



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

We just wound down a very busy but successful year, and thanks to all of your volunteer efforts, we had an excellent outcome!

Courses are continuing as this is being written, but all cards have been sent. Please read the following information as they serve as reminders to improve program procedures and efforts.

**A friendly reminder...** Several instructors have taught the mandated, **10-hour, two-day** structured course in one day. This is not allowed. State law dictates a course must be conducted in a minimum of 10 hours over a two-day period. When we call, the instructor seems surprised that the course cannot be done in one day. Sorry folks, but rules are rules and we will return the paperwork for completion of the appropriate time in the two-day period. The only time a course may be accomplished in only one day is when it is a "home study" course, and that time must be not less than four hours. Most of the time, it takes at least six to seven hours to accomplish the skills trail, live firing exercises, ethics and game laws, review, and written test for home study courses.

**Another item...** Any instructor who teaches a "home study" course **MUST** do live firing and skills trail activities, or the paperwork will be returned for completion. Again, the minimum time for this course is four hours and nothing less. You will not want your

*continued on page 2*

## Expo Celebrates 15 Years



After two years in which hurricanes and rain doused visitor attendance, the Texas Parks & Wildlife Expo crowd count was back up to an estimated 35,644 people, close to the 36,000 guests we had in 2003, the last "regular" year. Fallout from hurricanes Katrina and Rita dropped the crowd to about 28,000 last year, and a rainy Saturday in 2004 held numbers down to 22,500. This year, blue skies, cool mornings and warm afternoons, and a great performance from employees and partners, made this one of the smoothest-running events ever. Expo has had five years of 40,000-plus

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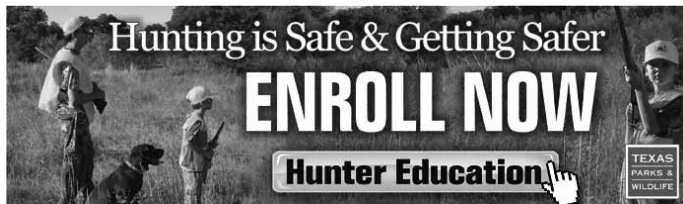
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## Editor's CORNER, continued

paperwork returned, so make sure all requirements are completed so we can properly certify your students.

New Final Report forms are now requiring "Prep Time" to be added to "Hours Taught," which equals "Total Hours." As a program, we have never captured the amount of time an instructor spends preparing for a course. This is time that can be added to actual hours taught (minimum of 10 hours) to equal total volunteer in-kind value to the state of Texas.

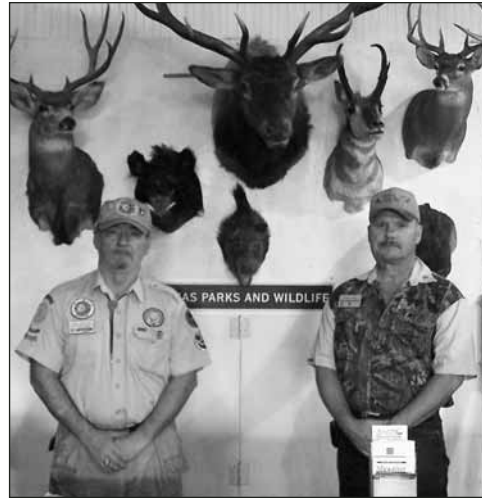


If you have been traveling up and down the I-35 corridor in the Hillsboro, Temple and Salado area, you may have seen this billboard. Thanks to Bob Ratcliff and the generosity of Mat Naegele of Lamar Advertising, these billboards went up in three locations in central Texas. Mat donated the space and TPWD paid for the vinyl signs that went up. When traveling I-35, please look for them and let us know what you think. One is located around Hillsboro, one is located just as you enter Temple from the north on the east side of the highway, and the third is just south of Salado on the east side of I-35. Hope this reminds students to take the course.

By the time you read this, it will be January 2007, so we hope you had a very Merry Christmas and a most enjoyable and happy New Year. If we can answer any questions, or if you have any problems, don't hesitate to contact us. Please forward all of your course schedules so we can put them into the computer.

Thanks, and always be safe.  
Terry Erwin

## OUTREACH EFFORTS



*Duke Walton and Curtis Ansley attended an event to represent TPWD Hunter Education. They provided literature and answered questions about hunter education and other department offerings.*



*Eleven area public and private elementary schools attended the Tenth Annual TPWD Public Service Day for School Children with 368 youngsters. Game wardens have been doing this for more than 10 years. Kerrville police, fire, EMS, Hill Country Mounted Peace Officers Assoc., DPS, environmental, TX ABC, etc., all have presentation areas and each school group visits each area for a 15-minute presentation on who, what, how, etc. Lunch is also provided the youngsters prepared by the game wardens. Scott Krueger wants the mobile hunter education trailer again next year.*

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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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### FOR MORE INFORMATION

All inquiries: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Rd., Austin, TX 78744, telephone (800) 792-1112 toll free, or (512) 389-4800 or visit our Web site for detailed information about TPWD programs:

**[www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us)**

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## Texas Parks & Wildlife Expo, continued

crowds, mostly in the late 1990s, when long lines clogged some popular activities. Some longtime Expo staffers believe the event works well and provides a good visitor experience with 30,000 to 40,000 attendees, where we've been for six years out of 15.

Perhaps a better numeric measure of success is 510,421, the total number of lives Expo has touched in 15 years. But none of these data speak to the quality of the Expo experience, which by all accounts this year was superb. The standard visitor exit survey will provide firmer answers when analysis is complete.

But anecdotal observations indicate several things. The new grounds layout was almost universally well received. The relocated Law Enforcement area was effective, although some tweaking will help bring crowds in there better. Staff and volunteer labor allocation remains a topic of discussion, and TPWD will continue to work to make sure the right number of workers get to each job and shift.

This year's crowd was diverse, including a significant number of Spanish-speaking visitors. Probably at least half the crowd members were savoring their first Expo.

"The Expo is especially valuable for our field employees to see the breadth and diversity of what our agency offers, and for employees whose jobs don't typically put them face to face with the public," said Robert L. Cook, TPWD executive director. "I can tell you on behalf of myself, our commissioners, all the division directors and many others, our hats are off to all the employees, volunteers and partners. You make this event special. I cannot tell you how many people came up to me this weekend to express similar thoughts and congratulations on a job well done. We should all be very proud."

Bob Wright, LSBA president, writes, "Here's my favorite comment from this year's Expo. I had a young boy who was down to his last arrow. I told him this is your last arrow and it's time to get your game face on. He got a real serious look on his face and said, '*That bear's going down!*' and he hit the bear."



*Don Murray, Area Chief from Waxabachie, speaks to a group of Girl Scouts at the Hunter Education booth during Expo.*

### Expo Comments

I just wanted to let your organization know that my family and I really enjoyed attending the Wildlife Expo this year. It was educational and fun. I look forward to attending again in the future and I have told everyone I know that this is a "must attend" event.

Thank you.  
Debra Johnson, Austin

Dear Staff:

I had an experience at Expo that tops anything I have ever seen before. I have worked with a lot of new shooters in the muzzle loading booth, and am always gratified by their reaction when they fire their first shot, and especially those that I can coach to their first hit. On Sunday I had a new experience. I looked around for my next shooter, and found a young man who appeared to be in his thirties being assisted and waiting to shoot. Much to my surprise, I discovered that he was blind, thus why he had the assistant entering the area.

I seated him and handed him the rifle. He carefully explored its details, sights, barrel, stock, etc., and then, with obvious experience, settled down at the bench to shoot. I coached him into what appeared to me (looking down the side of his sight line) to be a good hold on the target. He carefully held the rifle and squeezed the trigger, and he HIT THE TARGET! It was the best thing that has happened to me in a long time. Was some of this incident luck? Of course it was, but the shooter and I were working pretty hard to make it happen. I can honestly say that this was the highlight of all the Expos and certainly one I will never forget. This is why we volunteers come and work so hard ... a payback like this one is priceless. Thanks for the opportunity to help.

Bob Boswell  
Area Chief, Corpus Christi

## New Hall of Fame Plaque Unveiled

**Dallas Arms Collectors Association, Inc.**, very generously donated a new Hunter Education Instructor Hall of Fame Plaque. Shown here on the left is Albert Ross, DACA, Treasurer, and on the right, Steve Hall, TPWD Education Director, accepting the plaque during the presentation. This is certainly an outstanding addition to the award system and will be on display at TPWD for all to see. Thanks so much for the donation!

The Texas Parks and Wildlife hunter education instructor's highest award is to become a member of the Hunter Education Hall of Fame by earning 4,500 incentive points. These points begin accumulating when the instructor is certified. The original plaque, dedicated to Darrell Holt, Hunter Education Coordinator from 1980–1989, was donated by the Texas Chapter National Wild Turkey Federation, and is almost filled with instructors who have reached this highest honor.

The first recipient was Claude Ratcliff, Silsbee, in 1990, and the other recipients are as follows:

1991 Jim Ellis, Orange  
Harold Bryan, Houston  
Robert Christensen, Houston  
1992 Gilbert Graves, Sr., Corpus Christi



|      |  |      |  |
|------|--|------|--|
| 1994 | D.B. Collinsworth, Reisel<br>Gene Norton, Baytown<br>Earl Reece, Odessa  | 2003 | Charles Morrow, Richardson<br>Donald Evans, Burnett<br>John Dea, Lubbock                             |
| 1995 | T. D. Carroll, Austin (Honorary)   |      | Gilbert Graves, Jr., Corpus Christi  |
| 1999 | George McNeill, Weatherford  |      | Brock Minton, Corpus Christi   |
| 2000 | Bob Artz, San Antonio  |      | Lee Stinson, Haltom City   |
| 2001 | Mike Lochabay, Garland<br>Elaine Lochabay, Garland<br>Kitty Haynes   | 2004 | Russ Greiner, San Antonio  |
|      |  | 2005 | James Haynes, Rosenberg<br>George Sykora, Waco<br>Cyndi Sykora, Waco<br>Roger O'Dwyer, Copperas Cove |
| 2002 | Bill McCubbin, Amarillo<br>Jim Parker, III, Malakoff<br>Bernie Heer, Jr., San Antonio<br>Tom Stashak, Jr., Pearland<br>Lonnie Ward, Argyle |      |  |

To find out who made the Hall of Fame in 2006, come to the Annual Awards Conference on February 17 in Arlington.

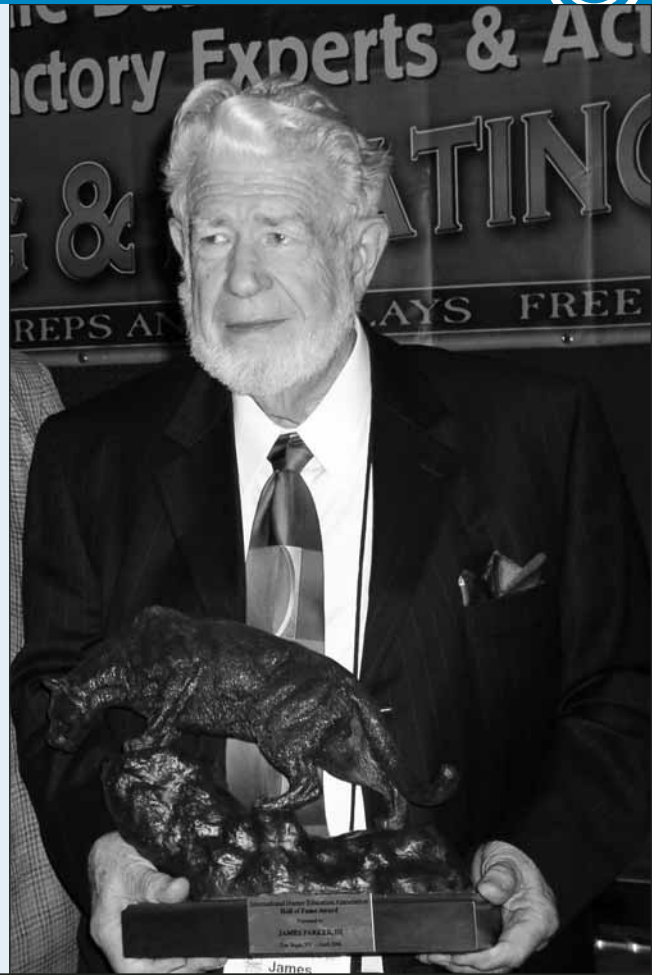


## Welcome Aboard, Brock!

**Brock Minton** came on board November 1 to take over the South Texas area vacated when Ty Harris left to pursue other career opportunities. Brock will be in Corpus Christi, and will cover an area to Victoria, to San Antonio, to Del Rio, to Brownsville and back. Brock is a native of San Angelo and was a volunteer instructor and Area Chief for 18 years with TPWD in hunter, boater, angler and bowhunter education. He went back to college and received his B.S. degree in Wildlife Management from Sul Ross University. We are excited to have him on our staff. Congratulations, Brock!

## Hunter Education Mourns Loss of Jim Parker

Area Chief Jim Parker, III, passed away on August 24, 2006, at his home in Malakoff. He is shown here receiving his International Hunter Education Association Hall of Fame award in 2005. He was the first volunteer from Texas to receive this award, which, according to him, was his greatest honor. Jim had been close friends with former and now deceased Utah Hunter Education Coordinator, A. Lee Robertson, who was inducted into the IHEA Hall of Fame in the late 1970s. Jim entered the TPWD Hunter Education Hall of Fame in 2002. He was preceded in death by his wife of 54 years, Velma. He had received many honors during his 21-year volunteer career with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. He and Velma were recognized during the Lone Star Legends Awards ceremony as "Educators of the Year" for their contributions to TPWD. Jim was also the Winchester Volunteer Instructor of the Year in 2000. Jim was almost a full-time volunteer, because he spent many of his hours working with boater education, angler education and conducting tours at the Texas Fresh Water Fisheries Center in Athens. He will be missed by all his friends and peers.



## National Archery in Schools Program Growing in Texas

Roy Grimes, originator and director of the National Archery in Schools Program (NASP), came to Texas October 11–13 to train the first Basic Archery Instructor Trainers (BAITs) and BAIT Specialists in the program. Hosted by Ferris Bavousett at Lamar Middle School in Flower Mound, a total of ten BAITs and six BAIT Specialists were trained to deliver the updated and newly revised NASP program in Texas.

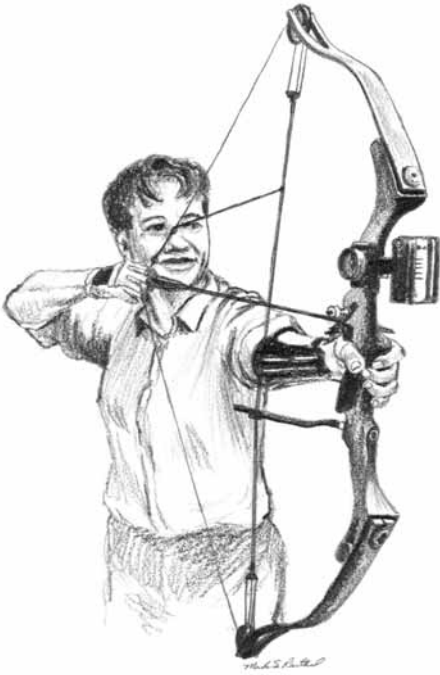
Special thanks goes out to the principal and vice principal of Lamar Middle School, who support the program to the highest degree. **Huge thanks also goes out to the Dallas Safari Club (represented at the training) and Toyota, who have donated \$50,000 each to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation for Archery in Schools.** Their funds will provide school grants (\$1,200) for equipment and buses for schoolchildren to come to the annual Texas Archery in Schools Program Tournament on February 23 at the Mayborn Convention Center in Temple. The tournament, sponsored by the Texas Field Archery Association in conjunction with their annual statewide tournament, will feature hundreds of students around the state competing in standardized archery shooting from a 10-yard distance.

### VOLUNTEERS needed for Texas Archery in Schools Program Tournament

Along with statewide hunter education staff, volunteer hunter education instructors, agriculture science teachers and game wardens are needed at the Texas Archery in Schools Program Tournament, Mayborn Convention Center, in Temple, to assist with:

- 1) Thursday, February 22, 2007; 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
Set-up of targets, back netting and equipment areas
- 2) Friday, February 23, 2007; 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Safety orientation/presenters, crowd control, equipment loans and scorers

Contact TPWD hunter education staff in Austin to reserve your volunteer spot at this prestigious tournament. As with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Expo, there will be many happy faces when all is said and done.



## New Archery Coordinator Hired in the Hunter Education Program

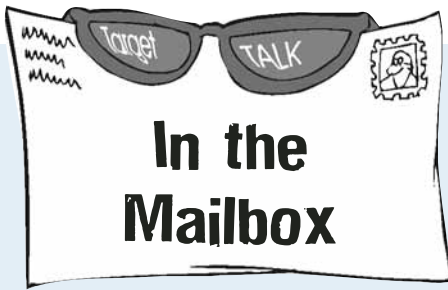
As you receive this newsletter, there will be a new face on board, primarily to coordinate the new Texas Archery in Schools Program in Texas. Housed at Texas A&M University alongside Cooperative Extension conservation education staff, Larry Hysmith and Denise Garza, the position will be responsible for the day-to-day coordination of the statewide program. The partnership will be able to combine the Archery in Schools effort with the after-school 4-H Shooting Sports archery program and with higher-level archery programs such as the one at A&M, one of the top collegiate programs in the country. Look in the next *Target Talk* for a biography of the new staff member, whom we are sure you will welcome with open arms.

From L to R, bottom row: Erin Chastain-Harris, Allen; Joann McMinn, Grandview; Roy Grimes – NASP Director, Kentucky; Monty Heishman – NFAA Director – TX; Dean Nichols, Ft. Worth; Larry Hysmith – Texas Cooperative Extension, College Station; Scot McClure, Argyle.

From L to R, top row: Jesse Stevens, Forth Worth; Joey Saye, Lewisville; Val Jeter, Wimberley; Kent Irvin – TPWD Hunter Education Specialist; Lisa Gackle – GSA-NE Texas; Norm McMinn, TFAA and TASP Tournament Director, Grandview; D'Anna Green, Stephenville; Laci Blanek – Texas Cooperative Extension, College Station; Steve Hall, TPWD Education Director, Austin; Ferris Bavousett, Lewisville.



Physical education teachers from Running Brushy Middle School and Hays County 4-H Leaders Jim Wallgren (front), and his wife, Janet (third from right), were certified in a BAI Training Workshop in Leander on October 9. The two BAITS teaching the workshop were Tammy Rodriguez, Leander; (second from right) and Steve Hall, TPWD Education Director (taking photo). The host was Donnie Rodriguez (far right).



I just wanted to write and say that I have just completed the Hunter Education course in Cherokee County. The instructor was Mr. Gerald Wood # 011740. I think he did an excellent job instructing the class. I feel like I learned a lot and wanted to give him a compliment.

Thank You.

Robert Parrymore, Whitehouse

**Dear Staff:**

I work at the Help Desk for Texas Parks and Wildlife. My family and I attended the Hunter Education program this past weekend at the Wal-Mart in Taylor, TX. I wanted to compliment both instructors, Marty Ruble and Bob Hasselbush. My husband actually has been encouraging me to take this class. Both my daughters, my husband (who already has his certificate) and I attended. To be perfectly honest, I thought shopping sounded like more fun. However, once I got to the class, met the instructors, and actually started taking the class, I found it was very interesting. Both of the instructors were not only informative but made the class interesting. They both really complemented each other and would make some jokes which kept the class's attention. I am very pleased I took this course. A weekend well spent. I know these are volunteers who do this and hats off to these two exceptional people. Thanks for your time in reading this.

Devona Butterworth

**To Jim Schaefer,**

Austin and I would like to thank you and your team for a great learning experience. I have the opportunity to take him on a youth hunt at a ranch in Kerrville this October, and this class was a prerequisite. He learned more in two days than I could have taught him in several seasons. I am really pleased with the

amount of information he learned this weekend. I learned it all the hard way, including misjudgments. I'm glad he had the opportunity to take the class at nine years old.

Like you, I thoroughly enjoy the outdoors and have hunted for years. I've hunted elk, deer, waterfowl and upland game, and small game, in Texas, Colorado, Tennessee and North Carolina. Austin has been with me on some of those trips, but at a very young age.

On the hunt trail he was a little intimidated, but I think he came around once he felt a little more comfortable with what was going on.

Thanks again for a great weekend!

Sincerely,  
Ed Choate

**To Rhonda Esakov:**

I just wanted to say "thank you" for taking time out of your schedule to do the Hunter Education course. I found it to be well worth the one-hour drive from Waco and really enjoyed the friendly, open atmosphere that you created. I have already recommended to a few people that they do the coursework online and then make the drive to Georgetown. Thanks again!

Chad McAninch  
Waco, TX

**To Gil Ash and Jay Robertson:**

I want to thank you very much for taking your time to make your presentation to us in Houston on August 12. As Texas Hunter Ed instructors, we are used to giving our time to our students and we are very much aware that there is only so much time available. That's why I think we appreciate your presentation so much. These seminars are a GREAT opportunity for us as Instructors to become better educated so that we can correctly convey your information on to our students.

In addition, as a hunter, I am able to gain additional knowledge that will help me in my chosen sport so I personally benefit two

ways. Thank you again very much. Your information was well presented and very informative, and I, for one, do not look forward to the prospect of dove hunting with steel (non-toxic) shot. I've already talked with the guys I'm dove hunting with opening weekend about counting our "field percentage" of hits and that this year it doesn't matter who limits out first but who has the highest harvest/shot ratio.

Gil, from your spending five minutes with me on the patterning board and correcting my stance, I shot a 42 the next Monday night at Elm Fork where I'm shooting for the first time in a Sporting Clays League. I usually shoot 27-33 out of 50, so this was a GREAT improvement.

I look forward to taking your class one Saturday and then "watching" you and Vicki on Sunday with how you coach/instruct your students. I learned a lot just from watching you helping the other instructors. I have a 14-year-old son, and when he's older (bigger, as he only weighs 85 pounds and has trouble shooting shotguns for long), I'd also like to get him into one of your classes so that I don't teach him all of my bad habits. I'll be helping Terry Erwin with the youth shotgun shooting at Expo this year. Hope to see you there!

Thanks again and I look forward to future seminars/meetings with you.

Pittman Haymore  
Dallas, Texas

**Dear TPWD Staff,**

I wanted to thank you for the hospitality and warm welcome we received at the Wildlife Expo. It was the first for my daughter,

Theresa, and me, and believe me, we did not see everything there was to offer. Theresa will be sending you a letter as well thanking you and expressing her joy at the many "first time I shot a shotgun," "first time I have seen ..." and so on. She is excited and anxious to attend next year's Expo.

I have to say that as an educator, I was intrigued and captivated at all of the exhibits that pertained to conserving the habitats, taking care of nature and leaving our natural surroundings better than how we found them. Texas Parks and Wildlife is truly the caretaker of our natural reserves and animal life. I enjoyed the challenges that I saw for every young person whether it be fishing, rock climbing, plant identification, kayaking, preserving the habitat or taking care of animals that will never be well enough to return to the wild.

I see a real need for our 4-H and Scouts to attend such an expo for the richness of information they would receive. Now that many of the schools are teaching a wildlife course instead of "shop," I can see a true void in our curriculum if we leave the Wildlife Expo out. I can certainly see where the Expo would enhance the learning and application of the wildlife curriculum. I feel that our 4-H Shooting Sports would benefit from the wonderful shows such as watching Tom Knapp the shooting star, and my personal favorite, the "tossed salad."

Again, I believe you have a real winner with all the exhibits and a captivating atmosphere for the family. Free admission is just a wonderful bonus. Two days of family fun, great experiences with wildlife and exhibits that leave many "ooo-ing and ah-ing."

Cynthia Minton  
Director, Special Education  
Sanderson, TX



## Becoming an Outdoors-Woman Workshop Schedule

- |                     |                         |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| March 9-11, 2007    | Camp Buckner            |
| April 27-29, 2007   | Camp Carter, Fort Worth |
| October 26-28, 2007 | Camp For All, Brenham   |



# For Your Information

*From National Shooting Sports Foundation*

## Hunt and Shoot Opportunity Updates

Huntandshoot.org, the Internet portal developed by NSSF for new and experienced shooters and hunters, has unveiled a news feature reporting shooting and hunting opportunities for every state. Delivered by prominent outdoor communicators Laurie Lee Dovey, Will Elliott, Mike Faw, Tony Mandile and Jim Spencer, the items, under the heading, "Tracking Hunt and Shoot Opportunities in Every State," will be regularly updated, continually providing visitors with news on special hunts, new access, shooting range events and other opportunities to increase their time and success afield.

## New Resource Guide Available

A free, all-inclusive guide to NSSF is now available for members and consumers. The NSSF Resource Guide summarizes the trade association's range of programs and services, and includes a catalog of all safety and conservation educational materials and a helpful listing of all NSSF-sponsored Web sites. To order a free Resource Guide, contact NSSF's Safety & Education Services Department at (203) 426-1320 or e-mail [literature@nssf.org](mailto:literature@nssf.org).

## New Measurement Tool for Ranges

Did you know that in the first quarter of this year 60 percent of ranges hosted an event focusing on youth shooting, or that 24 percent of ranges with pro shops experienced an increase in retail sales, or that the average public price per 100 rounds of sporting clays is \$26.60, while the average 5-stand per round is \$7.58? Like any other business, ranges need information that will help them gauge their performance against the industry. NSSF is now offering free quarterly Range Consumption Reports to range owners who participate in quarterly surveys. The reports measure key consumption variables based on surveys of ranges nationwide. Read a complimentary Range Consumption Report from the first quarter of 2006 at the following Web site: [www.nssf.org/share/PDF/2006Q1RangeConsumptionFinalReport.pdf](http://www.nssf.org/share/PDF/2006Q1RangeConsumptionFinalReport.pdf). Ranges interested in receiving the survey can learn more in the research section of NSSF's Web site.

## E-Duck Stamps

Congress has passed, and President Bush is considering, a bill that would create an electronic duck stamp and a new convenience for waterfowl hunters. A pilot program beginning September 1, 2007, in 15 states, would allow hunters to buy the prerequisite federal duck stamp electronically over the phone or Internet. Conventional paper stamps would remain available at retail outlets. Ducks Unlimited reports that waterfowl hunters have contributed over \$600 million to habitat conservation through duck stamp purchases over the past 71 years.

## Outdoor Recreation Pours \$730 Billion into Economy

A report released by the Outdoor Industry Foundation, Southwick Associates and Harris Interactive revealed the economic impact of outdoor recreation, including hunting. The study concludes that \$730 billion is spent annually, supporting 6.5 million jobs, that is, one in 20 jobs in the United States, and producing \$88 billion in federal and state taxes. The "Active Outdoor Recreation Economy Study" was released at the Outdoor Retailer Summer Market in Salt Lake City. To read the report, please go to the following Web site: [www.outdoorindustry.org/pdf/FinalOutdoorRecreationReportEC.pdf](http://www.outdoorindustry.org/pdf/FinalOutdoorRecreationReportEC.pdf)

*Other News Items*

## Texas Gets Experimental Duck Regulations

The Hunter's Choice option for the Central Flyway gained approval from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, giving Texas waterfowlers more latitude during the entire season in exchange for a reduction to the daily bag limit from six to five birds. Texas and four other states in the Central Flyway will recommend an experimental Hunter's Choice bag limit starting with the 2006-07 season. The new bag structure alleviates the need for complex restrictive harvest measures on less abundant duck species like pintails, canvasbacks and mottled ducks.

# For Your Information

## Hunter's Handbook TV to Highlight NSSF Programs

Tune in to Hunter's Handbook TV on OLN to learn more about NSSF's programs and services geared toward creating access and opportunity, promoting safety and education and building participation in the shooting sports. Hunter's Handbook TV airs on OLN Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m., Wednesdays at noon and Sundays at 7:30 a.m. Check your local listing to make sure you have the correct time.

## Survey: Duck Population Up 14 Percent

Preliminary results from a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service survey estimate a total duck population of more than 36 million, or a 14 percent increase from last year's estimate and 9 percent above the 1955-2005 average. The survey indicated an increase in the quality of waterfowl breeding habitat in the United States and Canada from 2005. "There's a lot of good news in the survey this year for the total duck population and waterfowl breeding habitat," said H. Dale Hall, director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Waterfowl Breeding Ground Population and Habitat Survey, the largest and most comprehensive survey of its kind in the world, samples 1.3 million square miles across the north-central United States, south-central and northern Canada, and Alaska.

## Using the Internet to Find Hunting Places

Looking for a place to hunt? Don't jump in your truck – jump online instead. For bird hunters, NSSF launched WingshootingUSA.org, a free online directory of places to hunt. The site links to over 1,000 daily-fee preserves, another modern solution for busy hunters seeking an easy way to stay in the game.

## Hunters Dating Hunters

A company that specializes in niche Web sites has launched OutdoorPersonals.com, a free online dating service where outdoors enthusiasts can find a match. Site visitors can search for dating prospects based on selected mutual interests such as hunting, fishing, ATVs, boating and other pursuits.

*Editor's note: When my wife and I started dating in 1976, I asked her what she wanted to do one weekend. She said she wanted to go fishing, and I thought to myself, "This is too good!" And yes, she really enjoys it. I later got her interested in hunting and now she is my hunting partner. She has taken three deer in one day on more than one occasion. Always share the outdoors with your significant other. You will not regret it, of course, unless it requires a significant investment in additional firearms and equipment. Ha.*

## PR Funding Jump Driven By Strong Ammo Sales

Sales by gun and ammunition manufacturers grew by 5 percent in the second quarter compared to the same period in 2005, according to the firearm industry's best economic indicator. The increase was driven by strong ammo sales, up 32.7 percent, and handgun sales, up 12.3 percent. The statistics are taken from the latest Pittman-Robertson federal excise tax collection report. Excise taxes are calculated as a percentage of wholesale receipts, paid quarterly by firearm and ammunition manufacturers, and earmarked for state wildlife conservation and habitat restoration programs. During the quarter, \$56.2 million was generated for conservation, compared to \$53.5 million in 2005. The latest tax collections suggest overall sales of \$524.7 million from April through June 2006, not including retail markup or final retail sales.

## Firearms and Ammunition Excise Tax Collections (calendar year) Source: U.S. Department of Treasury

### 2ND QUARTER 2006 (APRIL – JUNE)

|              |                        |
|--------------|------------------------|
| Handguns     | \$14,745,604.37        |
| Long Guns    | \$21,620,885.47        |
| Ammunition   | \$19,881,314.54        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>\$56,247,804.38</b> |

### 2ND QUARTER 2005 (APRIL – JUNE)

|              |                        |
|--------------|------------------------|
| Handguns     | \$13,129,741.49        |
| Long Guns    | \$25,464,292.41        |
| Ammunition   | \$14,976,779.29        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>\$53,570,813.19</b> |

# Nationwide Survey Shows Most Americans Support Hunting and Fishing

From NSSF

The 35th annual National Hunting and Fishing Day was held September 23 and a new nationwide survey of Americans 18 years old and older shows that a strong majority support hunting and fishing.

National Hunting and Fishing Day was officially established in 1972 to celebrate sportsmen and their role in fostering conservation and the scientific management of natural resources and wildlife. This year, those celebrating National Hunting and Fishing Day will also be able to celebrate at least a decade of public support for their activities, according to a nationwide poll.

The nationwide survey, conducted by Responsive Management of Harrisonburg, Virginia, found that support for hunting and fishing has remained strong over the past decade with approximately every three out of four Americans approving of legal hunting, and more than nine out of 10 approving of recreational fishing.

“We have been seeing public support for hunting increase in several states over the past decade where we had data but this is the first nationwide study where we could verify that public support has increased over the past decade. In 1995, 73 percent of Americans approved of hunting while in 2006, 78 percent approved of hunting. Support for fishing nationwide, as well as in numerous states where we have conducted studies, remains very high,” says Mark Damian Duda, executive director of Responsive Management. Although approval of fishing has decreased slightly, dropping only 1.7 percentage points from 95 percent in 1995 to 93.3 percent in 2006, most Americans approve of recreational fishing.

As Americans become more knowledgeable about the role of hunting in wildlife management as well as how much money hunting and fishing contribute to fish and wildlife conservation efforts, coupled with a visible increase in deer in urban areas and the need to actively manage their populations, Responsive Management’s research shows that the public continues to approve of hunting.

Officials in the hunting and fishing industries are encouraged by the public support, citing the important role that sportsmen play in a number of areas, including conservation and the economy. Steve Williams, current president of the Wildlife Management Institute and former director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, noted, “Sportsmen are essential to wildlife protection and management. Game management programs, which are funded by sportsmen’s dollars, have brought back numerous wildlife species from unhealthy population levels, such as wild turkey, wood ducks, white-tailed deer, beaver, pronghorn antelope and Canada geese, to name a few. In addition, sportsmen’s dollars have purchased and managed millions of acres of fish and wildlife habitat benefiting all fish and wildlife species and the public who enjoy them.”

Matt Hogan, executive vice president of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, pointed out, “Public support for hunting and fishing is crucial for conservation efforts. State fish and wildlife agencies have been and continue to be funded in large part by the contributions of sportsmen and women through license sales and excise tax payments on hunting and fishing equipment. To put it simply, without hunters and anglers, state fish and wildlife agencies would not be able to do their job conserving and managing wildlife for all Americans to enjoy.”

Gordon Robertson, vice president of the American Sport Fishing Association, commented, “Hunting and fishing have major economic impacts on the U.S. economy. According to the *National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation* conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, sportsmen and women spend more than \$70 billion on hunting and fishing each year. Spreading that out across other sectors of the economy, sport fishing alone annually contributes \$116 billion to the U.S. economy. It’s gratifying to know that the American public supports these activities with such a strong cultural heritage.”

**“Public support for hunting and fishing is crucial for conservation efforts.”**



# Kudos

## GSD&M Advertising Receives Award

GSD&M Advertising in Austin received the IHEA Industry Award for providing outstanding services to the IHEA and printing brochures for the annual IHEA Foundation Benefit Shoot held in San Antonio at the National Shooting Complex. Shown here in the middle is Steve Gurasich, C.E.O. of GSD&M. On the right is IHEA executive director, Gary Berlin, along with IHEA president, Terry Erwin, on the left making the presentation. Steve offered his offices in Austin for an IHEA Foundation planning meeting where he was participating and hosting the session.

Congratulations, Steve, and many thanks!



The THEIA newsletter is always contained within *Target Talk*, and it lists the officers at the top of the front page. Pictured here at their booth are three of those officers who held a short business meeting in October at Expo. Seated from left are member Saralynn Walton and secretary Susan Rector, La Porte; standing in the rear is president Duke Walton, Porter, with vice president Bob Boswell, Corpus Christi. Not pictured is treasurer Al Potthast, San Antonio.

Please mark your calendars to attend the upcoming Annual Instructor Award Conference in Irving at the Knights of Columbus Hall on February 16-18. This conference is co-sponsored by THEIA and is designed to recognize award recipients and provide educational break-out sessions. For more information, please contact any of the officers or our office.

Pictured here are the top three winners of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Whiz-Bang finals held on Friday, October 6, at TPWD Headquarters. Pictured from left to right are the winners — from the Senior Division, Logan Gaskins, Knott; Intermediate Division, Kyler Ford, Burleson; and Junior Division, Jansen Merrill, Coleman. These youngsters won new Browning shotguns and numerous other items provided by supporting industry participants. Each division had the top five finalists representing hundreds of participants from the 4-H Shooting Sports program. Congratulations to the winners and all of the finalists who attended the shoot. We hope to see some new faces next year.

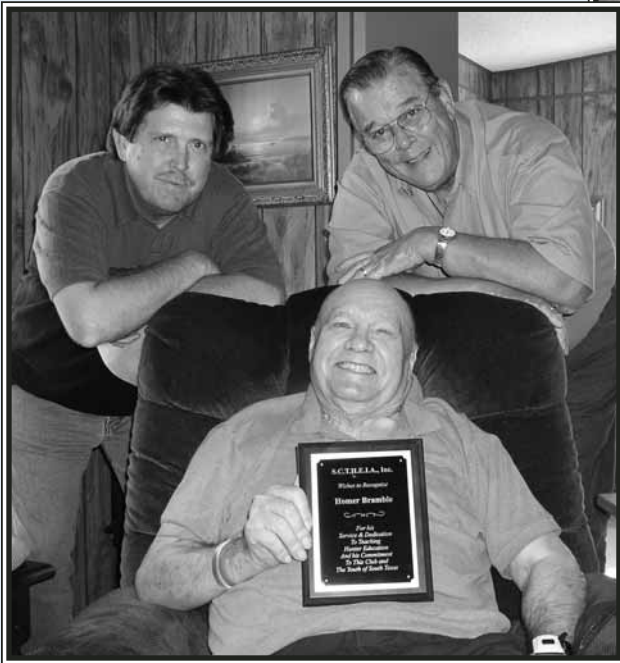


## San Antonio Instructors Honored

The South Central Texas Hunter Education Instructor Association (SC) recognized these instructors for their many years of volunteer service in the TPWD Hunter Education Program. During a recent meeting held in San Antonio, each was presented with an appreciation plaque and a "lifetime membership" to the association. Shown here are the following individual recipients, who have a combined total of 63 years service.



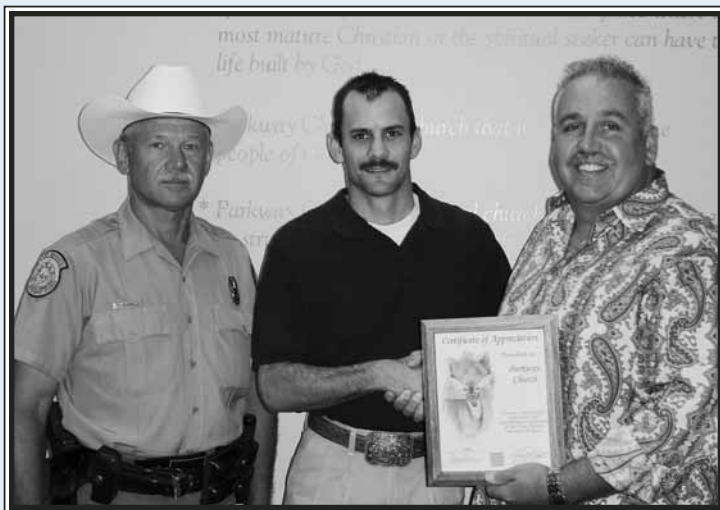
*Bernie Heer, Jr., with 16 years, is in the middle and shown with Terry Erwin, president, IHEA, on the left and Ross Walker, president, SC, on the right.*



*Homer Bramble, with 16 years, is shown here with Ross Walker, president, SC, and Area Chief Bob Artz.*



*Bill and Bev Brummel, with 31 years, are shown here with Terry Erwin, president, IHEA, and Ross Walker, president, SC.*



Game Warden Tommy Charbula from Jackson County and James Bartay presented Parkway Church with a certificate of appreciation for their continued support and partnership with the TPWD Hunter Education program. They have been letting TPWD use their facility since Bartay started as an instructor. They have always been helpful in promoting the program and allowing TPWD to use any resources they have to hold a successful class (T.V., video equipment, projector, speakers, etc.). Pictured left to right are Game Warden Tommy Charbula, James Bartay and Pastor Scott Weatherford.

## Caughron Receives Brigade Award

Jimmie Caughron, Hunter Education Specialist from Ballinger recently received a special award from the 5th Battalion of the North Texas Buckskin Brigade for his dedicated service to this organization as well as the Rolling Plains Bobwhite Brigade where he serves on the steering committee of both groups. Jimmie was described as, “The rock to depend on when I need something done,” according to Kent Mills, president of the North Texas Brigade. Jimmie spends long hours with each group during the summer and has been an integral part of the success of the group. Congratulations, Jimmie!



## Couple Marries Just Before Expo

Chris and Tammy met at Expo two years ago in 2004 and then became engaged at Expo in 2005. Well, as time would have it, they were joined as Mr. and Mrs. Sullivan just before Expo 2006 in Brownwood, Texas, and spent the remainder of their “honeymoon” time at Expo this year. During all the celebration and excitement of the wedding, their wedding cake met with some catastrophic circumstances and was destroyed on the way to the reception. That being the case, Kathy Powell, Hunter Education Administrative Assistant, came to the rescue and presented this rendition of a “wedding cake” to the couple during the Expo activities on October 7, 2006. Congratulations Chris and Tammy! We wish you years of volunteering at Expo, and, oh yes, years of happiness.

## File Under What Not to Do!



Every now and then we receive mail depicting hunting and shooting incidences. This is a result of failure to remove the bore sight BEFORE shooting the first round!

This is a clear example of not pointing the muzzle in a safe direction. Others will see this and may think it is OK to support a shotgun in this manner.



# 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.

## August

|                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| William Parker     | Flower Mound  |
| Steven Branecky    | Boerne        |
| Jonathan Williams  | Fort Worth    |
| Steven Balthrop    | Boerne        |
| Heather Dickson    | Sugar Land    |
| Brandon Neal       | Granbury      |
| William Truelock   | Amarillo      |
| Russell Rosenstein | Mansfield     |
| Dustin McLeod      | Grand Prairie |
| Keith Talley       | Boyd          |
| Michael Doyle      | Kingwood      |
| Kristie Weller     | Latexo        |
| Ricky Laden        | San Antonio   |
| James Dugat        | Banquete      |

|                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Michael Merritt   | Deport          |
| Alicia Moore      | Winnsboro       |
| Thomas Humphries  | Fort Worth      |
| Kevin Dockery     | Wylie           |
| Lee Wilcox        | Palmer          |
| David Krawczynski | Mountain Home   |
| Carson Watt       | Bryan           |
| Michael Vail      | Converse        |
| Kenneth Waltz     | Bonham          |
| Joe Allison       | Carthage        |
| David West        | Kirbyville      |
| Casey Phillips    | Bonham          |
| Jonathan Cassens  | College Station |
| Tony Long         | College Station |
| Benjamin Po, Jr.  | Fulshear        |
| Lloyd Parker      | Ovilla          |

|                       |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Wallace Foy           | Flower Mound |
| Michael Cook          | Denver City  |
| James Wilson, Jr.     | Plains       |
| Austin Heck           | McKinney     |
| Nathaniel Stockberger | Tomball      |
| Julie Kondoff         | Plano        |
| Price Clifford        | Lewisville   |
| Mark Winn             | Big Spring   |
| Beverly Schroedter    | Cedar Park   |
| Jason Raverty         | Conroe       |
| Alan Nichols          | Fort Worth   |
| David Burton          | Cumby        |
| William Ballard       | Bryan        |
| David Mohr            | Carmine      |
| Calvin Runyan         | Emory        |
| Leah Dower            | Muenster     |
| Ralf Hauser           | Bryan        |
| David McConathy       | Weatherford  |
| Joshua Jaggears       | Waxahachie   |
| Archie Walker, Jr.    | Flower Mound |
| James McGuffey        | Rowlett      |
| Desiree Willis        | Clute        |
| Jonathan Taylor       | Plainview    |
| Jon Enos              | Port Isabel  |
| Joseph Cochran        | Huntsville   |

## September

|                  |           |
|------------------|-----------|
| Joshua Burnett   | Azle      |
| Philip Davenport | Burleson  |
| Philip Evans     | Austin    |
| John Dunlap      | Argyle    |
| Matt Byrd        | Gilmer    |
| Jeffrey Lewis    | Florence  |
| Juan Munoz       | Rio Hondo |

## October

|                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| Jeffrey Holland  | Hemphill     |
| David Ward       | Flower Mound |
| Gary Dunda       | Odessa       |
| Dolores Long     | Stanton      |
| Lloyd Long       | Stanton      |
| Eugene Gilcrease | Nacogdoches  |
| James McGuffey   | Rowlett      |

## New Area Chief

**John Ridlehuber** from Lott has been in the program since 1989, has taught 43 courses and certified 244 students. He will be covering Falls County and the surrounding area. He also is very active in conducting the home study program in this area, and is currently president of the Texas Concealed Handgun Instructors. He and his wife, Marsha, attended the annual conference on several occasions. Please welcome him and contact him at (254)583-4739 or visit his Web site at [www.johnsgunsetc.com](http://www.johnsgunsetc.com) if you need assistance in that area. He has a calendar page with information on courses. John is a gunsmith and has owned and operated a gun shop since 1993.

KATHY'S  
KORNER

**NOTICE:** Please contact our office to make sure your address and phone numbers are up to date. We are receiving numerous complaints about daytime phone numbers not being valid when potential students call for information. We also are mailing cards to indicate we have processed your courses, and they are being returned with invalid addresses. When we attempt to notify instructors to obtain the correct information, the numbers are not correct. Thanks for your help in keeping hunter education records current.

We are all caught up and all courses have been entered, so we will be winding up 2006 and beginning to total up points for the year. Any courses received after January 10 will be entered into 2007 data, and no points will be credited for 2006. Sorry, but we have to have a cut-off point somewhere.

Hope your new year is off and running smoothly.  
Let me know if I can do anything to help you.

K A T H Y

# Training Efforts and Workshops



The Safari Club's Hunter Education course was held at the Farm and Ranch club near Katy. The course went very well and had 114 total graduates. Most were teens, but some young adults and some parents also attended. Area Chief Duke Walton set up the course and recruited enough instructors to handle a group of this size.

Here are photos and a synopsis on the Dove Workshop hosted by Duke Walton at American Shooting Center in Houston. Anyone who did not attend truly missed a great opportunity. One of the main focuses of the morning session was to make us better shotgun shooters. This was done through the help of Gil and Vicki Ash, who own and operate OSP Shooting School. Gil teaches shotgun shooting in a way that puts everyone at ease. Listening to him was a very enjoyable experience, and learning from him was a great opportunity. We covered a lot of information in a short time in the classroom, then went into the field and had some hands-on lessons from him. I plan to attend at least one of his regular classes so I can soak up more of his knowledge. Very few seemed to mind the heat as long as he was teaching. Anyone, no matter the skill level, would benefit from Gil's class.



After a break for lunch, Texas Parks and Wildlife biologist Jay Roberson presented information on doves and their habitat. I was able to learn quite a lot about types of doves, land management, how surveys are taken and much more. This workshop was among one of the best I have ever attended. I wish to thank Duke Walton for putting it together. I sincerely hope more of these workshops are planned, because working with Gil and Vicki Ash would be a BIG benefit for all involved.

Curtis Ansley







A Responsibility, Game Laws and Ethics Workshop was held on September 16, 2006, at the Eddie Gray Wetlands Center in Baytown. Eight instructors attended. Both new and seasoned instructors were present and participated in numerous discussions of dilemmas and ethical situations. Many thanks to John Meekins and Gene Norton for their contributions to the success of this workshop!

## Hunters for the Hungry Needs Your Help

### Hunters for the Hungry Needs Your Bucks!

Since 1991, Hunters for the Hungry has assisted Texas hunters by providing a quick and easy way to donate wild game through a statewide network of local meat processors. Hunters for the Hungry ensures that the donated meat makes its way to families in need. Over 1,000,000 pounds of processed venison has been donated by hunters to help eliminate hunger in communities all across Texas.

Now, Texas Hunters for the Hungry needs help and support more than ever before. The federal funding that covered the annual operations and management budget for Hunters for the Hungry in Texas was abolished. On September 14, 2006, Duke Walton, president of Texas Hunter Education Instructors Association (THEIA), and Bob Boswell, vice president, stepped up to help keep the program running and presented a check from the THEIA to Pam Robers with Hunters for the Hungry.

Also, Terry Erwin, TPWD Hunter Education Coordinator and president of the International Hunter Education Association (IHEA), presented a 1987 collector's item, the "Continuing the Heritage" print, on behalf of the IHEA. The print will be used as part of the Hunters for the Hungry fundraising efforts.

Interested hunters can take legally harvested deer to participating meat processors, who will process and package the meat for a nominal fee to cover basic costs. An updated list of meat processors for the 2006–07 deer season is posted on the Web site. Call Hunters for the Hungry at (800) 992-9767 ext. 506 or visit [www.tacaa.org/hunters.htm](http://www.tacaa.org/hunters.htm) for more information about the ways you can help.



*Duke Walton, THEIA president; Pam Robers, Hunters for the Hungry; and Bob Boswell, THEIA vice president*



*Pam Robers, Hunters for the Hungry; and Terry Erwin, TPWD Hunter Education Coordinator and IHEA president*

# INSTRUCTOR DISCOUNTS

## Feeder Meter

Texas now has approximately 67 counties with new antler restrictions of 13-inch or better to promote quality deer management. To be absolutely sure, rather than judging the antlers by the width of the ears when extended, hunters can now use this newly developed device to help make the decision. Instructors are encouraged to obtain one of these to use in training students to recognize the appropriate size antlers. The tool retails for \$29.95, but we have a very limited supply and will be happy to send you one while they last.

FEEDER METER™ is an exiting new aid to help young and older hunters alike judge antler size as well as height of bucks that are in their sights! FEEDER METER™ is based in Austin, and is a part of a growing effort to educate hunters in the benefits of better white-tailed deer management. They offer an inexpensive management program tool that should serve to allow bucks to grow past 3-1/2 years of age on any given acreage. It does not have to be mounted to a feeder to be a useful aid to hunters. It will work just as well on a fence post or tree trunk in your hunting area.

When that big boy comes to your feeder or into your hunting area, gauge his rack width by the brightly colored ZONES on the new FEEDER METER™. If his rack appears to be inside the RED ZONE, then

please refrain from harvesting that young buck! It may not be an illegal buck in YOUR region or county now ([www.tpwd.state.tx.us/publications/annual/hunt/game/#special](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/publications/annual/hunt/game/#special)), but that young buck sure will look good in your trophy room if you let him make it through the next season or two! If his rack falls inside the YELLOW ZONE, depending on just how serious you are about YOUR game management program, you may also want to pass on this buck. He will be a "legal" buck, but he won't be as good as he will be when he reaches the GREEN ZONE! Just remember, "The older the buck, the larger the rack, and the more desirable the trophy!"



FEEDER METER™ is patent pending, and is a division of RAD Outdoor Products, 735 Heather Hills Dr., Dripping Springs, TX 78620, phone (512) 415-4458. For more information or to secure one of these training aids at an instructor discounted price, please contact them.



# HENRY

Made in America and Priced Right

Henry Repeating Arms would like to continue with their 2006 price program available to all instructors of Texas, and is making a special offer to purchase firearms direct from the company. If interested, please contact them at (718) 499-5600 or e-mail at [info@henryrepeating.com](mailto:info@henryrepeating.com)

## NRA Targets Available

We have 60 sets of NRA full-size, colored, animal silhouette targets that might be used for skills trail testing. There are about six to eight targets in each set. If you would like a set, please notify Mac Almond ASAP. These are on a first-come, first-served basis and when gone, we will be out. Mac may be reached at (800) 792-1112, Ext. 4795.

SALE • SALE • SALE • SALE

Alan Madison Productions

Classic Award Winning Videos for Hunter Education

"The 5 Pack"

(5 individual DVDs in each pack!)

- The Last Shot • Survival •
- Shoot/Don't Shoot • Firearms Safety & the Hunter •
- The Hunter's Path...choices in responsible hunting •



Alan Madison Productions has been a pioneer in the education and safety awareness of individuals involved in the hunting sports for over 30 years and continues to offer cutting-edge and award-winning media to stimulate discussions and ethical decisions in your classes. This opens eyes and opens minds ... thus saving lives and reducing accidents.

Alan Madison Productions features a lineup of "all time" hunter education favorites in their DVD 5 Pack packaged in an attractive and sturdy case. Including *The Last Shot*, *Firearms Safety and The Hunter*, *Shoot/Don't Shoot*, *The Hunter's Path*, and *Survival!*, The 5 Pack offers the "best bang for your buck" at just \$149 plus \$8 shipping and handling. That's less than \$30 per DVD! Providing a true A to Z library of hunter education topics, the five individual DVDs contained in The 5 Pack have won 25 combined film festival awards. To order yours, please call Geri Hatfield at Alan Madison Productions toll free at (877) 404-3311 or visit the Web site at [www.alanmadison.com](http://www.alanmadison.com) for more information.

## New Covert Orange

Recently, the IHEA entered into an exciting new partnership with Kevin Carlile, president and C.E.O. of Carlile Design, Inc., of Rolla, Missouri.

Kevin Carlile has offered to donate 50 cents for every Covert Orange™ vest sold through the IHEA and the 70,000 hunter education instructors (either items purchased by instructors or by their students), and he will donate 25 cents from each vest sold through other channels of distribution.

Kevin is so excited to work with the IHEA and with Hunter Education instructors that he has added an additional incentive. **Any Hunter Education Instructor who places an order for a vest on the Covert Orange Web site ([www.covertorange.com](http://www.covertorange.com)) will be entered into a drawing to win a 2006 Honda 350 FourTrax Rancher ATV!** The drawing for the ATV will be held at the IHEA conference on May 19 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

IHEA educators and their students must enter the instructor's educator number in the online order form area that asks, "Where did you hear about us?" Doing so will ensure the instructor's registration in the drawing for the ATV. This code also gives IHEA credit to receive 50 cents for each vest sold.

Carlile Design markets Covert Orange™ technology under exclusive license. Covert Orange™ hats and vests utilize a patented combination of high intensity UV chemical in combination with legally approved daylight fluorescent safety orange material to make hunting garments that are less visible to game animals. According to research ophthalmologists working cooperatively with Covert Orange™, deer and

other game animals are dichromatic, i.e., sensitive to only two colors—blue and yellow. On the other hand, humans are trichromatic and have three types of color-sensitive cells in their eyes and are most sensitive to blue, green or red light.

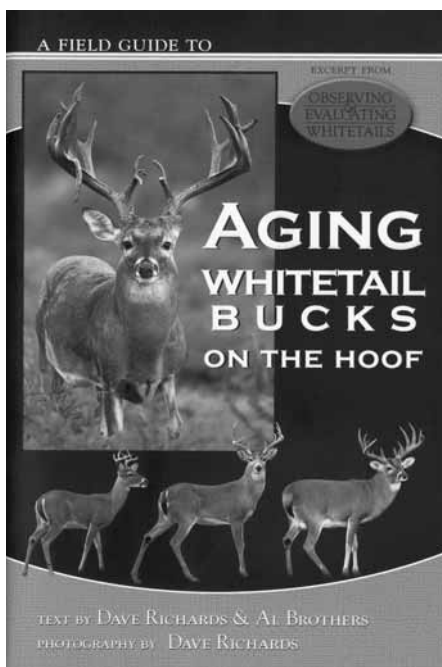
The UV chemical embedded in Covert Orange™ in combination with the daylight fluorescent safety orange stimulates the blue and yellow-sensitive cells of the deer eye. The net effect is a "color correction" of its perceived color by deer from a bright yellow to a "neutral point" gray-beige. As a result, Covert Orange™ is far less detectable when viewed by deer against foliage and terrain than is typical safety orange material. Or, as the folks at Covert Orange™ like to say, "Hunters see it. Deer don't."

Because humans have three color-sensitive cells in their eyes, as opposed to two for deer, Covert Orange™ is still highly visible to fellow hunters and legal to wear in states such as Missouri and Colorado that require hunters to wear unbroken blaze orange.

Covert Orange™ vests and hats are available exclusively through the Covert Orange™ online SuperStore at [www.covertorange.com/buyitnow.htm](http://www.covertorange.com/buyitnow.htm).

Please use this link when viewing the Covert Orange™ page: [www.covertorange.com/IHEA.htm](http://www.covertorange.com/IHEA.htm)

For more information, consumers can log onto the Covert Orange™ Web site at [www.covertorange.com](http://www.covertorange.com) or write to 10022 CR 3070, Rolla, MO 65401.



This book was mentioned in the last issue of *Target Talk*, and it is an excellent pocket guide. Following up on their groundbreaking book *Observing & Evaluating Whitetails*, authors Dave Richards and Al Brothers have teamed to produce *A Field Guide to Aging Whitetail Bucks on the Hoof*, which is printed on water-resistant paper. Published by the Quality Deer Management Association, it's a handy reference on aging live whitetail bucks; and at only 4x6 inches, it will fit in your pocket or day pack! Deer hunters and anyone interested in white-tailed deer will want at least one. The 20-page, full color field guide is loaded with information and high-quality photographs that will help anyone learn quickly to age whitetail bucks on the hoof more accurately.

"Under the best of circumstances," Richards and Brothers write in the book's introduction, "aging white-tailed deer on the hoof is a calculated guess. However, by applying the techniques outlined in this booklet, soon you will be consistently aging bucks on the hoof in your area." Information on aging by behavior, by time of the year, and by a combination of physical and behavioral indicators is illustrated by more than three dozen high-quality photos of whitetails in the field. Priced at \$6.99, this field guide is a perfect companion to the landmark *Observing & Evaluating Whitetails*, which Richards and Brothers published in 2003.

The new field guide and the larger observing-and-evaluating volume are both available from QDMA, and can be ordered by phone at (800) 209-3337 or online at [www.QDMA.com](http://www.QDMA.com).



## A Fellow Hunter's Thoughts

Mark Cousins, Colorado Hunter Education Coordinator

I'm back from chasing elk with the muzzleloader. Like many hunts, this year's got off to a bad start – I couldn't hunt opening weekend due to family conflicts. I took off in pursuit of elk up Gilpin and Clear Creek County way instead of making a multi-day trip to Middle Park. What a great time of year to be out – the aspen were changing into their fall colors, and the air was crisp, and getting a hint of fall coolness to it. I enjoyed snacking on raspberries at 11,300 feet – only eating a few, as there are critters at that altitude that need them far more than I do, getting spooked by dusky grouse taking wing, seeing deer, watching pika prepare for the winter, catching glimpses of goshawks and snowshoe hares. I also

encountered one pesky squirrel that seemed to enjoy dropping pine cones on me from about 50 feet up a tree.

Oh, yes, I did see some elk – jumped three in their beds at about 60 yards. I had the set-trigger set, the .54 Plains Rifle securely rested over a tree limb and the sights on them – only problem was that in the heavy cover, I could not get a clear view of the “center of the chest,” instead only seeing heads, necks and rumps as they moved away looking back towards me. The only broadside opportunities included a tree blocking the chest – just heads and rumps sticking out. It didn't matter, the hunt was still a complete success as I was able to go



I'm still explaining  
to my lovely wife of  
over 14 years why  
it's so much fun  
to hunt with a  
muzzleloader even  
if it means not  
getting an elk.

hunting, see game and all the splendor of nature on our public lands. Actually, I shook as badly as ever when I was trying to pick a spot for the shot – there really is something about “method” hunts! I had to say “thank you” to Teddy Roosevelt and the others that made it possible for us to enjoy our natural resources and have places to hunt – “all people, regardless of their means...” in my mind while hiking about. What a great state and country we live in, where all people have the opportunity to hunt on their lands, the Forest Service and BLM, along with all of the State Wildlife Areas, State Trust Lands and Walk-In Access Program properties. There really are ample hunting opportunities out there.

While hunting, the rain moved in and thunder echoed off the mountains. I was glad that it was far off and that I didn't have to hide from lightning. A co-worker had told me of having to dig in and sit out a storm during an archery hunt to avoid possibly

being struck by lightning. This got me to thinking about the importance of telling students about the danger of lightning in the high country. When I opened the paper, I saw the sickening headline: “Coroner: Lightning killed hunter.” A hunter near Nucla, Colorado, was struck and killed by lightning on September 7 and was found on September 13. This is a sad reminder of how unforgiving nature can be and how important it is to be prepared and knowledgeable on outdoors safety.

I'm still explaining to my lovely wife of over 14 years why it's so much fun to hunt with a muzzleloader even if it means not getting an elk. She smiled and reminded me we're just about out of deer from last fall, and she'd like to see some meat in the freezer – then she said something about “modern” guns with scopes, but in my mind I was still seeing the elk stand up from their beds and thinking how close I came to harvesting one with a round ball.

I have a pronghorn and two deer licenses to go (hunting one of the deer with the flintlock), and will now have to find a spot for a leftover cow elk hunt. Should be able to put something in the freezer, and even if I don't, I will have hunted and that's what it's all about.

I have to thank my father for instilling the true meaning of the hunt in me – it was never about horns or even the kill, it was about time in the field, with nature and family and friends keeping the hunting tradition alive.

I hope classes are going well and that you all get the chance to do some hunting this season. Remember those from the past that have helped make it possible for us to hunt. Thank you all very much for helping keep the hunting tradition and the conservation ethic alive and well. Keep passing it on! Have a safe and successful fall.

## Outfitters.tv Has New Web Site

Have you ever wanted to view some of your favorite outdoor hunting shows, but just didn't have time to fit it into the busy day? Consider this new option and give it a try. **Outfitters.tv** was incorporated as an Online Global Television Network in February 2006 to become a leading distributor of digital rights to outdoor programming. They provide a lineup of 24-hour digital outdoor programs to consumers. Outfitters.tv also provides the industries largest and most comprehensive leading outdoor programs in their conservation archive for Video-on-Demand delivery.

As a new and exciting opportunity for viewers, Outfitter.tv will air all the previous Hunter Education Dream Hunts that were shown on ESPN-2 which started back in 1990. The programming will be posted on Outfitters.tv under Program Schedule beginning in January 2007.

The Hunter Education Dream Hunt was initially started to enhance enrollment and participation of students in hunter education and offer them an opportunity to go on a “hunt of a lifetime” and have it aired on ESPN-2. Upon successful completion of the hunter education course, each student under age 18 was given an entry card, which required a

parent/guardian signature. Entries were sent in and random drawings were held for eight youth and an instructor. The hunts were held in Georgia, Florida or Virginia and were upland bird hunts.

The United States was divided into three areas that coincided with federal aid regions and Canada was the fourth region. Two students were usually drawn from each region, but on rare occasion, a student would have to drop out at the last minute. All travel and lodging was provided and the youth were completely outfitted with hunting clothes and boots and each received a Winchester shotgun. All items were donated by respective industry that supported the event. Winchester Ammunition was the first major sponsor, and continued until the last show.

Log on to Outfitter.tv and watch some of the students who participated in the hunts along with the instructors. You might just see one of your students or yourself if you were fortunate enough to be drawn for one of the previous Dream Hunts. It will bring back some fine memories.

With the right equipment, you can use wireless connections to view these shows on your TV.

# Colorado Hunters for 2006

Colorado Division of Wildlife

Ever wonder how many hunters from Texas actually go to Colorado, especially when they call and ask for a hunter education course for that purpose, and usually just before they leave? Well, as of August 1, 2006, here is a listing of those who purchased out-of-state licenses for Colorado and where they were from. It is interesting that Texas hunters are second in number only to California.

| STATE                   | Deer   | Elk    | Total   | STATE                   | Deer  | Elk   | Total |
|-------------------------|--------|--------|---------|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| AK Alaska               | 63     | 113    | 176     | ND North Dakota         | 41    | 416   | 457   |
| AL Alabama              | 238    | 299    | 537     | NE New England          | 99    | 867   | 966   |
| AR Arkansas             | 512    | 1,033  | 1,545   | NH New Hampshire        | 29    | 62    | 91    |
| AZ Arizona              | 552    | 618    | 1,170   | NJ New Jersey           | 117   | 172   | 289   |
| CA California           | 5,290  | 5,054  | 10,344  | NM New Mexico           | 384   | 519   | 903   |
| CO Colorado             | 58,399 | 79,821 | 138,220 | NV Nevada               | 214   | 389   | 603   |
| CT Connecticut          | 40     | 72     | 112     | NY New York             | 441   | 813   | 1,254 |
| DC District of Columbia | 2      | 3      | 5       | OH Ohio                 | 376   | 934   | 1,310 |
| DE Delaware             | 21     | 35     | 56      | OK Oklahoma             | 463   | 1,542 | 2,005 |
| FL Florida              | 576    | 705    | 1,281   | OR Oregon               | 212   | 230   | 442   |
| GA Georgia              | 372    | 589    | 961     | PA Pennsylvania         | 1,637 | 2,326 | 3,963 |
| HI Hawaii               | 17     | 40     | 57      | RI Rhode Island         | 18    | 11    | 29    |
| IA Iowa                 | 131    | 852    | 983     | SC South Carolina       | 104   | 141   | 245   |
| ID Idaho                | 93     | 100    | 193     | SD South Dakota         | 52    | 422   | 474   |
| IL Illinois             | 269    | 840    | 1,109   | TN Tennessee            | 337   | 644   | 981   |
| IN Indiana              | 197    | 604    | 801     | TX Texas                | 2,619 | 3,976 | 6,595 |
| KS Kansas               | 117    | 1,000  | 1,117   | UT Utah                 | 717   | 324   | 1,041 |
| KY Kentucky             | 191    | 372    | 563     | VA Virginia             | 307   | 590   | 897   |
| LA Louisiana            | 491    | 732    | 1,223   | VT Vermont              | 43    | 69    | 112   |
| MA Massachusetts        | 67     | 120    | 187     | WA Washington           | 271   | 288   | 559   |
| MD Maryland             | 220    | 356    | 576     | WI Wisconsin            | 1,236 | 3,341 | 4,577 |
| ME Maine                | 26     | 41     | 67      | WV West Virginia        | 281   | 553   | 834   |
| MI Michigan             | 1,206  | 1,818  | 3,024   | WY Wyoming              | 89    | 103   | 192   |
| MN Minnesota            | 470    | 3,697  | 4,167   | AE Armed Forces         |       |       |       |
| MO Missouri             | 554    | 1,957  | 2,511   | Europe, Canada          | 0     | 2     | 2     |
| MS Mississippi          | 330    | 484    | 814     | AP Armed Forces Pacific | 0     | 0     | 0     |
| MT Montana              | 53     | 94     | 147     | .. Foreign Country      | 20    | 45    | 65    |
| NC North Carolina       | 260    | 433    | 693     |                         |       |       |       |

# Spring Turkey Hunt

Bob Boswell, Area Chief

I was the high bidder on a spring turkey hunt auction item at an annual Hunter Education Instructor Conference. I actually bought the hunt in 2005 but was unable to go until this spring, due to my work schedule. Billy Holt was the landowner and guide for this hunt, and graciously allowed me to postpone the hunt until 2006.

I arrived on Good Friday afternoon and was treated to a tour of the ranch and surrounding area. We enjoyed great weather that afternoon, and saw several turkeys during the scenic outing. Later, we returned to Breckenridge for dinner. We ate at one of the local cafes, and I was privileged to meet many of the local residents. The food was great, both in town and in camp. Instructor Gary Doyle, Billy's teaching partner, was the co-host and did his

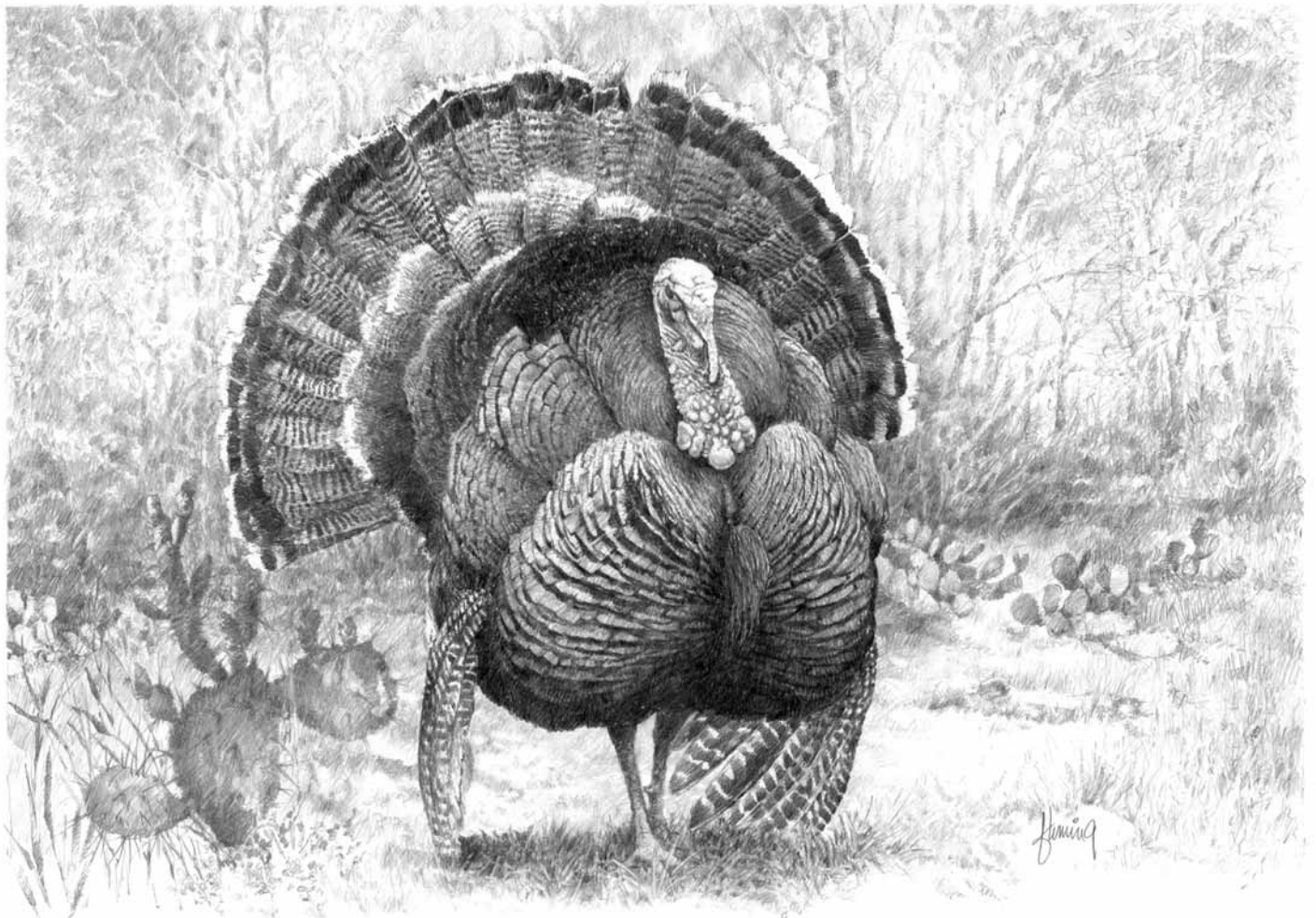
part cooking a really great breakfast on Saturday morning, with sausage, eggs and biscuits that were just outstanding. Of course, I was really hungry, too.

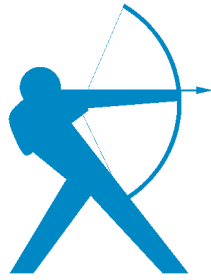
Early Saturday morning we were out with the elements listening to the turkeys come off their roosts. We hunted seriously and took breaks only to eat and enjoy a short nap after lunch. (I'm not as young as I used to be.) We heard hens and gobblers and saw turkeys every time we went out. Billy was not only my guide, but an excellent caller as well. We had five gobblers within ten steps of us the first morning, but all were young jakes and not exactly what I was looking for. We had more turkeys within 20 yards later that day, and again, no shooters. In all, I had four opportunities to bring home a turkey during the two-day

hunt, but elected to wait on the "boss" gobbler, but he never showed up.

Sunday was Easter, so we scheduled hunting around church services. Billy is a member of a really neat little country church south of Breckenridge (Gun Sight Baptist Church) and he had a part in the services. I thoroughly enjoyed the entire weekend. I was treated like family, met a lot of great people, saw some beautiful country, and lots of turkeys. It was the best weekend I have had in a long time.

Remember, one does not have to have taken an animal to have a successful hunt, and this hunt was truly successful. Thanks to Billy and Gary for making my trip such a memorable occasion and one I can file away among my cherished events.





# THE BOWHUNTER

## TEXAS BOWHUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

### Public Bowhunting Opportunities in Texas

Bob Wright, president, LSBA

There are a lot more bowhunting opportunities on public land in Texas than the average bowhunter realizes. While it's true that the vast majority of the land in Texas is privately owned and hunting leases are the standard, there is still some great bowhunting on public land. After all, the number one non-typical white-tailed deer was taken on public land a few years ago.

Public bowhunting is challenging, fun and rewarding. Many of the tactics used on private property leases to bowhunt are not available on public land. It is rare to find a public hunting area that allows automatic feeders. Hand scattering of bait is allowed on some public areas but the vast majority do not allow baiting. In many public hunting areas, motorized vehicles are not allowed and no permanent stands can be erected. Many public lands require bowhunters that use portable stands to remove them at the end of the day or have a time limit that stands can be left out, such as, no more than three days. Bowhunters have to use basic hunting skills to be successful. Being able to read and interpret wildlife sign and other basic hunting skills are needed in addition to proficiency with a bow to be successful bowhunting public land. Bowhunting public land is a challenge and any deer harvested is a trophy.

Many bowhunters think that public bowhunting is like public gun hunting, overcrowded and unsafe. This is simply not the case. In many areas, public bowhunting opportunities are under utilized. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department special permit drawing hunts have standby bowhunting permits for deer going unused every year. Some local lakes that could never allow gun hunts due to human population density offer bowhunting for deer and feral hogs. Some of these lakes are close to major metropolitan areas. Did you know that it may be possible to bowhunt feral hogs in selected areas around a lake only a few miles from where you live?

Where can you go to find out more information about public bowhunting opportunities? There are a number of places to go to look for information. Is there one location that lists all public hunting lands? The answer to this question is NO. The problem is that there are so many different governmental agencies that offer bowhunting opportunities and each one does things a little different. I'll list a few and how you can go about getting in touch with them.

#### **Texas Parks and Wildlife Department**

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) lands are probably the best known of all public hunting opportunities. TPWD has two main programs for bowhunters to access TPWD-managed lands.

- Special Drawing and Regular Permit Hunting Opportunities on Texas Parks and Wildlife Department hunting areas. This is the drawn hunt program. These are low-cost, quality bowhunts on TPWD-managed lands.



Application deadlines for the Archery Alligator and Archery Deer bowhunts are in August. Plan ahead and take advantage of these opportunities. If you apply but are not drawn for one of these bowhunts, try going standby. I have never heard of anyone being turned away after showing up as a standby for one of these bowhunts. The drawing bowhunt I went on last season at Richland Creek WMA had 40 standby permits available that went unused.

- Annual Public Hunting Permit program. This is the program that was formerly known as the Type II program. There are a lot of great bowhunting opportunities open to bowhunters through this program. I have taken several deer with my bow off Type II lands. Normally the areas aren't crowded except for possibly the open weekend of archery season. Some of the areas are "archery only" for deer and feral hogs.

Here's how to contact TPWD to find out more information about bowhunting opportunities on TPWD-managed lands. [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/hunt/public\\_hunting/](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/hunt/public_hunting/)

Public Hunting Coordinator, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department  
4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744 • (800) 792-1112

### **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

The Corps of Engineers offers bowhunting opportunities around many of the lakes in Texas. Most of these areas are only open to bowhunters and waterfowl hunters and require a permit issued by each Corps lake office. Some of the areas require a proficiency test and permit fee. Others have an application deadline and a drawing to award permits. All require Hunter Education certification. These bow hunts are similar to the TPWD hunts in that no motorized vehicles are allowed in the hunt areas, no permanent blinds can be constructed and many of the areas restrict baiting. TPWD bag limits, rules and regulations apply. These are quality hunts and some of the areas have sizable deer populations with mature bucks.

More information on bowhunting opportunities on Corps of Engineers lands can be found by going to the Fort Worth District Web page at [www.swf.usace.army.mil/index.asp](http://www.swf.usace.army.mil/index.asp)

Contact the Corps of Engineers Fort Worth office and request a General Hunting Information booklet.

US Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District  
819 Taylor Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102 • (817) 886-1000

### **U.S. Forest Service**

Angelina, Davy Crocket, Sabine, and Sam Houston National Forests in East Texas offer public bowhunting opportunities. Also, Caddo and LBJ National Grasslands are open to bowhunters. I am not personally familiar with these areas but more information can be found at their Web site, phone or mailing address. [www.southernregion.fs.fed.us/texas/recreation/index.shtml](http://www.southernregion.fs.fed.us/texas/recreation/index.shtml)

National Forests & Grasslands in Texas  
701 N. First Street, Lufkin, TX 75901 • (936) 639-8501

### **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – National Wildlife Refuge System**

There are 17 National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs) in Texas. Some of them are open to bowhunters but many of them aren't. Three popular national wildlife refuges in Texas are open to bowhunters through a drawing system: Hagerman NWR on the Red River in North Texas and Aransas NWR and Laguna Atascosa NWR on the Gulf coast. All three of these refuges have sizable deer populations with Pope and Young bucks. Here is a listing of all the refuges in Texas. <http://refuges.fws.gov/profiles/ByState.cfm?state=TX>

Contact each refuge for information on public bowhunting opportunities.

Aransas National Wildlife Refuge  
P.O. Box 100, Austwell, TX 77950 • (361) 286-3559

Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge  
6465 Refuge Road, Sherman, TX 75092-5817 • (903) 786-2826

### **National Park Service**

The Big Thicket National Preserve is an obscure public hunting opportunity in East Texas. Specific units of the preserve are open to hunting during the fall-winter hunting season for the State of Texas. Free permits, issued in person only, are provided during the month of July each year per public notification. The number of hunting permits for units open to hunting is limited. Go to [www.nps.gov/bith/huntfish.htm](http://www.nps.gov/bith/huntfish.htm) for more information.

Big Thicket National Preserve  
3785 Milam Street, Beaumont, TX 77701-4724  
Email: [BITH\\_Administration@nps.gov](mailto:BITH_Administration@nps.gov)  
(409) 839-2689 x228 Monday through Friday

### **U.S. Army, Ft. Hood Texas**

The Ft. Hood military reservation offers bowhunting to civilians on thousands of acres of land. This is a quality hunt as our own past LSBA president, Tomme Actkinson, can attest. He was able to harvest a seven-point buck from Ft. Hood last season. Congratulations Tomme! Ft. Hood requires a proficiency test and permit fee but has a long season. Some of the hunting areas on the post are bowhunting only, no gun hunters allowed. For more information go to [www.hoodmwr.com](http://www.hoodmwr.com) or contact Ft. Hood Sportsmen Center:

Sportsmen Center • 532-4552  
Building 1937, Rod and Gun Loop  
53rd Street and North Avenue  
E-mail: [dcasportcen@hood.army.mil](mailto:dcasportcen@hood.army.mil)

There may be other military installations in the state that offer bowhunting. Camp Bullis outside of San Antonio ([www.fortsamhoustonmwr.com/rfd/campbullis/default.asp](http://www.fortsamhoustonmwr.com/rfd/campbullis/default.asp)) is open to military service personnel and retirees. Contact the military installation you are interested in directly for more information on bowhunting opportunities.

### **National Recreation Areas**

Amistad NWR offers deer hunting to bowhunters only, no guns allowed. You can find out more information at [www.nps.gov/amis/hunting.htm](http://www.nps.gov/amis/hunting.htm) or contact Amistad NRA:

Amistad National Recreation Area  
HCR 3, Box 5J, Hwy 90 West, Del Rio, TX 78840-9350  
Hunting Permits • (830) 774-7491 x 206

Lake Meredith NRA offers Fishing and Hunting: Visitors can fish and hunt at Lake Meredith under Federal and State of Texas Game and Fish regulations; contact the park for a hunting map and hunting/fishing seasons/bag limits. [www.nps.gov/lamr/](http://www.nps.gov/lamr/)

Lake Meredith National Recreation Area  
P.O. Box 1460, 419 E. Broadway, Fritch, TX 79036  
Visitor Information (806) 857-3151 • Headquarters (806) 857-2319 • Fax (806) 857-2319

### Texas River Authorities

Some of the river authorities in Texas offer bowhunting opportunities to control deer populations. One of these is the Coletto Creek Park and Reservoir, located midway between Victoria and Goliad. This lake offers drawing bowhunts for antlerless deer each fall. Coletto Creek is part of the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority. You can find out more about bowhunting opportunities at Coletto Creek at [www.gbra.org](http://www.gbra.org) or contact:

Wilfred Korth, Chief Ranger, Coletto Creek Park and Reservoir  
 P.O. Box 68, 365 Coletto Park Road, Fannin, TX 77960  
 Phone: (361) 575-6366 • Fax: (361) 575-2267 • E-mail: [jrobisheaux@gbra.org](mailto:jrobisheaux@gbra.org)

There is a wide variety of public bowhunting opportunities out there but you have to do your homework to find them. I'm sure there are some others that I'm not aware of and I look forward to discovering more public bowhunting opportunities. Public bow hunts will challenge the most veteran of bowhunters but the memories will last a lifetime. Many of these bow hunts are in high demand and have drawings and very early application deadlines. Good luck to everyone this year wherever you hunt.

### NEW IBEP INSTRUCTORS

#### July

Timothy Telge                      Houston

#### August

Thomas Jones                      Temple

#### September

Alan Nichols                      Fort Worth





**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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