

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

Hunter Education Minimum Age –

During the March 2008 TPW Commission meeting, the proposal to change the age for certification in hunter education was adopted. This change was made to match the Texas Youth Hunting Program participation age, and to go along with several other states that have lower age requirements for certification. The age minimum is now **NINE (9)**. The change is in effect at this time (official date April 15, 2008). Any student registering for courses who has reached his or her ninth birthday, may be certified by successfully completing the certification process, including passage of the approved final exams.

This change does not “grandfather” anyone in. Those students who took the course and were under age 12 prior to the action must still retake the course to meet certification requirements. It is still very important that instructors continue to advise parents to accompany their youngsters while hunting until they feel their youngsters are mature enough to hunt on their own.

Will this affect how we teach our courses? No, not really. Continue to teach the way you have been, and make your courses fun and hands-on. That remains the best way to ensure learning retention by adults as well as youth.

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Expo Around the Corner

Texas Parks & Wildlife Expo will celebrate its 17th year, and plans are underway for this year’s event. Volunteers are needed for the shooting sports areas again. When you receive this newsletter, you might want to make reservations at a hotel/motel of your choice. Right now, Comfort Suites Austin Airport has the best rate at around \$62 plus tax. It should be eventually blocked for Expo, so contact them at (512) 386-6000 to make your reservations.

We will have a new shooting event called “Aim to Recycle.” It uses compressed air and shoots plastic drink bottles at a recycling receptacle. Visitors must pick up and bring any soft drink plastic bottle to the area, where they will get a chance to shoot it into the container made to catch the bottles.

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Editor's Corner, continued

Instructors should request that parents attend the course with their youngsters so both can learn about safety and conservation.

Bowhunter Education Minimum Age – The IBEP minimum age for certification remains age 12, so there is no change. Speaking of bow hunting, the minimum draw weight of 40 pounds has been lifted so that there will be no minimum draw weight beginning in the new license period. Instructors should emphasize that students take extra care to make responsible decisions when it comes to shooting a bow and arrow at any game. Continue to emphasize the capabilities of the equipment, proper shot selection, shot placement and vital zones.

TPWD Austin Hunter Education Office – We have changed office locations, but our mailing address and all phone number remain the same. We are now located at 1340 Airport Commerce Park, Suite B. **All correspondence should still be sent to 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744** just like before. We have a new classroom that will seat 70 students, with audiovisual equipment and an area to host skills trail activities. Please stop by any time you are in the area.

E-mail Listserv – Sign up for free TPWD e-mail bulletins! Now it's easy to stay up-to-date on the latest hunter education

news, as well as other Texas Parks and Wildlife news, promotions and events. Just go to www.tpwd.state.tx.us/email and sign up for free e-mail subscriptions from TPWD that fit your interests. There are many categories to choose from, each with a wide range of topics. Choose from fish stocking schedules, job postings, park events, red tide and golden algae alerts, e-newsletters, hunter, bowhunter and boater education course schedules, TV show schedule, bid opportunities, news flashes, promotions, public comment opportunities and more! You'll create a personalized profile that you can easily change at any time.

2008 Course Schedules – Please begin to plan your schedules and notify us of your courses so we can enter them in the computer. We are getting calls for courses, especially from those heading out of state. In addition, please order your supplies in plenty of lead time before your course start date in order for us to get supplies to you. You may use the online order form on the Web site under Instructor Resources.

Thanks for your dedication and all your hard work! We appreciate your helping Texas hunters to become safe, responsible, knowledgeable and involved outdoor users.

Always be safe!
Terry Erwin

New Employee in Grand Prairie



Robert Ramirez became the “new face on the block” when he came to work for TPWD on December 17. He took Kent Irvin's place at the North Texas Education Center after Kent moved to the Houston area. Robert is a graduate of Tarleton State University. After graduation, Robert went to work for TPWD with the Inland Fisheries Division, but later moved to Fort Worth and went to work in their water quality department. He will cover the area from Wichita Falls to Texarkana to Nacogdoches to Waco and back.

Robert's wife, Tami, who is a school teacher, said, “That job description was written for you.” He and Tami have one daughter, Faith, age eight. Faith really loves the outdoors and is anxious to go alligator hunting this fall. Welcome aboard, Robert!

Executive Director
Carter P. Smith
Editor, Target Talk
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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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

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Instructor Opportunity at TFFC

Instructors now have the chance to teach in one of the most advanced classrooms in the state. The site even has its own permanent skills trail and air gun range. All this is available in the Athens area. If interested, please read on and make contact with the person referenced below.

Richard M. Hart and Johnny Morris Conservation Center, located at 5301 CR 4812 (Peninsula Point Road), significantly expands the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center's ability to deliver educational programming. The facility is dedicated to conservation, hunting and fishing education.

The Conservation Center offers hunter educators access to two large classrooms with a computer and projector in each room, a hunter education media library with the Alan Madison Production five-disk DVD set, Texas Parks and Wildlife hunter education DVDs (*4 in 1, Bow Hunting, A Timeless Tradition, Tree Stand Safety*), live fire range with air rifles and safety equipment, National Archery in the Schools Program kit (Genesis bows, arrows, targets and safety net) and multiple 3-D targets for the accessible, paved skills trail. All of the hunter education skills trail equipment is housed in a rustic cabin nearby.

The skills trail consists of many permanently stationed teaching aids on the trail, such as an actual duck blind overlooking a pond with a boat attached to teach duck blind safety and how to enter and exit a boat, and a deer hunting box blind in an area with gate and barbed wire pass-through to teach fence-crossing safety. An elevated tower blind and bow hunting tree stand also are on the skills trail to facilitate discussion about safety associated with each.



Along with the classrooms, media equipment, media library, skills trail and equipment, the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center also has overnight accommodations for instructors consisting of a travel trailer that holds three to four people.

Course registration can be completed directly with Barbara Barrera, or have students call you directly; your choice. The hunter education instructor is responsible for the TPWD published materials for each course, but additional supplies will be available on-site.

To reserve the Richard M. Hart and Johnny Morris Conservation Center and accommodations for your next online or traditional hunter education course, or for a bowhunter education course, contact Barbara Barrera at (903) 676-2277.

Rao Attends National Science Teacher's Association Conference



Heidi Rao was asked by the Safari Club International Foundation Sables group to represent them at the national association conference in Boston, Massachusetts, in March.

She has given programs utilizing the "Safari in a Box" which is sponsored by the Sables group. This box is a hands-on educational lab filled with pelts, skulls, "repliscat" and "replitracks," and with the appropriate teacher's activity guide being used, it helps children learn about the world they live in. TPWD has several of these "loaner boxes" and uses them across the state.



Dear Mr. Preslar:

I attended your hunter education course back in August in preparation for elk hunting in Colorado. During the hunt, I became separated from the rest of the party. I fell down the side of a mountain, sprained my ankle and was lost as night fell. I began to feel panicked, but began to think about the advice you gave during the course. “*Stay calm, get a fire going and build a shelter.*” I had a space blanket for some shelter, but at 11 p.m., when I finally managed to get a fire going, I understood all the physical and psychological benefits you told us a fire brings. Thanks so much for including “what to do if you get lost” in your course information. Your advice made my experience much less miserable than it could have been and saved me from further injury on my first ever out-of-state hunting trip.

Sincerely,
Bruce Marshall
Dallas

Dear Staff:

The past few weeks I have been giving presentations to the schools on how to become a Hunter Education instructor and other opportunities within Texas Parks and Wildlife. Just today I received about 30 letters from just one class at school (and more on the way for other classes), so I wanted to share a little of what they said:

From Brooke: “I love the outdoors and the animals within it. I definitely want to go to your class. I’ve already taken Hunter Education but I may like to take your class. I really enjoyed your presentation. ... I will now think safety first in all the things I do indoors and outdoors.”

From Kara: “Safety is very important and that was the point you were trying to make. I got that point and I was happy that you found that extremely important. ... I’ve

never been hunting or hiking, but after your visit I now want to try. ... Thank you so much for visiting us and giving us those binders with all the information in it.”

From Paul: “Thank you for taking time from your busy schedule and coming to Tippet to tell us about the many opportunities Texas Parks and Wildlife presents to young kids like us. I admire your love for nature and the outdoors. I was really impressed by the amount of careers that were involved.”

That’s just a little taste of what I got in the mail; I think I already e-mailed you picture. Just wanted to let you know that some of the kids out there really do “get it” and would enjoy doing more with TPWD resources.

Rhonda Esakov
Shooting Sports Instructor

Dear Kathy Powell:

I wanted to take a minute and send you a quick message to simply say it was great to finally meet you this past weekend—to think it took 10 years! I also wanted to apologize for not getting a chance to visit with you. For the record, you’re way too busy and over-worked! It didn’t take us too long to realize that you’re the glue that holds the education team together. I also wanted to thank you for your hard work in putting the dinner and auction together. Millie and I had a great time—the food was great and the auction was a lot of fun. I think we made some pretty good buys in the process, which was a bonus. The only regret that Millie and I had was that we never got the chance to meet your husband. But, there’s always next year. Thank you again for everything.

Ditto Rick’s message. Although he dealt with you for the most part, I felt like I knew you. It’s always great to put a face with the voice at the other end of the telephone and e-mails. Rick is definitely right when he says you’re the glue that holds that department together. It shows that you go the extra mile for everyone. We had a great time and hope to spend more time with you next time.

Best regards,
Rick Holland & “Millie” Holland

Dear Kathy Powell:

I just opened the most recent *Target Talk* and read about your Kudos. I think the recognition is long overdue and certainly only a minor reflection on the value you provide to the program. You keep us all on track and you've helped me more than once when I have forgotten something. I still think of you as the real heart in the program and someone I can call on whenever I am in need. What I fail to do enough of ... is send you thank-you notes more frequently. Forgive me ... just know that as a volunteer I consider you the TPWD Employee of the Year ... every year!

I wish the best for you and thank you again for your excellent support.

Very respectfully,
Jan Beveridge
Cleburne, Texas



Upcoming Events

May 27-30	IHEA Annual Conference	Fairview Heights, IL
June 9-10	Intro to Primitive Sporting Arms	Mission
June 14	Intro to Primitive Sporting Arms	Pearland
June 21-22	IBEP Student/Instructor Course	Lubbock
June 28-29	IBEP Student/Instructor Course	College Station
June 21-22	NRA Reloading	Grand Prairie

Help Needed for Dove Study

Who:	Volunteers for Morning Dove Lethality Study to be trained as "Observers" for shooting event.
Where:	Brownwood, Texas
When:	August 24 - September 7
What:	Training for five days as "Observers" under Tom Roster with CONSEP (Cooperative North American Shotgunning Education Program) and four days of testing with hunters. Mr. Roster will train 16 volunteers to consistently identify struck but not downed (wounded) doves, and distance to doves struck. Volunteers also will record data on type of shot shell used and collect and mark one-shot killed doves for later necropsy and X-ray.

What is Covered: Lodging, meals and mileage to and from the Brownwood area.

For more information please contact Jay A. Roberson, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744, (512) 389-8011, Jay.Roberson@tpwd.state.tx.us

KUDOS!

Annual Conference — One of the Best!

Ruby Ranch, west of Buda, was the host site of this year's annual instructor conference in February, and it turned out to be one of the best in many years. Thanks to the planning committee, Kathy and Keith Powell, Chris Lena, Tami Moore, Bob Ratcliff, Kevin Connally and all the officers and members of THEIA for all the hard work they did in putting this event together!

Also, thanks to the coordinators of the following states, who generously donated some very nice items for door prizes and the auction: Alabama, Arkansas, Hawaii, Florida, Kansas, Ohio, New Mexico, Connecticut, Oklahoma, Idaho, Nebraska and Utah.

Participants enjoyed special activities which were provided by staff and volunteers. Education Director Steve Hall hosted a sporting clays shoot at OCR Ranch nearby. Forest Laughlin brought the "Wall of Shame" in the Operation Game Thief trailer. Brock Minton provided an archery range to show how the Archery in the Schools program is catching on. Kathy Powell's husband, Keith Powell, brought his mini-lathe and participants were able to make themselves a writing pen or keychain. Instructor Gene Norton brought his lathe and showed how he turned different items, and then gave them away to spectators.

A special guest, Communications Division Director Lydia Saldaña, came by to address the Area Chief meeting during the afternoon. We appreciate her time and effort to come and visit the group.



Area Chief Roger Coleman of Edna receives his 3,000-point rifle award gift certificate. Congratulations, Roger! Not pictured were these other recipients of the rifle award: Area Chief Rick Monger, Levelland; Area Chief Dr. Peggy Weyel, San Antonio; Area Chief Donnie Kee, Lufkin; and Sue Worchester, Amarillo.

Lucky Raffle Winner

Bill Dixon, of Dodge, Texas, was the grand prize raffle winner of the drawing held at the annual conference for a trophy white-tailed deer hunting trip. The trip will be held during the upcoming hunting season at the Windy B Ranch in Jacksonville, Texas. The hunt will entitle Bill or someone he designates to take a trophy of his or her choice. Some of the bucks taken off this ranch have had scores in the Boone and Crockett book. Congratulations, Bill!



KUDOS!



Gene Norton Receives Darrell Holt Memorial Award

The highest award given in the hunter education program was awarded to Gene Norton of Baytown for his 35 years of service to the program. He was one of the very first instructors certified and continues to provide courses in his area. Gene instructs at the Eddie V. Gray Conservation Center, where he was instrumental in its building and design. Gene was inducted into the Hunter Education Hall of Fame in 1994 when he earned the 4500-point level award. He has continued to be active in the program and now has over 13,885 points! He has taught 315 courses and certified 6,858 students. Gene said, "Get my 40-year pin ready, 'cause I will be around then, too." Congratulations, Gene!

On the right is Jesse Stevens, Fort Worth, receiving his 2,500-point handgun award gift certificate. Congratulations, Jesse! Several other instructors also received their handgun award. They are: Joe Drobniak, Friendswood; James Lewis, Grand Prairie; David Sales, Kingsville; Carl Smith, Garland; Robert Blew, McKinney; Danny Clawson and Lanette Clawson, Lubbock; Denise Harmel-Garza, College Station; and Larry Hysmith, College Station.



Shown here receiving her 2,500-point handgun award gift certificate is Monica Sobotka, Belton. She joined the program in 1995, has taught 72 courses and has certified 748 students. Congratulations, Monica!

KUDOS!



Duke Walton presents Susan Rector with an appreciation plaque for her dedicated service as Secretary of the Texas Hunter Education Instructors Association. Congratulations, Susan!



Receiving their 3,500-point shotgun award gift certificates are James Schaefer, Grandview, on the left, and Area Chief Charles Snowden, Linden, on the right. Congratulations to both of them! Other instructors receiving the shotgun award were: Ernest Roney, San Antonio; Area Chief James Davis, Deer Park; and Area Chief Bob Douglas, Van Alstyne.

Four Instructors Make Hall of Fame

Gerald Chapman, Amarillo, on the right, receives his Hall of Fame plaque from Area Chief Bill McCubbin.

Gerald is retiring as a volunteer after being another one of the first instructors trained over 35 years ago.

Gerald held 179 courses and trained 1,425 students during that time. Congratulations, Gerald, and many thanks for your dedication and support!



Shown at left are Area Chief John Meekins, Cleveland, and Area Chief Betty Allen, Killeen, receiving their Hall of Fame Awards. John came into the program in 1988, has conducted 94 courses and certified 814 students. Congratulations, John! Betty joined the program in 1992, conducted 118 courses and certified 1,086 students in the Killeen and Fort Hood areas. Congratulations, Betty! Not pictured is Area Chief Ken Grau, Romayor. Ken joined the program in 1988. He conducted 88 courses and certified 1,220 students during that time. Congratulations, Ken!

NEW INSTRUCTORS

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.

November

Joseph Schmidt	Huntsville
Melinda Hahn-Dimberg	Alvin
George Hall	Clarendon
Keith Starek	Mt. Pleasant
Kenny Rollins	Daingerfield
Learon Roberts	Mt. Pleasant
Richard Starek	Mt. Vernon
Joel White	Dell City

December

Cherrie Curtis	Texarkana
Ashlie Bowen	Boerne
Christy Melton	Lexington
Samuel Harrison	Allen
George Wilkerson	Pearland
Lance Owens	Lubbock
Gary Vaughn	Shallowater
Marvin Kroft	Italy
Ken Lewis	San Antonio
Bruce Cody	Shallowater
Chad Smith	Monahans
James Shurtleff	Lampasas
Brandon Murdock	Keller
Mcihele Rumfield	Cypress

January

Carl Fuller	Houston
Eloy Sanchez	Weslaco
Travis Clark	College Station
Nathan Wieck	Sherman
J.D. Smith	Neveda
Robert Ramirez	Grand Prairie
Brooke Lyles	Pasadena
Daniel Potts	Arlington
Lezah Maitland	Allen
Brandon Leonard	Bowie
Robert Nankervis	Keller
Kady Griffin	Granbury
Benjamin Ham	Whitsett
Marjorie Potts	Arlington
Nathaniel Jordan	Nacogdoches
Charles Hadley	McKinney

February

Tyler Fitzgerald	Anahuac
Chase McAninch	Waco
Cary Cash	Harlingen
Eric Ochoa	Santa Elena
Amy Bednarz	St. Hedwig
Armando Vela	Edinburg

Randy Alaniz	Corpus Christi
Alonzo Garza	Donna
Kathryn Pike	Kingsville
Rudolf Reyes	San Antonio
Clifford Sims	Bishop
Juan Martinez	Athens
Andrew Parker	Raymondville
Jacob Salvagno	Beeville
Bradley Steffek	Edna
William McCollum	Alice
Rodolfo Rodriguez	Dilley
Stephen Vogelsang	College Station
Eddy Anders	Simms
Oscar Henson	Buffalo
Kerwin Jackson	Galena Park

March

Jennifer Jackson	Frisco
Honey Key	Alvarado
Zach Popp (Asst.)	Amarillo
Larry Spooner	Kingwood
Jeffrey Lee	Amarillo
Kayla Sweet	Buda
Louis Harvey	Dallas

Hunter Education Loses Instructor

Area Chief **Howard Canafax**, Petrolia, died peacefully in his bed on April 8 of an apparent heart attack.

He had been an instructor since 1981, taught 110 courses and certified 689 students. He was a Life Member of the Dallas Arms Collectors Association, Inc., and a member of the Market Hall instructor team who taught the course in Dallas sponsored by the association. He also taught locally in the Wichita Falls area. Howard was an avid firearms collector and made numerous trips to gun shows with friends. Howard was a devout Christian and preacher in his local church. He never missed a Sunday unless he was ill.

We will miss Howard, another excellent hunter education instructor who has passed on to higher fields and pastures.

Texas Tops Nation in Ranking of State Hunting and Fishing Economic Impact

Florida Lands No. 2 Spot

From National Shooting Sports Foundation

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A ranking of states in categories including total number of hunters and anglers, spending by sportsmen, jobs supported, taxes generated, number of days spent hunting and fishing, and most-traveled-to states by hunters and anglers has been released for the first time.

Nationally, Texas is at the top of the pack. It is No. 1 in total hunters and anglers (2.6 million), money spent (\$6.6 billion), jobs supported (106,000) and tax revenue generated (\$1.3 billion). Florida lands the trophy for the No. 2 spot.

The new state-by-state rankings were compiled to complement a national report, *Hunting and Fishing: Bright Stars of the American Economy—A force as big as all outdoors*, which spotlights the immense impact hunters and anglers have on the economy at the national and state level, as well as a constituency.

Which states have the most hunters and anglers? Texas is No. 1 (2.6 million), Florida No. 2 (two million), California No. 3 (1.7 million), Ohio No. 4 (1.48 million) and Pennsylvania No. 5 (1.41 million).

Which states are the big spenders? Texas is No. 1 (\$6.6 billion), Florida No. 2 (\$4.8 billion), California No. 3 (\$3.6 billion), Pennsylvania No. 4 (\$3.5 billion) and Minnesota No. 5 (\$3.4 billion).

What does this spending support? Jobs, of course. Texas is No. 1 (106,000 jobs), Florida No. 2 (85,000), Wisconsin No. 3 (57,000), Minnesota No. 4 (55,000) and California No. 5 (53,000).

However, when it comes to who spends the most time in the field and woods, Pennsylvanians beat out Texans, spending 16 million days hunting compared to the 13.4 million days that Texans spend.

Leaving a wide wake, Florida is out in front for the number of days spent on the water (41.5 million), compared to the No. 2 state, Texas, with 38.9 million days. Not surprisingly, Florida is also the No. 1 destination state for fishing, with North Carolina showing up at No. 2. When it comes to the most-traveled-to state for hunting, Georgia is No. 1, followed by Colorado in the No. 2 spot.

It is a simple fact: Hunting and fishing have a major impact on every state in the country. When you analyze the amount of money spent on these activities, as well as the jobs and taxes

created, the impact becomes much more tangible. Every single state makes a contribution through revenue, taxes and jobs. “The economic impact that sportsmen have on state economies should be a wake-up call to state governments to welcome and encourage hunting and fishing in their state,” commented Jeff Crane, president of the Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation. “The evidence is clear: States that encourage hunting and fishing by providing access and maintaining healthy habitats and fisheries benefit many times over through jobs and taxes as well as enjoying a boost to travel and tourism.”

When you compare spending by hunters and anglers to other sectors, their impact on the state’s economy becomes more tangible. Here are a few highlights:

- Sportsmen support more than twice the jobs in Texas than Dell Computer Corp., Lockheed Martin, Electronic Data Systems and Dow Chemical Co. combined (106,000 jobs vs. 49,000).
- Sportsmen support more jobs in Florida than Disney World (85,000 jobs vs. 61,000).
- Pennsylvania sportsmen outnumber the combined populations of Allentown, Erie, Pittsburgh, Reading and Scranton two to one (1.4 million vs. 680,297).
- Michigan sportsmen annually spend more than the combined cash receipts for dairy, greenhouse/nursery, corn, soybeans and cattle—the state’s top five agricultural commodities (\$3.4 billion vs. \$2.9 billion).
- Annual spending by Florida anglers is three times greater than the cash receipts from the state’s orange crop (\$4.4 billion vs. 1.2 billion).
- Annual spending by Wisconsin sportsmen is equal to the revenues of the state’s dairy industry (\$3.1 billion).
- Annual spending by California sportsmen is greater than the cash receipts of the state’s grape crop (\$3.6 billion vs. \$3 billion).

“Spending by sportsmen benefits not only the manufacturers of hunting- and fishing-related products, but everything from local mom and pop businesses to wildlife conservation,” noted Doug Painter, president of National Shooting Sports Foundation. “And because most hunting and fishing takes place in rural areas, much of the spending benefits less affluent parts of the state.”

On the national level, 34 million sportsmen age 16 and older spent more than \$76 billion in 2006, supporting 1.6 million jobs. If a single corporation grossed as much as hunters and anglers spend, it would be among America’s 20 largest, ahead of Target, Costco and AT&T.

These statistics are impressive and, if anything, they underestimate the impact of sportsmen since they do not take into account the millions of hunters and anglers under 16 years of age or people who were not able to get out and hunt or fish in 2006. When sportsmen's spending is thought of in business terms and compared to other sectors of the economy, it is quite remarkable. From small rural towns scattered across our country's landscape to the bottom-line of Fortune 500 companies located in major cities, if you take away hunting and fishing you take away the equivalent of a multi-billion dollar corporation.

The national report, *Hunting and Fishing: Bright Stars of the American Economy—A force as big as all outdoors*, was produced by

the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation with support from the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, National Marine Manufacturers Association, National Shooting Sports Foundation and SCI-First For Hunters. The report and state rankings uses the results from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's *2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation* and statistics provided by the American Sportfishing Association and Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

The report, along with STATE FACTS, are available on the Web at www.sportsmenslink.org and www.nssf.org

IN THE NEWS...

From National Shooting Sports Foundation

Final Apportionments for Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (Nationwide)

The final apportionments to States and Territories for the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program were released in early February. The Wildlife Restoration apportionment for FY2008 is \$248,002,672, which is 15 percent over FY2007. In addition, for Hunter Education activities, the apportionment for Section 4 is \$53,683,907, which is 24 percent above the FY2007 apportionment. The Section 10 apportionment for Hunter Education remains at \$8,000,000. The total apportionment from the Wildlife Restoration Trust fund is \$309,686,579, which is 16 percent higher than FY2007. These funds are used by the states and territories to manage wildlife, provide vital wildlife habitat, improve hunter safety, and provide shooting and archery ranges and activities. The Sport Fish Restoration FY2008 apportionment is \$398,337,729 which is an increase over FY2007 of 14 percent. These funds are used by the states and territories to manage sport fish populations, provide and restore fishery habitats, and maintain boating and fishing facilities.

Study on Climate Change's Threat to Game Habitat

The Wildlife Management Institute, joined by eight leading hunting and fishing organizations, released a new report on the predicted impacts of climate change on both wildlife and fish habitat and on hunting and fishing. *Seasons' End: Global Warming's Threat to Hunting and Fishing* is available online and in book form. Among the report's many findings are that the prairie pothole region could lose up to 90 percent of its wetlands, reducing the continent's breeding ducks by 69 percent, and that fragmentation and loss of winter range could dwindle the number of mule deer and elk in the Rocky Mountain states.

50 Percent Increase in Female Hunters

The National Hunting Survey of Hunting, Fishing and Wildlife Associated Recreation, released by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, shows growth in female hunter participation since 1991 and reveals a boom in the number of girls 6-15 who hunt. The survey shows a 50 percent increase from 2001-2006 over a similar five-year period from 1991-1996, reports *USA Today*.

TRAINING WORKSHOPS



Mexico Training

Representatives from the Federacion Mexicana De Caza, (FEMECA), an NGO which has been designated by SEMARNAT (Mexico's federal wildlife agency) as an entity who may teach hunter education in Mexico and representatives of the state of Nuevo Leon and Tamaulipas met at the Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park to complete their training as instructor trainers. The group will return to Mexico to begin their infrastructure development and begin training instructors and teaching student courses. The group will use the Spanish manual *El Cazador De Hoy*, developed by Kalkomey Enterprises, Inc.

Thomas Saldias, IHEA Volunteer Board Representative from Zone IV; Maria Araujo, TPWD International Liaison; Jesus Franco, TPWD Biologist; and Terry Erwin facilitated and completed the training session for the group. Three of the northern states along the border have individuals who have been trained to do courses. An additional NGO has also received permission as a designated entity to provide training, but all courses will have their database administered by and certification cards sent out by FEMECA for continuity of the program. Welcome aboard, Mexico.



Pictured at left are applicants who attended Program Orientation in January at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center at Athens.

Hunter Information Exchange Web Site

Ever want to go to another location and trade out a trip for a trip? Try this Web site and see if you can find something worthwhile.

www.outdoorsmanexchange.com

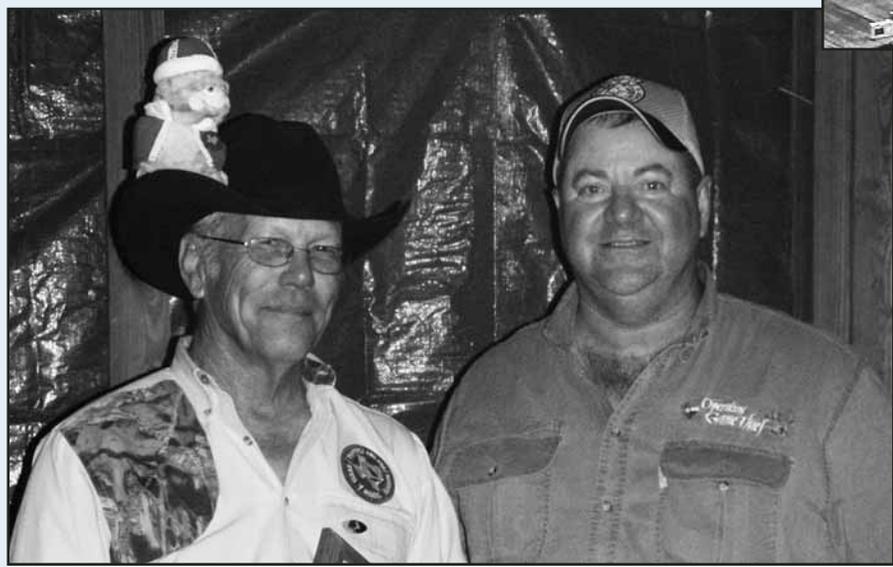
TRAINING WORKSHOPS



The Hunter Education training specialists and the coordinator were in San Antonio at the National Shooting Complex April 12–13 to attend the American Trap Association/National Rifle Association Shotgun Coaches School. Lead ATA/NRA Coach Trainer Jim McDiffett (far left) was on hand with NRA National Coach Trainer Don Sipes to present the intense two-day program. It was most enjoyable, and it reinforced many of the methods of instruction used to train youth in shotgun sports. This will help with new programs being implemented by TPWD to promote youth shooting and enjoyment of the outdoors.

The Texas Trappers and Fur Hunters Association held an outstanding workshop at Coleto Creek Reservoir near Edna, and this group of instructors benefited greatly from the experience.

The association group has been instrumental in providing training for instructors to promote a better understanding of trapping and its role in Texas' hunting heritage.



Jim Brooks, left, is presented with a certificate of appreciation by Brock Minton, TPWD staff, as he shows off "Garfield" on his hat. "Garfield" has a long history of being a part of the trapper workshop and was captured during one of the early trapper workshops held at Camp Buckner near Marble Falls. "Garfield" has long since been remembered by the group as a full participant in the activities during that time.

TRAINING WORKSHOPS



Dear Staff:

The Ethics Workshop held in San Antonio in March was one of the better training sessions I've attended. The training was well organized and professionally presented. There were approximately 25 people in attendance. Especially effective was a session presented by Dr. Weyel and John Rodriguez regarding dilemmas. They started with a few easy dilemmas with fairly obvious solutions and then presented a very complex dilemma. They proceeded to discuss many items/people, etc., that could be affected by the dilemma. It revealed the many factors that can come into play depending on the possible solutions to be considered. It was more than just the usual simplistic solutions we sometimes tend to arrive at. It provided many different ways to look at and analyze the dilemma.

Russ Greiner
San Antonio Area Chief



Area Chief instructors, including IBEP instructor trainers, gathered during the annual instructor conference held at Ruby Ranch in Buda in February. Updates and new changes were discussed along with highlights of the past year. Thanks to all these folks for their dedication and hard work!

INSTRUCTOR DISCOUNTS

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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.

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TEXAS
PARKS &
WILDLIFE

INSTRUCTOR DISCOUNTS

Ethics DVD Available

In the last issue of the *Instructor Journal*, each instructor received a copy of the new ethics DVD, *Chain of Respect*.

If you wish to order additional copies of the Boone & Crockett/Cabela's/IHEA Hunting Ethics DVD, please use this direct link to the B&C fulfillment center. The price is \$2.99+ shipping. We recommend that every instructor use this DVD as a routine part of their course if possible.

www.boone-crockett.org/huntingEthics/ethics_hunterethicsdvd.asp?area=huntingEthics

KATHY'S CORNER

Hi Folks!

Gee, was I surprised to be given that award! I am just doing my job, but it is fun, and I really do enjoy visiting with all you instructors. We had such a great time putting the conference together this year. I'm looking forward to being in Corpus Christi in February for the next one.

Please remember to send all your funding in with the coursework, as it really is important to get them mailed within that seven-day time frame. We are caught up at this time, but the busy season is right around the corner. We would like you to schedule your courses as soon as possible, since we are having multiple calls for courses. Besides, you get extra points if you schedule your courses, and we list them on our Web site.

Also, contact our office to make sure your address, phone numbers and e-mails are up-to-date. We are receiving numerous calls about daytime phone numbers not being valid when potential students call for information about courses. Also, when we mail cards to indicate we have processed your courses, they are being returned "undeliverable." 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.

(Of course, you may not get this newsletter, either, so we are relying on fellow instructors to give you a heads up!)

If there is anything I can do to help you, please let me know. Until next time, be safe.



Duke Walton, Texas Hunter Education Instructor Association President, presented Kathy Powell with the T.D. Carroll Award for her outstanding dedication and service to the hunter education program. Kathy has been with the program for over 13 years. TPWD is fortunate to have her working in hunter and boater education. Congratulations, Kathy!



THE BOWHUNTER

TEXAS BOWHUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

Burnie Kessner Training Lots of Teachers in the Archery in Schools Program

Burnie Kessner, hunter education specialist (lower right) and Steve Hall (photographer), education director, took Ashley Mathews, Outdoors Woman/Family statewide coordinator, and a group of greater San Antonio area physical education teachers through the new Archery in Schools training program. Participants attended a one-day “Basic Archery Instructor” workshop qualifying them to use archery in their school P.E. curriculum or their youth group activities. The basic equipment used is adaptable and safe to use in a school gymnasium, hence its promotion as a hands-on, lifelong activity within the school. Data show that 27 percent of school students purchase archery equipment and 38 percent show an interest in bowhunting as a result of the program. Archery excise taxes directly benefit the hunter education program via federal aid in wildlife restoration program (hunter safety apportionment.)



Burnie Kessner demonstrates the use of the “String Bow” at a recent Archery in Schools training for school teachers.

UPCOMING TRAINING

There will be a Texas–National Archery in the Schools Program (TASP) **Basic Archery Instructor TRAINER (BAIT)** course on May 29, 30 and 31, 2008, which includes a **Basic Archery Instructor (BAI)** course on the third day, May 31, at one of the G. Rollie White Stadium gyms, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX.

Please contact Burnie Kessner at office (979) 862-7341 or cell (281) 793-5135 to sign up for the training.

Clear Lake NASP Training

L to r: Dennis Williams, Kevin Cunningham, Molly Cunningham, Stacia Lauderdale, Burnie Kessner, Gary Tittles, Scott Johnson.





*Front Row (l to r):
 Scot McClure (BAIT),
 D'Anna Green (BAIT Specialist),
 Paula Dangler (TFAA President),
 Joann McMinn (BAIT),
 Steve Hall (TPWD Ed. Dir.
 and BAIT Specialist).
 Back Row (l to r):
 Burnie Kessner (TPWD Archery
 Coord.), Ferris Bavousett (BAIT
 Specialist), Norm McMinn (BAIT
 Specialist), Larry Hysmith (Texas
 Cooperative Extension and BAIT
 Specialist), Lee Gregory (NFAA –
 TX Rep. and TFAA)*

NASP Steering Team

Burnie Kessner (back row, left) conducted a **Texas Archery in Schools Program (TASP)** “Steering Team” meeting in Granbury in December to (1) provide program updates, (2) line out 2008 strategies for the statewide effort, and (3) prepare for the third annual TASP Tournament on March 28 at the Mayborn Convention Center in Temple. The tournament is held for elementary, middle and high school archers who have been trained in the program and is sponsored by the Texas Field Archery Association (TFAA), which also conducts its annual tournament the Saturday and Sunday following the school tourney.

Houston In-Service

This group of instructors attended the IBEP In-Service at the new Bass Pro Shop located in the South Houston area. Recent changes in the draw weight were discussed along with the new hunter education age change to nine (9) years of age. The minimum certification age for IBEP will remain 12 years of age. Emphasis on tree stand safety was stressed during the meeting. Tree stand accidents often go unreported yet cause some of the most debilitating injuries suffered by hunters. Instructors should increase their course times to cover Tree Stand Safety and use the DVD available free from our office.



Instructor Discount

Howard Wither, the owner of Liberty Archery, is offering \$100 off the Liberty 1 bow package to Hunter or Bowhunter Education instructors. Instructors need to send a copy of their instructor cards to qualify. Go to www.libertyarchery.com for details on the bow.

THE Newsletter of

THEIA Texas Hunter Education Instructors Association, Inc.

Spring 2008

Number 30

OFFICERS

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Newsletter Editor: Peggy Ann Weyel San Antonio	210-696-9599 pweyel@sbcglobal.net

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

First let me say a **BIG THANK YOU** to the committee that did such a great job on the Annual Hunter Education Instructors meeting in Buda, Texas. I was very pleased with all of the fun things that there was to do. It most certainly was not the same old thing. The bar has been set for Gilbert and his committee in Corpus Christi in 2009!

Congratulations go to **Mr. Bill Dixon** of Dodge, Texas for being the grand winner of the deer hunt drawing. I would love to be his photographer on this hunt in the 2008 deer season. This great hunt was donated by **"The Windy-B-Ranch"** in Jacksonville, Texas.

Thanks go out to all who donated items for the fund raiser and to all who bid on the many items to raise money to help THEIA be able to work for the kids of Texas!

I would like to thank the out-going officers and directors for their service to THEIA. Secretary Ms. Suzan Rector and Region 6 Director Gary Doyle will be missed.

I would also like to welcome the new Secretary Mrs. Laura White and Director Billy Holt. I am sure that they will do a great job for THEIA!

Donnie Kee and Kathy Powell are going to co-chair a committee to help recruit instructors to join THEIA. They have come up with some great ideas. The first of which is to have a great prize for the THEIA member that goes to the most workshops in the year, with the award given out at the annual meeting. If you have any ideas please contact Donnie or Kathy as we can use all of the help that we can get.

THEIA is still working on building handicapped accessible deer stands to provide a way to improve the youth hunt program. Watch for more details later.

The ZARCO blue camouflage suits are being field tested by THEIA members to see how they work with turkey, dove and water fowl hunting. The feed back will be sent to me and I will forward the results to this South African company. So far, there will be some changes in the manufacturing of the garments such as, mesh hats, a change in the zippers, a new face net, T-shirts and a few more things. I will keep you informed as things progress.

HAPPY TRAILS

Duke

HUNTER EDUCATION EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

May 3-4, 2008, Texas Youth Hunter Education Challenge at Parrie Haynes Youth Ranch
May 4, 2008 THEIA meeting at Parrie Haynes Youth Ranch following YHEC "Announcements"
on Sunday morning
October, 2008 EXPO'08 at TPWD Headquarters in Austin – It's the 17th Anniversary!
February 21, 2009, Annual Hunter Education Instructor Conference, in Corpus Christi

THEIA THANK YOU! To all made the 2008 Annual Hunter Educational Instructor Conference a success!
...the staff at beautiful Ruby Ranch with cordial smiles, comfortable facilities, and delicious meals
...the guests who demonstrated, instructed, and met with us all:
 Bryan J. Van Wyk and Abraham Retief of Zarco Safety Camouflage, South Africa,
 (www.safetycamo.com)
 Kevin Hutchinson of Hill County Fly Fishers (www.hillcountryflyfishers.com)
 Gene Norton, instructor and woodworker
 Keith Powell, craftsman and woodworker
...friends across the state and coordinators from out-of-state who donated auction items for the fund
raiser and also to those who bid expectantly, and won exuberantly!
...those instructors, members and non-members alike, who came from across Texas to meet, greet, and
participate.

NOTES FROM THE THEIA MEETING

Saturday morning, February 9, 2008

A new Friends of NRA managed NRA Foundation grant has been approved for THEIA. Administered by THEIA, the \$10,641.51 will be spent on items supporting the Youth Hunter Education Challenge competition at Parrie Haynes Ranch. Items on the approved list include two .22 rifles, four shotguns, a gun safe, and a trailer to carry the equipment in.

Books are now closed on last year's NRA Foundation grant. The grant of a little more than \$12,000 was used for equipment and supplies for the 2007 YHEC. All documents supporting those expenditures have been submitted to the NRA Foundation and the Friends of NRA.

A proposal was made to have a THEIA Life Membership available to members. Discussion said that other similar organizations offer life membership for \$125-\$150. Voting will be at the May meeting.

Speaking of membership, we have only 34 (I think it was) paid members. Yikes! Most of us are aware that we (including me) can be forgetful of things out-of-sight-out of-mind, like dues. One suggestion offered was to send letters of reminder to all before their dues expire. The Treasurer, who will be keeping the membership list, will be sending out such letter of reminder to all members. Letters will go out to ALL NEW INSTRUCTORS, they all have their first year's membership paid, and to ALL VETERAN INSTRUCTORS who have paid dues at sometime in the past.

HOW can THEIA membership benefit you? Besides joining with others who believe in the future like you do, we are working to add benefits. An interesting one was introduced Saturday, February 9. ZARCO, Inc. of South Africa has a new safety camouflage they want to market in the United States. Their representatives visited with us to demonstrate the product and offer interested THEIA Hunter Education Instructor volunteers to take clothing home to test in the hunting field and report back to the company. Pretty cool, huh.

THEIA Bylaws should be available by the May THEIA meeting at Parrie Haynes. President Duke Walton has worked to retype and find all the corrections and amendments to the original document so our membership and its corporation will have a document we not only can read clearly, but can use.

“DUMB” ANIMALS I HAVE KNOWN
The White-tail and the Squirrel
Peggy Weyel

At 10:30 in the morning, there wasn't much corn left under the deer feeder. Only one doe and one squirrel were there, looking up any corn pieces left over from the 7 a.m. corn slingin'.

After a minute or so the squirrel, having had its fill of finding nothing left, but in no real hurry to go anywhere, left for her tree. Bouncing casually across the grassy open area toward a tree, it paused about 25 feet out and sat there, looking around.

The doe, lifted her head slightly, watched every hop the squirrel made. When the squirrel stopped she looked up at the bottom of the feeder as if searching for more corn. Apparently seeing nothing of importance, she looked back at the squirrel. Then, as if thinking about it some more, she looked back up at the feeder, and back at the squirrel.

I decided watching this squirrel and doe show was not very productive so started for the house when I caught the doe walking toward the squirrel, nose low like she was trailing something.

Ok, I thought, she's just headed off for the day in the same direction as the squirrel. But, no, when she reached the squirrel, she stopped to nose and bumped the top of its bushy tail - twice. The squirrel turned around and bounded back to the feeder. The doe turned and followed.

She sure scared that squirrel, I thought to myself. The squirrel is getting away from the doe, but not in a real big hurry. Hey, it's going...back to the feeder!

Shinnying up the near leg of the feeder to the thrower, the squirrel began to work the spinning mechanism to get a kernel to eat, spilling kernels onto the ground.

The doe, arriving right behind the squirrel, looked upwards watching the squirrel climb the feeder leg then begin picking at the corn on the slinger.

The squirrel stayed for maybe a minute or so working the spinner, which allowed corn to trickle down on the ground.

When corn started falling, the doe stepped forward to eat the freshly dropped corn. It seemed as if the squirrel was working the spinner to share a mid-morning snack with the doe, just as it was asked to do.

After a couple of more nibbles and corn dropping, the squirrel, apparently finished, climbed back down one of the legs, and in no hurry, continued back across the open area to its tree.

The doe finished the corn and left a short time later, heading off in a different direction.

If I hadn't seen those two in action, I'd have never believed it either. Some "dumb" animals, huh.

A HUNTER'S HEART

Excerpted from an essay by David Petersen

Why do I hunt? It's a lot to think about and I think about it often. I hunt to acknowledge my evolutionary roots, millennial deep, as a predatory omnivore. To participate actively in the bedrock workings of nature. For the atavistic challenge of doing it well with an absolute minimum of technological assistance. To learn the lessons, about nature and myself, that only hunting can teach. To accept the personal responsibility for at least some of the deaths that nourished my life. For the glimpse it offers into a wildness we can hardly imagine. Because it provides the closest thing I've known to a spiritual experience. I hunt because it enriches my life and because I can't help myself...because I have a hunter's heart.

Source: Petersen, David. (1996). "A Hunter's Heart." *A Hunter's Heart: Honest Essays on the Blood Sport*. New York: Henry Hold and Company.

THEIA DIRECTORS

Directors Region 2, 4, 6, and 8 are newly elected for two year term (2008-2010)

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THEIA

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send to: Donnie Kee, 1007 E. Denman Ave., Lufkin, TX. 75901

W-936-699-3483 dkee1@farmersagent.com

NAME: _____

INSTRUCTOR # _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE _____

CITY: _____

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SIGNATURE: _____

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Full Body Safety Harnesses Recalled by Gorilla Due to Fall Hazard

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

The name of the product is **Full Body Safety Harnesses** and could fail during use, resulting in a hunter falling from the tree stand and suffering serious injuries or death. This recall involves the Pullover Style Full Body Safety Harnesses model SP40300 that were included as an accessory with Gorilla 2007 ladder stands. The harnesses bear batch code numbers 020507, 030507 and 040507. The model and batch code number are printed on the label affixed to the harness.

The harness was available as an accessory with 2007 ladder stands at sporting goods retailers nationwide from April 2007 through October 2007 for between \$80 and \$300. It is manufactured in China, and consumers should stop using the recalled safety harness immediately and contact Gorilla for a free replacement.

For additional information, contact Gorilla at (877) 685-7817 between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or visit the company's Web site at www.gorillatreestands.com. To see this recall on CPSC's Web site, including a picture of the recalled product, please go to: www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml08/08139.html

New Site to List IBEP Courses

NBEF announce a new service via their Web site. Now all instructors may post classes via a cooperative effort between the NBEF and Bowsite.com. Simply follow these easy steps to post classes:

1. Go to www.nbef.org
2. Click on the "Find a Course Near You" line
3. Click on "Instructors-Post Your Classes Here"
4. Follow the prompts

(NOTE: Place any notices in the information boxes. These could include pre-registration information, if the class is a Field Day for Distance Learning students, etc.) You will notice that the page which comes up after you click on "Find a Course Near You" has two active choices—the one which is described above where you enter classes and the other which says "Find a Bowhunter Ed Class." If this line is clicked, it will ask for your state; it will then pull the information you have entered as well as information in that state's fish and wildlife database of classes. It will also note if the state is currently offering the Distance Learning option.

After the class dates have passed, you will need to go in and delete the listing. A huge "thank you" to Bowsite.com for facilitating this interactive function of the Web site. If you have any questions or difficulties using this service, please don't hesitate to contact the National Bowhunter Education Foundation.

Marilyn Bentz,
Executive Director/NBEF

Bowhunter Education New Instructors

FEBRUARY

Jeffrey Lee

Amarillo

MARCH

Robert Ramirez
Anthony Heinen

Grand Prairie
Terrell

Aim to be "Bulls-Eye Perfect"



TARGET TALK

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