO of their pacesetting, innovative Vanguard rifles chambered in .270.

And finally, Columbia Sportswear put together some gear packages, outfitting four instructors head-to-toe in gear that would make any hunter ecstatic in the field. “Columbia is a believer in IHEA-USA’s important mission and is happy to support the organization,” said Andrea Pallavicini, specialty channel marketing manager.

We offer our most sincere congratulations to our winners and a big thank you to the over 700 instructors that entered and participated. Thank you so very much for all that you do.

**Yamaha ATV winner**
James Rich - AZ

**Weatherby rifle winners**
James Wilkes – LA
John Davis – TX

**Columbia Sportswear winners**
Edward Rosenbaum - MO
Gary Aycock - AL
Robert Manske - WI
Fred Rodhouse Jr. - IL

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**Quick Facts on Hunter Education Instructors**

- 31% have been teaching 5 years or less
- 51% have been teaching 10 years or less
- 56% are age 45-64
- 10% are under age 34
- 8% are female
- 80% say Instructor Discounts are important
- 83% use Hunter’s Handbook live in the classroom as a teaching aid
Book your travel where it makes a difference!
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www.ytbtravel.com/ihea

- You'll find the same airlines, hotels, rental cars, cruises and more.
- You'll get great travel prices!
- Each time you book travel a portion of the travel commissions will go to the IHEA-USA!

Remember to bookmark our website and use it every time you travel.

IHEA-USA Travel
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SPECIAL INVENTORY CLEARANCE SALE

60th Anniversary of Hunter Education Commemorative Knife

In 2009, the International Hunter Education Association (IHEA) commemorated the 60th Anniversary of hunter education in North America with a collector knife.

The anniversary knife is a Browning model 322571. This large drop point hunter knife was designed by Jim Crowell and comes with a top-grain leather sheath. The 5-1/2 inch blade is made from 420HC carbon steel and has a satin finish. The handle is made from stabilized walnut. Only 500 of these knives were ever produced and the IHEA made 250 of these anniversary edition knives available for sale—once again, supplies are limited. The IHEA logo, edition number (X of 250), and “1949-2009 Celebrating 60 Years of Hunter Education” is etched onto the left side of the blade. The knife’s serial number (X of 500) is etched onto the right side of the blade.

We are running a Special Inventory Clearance Sale, and selling these knives for the **low price of $90 + S/H***. This is a $85 savings. Feel free to shop around. You will not find this knife available anywhere else for less than $250!

Call IHEA-USA at 303-430-7233 to order today. *Shipping and handling is $10 to the 50 states which includes shipping via FedEx with delivery confirmation.

Order yours before they are all gone.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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Teaching Tip

**Hunter Orange, A Convincing Demonstration**

Don Rosinski, Vermont Hunter Ed Instructor

Having taught Hunter Ed for over 20 years, it has always amazed me at how resistant hunters are to wearing hunter orange. By the same token, I do not believe it should be a law that would force folks to wear it. Basically, I have always felt that common sense should prevail, and the freedom to choose to wear hunter orange should be easy.

What I do to impart this to my students and to convince hunters it is indeed very helpful, is an outdoor demonstration. I line up the students facing a wood line, about 100 yards way, during the last legal shooting light. Inside the wood line a short distance is my assistant who has on hunter orange which is underneath red and black plaid, which is under camouflage. He walks along inside the wood line and I ask if anyone can positively identify him as a hunter. He walks by again after removing the camouflage, now showing the plaid. Last, he removes the plaid and walks by wearing the hunter orange. Over the years, I have had many parents tell me this demonstration was a real eye opener. I feel it’s a very convincing way to convince folks to wear hunter orange, without taking away their choice to do so. I hope others will find this a useful tool.

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Greetings from Cape Town, South Africa

Dear Mr. Wayne East,

I just wish to compliment the IHEA on what the Association stands for and what you people do. The concept is great, keep up the great work.

I am a Life Member of the IHEA.

Yours truly, Witold Jakutowicz
Volunteering as a hunter education instructor is a personal commitment and sometimes challenging. Obtaining quality hunter safety and educational materials shouldn’t be. The National Shooting Sports Foundation has been supporting hunter education instructors for almost 50 years.

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

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