



**TEXAS
PARKS &
WILDLIFE**

TPWD Mission: To manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas and to provide hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.



Editor's CORNER

Texas is well into the major hunting season; however, it never ceases to amaze me that someone could be so irresponsible or have such low values and do this. We received this photo and information the first part of November before hunting season opened on the fifth.

Trey Carpenter, Granger WMA manager, provided this photo. He scored the buck for restitution purposes in the event that law



enforcement officials catch up with who did it. The buck was shot with a small caliber rifle in the neck, but Trey feels the culprit or culprits might have been interrupted because they left the deer lying out in the open. This took place near the south end of the dam on Granger Lake just off F.M. 1331.

Trey asked that we circulate the photograph to see if someone will come forward with information to help solve this case. There is the possibility of a reward if it leads to an arrest and conviction. Authorities will want solid evidence – not just, “old so-and-so must have done it ‘cause he is always doing that sort of thing.”

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Expo Wows Crowd of 28,000



A near perfect 14th Annual Texas Parks & Wildlife Expo unfolded on Oct. 1-2 at TPWD headquarters. Heat and humidity did not stop an estimated 28,234 people from sampling the great outdoors at our flagship outreach event. Hot and tired as they were trudging out in the late afternoons, most visitors in afternoon exit surveys still gave upbeat comments like “great,” “awesome” and “wish it wasn’t just one weekend a year.” Major sponsors and hundreds of vendors were likewise pleased—one first time exhibitor said he’d never been treated so well.

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Editor's CORNER, continued

Anyone with information should contact Operation Game Thief (OGT) at: (800) 792-GAME (4263).

The deer scored 171 4/8 gross and 163 4/8 net as a non-typical. He has a 1 4/8 inch kicker near the base of his right G-2 and a 7-inch unmatched abnormal point between his left G-3 and G-4. Trey said, "Heck of a waste - I sure wish one of our public hunters could have gotten him."

We would certainly like to think that none of the students who had been through our hunter education course would have ever done something like this. Let's recall what our instructors have been teaching students.

"The 'Written Law' is what you can and can't do, and the 'Unwritten Law' is what you should and shouldn't do," according to T.D. Carroll (deceased), former hunter education coordinator. After his retirement, T.D. always returned to help teach the Hunter Responsibility, Game Laws and Ethics workshops. He just had a way with this particular workshop that made everyone return for the training, even if they had taken it before. The stories he shared with us were particularly memorable, especially the ones about him and his son and the "Sandbar Dove Hunt," or his deer hunt with "Old Crip." For the instructors who were there, you will remember.

As we continue to teach hunter education courses, whether structured or home study, remember ethics and responsibility are still some of the most important segments. Continually promoting what is legal, moral and right will help ensure the future of hunting for future generations.

On another issue brought up recently ... we are still carrying the liability policy for volunteers who teach hunter education or volunteer for TPWD events. (Note from Logan Brown in the Procurement Office: The policy is in effect and valid from 7/1/05 through 6/30/06.) All instructors must realize that this

policy is only a supplemental policy, and that the individual instructor's home owner's policy is the primary policy that will be needed should anything unfortunate happen as a result of a hunter education event or course. The policy that TPWD carries takes over when the limit of the home owner's policy has met its maximum amount.

We announced in the *Target Talk* newsletter that we were no longer going to carry the policy and advised all instructors to join the IHEA for \$25 per year, which has the same policy and coverage included in that price. If you wish to do this, please visit www.ihea.com for more information. You might consider this option if we decide to cancel the policy in the future.

Note: We are entering a new era of "Provider Training" technology for those entities such as retailers, shooting ranges and individuals who wish to become involved with testing locations to make hunter education certification more convenient and accessible. If interested in assisting with or participating in the process, please contact our office. The process will involve using the LaserShot Shooting Simulator and will allow testing to be accomplished indoors. We are currently in the development stages but expect to implement the process by Sept. 1, 2006.

As the year draws near an end and holidays are just around the corner, we hope you all have had a successful and prosperous year. We sincerely appreciate all you do to support TPWD and hunter education. Please look for the upcoming workshop schedule in this issue and see the exciting lineup of events scheduled for 2006. Read over the schedule, mark the ones you are interested in, and mail in the marked schedule so we can send information on the events as they draw near.

Have a very happy New Year, and remember ... "Always be safe and courteous."

Terry Erwin

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"To manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas and to provide hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations."

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Expo Wows Crowd, continued

Close to 1,100 TPWD employees and about as many volunteers rose to minor challenges and showed flexibility in moving to correct problems and fill vacant spots in activities affected by Hurricane Rita. “This may have been the smoothest running event in our history,” said event director Ernie Gammage. “It is amazing to see the teamwork this agency exemplifies.” Although numbers are still being tallied, the Friday night banquet appears to have raised a record sum in fundraising for this year’s cause, the San Jacinto Battleground. Thanks to leadership from Commissioner Parker, several new auction items raised record amounts—for example, a hunt with Governor Perry sold for \$45,000.

Visitor survey data is likewise yet to be analyzed, but anecdotal observations indicate Hispanic participation at the Expo may have been up from previous years, with a significant number of Hispanic visitors in exit surveys. This may result from a steady effort in recent years to reach this strategically important audience through media partnerships, advertising and other means. A significant number of exiting visitors said this was their first Expo, so we clearly reached some new constituents, although there were many repeat visitors as always.

Several factors were cited for the lower total crowd count, which is down from record highs above 40,000 in previous

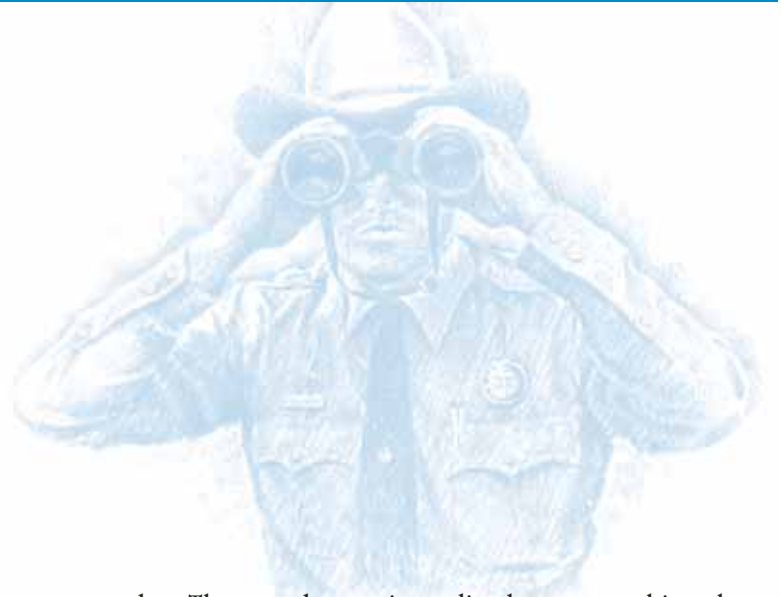
years, including higher gasoline prices inhibiting driving and the still-rippling effects of Hurricane Rita. However, to many Expo organizers, the numbers felt just right—record crowds in the past also meant record waits in lines at popular activities. “We had a fine crowd and this year’s event was a huge success in my book,” said Robert L. Cook, TPWD executive director. “I know that it was hot, tiring work for many of us this weekend, but every single employee and volunteer should walk away proud that they did an important job exceedingly well.”

The Shooting Sports events participants were down a little at **10,965**, but we still had a fantastic group of volunteers who staffed the events. The numbers for the weekend are as follows: Muzzleloading, sponsored by Dallas Arms Collectors Association, Inc. - 1,439; 4-H Airgun, sponsored by Crosman Airguns and manned by the Williamson Co. 4-H group, 2,172; Crosman Airgun Challenge - 504; Briley Sporting Clays - 637; TPWD Sporting Clays - 649; Youth Shotgun - 713; Horton Crossbow - 792; Bow Fishing - 750; Lone Star Bowhunter Association Archery - 2,116; Bowhunter Challenge - 223; LaserShot Virtual Shooting - 970 (total in two tents).

Please accept a special thanks to all those who assisted with the shooting events.



TEXAS GAME WARDEN FIELD NOTES



Wardens Assist With Katrina Rescues



When Hurricane Katrina hit Louisiana, Texas game wardens went into New Orleans and rescued close to 5,000 people left stranded by lingering floodwaters. Every day a team of about 50 game wardens and supervisors from the Law Enforcement Division would get orders from the Baton Rouge command center and head out on the day's mission. They would leave the Methodist Church in Gonzales, La. which "adopted" our team, providing hot meals and clean beds every night. A three-mile line of TPWD vehicles, boats and trailers would head down Interstate 10 into stricken New Orleans.

Delays of up to two hours caused by sniper fire brought the convoy to frustrating periodic standstills. All along the roads they drove by thousands of rescued people with no way to travel or get help, including sick children and people in wheelchairs. Our team had to regretfully pass them by and press on to the day's target area. In one situation, the convoy arrived at a place where about 6,000 people were living under a bridge, an area plagued by violence, rapes and

assaults. They saw looters immediately, some pushing shopping carts "full of Tide and Gatorade" and others loaded "with stereos and cases of beer." A frustrating reality was that, unless fired upon by looters (which did not happen to our team), there was little that could be done, as there was no practical way to guard or transport arrested suspects.

The team had to stay focused on its main mission—rescue the people in greatest need. "Our wardens have seen the best of human nature, and the worst, and they've risen to the challenge," said Col. Pete Flores, TPWD Law Enforcement Director. "It's been one of the most difficult assignments we've ever undertaken, and we've had to get through trying situations every hour of every day, but we made a difference." Most rescues were done by boat, plucking people from rooftops still surrounded by water. Our team's target areas were mostly in east New Orleans, including low-income neighborhoods, apartment complexes and hospitals. They got a dramatic range of public response. Some people would curse them while being rescued, asking why it took them a week. At other times they would enter a restaurant and get a standing ovation. On Monday, the emotionally and physically drained first wave came back to Texas. The next week, a new team of 50 game wardens from all parts of the state continued the effort.



Bait and Pay

A Bell County Warden located piles of milo in a field after an anonymous caller alleged it was being dove hunted. Hunters showed up, and they proceeded to take birds over the area. The game warden made contact after observing their hunt for awhile. Seven citations were issued for hunting over the baited area and 25 birds were seized. The hunters admitted that it had been baited for more than a month and that approximately 1,500 to 2,000 pounds had been spread out during that time.

Teamwork

On opening day in Hardeman County, game wardens apprehended three hunters who were 130 doves over the limit. A

little later that evening, they caught six more hunters who had 78 doves too many. Earlier in the evening, one of the game wardens had found four hunters with 40 doves over the limit in Wilbarger County. The rest of the weekend they found three more hunters double-bagging and a game warden also caught two men hunting on a baited field.

Hefty Fines

Game Wardens worked a baited area during the opening day of dove season in Red River County. Thirty people were filed on for hunting over a baited area and fined \$150 each. They had killed 151 birds before 7 a.m. The owner of the property who placed the bait and leased the property is facing charges in federal court in Texarkana. Possible fine for the birds will exceed \$4,800.

Couple Meets and Becomes Engaged at Expo

After 14 years of Wildlife Expo, one could say that there's always something good that comes out of each one. However, it didn't look so well last year, when we lost one of our long-time volunteers, Bill Lynn from Brownwood, due to a tragic auto accident. Bill was always at the end of Building C providing Shooting Orientation and many folks would return just to visit him. The accident happened as Bill was delivering benches he had built for the Girl Scout camp north of Brownwood. It was only few days before Expo '04, and knowing how much it meant to Bill, his family came right on down and filled his usual spot providing safety tips for those who would enjoy the shooting events.

Bill's daughter, Martha (Millie) McVean, and son-in-law, William (Bill) McVean are hunter education instructors following in her dad's footsteps, and were always here to help with Expo, so it was not unusual to see them. They knew how much it meant to Bill and carried on as if he were right there beside them. Martha's son, Chris Sullivan, came with them whenever possible, and volunteered as well, initially helping with Shooting Orientation. He eventually became an instructor himself and now helps in the Youth Shotgun area.

Now for the good part ... Last year, Chris met a young lady, Tammy Rappmund, from Texas State University, who was also helping in the Youth Shotgun area. They hit it off and started seeing each other after Expo. Martha sent a letter a few months later stating that something good had come out of the Expo after all, that Chris had met someone very nice.



On Saturday, Oct. 1, 2005, at the Youth Shotgun area, before the Expo officially opened, Chris proposed to Tammy, and she accepted! A date has not been set, but that was one of the high points of the Expo this year for all of our staff.

Congratulations to Chris and Tammy! Wouldn't it be neat if they got married at next year's Expo? They may not want to wait that long, but we are very pleased and happy for them both.

Congratulations!

“One and None” Shooting Team

By Leon Measures

Several years ago two friends and I were hunting near Wichita Falls, Texas. By lunchtime we were close to Olney, and decided to try a small cafe in the little North Texas town. Once inside we noticed several men around the largest table in the place. They seemed to be having a good time, even though they were ... well, different. Not one person at the table had two arms!

I have two arms. My right arm was injured at birth and is a lot different to most right arms. However it has a marvelous trigger finger. One of the one-armed gentlemen came to our table. He said, “I noticed you have a crooked arm. How did it happen?” Normally, I am not touchy about the arm unless I’m asked, “What happened to your arm?” To which I reply, “I broke it patting myself on the back, because I’m such a great person!” My reply brought an instant explanation from him.

“I am Jack Northrup,” he replied. “We have a One Armed Dove Hunt every year. The only requirement is each

participant must be an amputee, or close to it, and we would like you to join us.” On the one hand (no pun intended) I was honored by the invitation, but on the other hand, I wasn’t.

Jack went on to say they have a breakfast on the Saturday morning of the hunt. The cost is 10 cents a finger! I thanked him for his gracious invitation and said, “I will decline your offer for two reasons. First, I wouldn’t take advantage of a person who only has five fingers. Secondly, and most importantly, I couldn’t afford breakfast.”

I’ve not forgotten the encounter and never dreamed it would come in so handy several years later. My wife, Frillie, and I are shooting instructors. In the fall of 2004 we were asked by a stock broker to conduct shotgun seminars for his clients in and around Rockport, Texas. A prospective participant called and asked, “Do you think you can help me shoot?” I replied, “I don’t know, but if I can’t help, it won’t cost you a dime.” The fellow was quite

personable and said, “I guess I’d better ‘fess up. I am a quadriplegic. I’ve been in a wheelchair for 22 years and can’t move anything voluntarily below my neck.” Because of the tone of our conversation, I asked, “What other problems do you have?” Jim Anderson is the County Attorney for Aransas County, Texas. He runs a title company and a couple of other businesses from his wheelchair!

Jim joined his wife, two sons and another fellow for a seminar. When the four were finished shooting, I asked Jim if he had false teeth. He declared that his teeth were the only part of his body that weren’t false. I got a piece of new cord from the shooting trailer, tied a big knot in the end, stuck the knot in his mouth and told him to ‘hold it.’ The other end was tied around the trigger on my Beretta. I took the slack out of the line and called for the target. As soon as the target was out front, Jim pulled his head back and the target broke! With a little practice we became very good at breaking targets.



*“One and None” team of Ronnie Hindsman and Bob Lowry at the One-Arm Dove Hunt in Olney, Texas, Sept. 9, 2005.
Photo by Ray Sasser*

Jim was ecstatic. His two sons, one 22 and one 24, became the gun handlers. For the first time, ever, they were able to shoot with their father. Before the afternoon was out, we had drawn a crowd of folks who were cheering the team on. Jim Anderson said that there are thousands of people in his condition and shooting would add a whole new dimension for them.

For whatever reason, I thought of the "One-Arm Jacks" and the One-Arm Dove Hunt in Olney, and contacted Jack Northrup. I reminded him of our conversation and the reasons his offer was declined. I went on to say I wouldn't join them in September, but would send a team of shooters if I could name them. He said, "Ok, what will the name be?" I said, "One and None!"

Bob Lowry, a gentleman who had lost an arm in a drilling rig accident, attended our seminar in Buda, Texas, and said he would like to become a better wing shot. I called Bob to check on his progress and asked him if he would be the other half of "One and None." He agreed. I called Jim Anderson and discovered he was having serious medical problems and would not be able to join us.

A young man (shown at right) in Livingston, Texas, recently lost both his

arms in an electrical accident. I knew his crew chief personally, and asked if he thought Ronnie Hindsman might be interested in becoming the "None" of "One and None." I called Ronnie and he jumped at the chance. Ronnie said, "I should get my arms the last of August." I said, "If you do, leave them in the car. We need you just the way you are!" I'm sorry Jim couldn't make it, but I was thrilled that Ronnie would take his place. Ronnie lived just around the corner from us. Ronnie practiced being the trigger man and Bob practiced trap-shooting in Austin. The two got together a couple of times before September when they would be introduced as the Original "One and None" at the One-Arm Dove Shoot in Olney.

On Aug. 8, Bob Lowry drove almost 200 miles to meet Ronnie Hindsman, who drove 150 miles to practice as a "One and None" team. After an hour or so, they were ready to take on all comers. Words cannot describe the scene as two amputees enjoyed watching target after target turn to dust.

Today, they are hopeful other folks who are unable to use their arms can join them as "One-Arm Dove Hunters" and form additional "One and None" teams. There could be a competition between the teams. Jim Anderson said the idea will open a new window of opportunity for many people.



Editor's note: I am of the opinion that these new opportunities could involve a whole new group of shooters in the shooting sports.

State Parks Host Katrina Evacuees



In August, about 500 evacuees were staying at as many as 27 Texas state parks, mostly in northeast and southeast Texas. When refugees began arriving, the state park Customer Service Center in Austin had to scramble to make room for them while heading into a holiday weekend. Many visitors with existing reservations gave them up voluntarily or were moved to other parks. Conflicts were inevitable and difficult situations had to be smoothly handled. In one case, about 30 evacuees came to Daingerfield State Park in the middle of the week, and they were told in advance they'd have to leave by the weekend, since a large visitor group had weekend reservations that could not be changed. The park staff got on the phone to notify local leaders and ask for help. The result was an outpouring of community support—local residents put evacuees up in their homes and a church collected \$750 on the spot and donated it to the evacuees. Several dozen evacuees were staying free at the state parks, courtesy of TPWD.

The Heart of the Volunteer

By Heidi Rao

We always talk about how cool it is to be a volunteer—especially when an instructor sees a student, years down the road, who approaches the instructor to say, “You taught me my hunter education course,” and then proceeds to thank him or her again for the training. Well, staff would like to thank “the volunteer,” too, from the bottom of our hearts!

In 2004, I was contacted by a gentleman who wanted to check out the Laser Shot for use during the Waller County Fair Hunting Extravaganza in Hempstead. Area Chief Frank Moore agreed to set it up and run it last year. After he arrived and set up the system, it just would not work. After many hours, and to everyone’s disappointment, Frank had to finally shut down for the day.

This same gentleman contacted me shortly after this event to schedule the LaserShot again for their 2005 Waller County Fair. I scheduled his event in my book, and he called me throughout the year to double-check and guarantee the system would be there and hopefully up and running. This year, Area Chief Duke Walton and instructor Curtis Ansley agreed to set up and operate the LaserShot system.

I took the system to LaserShot, Inc., for upgrades and to make sure everything

was running properly the week prior to the fair. Duke and I met so he could pick up the system and so I could answer any last minute questions. Friday evening, the day before the fair, Curtis Ansley was finishing up a Hunter Education course in Shepherd. Duke set up the LaserShot during the course to make sure he was comfortable with the system. He called me about 4 p.m. Friday evening with major system problems. He and Curtis worked with it all evening and tried every trouble-shooting idea they and I had. Finally around 9:30 p.m., we were all at a loss. Duke and Curtis did not want to cancel their involvement with the fair, so, I called upon some local instructors who had quite a bit of LaserShot experience. I was on the phone from about 4 p.m. until after 10 p.m.

I knew another instructor, Cecario Guerrero, had at least one LaserShot system. He said he would be more than happy to loan it to us, but it was in the shop for upgrades and repairs. I called upon Tom Stashak for his trouble-shooting ideas, and he called Duke and Curtis and explained some further suggestions. I called Frank Moore, who was just finishing up a Hunter Education course at Gander Mountain, and he had another Hunter Education course starting the next day at another store location.

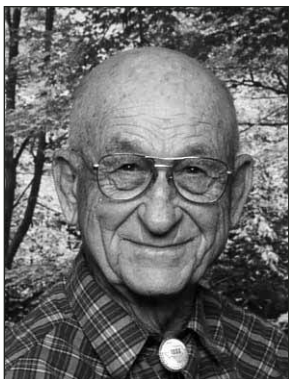
Frank offered to go back to the store first thing Saturday morning (the store has a bait shop which opens at 6 a.m.) and obtain some Genesis bows and arrows so at least we would have a “Plan B” if the LaserShot didn’t work.

In the meantime, Curtis took the LaserShot system home on Friday evening/early Saturday morning and was defragging the computer and running the Scan Disk throughout the early Saturday morning hours. He was up most of the night checking on the computer.

Frank picked up the archery equipment on Saturday morning and met Duke and Curtis half-way across Houston for delivery. Duke and Curtis arrived in Hempstead to set up the LaserShot and archery equipment backup. The LaserShot was not working perfectly, but did get them through the day.

First of all, it makes me feel good to know “my folks” are comfortable calling me anytime (morning, evening, night or weekend, etc.) when they have a problem, situation, question or just to talk. It really makes me feel good to know I can call upon area instructors anytime of the day or evening as well when I need them. I am grateful to have such a great group in Southeast Texas!

Hunter Education Loses Instructor



Area Chief Boyce Hale, 85, of Big Spring, died on Tuesday, Aug. 2, 2005, in an Odessa hospice facility. He had worked for T. H. Russell Company in oilfield plant construction for 34 years, retiring in 1985. After retiring, he worked 20 years for Circle K Ranch and for Big Game Outfitters in Colorado as a guide and outfitter for about three months each year during the hunting season. He taught hunter education for over 30 years, and was one of the original veterans when the program began. During this time he taught 47 courses and certified 329 students.

From 1987 to 1988 he wrote an outdoor column for the *Big Spring Herald*. At the time of his death he was serving as a constable for Howard County. He was also a benefactor of the National Rifle Association, a lifetime member of the Texas Rifle Association, a lifetime member of the North American Hunting Club and a life member of the Southwest Basketball Official’s Association.

Kudos



Congratulations to Don Murray (seated in black coat) from Waxahachie, who took this fine 9-point buck in Oklahoma during the muzzleloader season. Don indicated it was taken at 127 yards and was a good clean kill. The deer only went about 40 yards, but Don and his guide Chris were right on it.

Dear Hunter Education Staff:
Ron Dowda, instructor from San Antonio, will be one of five SCI members receiving the "SCI Educator of the Year" Award in recognition of their chapter and individual efforts and dedication to hunter education and promoting the goals of SCIF. This recognition will take place during the SCI Convention's Chapter Awards Night on Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2006. SCIF will cover the convention registration, one nights lodging and tickets for the Wednesday night event for up to two people per awardee. Thanks for all you have done for the educational programs of SCIF.

Donald J. Brown, Education Director
SCI Foundation

Congratulations Ron!



Dear Staff:

Here are just a few recent pictures from this area presenting certificates of appreciation to Home Depot and Wal-Mart stores in Boerne for their continued support of Hunter Education in our communities and a picture of Duane Keith, Hunter Education Instructor (seated at table) during the recently sponsored "Safety Days" at Home Depot. Duane, John Ploetz and I participated in the local H.E. classes, "Safety Days" and presentation of the certificates.

Best regards,
John Rodriguez, Area Chief, Pipe Creek

Coordinator's Comments – Remember instructors, when you have an opportunity to show how much someone is appreciated, please contact our office for a certificate to present. It will mean a lot to the recipient.

Kudos

Dear Staff:

My husband, Robert and I took our grandson to the Wimberly Ducks Unlimited banquet recently. Robert bought him a leg band raffle ticket, and he won a Charles Daly 12-gauge shotgun. Here is a picture of him when he picked it up at McBride's Guns the next Friday ... and he is wearing a Parks and Wildlife shirt! Jimbo said: "Paw Paw, will you keep my shotgun in your safe?"

Connie Knesek
TPWD Employee



Dear Staff:

I am an instructor for the Hunter Education program along with Lee Koning and Cathy Wren, and we have been in the program since 1992. I would like to give an attabooy to Game Warden Norman Terry, who went above the call of duty to attend our course on Aug. 7, and was very informative and a hit with the class. He is very professional, yet he is also a down-to-earth game warden. We have been blessed since the '80s to have some really good wardens, including Raymond Woods (retired), Danny Shaw (now Captain Game Warden), Eric Minter and Norman, who covered for Eric on vacation. This is such a bonus to a course to have students meet their game wardens and have an opportunity to ask questions they might not otherwise get to ask. Please extend our thanks to Norman!

Mike Robinson, Terrell



Dear Staff:

I just wanted to send a photo of my grandson and his deer taken near Del Rio during the special Youth Weekend. It was a fine 8-pointer and needless to say, I'm very proud of him.

Thanks,
Duke Walton, Area Chief, Porter

Instructor at National BSA Summer Camp

This picture was taken at the BSA National Jamboree this summer in Virginia. Jose Garcia was in charge of the Buckskin group and had 26 great volunteers. They came from different states in the Southern Region. They all had a great time. Jose said, "Life is good in retirement, and I couldn't have done it without the help and support of my wife, Yolanda." **Congratulations Jose!**



Local Hunters and Meat Processors Partner To Fight Hunger

Last year Texas Hunters and Meat Processors Broke the Record...

Let's aim even higher this year! During the 2004-2005 hunting season, hunters and meat processors donated more than 174,000 pounds of wild game to Texans in need. With your help, we can break the record again.

Why are your contributions so important to Texans?

Texas currently ranks second out of 50 states in the highest percentage of hungry families. Worse yet, an estimated 1.1 million, or 32%, of all children in Texas are hungry or at risk of hunger, despite various hunger relief efforts. Last year you helped us to get meat to over a hundred food providers around the state.

How do you get your donated deer to the people who need it?

Hunters take the deer to a participating processor and pay a reduced processing fee. The ground venison is transported by local agencies to community food programs. Meat processors generously process, package and distribute the meat to

local food providers as well as donate unclaimed orders to their communities.

How can you make a difference?

- Use your hunting skills and donate a deer.
- Tell your buddies with extra deer to call (800) 992-9767 ext. 506.
- Donate money so we can feed Texans venison for the best rate around.



Join your fellow hunters in eliminating hunger locally. To find participating meat processors in your area, visit www.tacaa.org/hunters.htm or call (800) 992-9767 ext. 506.

NOTICE: We have been receiving large envelopes where an instructor cut the TPWD postage paid return envelope up and pasted it onto a larger envelope for mailing. **Please do NOT do this!** This is improper and invalid postage use. If an envelope is already marked "*Postage will be paid by addressee,*" this is the only envelope that may be used, because it has been imprinted with a pre-coded bar. If this happens, the Post Office will cancel the permit for all of these pre-coded envelopes and will open the envelope to see who did this.

One additional item: do **NOT** place "Priority" tape on postage paid envelopes. It also will invalidate the envelope and cause excessive postage to be paid.

We are caught up entering courses, and will be finishing up any late arrivals. **Remember, you have seven (7) days to get the course paperwork to our office for processing.** You do not have to wait on Social Security numbers, so go ahead and send the registration forms in with the Final Report and funding. **Also, remember – do not send cash in the mail.**

Here is another important thing to remember. Instructors may NOT sign for any under-age youth on the student registration form. That is for a parent or guardian only to do, so always encourage the adult to stay and attend the course with the student.

We will begin to total courses and points by the first of January, so have all your paperwork in by then. Once we do the rollover of points, we cannot go back and change anything. Any paperwork arriving after Jan. 6 will be added to the next year totals.

We hope you all have a great Holiday Season! See ya next year.

For Your Information

American Shooting Center

Instructors in the west Houston area near Westheimer are welcome to use the **American Shooting Center** facilities to conduct courses. Pictured here is the new shooting range constructed with **Federal Aid In Wildlife Restoration Funds (Pittmann-Robertson Funds)** to host the live fire activities. TPWD has provided .22 rifles and ammo for hunter education course work at the site, which are located at the office. Instructors must contact Heidi Rao to schedule the classroom building early in the year and/or to get on the schedule. Those wishing to use the equipment must make arrangements with Heidi and Jim Harris, range manager.



Wingshooting USA

From NSSF

A new Web site offered by NSSF gives hunters a “**place to hunt for bird hunting places,**” and offers visitors a chance to win one of nine giveaway hunts valued together at more than \$34,000. The site is **www.WingshootingUSA.org**. Anchoring the site is an easy-to-use search tool for daily-fee bird hunting preserves. The leader in listings for hunting and shooting destinations, Black’s Wing & Clay, Waterfowl, in print for the past 12 years, provided data on over 1,000 preserves nationwide. By clicking on a U.S. map, visitors can find a bird hunting spot close to home or across the country. The services and sweepstakes are free. “With Wingshooting USA, we’re reaching out with a message that highlights the wide range of benefits offered by today’s hunting preserves. Whether it’s a group of hunting buddies looking for an action-packed day afield, or someone searching for an ideal place to introduce a newcomer, that ‘best hunt of the year’ is really only a phone call away,” said Doug Painter, president of NSSF.

Hunter Numbers See Slight Increase

From NSSF

The number of paid hunting license holders in America has increased slightly over the previous year, according to a recent report from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Numbers for 2004 rose less than one percent (.3 percent), from 14,740,188 to 14,779,071, but hunting advocates are hoping the upturn indicates stabilization following a long downward trend. “Over the past 20 years, good news about hunter numbers has been hard to find, but now we’ve seen increases in two of the past six years. I believe that’s a tribute to the many wonderful programs today that are designed to recruit and retain hunters. The hunting community is working together, making a difference, and it’s beginning to show,” said Jodi Valenta, director of recruitment and retention programs for NSSF. The report also revealed that hunters now contribute more than \$703 million annually for conservation programs.

Intrinsic Value of Hunting

From NSSF

On the Senate’s plate this fall is Bill 1522, the Hunting Heritage Protection Act, which the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources will review and which would establish federal recognition of the intrinsic value of hunting as recreation and as a wildlife management tool. Read about this at **www.ussportsmen.org/interactive/features/Read.cfm?ID=1593**. Key to the bill, according to the U.S. Sportsmen’s Alliance (USSA), is a stipulation for “no net loss of hunting” opportunities, wherein the government is directed to maintain, at the minimum, current levels of federal hunting lands to be open for sportsmen’s use. If federal lands were to be closed to hunting, the no net loss directive requires the opening of compensatory huntable lands. Illinois, Georgia and Maryland already have Hunting Heritage Protection Acts based on the USSA model. The bill is sponsored by Sen. Saxby Chambliss (R-GA), Sen. Ted Stevens (R-AK), Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC) and Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK).

For Your Information

New Curriculum For Turkey Hunting Safety

From NWTf

To make a safe sport even safer, the National Wild Turkey Federation and International Hunting Education Association are distributing a new two-disk CD-ROM and DVD set as the newest learning tools for teaching turkey hunting safety. Sponsored by the National Shooting Sports Foundation and Walker's Game Ear, the DVD shows two hunts, tips for defensive turkey hunting and 27 "shoot/don't shoot" scenarios. The new curriculum was produced as a result of the Turkey Hunter Safety Task Force commitment to halve within five years the current turkey hunting shooting incident statistic of 2.95 per 100,000 participants. If you wish to order the set for use during hunter education courses, visit www.nwtf.org/nwtf_newsroom/press_releases.php?id=11630. Cost is \$5 plus shipping.

New Non-Toxic Shot Approved

From USFWS

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service today approved a non-toxic shot type composed of iron-tungsten-nickel for waterfowl and coot hunting in the United States. In addition, the Service will publish in the Federal Register proposed approval for four additional nontoxic shot types.

The approved shot, manufactured by ENVIRON-Metal Inc. of Sweet Home, Ore., is composed of 62 percent iron, 25 percent tungsten and 13 percent nickel (ITN).

"The Service's approval of ITN shot and its proposal to approve the four other shot types demonstrates our determination to make it easier for hunters to comply with restrictions on lead shot. Hunters now have more choices of shot types that will continue to reduce waterfowl's exposure to lead," said Acting Service Director Matt Hogan. "The Service appreciates the efforts of the companies that have developed alternatives to lead shot."

The four shot types under consideration are

- Tungsten-iron-copper-nickel (TICN) shot, comprising 40-76 percent tungsten, 10-37 percent iron, 9-16 percent copper and 5-7 percent nickel and made by Spherical Precision, Inc. of Tustin, Calif.
- Iron-tungsten-nickel (ITN) alloys, composed of 20-70 percent tungsten, 10-40 percent nickel and 10-70 percent iron, manufactured by ENVIRON-Metal Inc. of Sweet Home, Ore.
- Tungsten-bronze (TB) shot, made of 60 percent tungsten, 35.1 percent copper, 3.9 percent tin and 1 percent iron by Olin Corporation of East Alton, Ill.
- Tungsten-tin-iron (TTI) shot, composed of 58 percent tungsten, 38 percent tin and 4 percent iron, from Nice Shot, Inc., of Albion, Pa.

Waterfowl can ingest expended lead shot and die from lead poisoning. Efforts to phase out lead shot began in the 1970s, and a nationwide ban on lead shot for all waterfowl hunting was implemented in 1991. Canada instituted a complete ban in 1999.

A study in the mid-1990s suggested that the nationwide ban in the United States on the use of lead shot for waterfowl hunting has had remarkable success. Six years after the ban, researchers estimated a 64 percent reduction in lead poisoning deaths of surveyed mallard ducks and a 78 percent decline of lead pellet ingestion. The study found that restriction on lead shot prevented the deaths of thousands of waterfowl.

With the approval of this new shot, the list of approved shot types for waterfowl hunting includes bismuth-tin, iron (steel), iron-tungsten (two types), iron-tungsten-nickel, tungsten-bronze, tungsten-matrix, tungsten-nickel-iron, tungsten-polymer, tungsten-tin-bismuth and tungsten-tin-iron-nickel.

For more information on toxic and nontoxic shot, see: http://migratorybirds.fws.gov/issues/nontoxic_shot/nontoxic.htm

For Your Information

Firearms and Air Travel

From NSSF

In an effort to educate the public on the rules that govern transporting firearms and ammunition aboard commercial airlines, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has published a fact sheet found at www.atf.gov/firearms/100804tsaeducation.htm titled "Transporting Firearms and Ammunition Aboard Commercial Air Carriers." TSA encourages travelers to become familiar with the outlined rules to help prevent unnecessary delays at airport security and baggage checkpoints.

Taking Aim at Hunting Stereotypes

From NSSF

Did you know that 58 percent of hunting-license buyers have attended college, 10 percent have associate degrees, 19 percent have bachelor's degrees, five percent earned their master's degree and three percent can put "Ph.D." after their names? These are some interesting facts found in *Today's Hunter*, a 435-page comprehensive profile produced by NSSF. Visit www.nssf.org for more information.

Safe Firearm Storage

From NSSF

A new study shows that fewer children—about 2.5 percent, or 1.7 million children—live in homes with loaded, unsecured firearms, a significant reduction from the early 1990s when the number was estimated at 10 percent. Firearm safety education programs promoting responsible gun ownership, such as the NSSF-developed **Project ChildSafe**, surely have contributed to the decline. The study, undertaken by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and published in the journal *Pediatrics*, was reported in a story by the Associated Press. Project ChildSafe, the nation's largest firearm safety education program, has distributed more than 30 million gun lock safety kits to firearm owners in all 50 states.

Your "Take Aim at Safety" Youth Essay Could Win You a Free Trip to Elk Camp and Get You Heard in the Bugle

Sponsored by Daisy® Outdoor Products & Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

The great outdoors is one of the best classrooms on earth. This is your opportunity to share some of the lessons you've learned on your trips afield through this "Take Aim at Safety" Youth Essay Contest. Share how the cornerstones of safe shooting – discipline, patience, self control and responsibility – are essential to hunting. If you're the Grand Prize winner, you and a parent or guardian could win a free trip to the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation's (RMEF) Elk Camp in Reno, Nev., Feb. 23-26, 2006. The winning essay will also be published in an issue of RMEF's *Bugle* magazine.

Essay Specifics: Write a 250- to 750-word essay that answers the following question: "How do the important principles of safe shooting – discipline, self control, patience and responsibility – extend into other aspects of hunting?" For example: hunter ethics, respect for the animal and ensuring the future of hunting.

Eligibility: Youth (ages 8-15)

How to Enter: Send your essay to: "Take Aim at Safety" Essay Contest, Attn: Don Burgess, *Bugle* Hunting Editor, P.O. Box 8249, Missoula, MT 59808. Include name, address and phone number.

Prizes: 1st Place – Winner will receive round-trip airfare for the winner and one parent or legal guardian from within the Continental U.S. to Reno, Nev., and three nights at the Silver Legacy Hotel. Also included is full registration to Elk Camp for the winner and one parent or legal guardian.

Winner Must Attend Elk Camp

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation's Annual Elk Camp will be held Feb. 23-26, 2006, in Reno, Nev., where the winner will be recognized. The winning essay will be published in an issue of *Bugle* magazine in 2006.

Prizes: 2nd-5th Place – A Daisy® Red Ryder® BB gun*

Judging: RMEF *Bugle* Magazine Staff

Deadline: Jan. 1, 2006. Winners' names will be posted at www.elkfoundation.org on Jan. 15, 2006.

*Daisy Red Ryder BB guns must be awarded to parent or guardian, age 21 years or older. Shipment of prizes subject to laws regarding sale and shipment of airguns. Where prohibited, merchandise of similar value will be substituted. Red Ryder is a registered trademark of Red Ryder Ent. Produced under a license from Red Ryder Ent., Inc.

For more information about the RMEF's "Take Aim at Safety" Youth Essay Contest, visit the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Web site at www.elkfoundation.org

Welcome New Instructors

If you recognize any of these folks who might live near you, please give them a call and ask if you can help them get started. Remember, it is always appreciated when you lend a helping hand.

July

Sergio Zermeno	Del Rio
Manuel De Hoyos	Eagle Pass
Kyle Mence	Livingston
Harold Renfro	Cuching
Clara Moss	Shepherd
Marianne Sumrall	Coldspiring

August

Jack Terry	Coldspring
David Brown	Arlington
Jerry Farmer	Farmersville
Jason Pierce	Huntsville
Richard Reed	Montgomery
Julia Ricicar	Austin
John Hereford	Huntsville
William Knight	Grand Prairie
Jenny Faszholz	Corinth
Rich Brands	Chandler
Kenneth Kattner	Meridian
Anne Kamper	Hemphill
Mark Castleshouldt	Cleveland
David Bush	Brownwood
Blake Thornton	Lufkin
Dusti Dickerson	Gonzales
Stanley Brietz	Corsicana
Richard Kramer	Camp Wood
Jace Sparks	Midland
Joseph Heard	Refugio
Dee Aduddell	Claude
Stephen Frei	Rocksprings

Atlee Walters	Lone Oak
Johnny Gipson	Troup
Krista Kehrer	Needville
John Milligan	Richmond
Jonathan Burks	Amarillo
Jeffery Turnbull	Amarillo
Stephanie Croatt	Richmond
Jason Barnes	Deer Park
Daniel Garcia	Ingleside
Randell Glascock	Pilot Point
Sergio Avalos, Jr.	Corpus Christi
Mary Vogler	Caldwell
Brian Reed	McKinney
Brett Emery	McKinney
Philip Lyles	Pasadena
Don Polensky	Alvin
Jason Nichols	Dodd City
Kristyn Loomis	New Braunfels
Brenda Brinkman	Coppell
Stuart Gary	Silsbee

September

Robert Fivecoat	Corpus Christi
Stephen Fivecoat	Corpus Christi
Michael Kloth	Sinton
Joe Jones	Floydada
Eric Boyett	Kountze
James Brandon	Austin
Rhonda Esakov	Georgetown
Barbara Parmley	Whitehouse
William Plumley	Cottonwood Shores
Deborah Davison	China Spring

Patrick Davison	China Spring
Joshua Chollett	Columbus
Donald Proctor	Stephenville
Jason Meek	Cedar Hill
Michael Pay	Broadus
Jonathan Cook	Quitman
Michael Peterson	Longview
Kayla Garza	Shepherd
Laurie Ledbetter	Houston
James Johnson	Harlingen
Oscar Aguirre	San Benito
Alvaro Garcia	Harlingen
Jessica Rogers	Big Sandy
Pedro Laurel IV	Santa Elena

October

Doug Black	Midlothian
Charles Bergamo	Bedford
Sheri Myers	Amarillo
Judy Hassoun	Bacliff
Orlando Chavez	Los Fresnos
Janilynn Weaver	Dike
Lisa Koteris	Snook
Marshal Stork	Brownwood
Melissa Butcher	Irving
Roger Astin	Schertz
Peter Zucco	San Antonio
Royal Blackmon	Lavernia
John Richardson	Brady
Gary Kusak	Shiner
Brant Lee	Mineola
Tim Santos	Edinburg

Training Efforts and Workshops



How-to-Teach/Training Aids and LaserShot Certification

A How-to-Teach/Training Aids and LaserShot Certification Workshop was held July 16, 2005, at the Eddie Gray Wetlands Center in Baytown. Eleven instructors attended.

While the group was enjoying coffee and sweets, Walter Norton started off the session with an introduction to the Eddie Gray Wetlands Center, followed by Duke Walton describing the new wing shooting program that is being developed. Duke also demonstrated several of the techniques being used in this training.

Joe Drobniak showed shot placement training aids and discussed visualizing the location of vital organs as the shot angle changes. Curtis Ansley presented the new bowhunting equipment display that he has constructed. After a short break, Richard Kerschner talked about a slide presentation he developed on firearm safety that included a view through a shotgun barrel.

Tom Stashak distributed DVDs on crossbow usage, and TPWD forms and publications. Charles Krpec was next with his presentation on rifle ballistics, energy and recoil and passed out charts showing different data for a number of rifle calibers. Walter Norton wrapped up the morning session with his impressive array of training aids and class demonstration tools.

The afternoon session began with a tour of the Wetlands Center conducted by Walter Norton. Back in the classroom, Joe Drobniak demonstrated the set up, use and equipment repacking for the LaserShot system used by TPWD.

Training aids, literature, DVDs, data diskettes and various brochures were available to anyone interested.

Training Efforts and Workshops



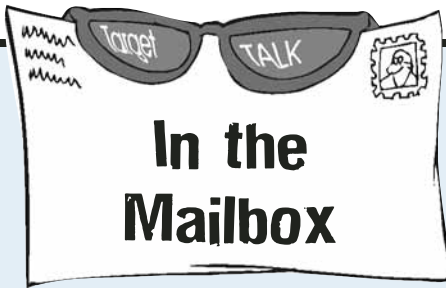
Alligator Workshop at the J.D. Murphree WMA

Participants arrived Friday evening, loaded into a boat and were taken around the property to view alligators at night. They learned how to do a spotlight census and were certified to count 'gators.' Saturday began with PowerPoint presentation on alligator biology, ecology, habitat, nesting, farming, and hunting rules and regulations. After a lunch break, instructors were taken to the field to learn how biologists study stomach contents of gators, tag them and track them. The workshop concluded in a boat visiting nesting sites and more gator habitat around the J.D. Murphree property. Thanks again to the Murphree TPWD Wildlife Division staff for conducting a great workshop for HED Instructors - we're looking forward to next year!

IBEP Student and Instructor Course

It was exceptionally hot two days, but this group did an excellent job during the late July IBEP Student and Instructor Course held at McKinney Falls State Park and TPWD Headquarters. Participants learned the Proficiency Testing procedures and did quite well.





Dear Staff:

As I sit here tonight trying to get the LaserShot ready for tomorrow, I am looking back on the class I just completed. I only had five students and it seemed to be another mundane course. But, thanks to Game Warden Brian Scott, it turned into something special. As soon as he arrived at my class on Friday evening, he received a call regarding a deer hit by a motorist. To my great delight, he queried about doing a field dressing for the students. Of course I jumped at the opportunity. Duke Walton also was there, and we were not passing this opportunity up. I wish to thank both Duke and Brian for what they gave my class that night.

Later,
Curtis Ansley

Dear Staff:

Thank you again for the great weekend. I enjoyed the opportunity to help all those individuals who were interested in the Crosman Airgun Challenge. I greatly enjoyed my visit with Kim Rhode, because she is a beautiful representative in the shooting events and is a great inspiration for all who came by while we visited. The kids were blown away when she allowed them to hold the Olympic gold medals.

Would you thank all involved in the great gift I received. Betty and I went by McBride's and I took home my handgun award. When I first signed on the rewards were a great incentive and I will always treasure my pistol, but the gleam in the eyes of those beginners in hunter education outshines any award that I receive. To be able to chase away fear and build trust in the beginner is a great reward.

Rick Monger
Levelland

Dear Staff:

I am a Hunter/Bowhunter Education Instructor, and work for RE/MAX of Cleburne. I was among a group of Realtors from Johnson County who took time from their busy schedules to visit DFW Airport on Monday, Sept. 26, 2005, to meet and greet the returning troops from Iraq.

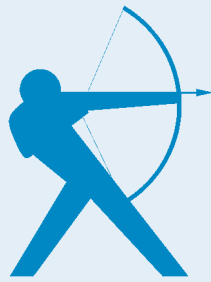


There were 155 troops from all over the United States on that plane and I could tell they were very happy to be in Texas. I shook hands with and welcomed every one of them home. It was one of the best and most moving experiences I've ever had, and I do hope to do it again!

I also wanted to let you know that I was very pleased with my experience while I was at Expo. I've never had so many sincere "thank yous" in such a short time. I felt like I helped make some of them HEROES, again, in their kids' eyes, and made some look really good to their wives and friends. It was as rewarding as the greeting of the troops to me. Of course it took me a long time to drag my tired self through the gate on Sunday evening on the way out. I can't remember ever being that tired before, except maybe on Saturday.

I'll be back next year.

Rick Cumins
Rio Vista



THE BOWHUNTER

TEXAS BOWHUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

Texas Goes Online

This distance learning allows students to begin the NBEF's official bowhunter education course online, and is copyrighted by Kalkomey Enterprises, Inc. The online course materials are identical to and taken from the current *Today's Bowhunter* student manual used by Texas.

Upon successful completion of the online course, which is confirmed by taking an exam online, students will be issued a Field Day Qualifier Certificate. This Field Day Qualifier Certificate is necessary to obtain entrance into the final one-day portion of the Texas IBEP bowhunter education course. There is a fee associated with the online course, but it is handled via credit card, and is not associated with the fee of \$10 charged for the IBEP course in Texas.

A new one-day agenda will be introduced during the IBEP In-Service workshops coming up after the first of the year. The workshops are listed in the 2006 Workshop Schedule for those instructors interested in learning more about current updates and who wish to use the new online version. Instructors will simply use their skills and teaching expertise to take the online students through a hands-on field day. The student registration form will be completed by the students and a fee of \$10 still collected. Instructors will retain \$5 per student for out-of-pocket expenses. The Texas IBEP student exam will still be given at the end of the course and a passing score of 80% is still required.

Of course, currently certified IBEP instructors do not have to change anything they are doing now, and they may continue to conduct the customary two-day, 12-hour course as they have been. The advantage to the online course is that it will eliminate one day of the standard classroom preparation, thus allowing the instructor to spend only one day doing hands-on learning activities. After participating in and successfully completing the field day portion, students will receive the "temporary student card" issued by the instructor. When the Student Registration Forms and Final Reports are sent to TPWD and are processed, the student will be mailed an official IBEP certification card.

If you are just curious about what the new online bowhunter education course is all about, browse the www.NBEF.org. We hope you will take advantage of the new online version if desired and if it fits your schedule. Otherwise, please continue to do the great job you have been, and know that we appreciate your volunteer efforts.

Certificates Presented

Kent Irvin, TPWD Hunter Education Specialist for North Texas, and Dallas area IBEP Bowhunter Education instructors presented Mesquite Archery Club with a Certificate of Appreciation from TPWD for the club's support of Bowhunter Education. For the past several years, Mesquite Archery Club has donated the use of their range for Bowhunter Education courses. L-R: Mike Smith, Pat Boudreau, Marty Chambers, David Lassiter, Wayne Wilson (Mesquite Archery Club President), Bob Wright and Kent Irvin.



The IBEP training team in the Dallas/Fort Worth area recently presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Craig Fyock, owner of Outdoor Pro Shop in Garland. Craig allows the group to teach IBEP courses at the shop and is very supportive of the Bowhunter Education program. L-R: Bob Wright, LSBA Vice President, Pat Boudreau, Craig Fyock (Owner), David Lassiter, Marty Chambers and Mike Smith.



**TEXAS
PARKS &
WILDLIFE**

Target Talk

Texas Hunter Education Program
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, TX 78744

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