



NEWSLETTER NO. 119

SPRING 2000

EDITOR'S CORNER

Almost summer...

Spring has sprung and summer is coming just around the corner. We survived the Y2K dilemma, although I have an abundant supply of water and canned goods at my house. Yes, I was ready for whatever transpired. At least I wasn't going to go dry! Now, let's go on to bigger and better things.

I am going to have to come up with another way to get instructors to read the issues of "Target Talk" a little more closely. Of the ten individuals whose instructor numbers were placed in various places in the Fall/Winter issue, only three found their numbers and notified Kathy Powell for their prize. The observant ones were Todd McClanahan, Kitty Haynes, and Charles Preslar. They notified Kathy about finding their number and were promptly mailed their award. However, those who did **NOT** find their numbers were Area Chiefs, Bill Lynn and Dave Rice; Game Wardens, Jim Ballard and Robert Newman; Professional Educators, Wayne Dietert and Charles Eoff and Volunteer Rick Holland. Look more closely in the next issue for a "second chance." I know we can do better!

NOTICE Parks and Wildlife Hunter Education will be phasing out of the video loan library. By the end of this year, we hope to have all the videos into the hands of instructors who use them on a regular basis. We are trying to promote more hands-on activities while using a minimum of videos during each course.

Videos produced by TPW such as, "Modern Firearms," "Field Care of Game" and our home study video, "Safeguarding Our Heritage," will

Continued on next page

42 State Parks Identified as Candidates for Public Hunts

TPW Press release

AUSTIN, Texas – State wildlife officials want to hold special drawn public hunts at 42 state parks and other sites in the 2000-2001 hunting seasons. The list of nominees, announced Jan. 19 by the Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPW) Commission's Regulations Committee, includes no new sites in the public hunting program. One site, South Llano River State Park, was not on the list last year, but hunts have been held there in previous years.

In coming months, TPW officials will seek public input on the candidates for state park hunts during a series of statewide public

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Editor's Corner (continued)

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hands-on activities while using a minimum of videos during each course.

Videos produced by TPW such as, "Modern Firearms," "Field Care of Game" and our home study video, "Safeguarding Our Heritage," will be available on one tape for use. Instructors will be allowed to order and keep them once secured. We are in the process of finishing up a Hunter Skills Trail video with "shoot don't shoot" scenarios. You will be able to secure and keep a copy when it is ready. It will be announced in "Target Talk" when available.



No, Billy Holt, this is not what we mean by introducing deer into field exercises.

We will try to get a master copy of "The Hunter's Path," "Survival," and "Firearm Safety and the Hunter II" produced by Alan Madison, if funds are available. You may order any of these videos from him directly, but they are rather expensive (\$129 each). His address is Alan Madison Productions, Inc., P.O. Box 100, Chatham, NY 12037, Phone (518) 392-3311, or Fax (518) 392-3314.

Terry Erwin

TEXAS
WILDLIFE
 No. 9  2000
EXPO
 GO WILD IN TEXAS.

Wildlife Expo Needs Volunteers

Individuals are being recruited at this time in order to fill vacant spaces seen at last year's event. It is almost impossible to run a safe and successful event without adequate numbers of qualified instructors.

Texas Hunter Education Instructors Association (T.H.E.I.A.) has, again, agreed to pay for sandwiches and drinks to be distributed during noon work hours of Expo on Saturday and Sunday. They have agreed to contribute another \$500 to the Wildlife Expo Scholarship Fund. Two of our own instructors have been fortunate enough to receive scholarships in the past two years. Come on out and help someone become acquainted with the shooting sports, as well as other events. Let us know if you are interested in attending and volunteering.

Note: You might want to make your reservations at local motels now, because there is a UT football game that weekend, and things are booking up rapidly.

Public Hunts, continued

AUSTIN, Texas – State wildlife officials want to hold special drawn public hunts at 42 state parks and other sites in the 2000-2001 hunting seasons. The list of nominees, announced Jan. 19 by the Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPW) Commission’s Regulations

Committee, includes no new sites in the public hunting program. One site, South Llano River State Park, was not on the list last year, but hunts have been held there in previous years.

In coming months, TPW officials will seek public input on the candidates for state park hunts during a series of statewide public hearings. The commission will make a final decision on these nominees at its April public meeting.

Following is a list of candidate state parks and other sites:
Arroyo Colorado
Atlanta

- Big Bend Ranch
- Brazos Bend
- Brownwood
- Bryan Beach
- Caddo Lake
- Caprock Canyons
- Choke Canyon Calliham and North Shore Units
- Colorado Bend
- Davis Mountains
- Devils River State Natural Area
- Devil’s Sinkhole SNA
- Enchanted Rock SNA
- Fairfield Lake
- Fort Boggy
- Garner
- Guadalupe River
- Hill Country SNA
- Honey Creek SNA
- Huntsville

- Inks Lake/Longhorn Cavern
- Kickapoo Cavern
- Lake Houston
- Lake Mineral Wells
- Lake Somerville
- Lake Whitney
- Lost Maples SNA
- Martin Dies, Jr.
- Matagorda Island
- Mother Neff
- Pedernales Falls
- Poosum Kingdom
- Resaca de la Palma
- San Angelo
- Sea Rim
- Seminole Canyon
- South Llano River
- Tony Houseman WMA

TPW also proposed several changes to the public hunting program regulations, including provisions:

- To lower the minimum age requirement for an adult supervising a youth engaged in hunting activities from 21 to 18
- Establish an Antlerless Deer Permit for use on U.S. Forest

IBEP Updates

Decisions made at the 2000 In-Service will include several items.

- 1) Both student and instructor course fees have been changed for the year 2000. The IBEP student course fee has increased from \$10 to \$15. The IBEP instructor course fee has increased from \$30 to \$45. These fee increases are necessary to help offset costs in supplies, training aids and shipping. Instructors may still keep up to one dollar (\$1.00) per student to help with refreshments and supplies.
- 2) To qualify for the “Raffles and Prizes” that will be given away at the in-service workshops, you must have taught or assisted in teaching at least one IBEP class in the preceding year and you must be present to win.

- 3) The NBEF is quite specific about what is expected of the volunteer instructor. These specifications are stated in the appropriate NBEF manuals. Please review your “job requirements” under the heading “In-Service Training.” IBEP Instructors, refer to page 145 of the *Instructor Notebook*. IBEP Master Instructor Trainers, refer to page 35 of the *Leadership Handbook*. These requirements will be strictly adhered to in 2001.

Just a reminder...
Remember to mail your completed forms and fees to Dwight Purvis, #3 Briar Meadow Court, Joshua, TX 76058-9742. You can also reach Dwight at (817) 295-3805 or by E-mail at toxophilus@juno.com

Education Division Phone Numbers

<p>General Information</p> <p>1-800-792-1112 +0 ask for ext. 4999 (512) 389-4999 Fax (512) 389-8042</p> <p>Records</p> <p>Kathy Powell 1-800-792-1112 +63 (512) 389-8142</p>	<p>Videos & Supplies</p> <p>Jack Nasworthy 1-800-792-1112 +61 (512) 389-4795 Fax (512) 389-8030</p> <p>Automated Hunter Education Course line (24 hours a day)</p> <p>1-800-792-1112 +62</p>
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Third Annual Texas “Dream Hunt”

The third annual Texas “Dream Hunt,” a combination waterfowl and upland bird hunt, was held December 19-21 near Lake Jackson. The hunt was donated by Dr. George “Skip” Hall, his wife Tonia and their son Matt who own and manage the **2 Bayous Hunting Lodge**. A sincere thanks goes to the Halls for providing such an outstanding and memorable hunt. The group will never forget such fine meals, accommodations and the hunting opportunity.

At 4 AM, the come-to-life call was issued to everyone, but the weather was producing lightning, thunder and rain. Not even a hunting dog would go out on a day like that. Sleepy, but anxious, youngsters were ready to tackle the world. However, “Skip” said the hunt would have to wait until the storm passed, and all agreed. After about two hours, the weather cleared, the ducks began flying, and the hunters were off. Mid-day saw a tired group return with a few ducks and couple of geese, which were all they could coax in. Next morning showed more promise as the hunters returned with a more abundant take.

Because of the weather, the upland bird hunting was held to the afternoon portion of the day. Pheasants and chukars were the game pursued. The guides had some excellent dogs, but the birds were very jittery. Once the dogs pointed, the hunters had to react fast so the bird didn't fly away to safer ground. All in all, the group had a very successful time and took home some excellent game for the table.

A special thanks to guides Matt Hall, Shawn Wilchek and Mike Hutto for all their hard work during the hunt. They did an outstanding job providing excellent waterfowl calling and dog handling during the hunts. An additional special thanks goes to Fin & Feather Taxidermy in Friendswood for donating a bird mount of their choice to each youngster on the hunt. Their work is outstanding and comes highly

recommended by those who have had animals mounted there.



The lucky winners of the hunt were Chet Smith (front left) of Belton, nominated by instructor Fred Grimm, (back right) of Belton and Matt Carter, (front right) of Graham, nominated by instructor Gary Doyle (back left) of Breckenridge. Chet brought his dad, C.A. Smith, (back 2nd left) and Matt brought his stepfather, Lynn Prince, (back 3rd from left).

On the way down, the weather was turning bad with a cold front coming in, but hopes of a good hunt still lay in the back of everyone's mind. Upon arrival, everyone was greeted by the host and assigned to their rooms. The evening meal was almost ready, so everyone had time to meet, visit and get acquainted.

After supper, all the guests gathered around the fireplace for lodge orientation, and then Christmas came early for the participants. Winchester Ammunition provided shot shells, caps, pins and several other valuables for the hunt. Mossy Oak provided hunting pants, shirts, coats and caps for each individual hunter and caps for the lodge hosts. Otis Technologies provided a gun cleaning kit. Wildlife Research Center provided special hunting items. Walls Industries, Inc. provided hunter orange vests. Numerous other items such as duck calls by James “Cowboy” Fernandez, shooting glasses, ear plugs and books were among the gifts handed out. The recipients were told that after the hunt all the gifts had to be re-wrapped for Christmas, as this would lighten the burden on Santa's return trip in a few days.



Texas “Dream Hunt” participants and hosts. Front row, left to right—Chet Smith, Matt Carter. Back row, left to right Fred Grimm, Lynn Prince, C.A. Smith, Gary Doyle, Tonia Hall and Dr. “Skip” Hall.

Third Annual Texas "Dream Hunt"

NOTE: "Skip" and his group have agreed to host the Fourth Texas "Dream Hunt" at the same location in December 2000. Take the time to pick an outstanding student and recommend him or her for the trip of a lifetime. Individuals must be between the ages of 12 and 17, and have taken the Hunter Education course within the last year. Individuals must display the proper attitude, safety, class participation, skills and abilities, and be someone you would consider "spending time with in the outdoors."

Nominations must be in the form of a letter describing why the individual is being recommended for the Texas "Dream Hunt." Include anything that would enhance the student's chance of being selected by a panel of impartial judges. Upon selection, the student may bring a parent or guardian with them on the trip. Nominating instructors will also accompany the group. **Deadline for entries is November 15, 2000,** and must be in our office by that time. Good luck and look for that special person. We already have one nomination on file for consideration in 2000.



Special "Thanks" to Sammie Knight, National Sales Manager for Mossy Oak. He is presented a plaque by Terry Erwin at the SHOT Show for continued support of the Texas "Dream Hunt."

I.H.E.A. "Dream Hunt"

Winchester Ammunition previously printed and distributed entry cards for the IHEA "Dream Hunt." This year, the registration cards will be in the **NEW** Hunter Education Student Journal produced by the **Focus Group**. Look for them to come out soon and be distributed with supplies.

NOTE: Individual instructors may send in a plain postcard (with a statement that you are a Texas Hunter Education instructor) with name, address, work and home phone number to:

**IHEA "DREAM HUNT"
P. O. Box 5078
Nashville GA, 31639**

So far, in the last nine years, four instructors and three students from Texas have been selected to go on the "Dream Hunt." Four more instructors have been selected to go on additional trips. Keep those cards coming in and your chances of winning are a lot better than if you just sit back and wish! Don't forget to tell your students about this chance to go on an all-expense paid "Dream Hunt" of a lifetime.

Where are the "Take Your Best Shot" Packets?

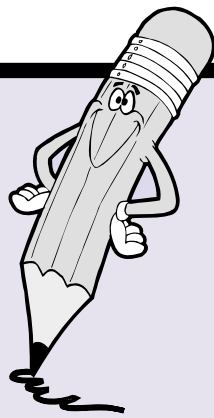
Jim Smith, National Shooting Sports Development Director for the National Shooting Sports Foundation announced a new program to get youth interested in the shooting sports last year. The package is comprised of targets for light rifle, and score sheets for Trap, Skeet or Sporting Clays shotgun activities. The intent is to have individuals "take their best shot" and send it in for evaluation. Each individual will receive a U.S. Olympic Shooting Team patch and a letter with a listing of places to practice and further their chances of possibly becoming an Olympic shooter.

The packets were sent out for distribution, but Jim Smith says that very few were returned to his office. Please check your supplies and make sure to distribute and promote this new venture to help youngsters continue an interest in shooting sports. Additional packets are available upon request, but at least ten (10) packets will be sent with each order of supplies. Please contact our office for any additional supplies if necessary, and distribute them to interested youth. This is a direct recruiting tool for youngsters interested in shooting sports.

Hunter Education Home Study Packets Available Commercially

Seems like those calls are beginning to come in again. . . . Barnes and Nobles and Amazon's Web sites both carry the book and tape set. Amazon.com calls it Outdoor Life Hunter's Field Guide 2-piece set (\$12.74) and Barnes and Nobles.com carry it as Hunter's Field Guide Book with video (\$11.99). Thanks to Michelle Pfeil, Boater Education section, for this information.

In addition, anyone who has a computer and Internet access may look on our Web site at www.tpwd.state.tx.us under Education for a listing of retailers who carry the Home Study packets. Refer individuals to those locations if necessary. Anyone who has a retail business and wants to purchase the packets for resale may contact **Dennis Clark at Frontier Sales and Marketing, 6227 Paddle Wheel, Katy, Texas 77449, (281)345-4650 – office or (281)793-6835 – mobile. His E-mail address is dennis-frontier@msn.com**



Letters to the Editor

Dear Staff:

I am corresponding to applaud the presentations given by Mr. Joe Wallace at the Smithson Valley High School Agriculture Science Department January 6-7, 2000. I have taught 27 years in the public schools of Texas and feel I am qualified to recognize an outstanding presentation. Mr. Wallace was enthusiastic and energetic from his first presentation to his last. He never lost the genuine concern to get his message across. He patiently gave individual instruction to each and every student as they advanced to the shooting station. No questions were too elementary or too advanced. His home spun humor and persuasive presentations were educational and inspirational. Mr. Wallace's instruction on firearm safety, responsibility, and knowledge of when to fire and where to aim will insure success to another generation of responsible sportsmen. Hats off to Mr. Joe Wallace and the DART Program of Hunter Education at Texas Parks and Wildlife. It was an excellent educational program presented by a "master educator."

Sincerely,
Sam Womble

Dear Staff:

First, let me say the Trapper Workshop at Daughtrey was probably the best advanced workshop I've ever attended. The Daughtrey area Compartments 14 and 15 are ideal for trappers in a workshop environment. I want to thank Nolan Ryan for making his Bass Inn motel available at a reasonable rate at a perfect time for trapping. I realize he's on the Commission and would like to publicly thank him with the rest of the department for letting us use the WMA. Second, The three instructors from the Texas Trappers Association, Al Barton, Bill Jones and Troy Vaughn, were superb in Trapper's knowledge and skills. I highly recommend that you have the course with those guys at Daughtrey WMA again next January.

Odie O'Dwyer
Area Chief, Copperas Cove

Dear Staff:

I thought the Trapper Workshop was FANTASTIC! Jamie and I both attended, and we thoroughly enjoyed it! Wish the temp could have been 10-15 degrees warmer, but oh well. Once you lived through YO last year, you can SURVIVE anything. Anyway, Bill Jones, Al Barton and Troy were GREAT instructors, and we trapped 2 bobcats, a coyote and Odie (O'Dwyer) caught a raccoon in HIS personal bucket trap.

Cheers,
Kitty Haynes



Dear Staff:

Please accept a big old "Thank You" to your staff and everyone else responsible for setting up the Trapping Seminar at the Daughtrey Wildlife Management Area in January. Al Barton, Troy Vaughn and Dr. Bill Jones were the instructors for the workshop and they did a great job. The classroom discussions and instructions were interesting and professionally done. These guys are so sincere in their attempts to educate about trapping, and thus try to save this heritage of ours. The actual trapping demonstrations and hands-on activities were out of this world, with four catches during the seminar, two bobcats, a coyote and a raccoon. The Nolan Ryan Bass Inn and Waterfront Restaurant deserve thanks, too, for putting us up in a quality location at a considerable discount. Their facilities are very enjoyable and accommodations were great. Yes, it was a long drive to get there, but well worth it. We'd recommend this seminar to everyone. It was the most informative and enjoyable course we've attended. We encourage everyone to attend this wonderful workshop if they get a chance.

Sincerely,

Gene & Nancy Bowlin
Snyder

SURVIVAL WORKSHOP



Dear Staff:

My thoughts on the survival workshop held at the YO Ranch are that it was exceptional, and that John Weishaar was a very capable instructor. I found that he had done his "homework" on the topic. I was really impressed with his presentation and also found that his philosophy was not unlike that of my own.

I found that his focus on the fact that if the person is not mentally prepared to survive, he probably will not. A person can have the items in a pack with them or near them and they still run the chance of not surviving if they have not found the survival mentality, and made the decision to survive whatever they must do to insure their own survival. Again, I found that the workshop was a great success.

Bob Douglas
Area Chief, Denison

WATERFOWL WORKSHOP

Thanks to Kevin Herriman and his staff for hosting the Waterfowl workshop at the White Oak Creek WMA. Please accept a sincere apology for this workshop not being in the schedule. Maybe next time this unfortunate error will not happen.



PRE-SERVICE TRAINING



Instructor applicants gathered at the Greater Houston Gun Club for Program Orientation. Most of these individuals will teach and work with inner-city students in the Houston area.



Agriculture Science Education Graduate Students from Sam Houston State University received instructor training on January 11-12, 2000, prior to doing their student teaching.

Texas Game Warden Field Notes

AUSTIN, Texas – If nothing else, poachers are persistent. But they aren't always the brightest bulbs on the tree, as the following excerpts from recent Texas game warden field reports confirm.

Lightning Can Strike Twice

In mid-November, a Rusk County game warden received information that someone was field-dressing an illegally taken deer. Upon arrival, the warden located the antlerless deer and issued a citation to the violator. Two hours later the warden was called back to the same area by a local landowner who had seen two men spotlight and shoot a deer then cut a fence to go after it. After a short investigation, the warden apprehended the two men, one of whom was the gentleman cited two hours earlier.

Some Just Never Learn

After a long day of checking deer hunters one Saturday in November, a Gray County warden decided to call it a day around 4 a.m. An hour-and-a-half later he received a call from the sheriff's office that a deputy had stopped someone for a possible road-hunting violation. When the warden arrived, he recognized the man as the same person he had arrested a year earlier for shooting a doe from the road on a local judge's property. That time, the man had his two sons with him, but on this night only one son was in the truck. Both the deputy and the warden found it rather strange that the son was sitting in the back seat of the super cab pickup with the front passenger seat empty. They also found it odd that there was a hand-held radio in the front seat that was turned on, but the other one was nowhere to be found. After a lengthy discussion, the son finally gave in and called his brother on the radio and asked him to walk out to the road with the deer. An eight-point buck had been poached.

Come on Now, Don't Hurt the Truck to Save Your Hide

In October, a Hardin County warden questioned two men suspected of killing a yearling deer from a public road at night. One of the men went so far as to strip paint from the front of his truck to make it appear as if the truck had hit the deer. He later asked the warden, "That story about the truck hitting the deer was never going to work, was it?" To which the warden responded, "Good try, but not good enough."

Did You Really Think There Were No Game Wardens Around?

While working a deer decoy operation in Brazoria County, two wardens watched a vehicle approach and shine its headlights on the dummy. A passenger then got out of the vehicle, climbed the fence, grabbed the deer decoy and headed back to the vehicle. As the wardens moved in, the man dropped the decoy and the pair of would-be thieves tried to drive off. They were stopped almost immediately and issued citations for criminal mischief.

Good Samaritans

Two game wardens heading back to their home counties after a visit to Austin stopped to offer assistance to a truck parked on the side of the road. It turns out that the men in the truck did not need help other than a short lesson in proper game tagging. Before the game wardens left they filed two charges against the men for tagging violations.

Lubbock Deer Case Shows Waste

Lubbock County Game Warden Jennifer Griffin got a call about five white-tailed deer dumped on the side of the road south of Lubbock. An investigation revealed that one mature buck, one mature doe and three fawns had been dumped out. Little evidence was found, but all of the deer had been field dressed and the buck had been caped out. None of the meat had been used. Appeals to local media to publicize the case and help generate leads were fruitful, and stories ran in the local paper and on a TV station. Subsequently, Warden Griffin located the matching buck cape at a local taxidermy shop. With assistance from Pecos County Game Warden Don Jackson and Captain Mack Caudle, it was determined that the deer were taken legally in Terrell County in West Texas. Class A Waste of Game cases are expected to be filed upon completion of the investigation. It's worth noting that the deer could have been taken to a local Hunters for the Hungry deer processor in Slaton just outside Lubbock, and the local game warden office plans to try to publicize such locations to hopefully prevent future waste of game.

NOTICE: Professional Educators – Ag. Science

Jack Nasworthy will be at the annual Agriculture Science Conference in Lubbock July 31 – August 3 to distribute Hunter Education supplies. Last year, he distributed 1600 manuals and additional supplies to help get courses started when school began in early August. Teachers who know the number of supplies needed may pick them up during the conference. PLEASE take inventory of supplies on hand **BEFORE SCHOOL IS OUT** and order accordingly. Do not overstock supplies, as this runs other instructors short in critical times of need.

Did you know...

Texans Generate \$21 Million for Wildlife Conservation

AUSTIN, Texas – Texas anglers and hunters paid \$21 million in federal excise taxes on equipment purchases to fund state conservation and research through this year's Federal Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Program.

According to a final apportionment report from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) released March 10, 2000, the \$21,121,301 represents Texas' share of \$434 million divided among all states. State fish and wildlife agencies such as Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPW) use the money for land acquisition, habitat improvement, research, education and other programs. The money pays up to 75 percent of fish and wildlife project costs in accordance with legislation and associated regulations. The state share must come from a non-federal source such as license fees.

TPW will receive an estimated \$12,046,000 from the Sport Fish Restoration Program to be used for fisheries programs and boating access. The agency also will receive \$8,198,000 for wildlife restoration, which will be used for projects from the Wildlife Restoration Program. **Another \$876,000 was appropriated to fund Hunter Education programs in Texas.**

The apportionment to states for wildlife restoration and hunter education programs is derived from an 11 percent excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition, a 10 percent tax on pistols and revolvers and an 11 percent tax on certain archery equipment.

The apportionment for sport fish restoration comes from a 10 percent excise tax on fishing equipment and a 3 percent tax on electric trolling

motors and sonar fish finders. Legislation in 1984 increased the tax base for sport fish restoration to include a portion of the federal fuels tax and import duties on fishing tackle and pleasure boats.

Since its inception, the Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Program has provided more than \$3.2 billion that states have used for wildlife restoration projects. The money is distributed to the states for projects proposed by the states and approved by the USFWS.

In Texas, Wildlife Restoration funds are used for restoration, conservation, management and enhancement of wild birds and mammals. Funds also support hunter education and public target ranges. About 200,000 acres of Texas' Wildlife Management Areas were purchased and operated under the restoration program. The TPW public hunting program provides access to more than 1 million acres each year.

Sport Fish Restoration projects includes surveys and management of sport fishes on 1.7 million acres of streams and reservoirs as well as 3.4 million acres of coastal waters. More than 300 million sport fishes are produced and stocked annually from state hatcheries with Sport Fish Restoration funding. Ninety-two boat ramps are constructed or repaired using these funds to increase boater and angler access to waterways.

For more information on Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration in Texas, contact TPW Federal Aid Coordinators at 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744 or (800) 792-1112.

INTERESTING WEBSITES

Of the many interesting Web sites to visit is www.vote.com. They have various issues, including gun control, etc., that you can vote on. After you vote, it shows the results. An E-mail, depending on the question asked, will be sent to your senator or representatives or the president to inform them of your opinion. The Web site acknowledges receipt of your vote and whom they sent it to for you by E-mail.

Food For Thought (from the Net)

You think a gallon of gasoline is expensive?

Diet Snapple 16oz for \$1.29 equals \$10.32 per gallon
Lipton Ice Tea 16oz for \$1.19 equals \$ 9.52 per
Gatorade 20oz for \$1.59 equals \$ 10.17 per gallon
Ocean Spray 16oz for \$1.25 equals \$ 10.00 per gallon
Pint of milk 16oz for \$1.59 equals \$12.72 per gallon
STP Brake Fluid 12oz for \$3.15 equals \$ 33.60 per gallon
Vick's Nyquil 6oz for \$8.35 equals \$ 178.13 per gallon
Pepto Bismol 4oz for \$3.85 equals \$123.20 per gallon



Whiteout 7oz for \$1.39 equals \$25.42 per gallon
Scope 1.5oz for \$0.99 equals \$ 84.48 per gallon
And this is the REAL KICKER.....
Evian water 9oz for \$1.49 equals \$ 21.19 per gallon **\$21.19 FOR WATER!!**

You get the idea??
So next time you're at the pump,
be glad your car doesn't run on
Nyquil, or Scope, or Whiteout!!!!



Did you know...

TPW To Use License Denial in Restitution Collection Efforts

AUSTIN, Texas -- If you are one of the 10,478 persons owing Texas part of the \$3,227,267 in outstanding civil restitution for loss of or damage to a wildlife resource, you may be denied participation in any activities licensed or permitted by Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPW).

Senate Bill 1302, passed by the 76th Texas Legislature, gives TPW the authority to refuse to issue an original or renewal license, permit or tag if a person has been convicted of a violation of the Parks and Wildlife Code or a proclamation issued under the authority of the Code and has failed to pay a civil restitution assessment.

Persons owing civil restitution for violations since Sept. 1, 1999 who have failed to respond to demands for payment will soon be notified that license, permit, and tag privileges have been denied. TPW gives game law violators three written notices to make arrangements to pay civil restitution. The agency offers to accept 80 percent of the restitution assessment as payment in full if remitted in response to the first letter notifying the violator of a civil restitution assessment. A final demand for payment is issued before licenses and permits will be denied.

Because some of the owed assessments are substantial, the legislature granted a two-year grace period to any person owing civil restitution for violations before Sept. 1, 1999. If those violators have not arranged for payment by Sept. 1, 2001, they will be subject to denial of original or renewal license, permit or tag privileges.

“Wildlife and fishery resources belong to the people of Texas, and the department is serious about collecting the civil restitution penalties when someone illegally takes or possesses a resource,” said Jim Robertson, TPW director of law enforcement. “The Legislature gave the department a great tool in Senate Bill 1302 to aid in collecting recovery value for the state’s loss in resources.”

Wildlife and fishery resources belong to the people of Texas, and the department is serious about collecting the civil restitution penalties when someone illegally takes or possesses a resource.

TPW officials have noted a marked increase in the number of cases resolved since the law took effect last September.

“We have historically recovered about 30 percent of the restitution assessments as a result of voluntary payment prior to the new law, and since then the rate has increased to 68 percent,” said Jack King, TPW law enforcement director of policy and planning. “We want this to be a deterrent against committing the violation to begin with. But, it should also serve as motivation for paying restitution if you break the law.”

Persons owing civil restitution who would like to arrange for payment can call the TPW Law Enforcement Division at (915) 646-0601.

Upcoming Events

May 19-21	4-H Archery workshop at American Shooting Center in Houston. For more information, contact Dr. Ron Howard at (409)845-5961	June 10-11	Huntmaster workshop in Dallas
May 20-21	Program Orientation in Austin	June 10-11	Program Orientation in Houston
May 20-21	Program Orientation in Amarillo	June 10-11	Program Orientation in Waco
May 20-21	Program Orientation in Katy (Bass Pro Shop)	June 12-13	Program Orientation in San Marcos (Ag. Teachers – SWTSU)
May 26-June 1	IHEA Annual Conference, Saskatchewan, Canada	June 20-21	Program Orientation in Stephenville (Ag. Teachers – Tarleton)
June 3-4	Ethics workshop in Grand Prairie	June 23-25	NRA Pistol in Houston
June 3-4	Ethics workshop in Corpus Christi	June 24-25	Program Orientation in Austin
June 3-4	Huntmaster workshop in Houston	June 24-25	Program Orientation in Beaumont
		June 24-25	Program Orientation in Wichita Falls

Welcome New Instructors

DECEMBER

Rex Lennon	Point
Clyde Howse	Van Alstyne
Richard Bush	Irving
Paul Braswell	Carrollton
Brandon Evans	Wylie
Nick Nicholas	Dallas
Sharon Braswell	Carrollton
Keira Koslowsky	Fort Worth
Richard Cook	Pasadena
Traylor Lenz	Angleton
Jessie Gonzalez	Zapata
Michael Kmak	Little Elm
Steve Sells	Wichita Falls

JANUARY

Kelly Keeton	Midlothian
Nikki Cline	Lewisville
John Cavenah Jr	Fort Worth
Thomas Loesch	Houston
Wendy Oaks	Alice
Jesse Bustamante	Laredo
Jeremy King	Burleson
Randy Geurin	Waco
John Griffin	Bowie
Walter Irvin	Desoto
Wesley Wilson	Bryan
Phillip Zimmerhanel	Taylor
Jennifer Cearley	Tennyson
Ernest Roder III	Crosby

FEBRUARY

Lamar Williams	Hemphill
Richard Tarpley	Commerce
Charles Strittmatter	Katy
Margie Alcala	Hillsboro
Samuel Riley	Houston
Cori Lowe	Gruver
Eric Lewis	Quanah
Lance Wood	Gunter
Cecil Henry	Dickinson
Jose Uvalle	Nuevo Leon, MX
Jaime Dolano	Nuevo Leon, MX
Homero Garza	Monterrey, MX
Billy Keller	Stephenville

David Reeves	Stephenville
Misty Werley	Purmela
Rafael Aranda	Nuevo Leon, MX
Chris Corzine	Dublin
Mayra Dehoyos	Eagle Pass
Oscar Infante	Monterrey, MX
Jose Martinez	Monterrey, MX
Bryce Sellers	Stephenville
Brian Wallace	Stephenville
Horacio Algaba	Nuevo Leon, MX
Donavon Barker	Kerrville
Amber Brantner	Grandview
Bonnie Douglas	Shepherd
Armando Falcon	Nueva Rosita, MX
Michael Hacker	Valley View
Enrique Lozano	San Nicholas, MX
Bryan McKenzie	Joshua
Clayton Morris	Bertram
Wendy Phillips	Austin
Ronald Wallace	Blue Ridge
Eric Benedetti	Arlington
Alejandro Cantu	San Nicholas, MX
Jeffrey Kahlden	Weimar
Adauto Mendiola	Monterrey, MX
Eradio Benavides	Pasadena
Rogelio Gonzalez	San Nicholas, MX
Alfonso Martinez	Linares, MX
Tamra Sommerfeld	Hamilton
Jason Cox	Cranfills Gap
Lynn Polk	Hico
Bob Whitt	San Angelo
Wade Dansby	Athens
Kristy Howe	Stephenville
Rory Mosley	Stephenville
Gerald Wood	Jacksonville
Robert Wood	Stephenville
Billy Barron	Lamesa
Bruce Cherry	Uvalde
Shannon Houy	Stephenville
Michael Litz	Stephenville
John Van Ess	San Antonio
Rebecca West	Stephenville
Jack Burch II	Mt Home
Roger Frazier	Tyler
Richard Sneed	Weatherford
Casey Callahan	Cameron
Lacy Golightly	Stephenville
Edward Griffin	Karnes City
Nathan Herring	Munday
Brady McCarley	Stephenville

Dwayne Parrish	Frankston
Lyndi Probasco	Stephenville
Phillip Dempsey	Stephenville
Matthew Galliton	Henrietta
Helen Leininger	San Antonio
Jeanette Pittman	Waxahachie
Danny Pringle Sr	Houston
Douglas Edrington	Stephenville
Kathreyn Phillips	Coleman

MARCH

Chris Below	Channelview
Alice Davison	Mingus
Walter Morgan	Weatherford
Clinton Anderson III	Channelview
Thomas Clore	Richardson
Jason Engle	Bryan
Cody Pilgrim	Weatherford
Jennifer Hess	College Station
Willard Wilson	Pearsall
Gilbert Wheeler	Bryan
Joseph Nelson Jr	Bryan
Kinberly Tidwell	College Station
Matthew Applegath	Bryan
Tara Miles	Duncanville
Carlos Castro	Dallas
Paul Casterline	Fort Worth
Arnold Garza	San Antonio
Larry Dauster	Glade Water
Hilary Higinbotham	Bryan
Marc Hess	College Station
Ian Flannery	Bryan
Preston Irwin	San Antonio
Kristin Losey	Plano
Kelly Omalley	Lewisville
Kinberly Shaw	Lillian
Jeffrey Suggs	Big Spring
Ricardo Gonzalez	Premont
James Maupin III	Falfurrias
Kevin McLaughlin	Godley
Jay Smith	Belton
Brad Petrek	Dallas
James Cranmer	Round Rock
William Bayles	Belton
Clifford Manor	Austin
Juston Sanderson	San Saba
John Ideus	Bay City

Kudos, Kudos, Kudos!



Kitty Haynes, Houston, received five different incentive awards during the 10th Annual Hunter Education Conference held at TPW headquarters. No other instructor has earned that many awards in one year before. Congratulations Kitty!

Mike Lochabay, Area Chief, Garland, is shown receiving his 3500-point shotgun from Assistant Hunter Education Coordinator, Heidi Rao, during the annual conference. Congratulations Mike!



Elaine Lochabay, Area Chief, Garland, is shown receiving her 3000-point rifle, a Thompson/Center, .50 cal. Pennsylvania Carbine from Heidi Rao during the annual conference. Congratulations Elaine!

Elaine Lochabay, Area Chief, Garland, is also shown receiving her 3500-point shotgun from Heidi Rao during the conference. Elaine is the second instructor to earn more than one gun in one year. (Mike, she is catching up with you.)



Ron Dowda, Area Chief, San Antonio, is shown with Kathy Powell, hunter education records technician receiving his handgun gift certificate. Thanks to Winchester Ammunition and McBride's Guns for their contributions.

Winchester Volunteer Instructor of the Year

George McNeill was selected as "runner up" for Winchester's Volunteer Instructor of the Year for 1998. The plaque was accepted by coordinator, Terry Erwin, during the 1999 International Hunter Education Annual Conference in Buffalo, NY. George is shown with Parker County Game Warden Randy Hayes at the presentation of the plaque. Sorry for the late photo, George!

George schedules courses a year in advance and has taught over 2,124 students in 169 courses since being certified in 1987. He has attended 18 in-service workshops earning the NRA/IHEA "Academy" certification and has also instructed in two survival workshops in Amarillo. He was awarded the 1995 Game COIN gold watch for his outstanding volunteer efforts. George reached the highest plateau in 1999 by earning the Texas Hunter Education "Hall of Fame Award." Only ten other individuals have earned this award since 1972. George will be presented an additional plaque for this honor and his name will be added to the Hall of Fame plaque hanging in the TPW headquarters entrance. Congratulations, George! We are very proud of you and all your efforts in the Weatherford and surrounding area.



State Officials Urge Turkey Hunters to be Wary of Ticks

AUSTIN, Texas – Unwary turkey hunters could carry more than a trophy gobbler out of the woods this spring. State officials are urging anyone spending time afield in the months ahead to take precautions against disease-carrying ticks.

“Millions of outdoor enthusiasts head afield in Texas each year,” said Bryan Richards, a wildlife biologist with TPW who contracted Lyme disease in Wisconsin several years ago. “While the exact number of tick-borne illnesses in humans is unknown, it is probably less than one thousand per year. It’s not a reason to stay home, but it is a reason to become informed and take reasonable precautions, which is what we’re advocating here. With common sense and diligence, you can have a safe time outdoors in Texas.”

A bite from an infected tick can cause illnesses such as Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever and human ehrlichiosis. Ticks are especially prevalent in wooded, brushy and grassy areas. According to the Texas Department of Health (TDH), Lyme disease is the most frequently diagnosed tick-borne disease in the nation and in Texas, with more than 1,680 possible cases reported in this state since 1990. Lyme disease is a bacterial infection that can cause severe skin, joint, heart and nervous system problems if it is not diagnosed and treated early. Named after the town of Lyme, Conn., where it was first described in 1976, the disease usually begins with flu-like symptoms such as fatigue, headache, fever, stiff neck and joint pain. Occasionally there may be skin lesions or rashes, usually in the shape of a bulls-eye spreading outward from the site of the tick bite.

The chances of being bitten by a tick can be decreased with a few precautions.

- Minimize contact in tick-infested areas.
- Wear light-colored clothing so that ticks can be spotted more easily.
- Tuck pant legs into socks or boots and shirt into pants.
- Tape the area where pants and socks meet so that ticks cannot crawl under clothing.
- Spray insect repellent containing DEET (diethyl toluamide) on clothes, or treat clothes (especially pants, socks, and shoes) with permethrin, which kills ticks on contact.
- Wear a hat and a long-sleeved shirt for added protection.
- Walk in the center of trails to avoid overhanging grass and brush.
- After being outdoors, remove clothing and wash and dry it at a high temperature.
- Inspect body carefully and remove attached ticks with tweezers, grasping the tick as close to the skin surface as possible and pulling straight back with a slow steady force; avoid crushing the tick’s body. In some areas, ticks (saved in a sealed container) can be submitted to the local health department for identification.

Live ticks may be submitted for identification and testing to the TDH Laboratory. Call the TDH Laboratory at (512) 458-7615 for information on proper ways to submit live ticks.

As mentioned in the last issue of “Target Talk,” a vaccine to protect against Lyme disease, LYMERix, is available for people ages 15 to 70, according to TDH, which recommends contacting your health care provider for more information about the vaccine. Additional information about Lyme disease is available on the Lyme Disease Foundation hotline (800) 886-LYME and on the World Wide Web at www.lyme.org

Out-of-State Notices

Kansas Requirements

Rick Dykstra, Marketing Director, for the Geary County Convention and Visitors Bureau and an avid hunter supplied this information.

Since we get LOTS of bird hunters from Texas who visit us every year, I want to pass along some information that would be helpful to Texas hunters. The Geary County area is also the home of Ft. Riley, a large military reservation with over 60,000 acres of huntable land. Lots of out-of-state hunters find Ft. Riley upon arriving in our area and then they discover some great hunting. Starting with the 2000/2001 hunting season on Ft. Riley, ALL hunters will be required to have a hunter safety card. This is only for the military base and not Kansas. Age is no longer a requirement on the base, every hunter must have a card. If you can possibly get the word out to your bird hunters it would help. I would hate to see any Texas hunters arrive in our area and not be able to hunt. I can be reached at 1-800-528-2489 or E-mail at: jccvb@flinthills.com

Thanks for your help.

Colorado Requirements

Hunter Education Coordinator, Patt Dorsey, sent the following information.

Colorado does not have a place for the hunter education number on their applications for draw hunts, just a box to check – YES, I have hunter education. If hunters check yes and they do NOT have a hunter education card, they are making a false statement and committing a misdemeanor. Making a false statement in the purchase of a license is a violation of Colorado law. Patt’s recommendation is that hunters wanting to apply for Colorado limited licenses for any big game seasons – take a hunter education class early and get their applications in before the April deadline. More information and our big game applications can be found in the hunting pages on Colorado Division of Wildlife’s Web site – www.dnr.state.co.us/wildlife.

This is a very important reason to hold courses in the early part of each year, especially in early spring.



Bass Pro Shop Supports Hunter Education Program

The recently opened Bass Pro Shop at Katy Mills Mall in Katy supplied practically all of the items needed for the new Hunter Skills trail being constructed at the Pearland Sportsman Club shooting range. The new state-of-the-art skills trail will be located in a heavily wooded, very realistic setting at the PSC 60-acre facility near Pearland. Pictured with one of the donated white tailed, 3-D decoys are Bass Pro Shop General Manager, Allen Rhodes (right) and Ron Willenborg, one of several hunter education instructors who will be conducting classes at the PSC facility.

Thanks, Allen and BPS for all the assistance in helping educate our future outdoors individuals.

Free Tree Stand Video Available

Disability, Death or Safe Tree Stand Hunting...It's your choice! The National Bowhunter Education Foundation and the Tree Stand Manufacturer's Association have assembled a comprehensive tree stand safety message. One in three tree stand hunters will fall. Many falls result in serious injury or death. Following these guidelines can save you from serious injury or death.

- Always use a fall restraint system/safety belt.
- Always use TMA tested and approved tree stands.
- Always think safety first.
- Share the free tape with friends who hunt from tree stands.
- Watch the tape before you tree stand hunt.

Thanks to the efforts of NBEF and Paul Meeks, President of API Outdoors, Inc., a FREE tree stand video is available for merely asking. If you would like a copy of this video, please write **API Outdoors, Inc., 602 Kimbrough Dr., Tallulah, LA 71282, ATT: Paul Meeks**. Please indicate that you are a hunter education instructor and that you are requesting a copy of the Tree Stand Safety Video for use in your hunter education classes.

YHEC 2000 Returns to Pennsylvania *From NRA Newsletter*

International Hunting Challenge Tests Youth Shooting, Outdoor Skills...

Young hunter education course graduates from all across the country will convene in the lush countryside of Mansfield, Pa., July 24-28 for the National Rifle Association's 15th Annual International Youth Hunter Education Challenge (YHEC). Overall winners in the Senior and Junior Divisions from the Texas YHEC held in May will be attending. Thanks to the Texas Hunter Education Instructors' Association (THEIA), entry fees will be paid for the top two places in each group. Results from the Texas YHEC will be published in a future issue of "Target Talk."

HEY GANG!

Kathy's Korner

All incentive awards should have been mailed out by the time you receive this newsletter. If you think you were due an award and did not receive it, please give me a call. We all make mistakes and we don't want to miss anyone. Some bolo ties were not available at the time of mailing, but will be sent upon our receipt of them. Please be patient and they will arrive shortly.

NOTE: If more than one instructor teaches a large class, please place the registration forms in two envelopes and tape them together. Place the money in the top envelope. When you divide the class, please attach respective students with corresponding final report. That way, we keep team-taught courses together.

Another friendly reminder: Instructors are still writing on the student registration and final report forms in other than the blanks

or bubbled area. Some are marking the forms **Paid** when the student has paid their fee. **PLEASE DO NOT** write in any other space except where indicated. It creates a great deal of extra work to correct these forms, and it holds up processing the student cards. If you must mark the student paid as a reminder to yourselves, please do it on the **Temporary Card** portion that will be torn off and given to the student. That way, when the forms go through the scanner, they won't be rejected for correction.

Thanks so much for your help. Keep up the good work! Also, please notify us of any change of address so we may keep you active and on the mailing list.

KATHY



THE BOWHUNTER

International Bowhunter Education Program
of Texas

NBEF MISSION STATEMENT

The NBEF is dedicated to helping ensure the future of bowhunting through education. This is accomplished through the development and administration of a universally accepted, volunteer delivered International Bowhunter Education Program, and related education activities.

“CONGRATULATIONS and THANK YOU”

Our Instructor In-Service that was held in February at Brushy Hill Game Ranch near Sabinal was a huge success. Everyone that attended will attest that the prizes and raffles were better than the year before. Congratulations are extended to all of the winners.

We want to thank the following manufacturers for their support:

BODOODLE, GAMETAMER, CUSTOM ARCHERY EQUIPMENT, MORRELL MFG., NEVERWEAR ARCHERY, SONORAN BOWHUNTING EQUIPMENT, GOLD TIP, NBEF, AMERICAN ARROW and EASTON / BEMAN.

REVISED STUDENT MANUAL & INSTRUCTOR NOTEBOOK DELAYED

The International Hunter Education Association is working with the NBEF to determine minimum bowhunter education standards. This project is expected to be completed by the end of May 2000.

In prior announcements, the NBEF stated it would have an updated Student Manual and Instructor Notebook available by February 1, 2000. This time delay may actually allow all of us to be better prepared to switch to new materials for the teaching year 2001.

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS NOT RECEIVING TARGET TALK?

If you know of an IBEP Instructor who is not getting their own personal issue of the Target Talk, please inform Dwight Purvis. Dwight can be reached either at (817) 295-3805 or by e-mail at <toxophilus@juno.com>

Aim to be “Bulls-Eye Perfect”

1999
TEXAS HUNTING ACCIDENTS
ANALYSIS



Federal Aid Project
W-104-S



For more information about hunting accidents
or the hunter education program in Texas, call (512) 389-8142

TEXAS HUNTING ACCIDENT PROFILE

- Violated a cardinal rule of hunter safety
- Anglo male
- Hunted deer with rifle or dove with shotgun
- Was typically **not** under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- Did not attend a hunter education (safety) course or program
- Did not wear any type of hunter orange clothing
- Was situated in or around vehicle or stand
- Sustained a non-fatal injury
- 26 years old (average)
- Had over 10 years of hunting experience
- If not self-inflicted– swung shotgun on game outside of safe zone of fire
- If self-inflicted– handled firearm carelessly and/or carried loaded firearm in or around vehicle
- Distance of muzzle to wound was within 50 yards, mostly within 10 yards
- Victim was in light to open cover with clear visibility
- Accident occurred on weekend during September or November



1999 Significant Factors

- Many violations for not taking hunter education course or not being accompanied by an adult
- Careless handling, especially in and around vehicles, is the number one problem in Texas
- The wearing of blaze orange would reduce many accidents in Texas
- Shotgun accidents most numerous
- Squirrel hunting accidents up
- Continued high number of deer and dove hunting accidents
- Youngsters are not being accompanied by licensed adult hunters during time of accident which is required of those who did not take a hunter education course

**HUNTING ACCIDENT DATA (1966-1999)
COMPARISON ANALYSIS
ACCIDENT VERSUS LICENSES SOLD IN TEXAS**

CALENDAR YEAR	NUMBER OF HUNTER ACCIDENTS	NUMBER OF FIREARM HUNTING LICENSES SOLD	ACCIDENTS PER 100,000 LICENSES SOLD	STUDENTS CERTIFIED UNDER TPW HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM
1966	81	644,653	12.6	-
1967	93	797,846	11.7	-
1968	105	854,693	12.3	-
1969	92	895,593	10.3	-
1970	72	935,793	7.7	-
1971	92	978,285	9.4	-
1972	85	966,332	8.8	2,119
1973	80	1,011,963	7.9	4,314
1974	68	1,037,925	6.6	6,094
1975	77	1,051,834	7.3	8,531
1976	63	1,050,349	6.0	10,043
1977	81	1,080,530	7.5	11,298
1978	83	1,091,794	7.6	10,890
1979	53	1,093,716	4.8	10,775
1980	69	1,160,375	5.9	12,166
1981	72	1,174,023	6.1	13,187
1982	97	1,216,032	8.0	13,323
1983	80	1,325,474	6.0	14,131
1984	60	1,140,174	5.3	13,052
1985	72	1,100,991	6.5	11,284
1986	68	1,162,785	5.8	11,195
1987	81	1,189,566	6.8	8,611
1988	70	1,189,000	5.9	18,043
1989	78	1,193,000	6.5	36,708
1990	53	1,132,917	4.7	24,590
1991	81	1,103,903	7.3	28,682
1992	62	1,053,063	5.9	25,453
1993	58	1,077,055	5.4	26,942
1994	51	1,083,227	4.7	34,972
1995	40	1,060,000	3.8	31,215
1996	31*	990,000	3.1	24,998
1997	51	960,000	5.3	30,625
1998	40	1,011,500	3.9	31,052
1999	44	1,010,455	4.3	37,775
TOTALS	2,383	35,824,846	6.6	512,068

* Note: Lowest number of accidents ever recorded in Texas

Five-year average of hunter education program (CY 1966 - CY 1970) - One hunting accident/9,320 hunting licenses sold.

First five-year average of hunter education program (CY 1971 - CY 1975) - One hunting accident/12,550 hunting licenses sold.

Second five-year average of hunter education program (CY 1976 - CY 1980) - One hunting accident/15,690 hunting licenses sold.

Third five-year average of hunter education program (CY 1981 - CY 1985) - One hunting accident/15,630 hunting licenses sold.

Fourth five-year average of hunter education program (CY 1986 - CY 1990) - One hunting accident/16,700 hunting licenses sold.

Fifth five-year average of hunter education program (CY 1991 - CY 1995) - One hunting accident/18,420 hunting licenses sold.

Thirty-four year average (CY 1966 - CY 1999) - One hunting accident/15,033 hunting licenses sold.

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ACCIDENT VERSUS LICENSES SOLD IN TEXAS**

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1970	72	935,793	7.7	-
1971	92	978,285	9.4	-
1972	85	966,332	8.8	2,119
1973	80	1,011,963	7.9	4,314
1974	68	1,037,925	6.6	6,094
1975	77	1,051,834	7.3	8,531
1976	63	1,050,349	6.0	10,043
1977	81	1,080,530	7.5	11,298
1978	83	1,091,794	7.6	10,890
1979	53	1,093,716	4.8	10,775
1980	69	1,160,375	5.9	12,166
1981	72	1,174,023	6.1	13,187
1982	97	1,216,032	8.0	13,323
1983	80	1,325,474	6.0	14,131
1984	60	1,140,174	5.3	13,052
1985	72	1,100,991	6.5	11,284
1986	68	1,162,785	5.8	11,195
1987	81	1,189,566	6.8	8,611
1988	70	1,189,000	5.9	18,043
1989	78	1,193,000	6.5	36,708
1990	53	1,132,917	4.7	24,590
1991	81	1,103,903	7.3	28,682
1992	62	1,053,063	5.9	25,453
1993	58	1,077,055	5.4	26,942
1994	51	1,083,227	4.7	34,972
1995	40	1,060,000	3.8	31,215
1996	31*	990,000	3.1	24,998
1997	51	960,000	5.3	30,625
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Thirty-four year average (CY 1966 - CY 1999) - One hunting accident/15,033 hunting licenses sold.

Hunting Accident Report Non-Firearm Related

*Accidents/incidents while hunting, not involving the discharge of a firearm or bow, which causes injury or death of any person(s).

Type	Total	Fatal?	Comments
Heart Attacks/-strokes	1	No	Hunter lost consciousness and, after gaining consciousness several days later, he could not remember the hunt; He was a hunter education instructor.
Tree Stand Falls	1	No	Use of safety harnesses/belts would have prevented fall.

Shooting Accidents Non-Hunting Related

*Other reported accidents/incidents resulting from the discharge of a firearm/bow, which causes the injury or death of any person(s), other than while hunting.

Type	Total	Fatal?	Comments
Loading/unloading	3	No	<p>A. Victim could not fit cartridge into cylinder, so he banged on it with a magazine from another gun. The round discharged sending .22 cal. bullet through left hand.</p> <p>B. Victim checked and thought handgun was unloaded. He pointed it at his foot and fired.</p> <p>C. Victim jerked handgun to seat cartridge into chamber/cylinder and it discharged, sending the .45 cal. bullet into his foot.</p>
Target practice/ plinking	1	No	Victim carelessly handled rifle while target practicing. The bullet skinned the outside of his left calf
Dropped firearm	2	No	<p>A. Victim was moving a stand during a workday at his lease. His loaded .22 cal. handgun fell from his coverall's pocket and discharged when it hit the ground. Bullet struck him in his upper right arm.</p> <p>B. While fishing, victim moved bag containing a loaded .22 cal. and carelessly dropped/banged it against a hard surface causing it to discharge. Bullet struck victim in upper thigh region of his leg.</p>
Suicide	1	Yes	Victim shot himself in the forehead while supposedly squirrel hunting.

FATAL ACCIDENTS

Date	County	Shooter's Age/Gender	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Self-Inflicted	Hunter Ed. Graduate? (Shooter)
1-24	Hunt	4/M	Shotgun	Deer	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	13 yr. old victim left loaded shotgun in vehicle with 4 yr. old who played with the trigger. Victim was standing outside the car. The blast struck him in the back.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Do not leave children unsupervised; always unload before transporting firearms; complete hunter education.					
2-20	Terrell	45/M	Handgun	Javelina	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Javelina was running toward shooter who panicked and shot at it outside of a safe zone of fire. Victim moved into line of fire during commotion.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in safe direction; stick to safe zone of fire; never move in front of another hunter.					
5-29	Hunt	37/M	Shotgun	Coyote	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter called his wife and stated, "I see a coyote! Gotta go! Bye!" Investigator found him dead at the scene apparently from careless handling of the shotgun as he exited the pickup. Blast struck him in the right side.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Never carry loaded firearms in a vehicle or while jumping or running.					
10-8	Rusk	15/M	Shotgun	Squirrel	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim used loaded shotgun to club a snake. Blast struck him in the femoral artery.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Do not kill an animal you do not intend to eat; never use a firearm to strike an animal or object; always point muzzle in a safe direction					
10-17	Marion	14/M	Shotgun	Squirrel	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Two 13 year olds were walking back from hunting squirrels in a single file. Shooter in back carelessly discharged shotgun. The blast struck victim in the back.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; Do not leave children unsupervised; Complete hunter education; Use proper gun carries.					
11-13	Chambers	13/M	Shotgun	Waterfowl	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter shot at waterfowl just as victim stood up in front of the muzzle. Both were sitting in high grass on buckets.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; Communicate and stick to a safe zone of fire.					

NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS

Date	County	Shooter's Age/Gender	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Self-Inflicted	Hunter Ed. Graduate? (Shooter)
1-9	Colorado	52/M	Shotgun	Quail	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim covered by shooter swinging on game.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; Communicate and stick to safe zone-of-fire; Wear blaze orange to be seen.					
1-9	Brewster	19/M	Handgun	Rabbits	Yes	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim carelessly handled loaded handgun and, while holstering it, shot himself in the knee.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; learn to handle handguns in a safe, knowledgeable manner.					

2-24	Kleberg	75/M	Shotgun	Quail	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter running with loaded firearm then stumbled and fell. The blast struck the victim in the upper torso and head.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Alwayspoint muzzle in a safe direction; Use proper carry techniques; Keep finger out of trigger guard; Keep control of muzzle while falling.					
4-16	Eastland	41/M	Shotgun	Turkey	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter mistook victim for a turkey moving in the brush.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Communicate and stick to safe zone-of-fire; Know where companions are at all times; Be sure of your target.					
5-1	Kimble	50/M	Rifle	Turkey	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was letting hammer down on loaded firearm and his thumb slipped. He shot himself in the toe.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Alwayspoint muzzle in a safe direction; Stop to unload; Be familiar with the action of your firearm.					
6-18	Callahan	15/M	Shotgun	Snakes/Turtles	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim rested loaded, cocked (hammer) shotgun on his foot and carelessly discharged it as he repositioned himself.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Alwayspoint muzzle in a safe direction; Never cock hammer of gun until absolutely ready to shoot.					
7-5	Washington	19/M	Rifle	Squirrel	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim stumbled, fell and dropped loaded firearm. The rifle was modified and did not have a trigger guard.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Alwayspoint firearm in a safe direction; Keep control of firearm/muzzle when falling; Get faulty equipment fixed.					
9-2	Parker	32/M	Shotgun	Dove	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim carelessly handled shotgun and discharged it while muzzle was resting on small toe of his right foot.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Alwayspoint muzzle in safe direction; Unload firearm when not prepared to shoot at game.					
9-2	Fisher	66/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	In thick cover, victim moved into the line of fire of shooter firing at low-flying dove.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Communicate with others and always stick to your safe zone of fire; Wear blaze orange to be seen.					
9-4	Crane	19/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim moved into shooter's zone of fire while retrieving a downed bird without letting shooter know his location.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Communicate with others and always stick to your safe zone of fire; Wear blaze orange to be seen.					
9-6	Harris	37/M	Shotgun	Dove	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was resting hand on muzzle of shotgun. Dog jumped and the shooter carelessly discharged shotgun in the commotion.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Alwayspoint muzzle in a safe direction; Control animals around firearms; Make sure the gun's safety is on when not actually shooting; Unload firearm when not prepared to shoot at game.					
9-6	Washington	15/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter swung on low-flying dove outside safe zone of fire.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Communicate with others and always stick to your safe zone of fire; Wear blaze orange to be seen.					
9-10	Nolan	12/M	Shotgun	Dove	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim climbing into bed of pickup with a loaded firearm. He dropped firearm which struck the tailgate. Blast struck victim in hand and upper torso.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Never carry loaded firearm into vehicle or stand; Always control muzzle					
9-11	San Saba	20/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter swung on low-flying dove outside safe zone of fire.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Communicate with others and always stick to your safe zone of fire; Wear blaze orange to be seen.					

9-11	Concho	35/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim moved into shooter's zone of fire while retrieving a downed bird without letting shooter know his location.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Communicate with others and always stick to your safe zone of fire; Wear blaze orange to be seen.					
9-25	Medina	12/M	Shotgun	Dove	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim set muzzle of shotgun on toe and pulled the trigger carelessly "thinking gun was on safe..."					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Alwayspoint muzzle in safe direction; Unload firearm when not prepared to shoot at game.					
10-8	Coleman	22/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter swung on low-flying dove outside safe zone of fire.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Communicate with others and always stick to your safe zone of fire; Wear blaze orange to be seen.					
10-23	Dimmit	43/M	Shotgun	Quail	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter swung on low-flying quail outside safe zone of fire. Pellets struck 13-yearold victim who had moved ahead of the group.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Communicate with others and always stick to your safe zone of fire; Wear blaze orange to be seen.					
11-6	Henderson	12/M	Rifle	Deer	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim had just shot a deer and was unloading lever action rifle when he carelessly discharged a round into his foot.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Alwayspoint a firearm in a safe direction; Be familiar with the action of your firearm.					
11-6	Hays	44/M	Shotgun	Deer	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter mistook his brother for game in low visibility.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Be absolutely sure of your target before raising your firearm; Communicate the hunting plan and stick to it; Wear blaze orange to be seen.					
11-7	Shelby	14/M	Rifle	Deer	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly handled and discharged firearm while exiting treestand.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Alwayspoint firearm in a safe direction; Unload firearm while entering/exiting a stand; Be familiar with your firearm.					
11-12	Live Oak	19/M	Rifle	Deer	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter picked up loaded firearm setting on a picnic table , then carelessly discharged it towards victim standing nearby.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Alwayspoint firearm in a safe direction; Treat all firearms as if they are loaded; Alwaysunload firearm before setting it down and/or storing it in a case; Communicate with others before handling a firearms					
11-13	Rusk	45/M	Rifle	Deer	Yes	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly discharged his rifle when putting the sling over his shoulder.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Alwayspoint firearm in a safe direction; Unload firearm when not hunting					
11-14	Rusk	12/M	Rifle	Squirrel	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim set muzzle of rifle on toe and pulled the trigger carelessly "thinking gun was on safe..."					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Alwayspoint muzzle in safe direction; Unload firearm when not prepared to shoot at game.					
11-18	Nacogdoches	28/M	Rifle	Rabbits	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter mistook victim's movement for a rabbit and fired, striking victim in upper chest.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Be absolutely sure of your target before raising the firearm; Use binoculars.					
11-24	Jack	46/M	Rifle	Deer	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter was repositioning a loaded rifle stored in a gun case behind the seat in the cab of a pickup. He carelessly discharged it sending the bullet into victim's upper thigh.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Alwayspoint muzzle in a safe direction; Always treat every firearm as if it is loaded; Never carry a loaded forearm in a vehicle and/or gun case.					

11-26	Concho	50/M	Handgun	Skunk	Yes	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim carelessly handled loaded handgun and, while taking it from its holster, shot himself in his leg.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; learn to handle handguns in a safe, knowledgeable manner; Carry unloaded (chamber) handgun in holster.					
11-27	McLennan	13/M	Rifle	Turkey	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter mistook victim for game.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Be absolutely sure of your target before raising the firearm; Use binoculars.					
11-28	Webb	42/M	Handgun	Deer	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim carelessly carried loaded handgun and, while going through thick brush, shot himself in his leg. Foot was eventually amputated.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; learn to handle handguns in a safe, knowledgeable manner; Carry unloaded (chamber) handgun in holster.					
12-4	Nolan	55/F	Rifle	Deer	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly discharged her firearm while preparing to exit her hunting blind. Her finger was resting over the muzzle when the mishap occurred.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; Always unload before entering or exiting a stand/blind					
12-6	Burnet	49/M	Rifle	Deer	Yes	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter was attempting to clear a jammed firearm while sitting in the cab of a pickup. He carelessly discharged the rifle while the muzzle was resting on his foot.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; Always treat every firearm as if it is loaded; Never carry a loaded forearm in a vehicle and/or gun case; Be familiar with the inner workings of your firearm.					
12-11	Swisher	41/M	Shotgun	Pheasant	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter swung on low-flying pheasant outside safe zone of fire. Pellets struck 15-year-old victim who had moved ahead in the group hunting side by side.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Communicate with others and always stick to your safe zone of fire; Wear blaze orange to be seen.					
12-12	Parmer	13/M	Shotgun	Pheasant	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter swung on low-flying pheasant outside safe zone of fire. Pellets struck victim in head and face.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Communicate with others and always stick to your safe zone of fire; Wear blaze orange to be seen.					
12-17	Crockett	37/M	Rifle	Turkey	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter and victim were hunting from a vehicle. Shooter spotted a turkey, and in the process of retrieving his gun from the case, carelessly discharged it into the victim's foot.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; Never hunt from or carry a loaded firearm in a vehicle.					
12-19	Marion	13/M	Shotgun	Squirrel	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly handled and discharged firearm into his foot while hunting squirrels.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in safe direction; Attend hunter education as prescribed by law; Learn to control muzzle through proper carrying techniques.					
12-20	Angelina	15/M	Shotgun	Squirrel	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter shot at squirrel in front of dense cover behind which the victim sat.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Communicate ("Plan the hunt – hunt the plan") and stay within your safe zone of fire; Always be aware of where your companions are; Wear blaze orange to be seen.					
12-23	Erath	52/M	Rifle	Deer	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly handled and discharged firearm while resting it on his foot.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in safe direction; Never use your foot as a muzzle resting place.					
12-29	Cherokee	13/M	Rifle	Sparrows	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter dropped his firearm. The blast struck the 10-year-old victim in the leg.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in safe direction; Use proper carry methods; Complete hunter education as prescribed by law.					

Ten Commandments of Shooting Safety

- 1** *Always point the muzzle in a safe direction.*
Do not point a firearm or bow at anything you do not intend to shoot. Control the direction of the muzzle at all times. Never rest a muzzle on your toe or foot. Keep your finger out of the trigger guard until the instant you are ready to fire. Always keep the safety on until ready to fire; however, the safety should never be a substitute for safe firearm handling.
- 2** *Treat every firearm or bow with the same respect you would show a loaded gun or nocked arrow.*
Every time you pick up a firearm, the first thing you do is control the muzzle and check to see if it is loaded. Be sure the chamber and magazine are empty and that the action is open until ready to be fired. If you do not understand how to determine if it is loaded, do not accept the firearm until someone has safely shown you that it is unloaded. Read your instruction manual carefully before you handle new firearms or bows.
- 3** *Be sure of your target and what is in front of and beyond your target.*
Before you pull the trigger you must properly identify game animals. Until your target is fully visible and in good light, do not even raise your scope to see it. Use binoculars! Know what is in front of and behind your target. Determine that you have a safe backstop or background. Since you do not know what is on the other side, never take a shot at any animals on top of ridges or hillsides. Know how far bullets, arrows and pellets can travel. Never shoot at flat, hard surfaces, such as water, rocks or steel because of ricochets.
- 4** *Unload firearms and unstring conventional bows when not in use.*
Leave actions open, and store sporting arms in cases when traveling to and from shooting areas. Take bolts out or break down shotguns if necessary. Know how your equipment operates. Store and transport firearms and ammunition separately and under lock and key. Store firearms and bows in cool, dry places. Use gun or trigger locks and guards when not in use.
- 5** *Handle firearms, arrows and ammunition carefully.*
Avoid horseplay with firearms. Never climb a fence, a tree or a ladder with a loaded firearm or bow and arrows. Never jump a ditch or cross difficult terrain with a loaded firearm or nocked arrow. Never face or look down the barrel from the muzzle end. Be sure the only ammunition you carry correctly matches the gauge or caliber you are shooting. Always carry arrows in a protected cover or quiver. Learn the proper carries. Try to use the two-hand carry whenever possible because it affords you the best muzzle control. Always carry handguns with hammers over an empty chamber or cylinder. If you fall, be sure to disassemble the gun and check the barrel from the breech end for obstructions. Carry a field cleaning kit.
- 6** *Know your safe zone-of-fire and stick to it.*
Your safe zone-of-fire is that area or direction in which you can safely fire a shot. It is “down range” at a shooting facility. In the field it is that mental image you draw in your mind with every step you take. Be sure you know where your companions are at all times. Never swing your gun or bow out of your safe zone-of-fire. Know the safe carries when there are persons to your sides, in front of, or behind you. If in doubt, never take a shot. When hunting, wear **daylight fluorescent orange** so you can be seen from a distance or in heavy cover.
- 7** *Control your emotions when it comes to safety.*
If you lose control of your emotions you may do something carelessly. If you have just shot a target or animal you probably will be excited. At that moment you may turn with a loaded firearm back towards your friends or you might run with a loaded firearm towards a downed animal with the gun safety off. You or someone else may be in danger once you lose control of your emotions. Show discipline. Rehearse in your mind what the safe actions will be. Do not allow your daydreams to replace good judgment. Show restraint and pass up shots which have the slightest chance of being unsafe.
- 8** *Wear hearing and eye protection.*
While shooting at the range, you must wear hearing and eye protection at all times. Firearms are loud and can create noises which are damaging to a person’s hearing. It can be a gradual loss of hearing due to outbursts of noise over many years. The damage could also be immediate, especially if your ears are next to a muzzle blast. Vibrations from the blast are enough to create loss of hearing. Wear glasses to protect your eyes from escaping gases, burnt powder (especially in blackpowder shooting), and other debris.
- 9** *Don’t drink alcohol or take drugs before or while handling firearms or bow and arrows.*
Alcohol and drugs impair normal physical and mental body functions and must not be used before or while handling firearms or archery equipment. These substances affect emotions, making it easier to lose control.
- 10** *Be aware of additional circumstances which require added caution or safety awareness.*
Just because something isn’t listed under these “ten commandments of shooting safety” doesn’t mean you can ignore it if it is dangerous. There may be rules such as in muzzleloading or archery or posted at a shooting range which should also be followed. Also, practice reloading safety by following and reading all specific instructions. Practice all commandments of shooting safety. Ensure a safe future for you, others and the shooting sports!

