



**TEXAS
PARKS &
WILDLIFE**

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



Editor's CORNER

The New Year is just around the corner, and a few changes will take place upon its arrival. Change is good, yet sometimes a little difficult to adapt to, but I know you will all jump right in there and move along as if nothing happened. We hope you will make strides to assist us with the upcoming transitions. Please keep in mind that neither these changes nor anything else will deter you from doing your very best – as you have always done.

FIRST:

N O T E – As of January 1, 2004, ALL hunter education course fees, structured and home study, will be \$10 each per student. No matter which course is conducted, the charge will be the same. When submitting the student registration forms, a \$5 fee MUST be sent in for each student submitted, regardless, even if they are underage or have failed.

In simple words...

if someone attends the course and receives materials, they must pay the \$10 fee, and at least \$5 must be sent in per student to TPWD. The other \$5 may be retained by a volunteer instructor, including professional educators.

In the past, students who took the hunter education online version were not required to pay any more than a \$5 fee for testing, which went directly to the instructor. However, TPWD has been providing all paperwork, e.g. exams, answer sheets,

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Wildlife Expo '03 a Huge Success

About 36,000 people showed up for Expo this year, and it is being called the smoothest running in Expo history. About 19,000 people showed up on Saturday and about 17,000 on Sunday. "The sense of overall cooperation between divisions and employees was exceptional. There was a real sense of teamwork throughout the entire event," said Ernie Gammage, Expo Director.



Young Expo participants learn about shooting safety as well as game laws and ethics.

"I want to congratulate all employees on an impressive effort," said Executive Director Robert L. Cook. "Folks came to this and learned about what we do. This translates to more support for our agency and thus, a stronger effort to enjoy yet conserve our valuable resources in Texas. I want everyone to know they played an important role in this endeavor."

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student registration forms, final reports, envelopes and certification cards. We must begin to recover some of the administrative costs associated with the certification process. Now, whenever an instructor sends in student registration forms, a \$5 fee must accompany each one. If fees are not submitted with course records and final reports, the registration forms will be held until the fees are submitted. Registration forms will not be processed and certifications will not take place until all fees are accounted for. It makes good business sense to keep everything on the same level, and we must account for all fees associated with student certifications.

SECOND:

TPWD will begin to use a new student manual, but only after all current manuals in the hands of the instructors are depleted. There are several thousand manuals out there that were never used, and we need to use them before any new ones are shipped. The new manual is titled, *Today's Hunter in Texas*, and was written and customized for Texas by Kalkomey Enterprises, Inc. They are the same folks who published the *Boat Texas* manual. They also are currently in the process of writing the new NBEF Bowhunter Education manual for North America.

Area Chiefs had an opportunity to add their suggested changes, and most of their changes were incorporated into the manual. It looks very good, flows well and adheres to the recommended IHEA Standards in appropriate order. The manual has an excellent wildlife ID guide in the back section - very much like our current manual.

Today's Hunter In Texas comes with a PowerPoint presentation of the entire student manual and an Instructor Teaching Guide, both on one CD, only available upon request. The CD will have Flash Animation on several types of firearm actions for better demonstration to students on how actions work. Of course, this involves the instructor having appropriate equipment for use. However, the manual alone will be great if used by itself.

THIRD:

In the middle of this *Target Talk* newsletter is the **Workshop Schedule for 2004**. We have some exciting new workshops

scheduled. Most all of the Instructor Program Orientation workshops (pre-service) will be listed on our Web site and are not included in the attached schedule. We have so many planned it takes too much room to list them individually. Please look over the schedule, check off the workshops you would like information on and send that portion to us. Keep the small section with all workshops listed for your information. We will mail workshop particulars about one month prior to each event, so you can make appropriate plans to attend.

FOURTH:

We will begin a new "mentoring" program this year. Remember when you first got certified and had some difficulty getting started? "Mentoring" is designed to help new instructors overcome the fears of taking that first step. We certify approximately 350-400 new instructors each year, but only about 15% actually teach courses. We want to help those who take the time to get certified to become productive trainers. It is an incredible amount of work and financial investment to certify and provide materials for new instructors. Sometimes the new recruits feel "lost and do not know how to get started." Whatever the case, this new program is designed to take a new instructor under wing, answer those questions that come to mind after the instructor course is completed, help them set up their first course, attend to their preparatory duties, find a place to teach and basically help get them off to a good start. We want that burst of enthusiasm, and energy demonstrated at the instructor workshops, to burn like a raging forest fire, and we can keep that fire going with a little help at the right time. If we all do our part to help each other, we will continue to grow.

****If you are interested in becoming a Hunter Education Instructor Mentor in this new program, give us a call, and we will send you the paperwork to get started.** Come on and take that first step, and help those new instructors pass those first hurdles. You just might feel better knowing you helped someone overcome that last obstacle towards helping save someone's life. What did you say? Sign me up! That's what I wanted to hear!! Thanks!!!

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NOTICE

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department receives federal financial assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior and its bureaus prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex (in educational programs). If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any Texas Parks and Wildlife Department program, activity, or facility, or if you desire further information, please call or write: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office for Diversity and Civil Rights Programs - External Programs, 4040 N. Fairfax Drive, Webb 300, Arlington, VA 22203, (703) 358-1724.

Youth Hunter Education Challenge

Hundreds of hunter education graduates from across North America, and their families and coaches, met this summer at the NRA Whittington Center near Raton, New Mexico to participate in the 2003 International Youth Hunter Education Challenge (YHEC) on July 28-August 1. Nationwide declines in hunting accident rates bear out the value of hunter education. YHEC is an advanced hunter education program designed to enhance classroom knowledge and increase practical, in-the-field experience. The result is a generation of better trained, more responsible and more skillful young hunters. Participants in the annual international event compete in eight events that test hunting knowledge and skill: .22 rifle, shotgun, archery, muzzleloading, orienteering, wildlife identification, hunter safety trail and a written hunter responsibility exam. Nearly 43,000 youths take part in state and Canadian provincial-level YHEC each year, and each are welcome at the annual international event.



Pictured here is part of the group from Texas who participated in the event. THEIA provided registration fees for the top winners from state competition held in May.

Wildlife Expo '03, continued

The shooting events had **15,438** participants in the following areas: Muzzleloading-1,095; *NSSF Scholastic Rifle Program Airgun-430; 4-H/Crosman Airgun-1,385; NRA Airgun-1,140; Shoot Where You Look-2,199; Horton Crossbow-1,183; Bow Hunter Challenge-291; Lone Star Bowhunters Assoc.-2461; Winchester 5-Stand-984; TPWD 5-Stand-999; Youth Shotgun-1,052; TPWD Laser Shot (2 Units)-2,276. *New event.

Thanks to the 261+ individuals made up of volunteer Hunter Education Instructors, TPWD employees, the entire Hunter Education Staff for a tremendous job well done! We hope you and others will return next year for this special event to show what Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and you have to offer.



Editor's CORNER, continued



FIFTH:

A significant change will occur regarding student patches. When the current supply is gone, we will begin to provide a new "student decal." It will resemble the current patch, but will have "Graduate" written over the star in the middle.

After observing students, instructors and the likes over nearly 20+ years, I have only seen three (3), yes, that's right, three patches worn in public. This is another sound business decision based on changes that have taken place within our program. The intent is for students to take the decal and place it on their notebook, a vehicle or some other conspicuous location to show they are proud of being a "Texas Hunter Education Graduate."

Last, but certainly not least...

please keep up the great job you are all doing, and we will continue to have one of the best programs in North America. With the efforts of our volunteers, we can continue to provide the best courses possible. Thanks so much for all you do to help Texas' hunters become safe, responsible, knowledgeable and involved outdoors persons. Recruit at least one new instructor to help you teach, and we will assist them in the certification process. **Then, become their mentor!** Keep all your courses coming in on time. Remember, you have **seven (7)** days to complete the paperwork and get it to our office for processing. We strive to provide our customers with the best service possible, and with your help, we will continue.

Hope your holidays are/were the best yet, and that all your wishes were granted. Take time to smell the roses, and take a youngster hunting with you, because there is still plenty of time. If we can do anything to help you, please contact us.

Happy Holidays!

Terry Erwin

Texas Big Game Awards Now Accepting Entries

For more than 12 years, the Texas Big Game Awards (TBGA), a partnership of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and the Texas Wildlife Association (TWA), has recognized contributions that landowners, land managers and responsible hunters make to managing and conserving wildlife and wildlife habitat on Texas' private lands.

The purpose of the Texas Big Game Awards is to make known to all Texans the important role ethical hunting and habitat management play in the lives of young people and to the ecosystem. Awards are given to all "Scored Entries" that meet minimum regional requirements and there are no entry fees.

Hunters who take a white-tailed deer, mule deer or pronghorn antelope this season meeting the minimum Boone and Crockett requirements for their respective region may be eligible to receive recognition in the Scored Entry category. The landowner on whose place the trophy was taken can also receive recognition. Hunters of any age who take their first big game animal in Texas are eligible for the First Big Game Harvest category. And any youth hunter (younger than age 17 when they purchase their hunting license), with a Special Resident Hunting License who takes a white-tailed deer, mule deer or pronghorn antelope is eligible for the Youth Division whether they take a buck or doe, regardless of score.

Some additions and regular features on the TBGA Web site for this season include the \$20,000 College Scholarship Program sponsored by Carter's Country Outdoor Stores.

Scholarship applications are now available and are due by March 1.

Local scorer, official entry forms or the First Harvest/Youth Division forms can be obtained online. The TBGA Web site will also feature photos of this season's entries. Last season, more than 600 photos were mailed in. Readers can also check out last season's official rankings by region.

New on the Web site this year are the top five all-time TBGA entries, banquet dates for 2004, information about joining the Texas Wildlife Association, and coming soon, current news related to the program and hunting in Texas. And for the first time, see unofficial listings of entries from this season, which will be posted bi-weekly or monthly by region depending upon the number of entries mailed in weekly. The "Early Entry Special" will also return this season. For more information about the Texas Big Game Awards, entry information or for a local certified TBGA scorer, please visit the Web site (www.TexasBigGameAwards.com) or call 800-839-9453, ext. 114. **The final deadline to enter the Texas Big Game Awards for the 2003-04 hunting season is February 15.**



Silencio, Inc., a Sparks, Nevada-based leader in hearing protection for the hunting and shooting industry, introduced their new **Silencio Hunter Orientation Taskforce** program recently. The **SHOT** program, as Silencio has named it, was developed to help promote the importance of hearing conservation to those who are just entering the world of hunting and shooting. By teaming up with firearm and hunter education instructors throughout the country, Silencio and the instructors will focus on the major issue of preserving an individual's hearing. Many times, since hearing loss is only noticeable over time, it goes unnoticed until it is too late. This is a critical concern to Silencio.

Instructors may take advantage of the **SHOT** program. Members of the taskforce will be able to take advantage of special product opportunities, sneak peek purchases of new products and possibly outfit their entire class. Please see the attached insert and if interested, complete the (FREE) registration form and send it in. You and your students will benefit.



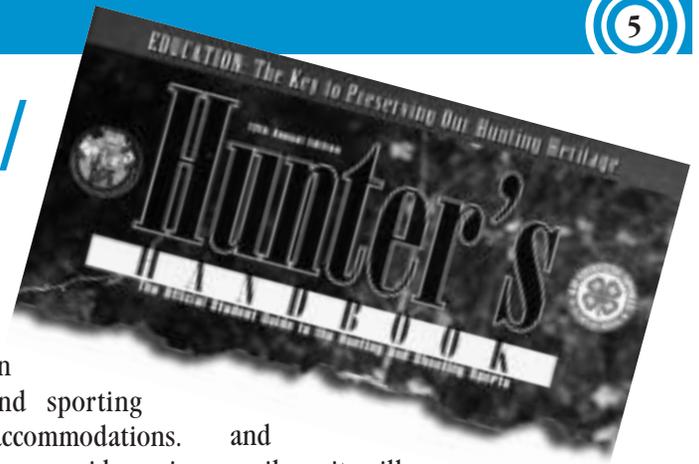
New IHEA Student/Instructor Hunt

Win a hunt of a lifetime! The International Hunter Education Association Student/Instructor Hunt is a **NEW** opportunity beginning this year for **students and instructors** to go on an all-expense-paid hunt for big game, upland birds, fish for trophy rainbow trout and be treated to some of the finest home cooking you will ever eat.

Four lucky students, one parent or guardian of each winner under 18 and two hunter education instructors will be the guests of the exclusive **J.B. Hunt Big Horn Lodge and Outback Ranch**. This 3,000-acre ranch is located in southwestern Missouri among the hills and rugged countryside to provide the perfect

sportsman's retreat. The lodge offers everything from a big screen TV, swimming pool and sporting clays field to deluxe accommodations. The Outback Ranch harbors a wide variety of quality animals from turkey to Sika deer. The hunt should give students and you the chance to put hunter education skills and knowledge to the test.

Please have students complete the entry form on the card found in the Hunter's Handbook student magazine given out during each class. Fill out all information requested, and don't forget the "parent/guardian signature" required for students. Please affix a stamp to the card



and mail so it will be postmarked prior to **February 15, 2004**. Or, if you have access to the Web, simply go to **www.huntershandbook.com** and to the IHEA Student/Instructor Hunt page. Fill out the form and e-mail it to the address given there. **Drawing will be held February 20, 2004** and will take place during the calendar year 2004. Spread the word, and make sure each student gets the Hunter's Handbook. Good Luck!

TEACHING TIP

In the Strategic Plan for Preserving Texas' Hunting Heritage, one of the particular findings was that, "80% of the hunters said they wanted mandatory safety and ethics training for all hunters." Ethics and responsibility should be presented to hunter education students as a priority to bring their awareness up, especially concerning actions that might offend "non-hunters." Irresponsible hunter behavior might cause members of this group to lean more toward the "anti-hunting" sentiment. Remember, these folks vote, and vote they will if they are unsatisfied. Here is one example of how an instructor from Vermont dealt with teaching Ethics and Responsibility during his bow hunting class.

By Bob Lajoie, VT Hunter Education Instructor

I was asked to talk for 1/2 hour on hunter responsibility in a bow hunter safety course. I thought long and hard what I should say to experienced hunters about ethics. The idea struck me to focus on landowners and the respect they deserve from hunters. It went like this: I approached a gentleman who I hadn't met before class at break time. I told him I was going to ask him a question in class and I wanted his honest response. He agreed. When my time came to talk I got up and told the students I wanted to discuss hunter responsibility but first wanted to show them something. I walked up to this gentleman and said "GIVE ME YOUR WALLET." To say he declined would be an understatement. I then went to an old friend and said "Doug, could I borrow your wallet to make a point?" He readily handed me the wallet and requested I did not tell his wife how "ratty" it was. The discussion that ensued was better than any lecture. We came up with the following points:

1. The first gentleman observed that he didn't know me and the wallet was his personal property.
2. My friend gave me his wallet because we were friends that had built up a trust.
3. If you intend to hunt private land it is a real good idea to develop a trust with landowners.
4. We as hunters have to prove that we are not only good hunters but good citizens.
5. If we are to survive as hunters we have to be perceived by the non-hunting public as good neighbors who also hunt.
6. Many in the group stated they no longer hunt just to kill. Most said they subscribe to the "you kill it, you eat it" school of thought.

At the end of class the gentleman who held tight to his wallet said, "That really hit home." It made my day.

Law Offers Landowners Relief Against Hunting Liability

AUSTIN, Texas – Whether it's negotiating a deer or dove hunting lease or just getting access to a neighbor's ranch, the issue of liability can sometimes be an obstacle. But it doesn't have to be. According to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, those concerns may be based more in perception than reality. Current law actually provides some liability protection for landowners who lease land to others for recreational purposes, including hunting. However, a recent survey showed many Texas landowners are unaware of liability limits put in place by state lawmakers.

The law considers anyone whom a landowner gives permission to use his property for recreation, including fee-paying hunters, school children, mountain bikers or bird watchers, as a recreational guest. Under this definition, landowners are not required to issue warnings about dangerous conditions on their property, inspect their property or make repairs to dangerous conditions.

The law does not exempt landowners from all liability, but does provide a cap for any claim as long as the income derived from recreational use fees falls within a certain framework. A new

amendment to the law, HB 408 passed by the 78th Texas Legislature, increases the allowable recreational use fee income from four times to 20 times the total ad valorem tax assessed on the premises during the previous year. Landowners are required to purchase liability insurance coverage equal to the caps and those premiums are often included in a lease fee.

Landowners can also use waivers, or legal documents signed by guests, intended to release the landowner from liability. Waivers must meet certain criteria to be valid; before using a waiver, landowners should consult with an attorney.

NOTICE: IHEA Liability Policy

TPWD previously carried liability insurance on all volunteers, including instructors, who volunteered with the department; however, the individual's homeowner liability policy was always the primary insurer if something had happened. TPWD will allow this policy to lapse, and it is recommended that each volunteer instructor join the International Hunter Education Association (IHEA) and receive the benefits described below. For a minimum of \$25, you will receive the items listed and be covered under their liability policy. It should not make any real impact on your instructor activities, but it will be advantageous to take this step. Thanks for your cooperation.

Individual IHEA Instructor Member - (\$25.00/yr.)

Benefits:

- IHEA Membership Card
- CIMA Volunteer Liability Insurance Policy
- Membership Patch
- Instructor Resource Catalog
- 1 yr. Subscription (3 issues) Hunter Ed. Journal
- Blue "IHEA Hunt Safe" 3" Decal
- Blue Bumper Sticker- "Thanks to H. Ed..."
- NSSF Pocket Fact Card
- NWTf Pocket Card
- Wildlife Restoration Pamphlet
- Sales Receipt

Become a Boater Ed Instructor

TPWD staff will certify individuals interested in boating safety to teach the TPWD boater education course to the general public. The requirement of becoming an instructor is the satisfactory completion of the basic boater education course, boater education instructor certification course and an interview with a Texas Game Warden.

The requirements to obtain a game warden interview and complete the boater education instructor certification course are waived for active TPWD certified Hunter Education Instructors. The basic boater education course may be obtained through classroom type course (7-8 hours), Internet course or home study. The normal cost of the basic boater education course is \$13. Please see the TPWD Web site for course listings.

The basic boater education course subjects include: U.S. Rules of Navigation, Texas Water Safety Act, Lateral Buoy System, State Uniform Buoy System, personal watercraft operational characteristics and required safety equipment.

Please contact Jack Dyess, TPWD Boater Education Coordinator, 972-263-1214, jdyess@gte.net, for additional information.

Preserve Our Hunting Heritage

The readers of *Field and Stream* magazine were surveyed for a recent article. The survey revealed 63 percent more women are hunting than a decade ago, 85 percent plan to pass along the avocation to their kids and the magazine's readers are equally concerned about firearms rights and conservation of hunting lands.

"Hunting is part of the fabric of American history and today remains a cherished activity for millions," said Sid Evans, editor of *Field and Stream*. "While we write about these issues each month, we felt it was important to register what our readers think."

Gene Mueller of *The Washington Times* does a fine job of summarizing the article, for readers inside the Beltway who are not counted among the 10.5 million readers of *F&S*. To those policy makers, Mueller quotes Evans saying, "Based on these results, our readers underscored that they are devoted to land preservation and the recruitment of the next generation of hunters. Through such programs as the National Shooting Sports Foundation's Step Outside Program, which encourages hunters to introduce the sport to kids and the Walk-In Hunting program in Kansas, which opened up a million acres of private lands to hunting, our industry is taking the right steps in addressing issues concerning hunters in America."

Texas Receives \$38,000 Grant for Youth Hunting Program

AUSTIN, Texas – The National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) has awarded the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department a \$38,000 grant from its Hunting Heritage Partnership for funding the Texas Youth Hunting Program. Announcement of the grant award was made at the recent International Association of State Fish and Wildlife Agencies meeting. Eighteen state agencies received more than \$500,000 in grant awards from NSSF.

Texas will use the funds to expand its youth hunting program offering special three-day hunts to an additional 250 youth and retain these new hunters with hunts offered in the later years. The program will also recruit and retain adult hunters participating in the program as either parents or volunteers.

"Our programs allow us to continue to preserve our hunting heritage in the state of Texas. We provide new hunters with the hunt of a lifetime, teaching them safety and ethics at no cost to them," said Mike Berger, Wildlife Division director for TPWD. "To ensure that we have hunting in Texas for the foreseeable future, we must reach out to young people."

The Hunting Heritage Partnership was established by the NSSF, the trade association for the firearm industry, to provide much needed direct funding to state wildlife agencies to help them with programs that provide opportunities for, and remove barriers to, hunter participation.

"Officials with TPWD have designed a unique and dynamic recruitment tool and this grant recognizes their successful efforts and helps build on them. This is exactly the kind of creative approach that agencies in other states can look to as a model to help preserve our hunting and conservation traditions," said Doug Painter, president of the NSSF.

The Lone Star State's 2.4 million anglers and 1.2 million hunters spent \$4.1 billion in Texas last year in pursuit of their pastimes, which supported 73,000 jobs in the state, according to the most recent census survey conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Efforts to expand hunting, such as the Texas Youth Hunting Program, help boost the economy in a state where almost one of every seven Texas residents hunt or fish, generating \$218 million in state tax revenue.

The Texas Youth Hunting Program was established by a cooperative effort of between the Texas Wildlife Association and TPWD to promote the hunting heritage in Texas. Young people ages 9-17 are eligible. For more information about the Texas Youth Hunting Program, call 210-260-5588 or toll-free at 800-460-5494. Applications and additional information are also available online at www.texas-wildlife.org/tyhp/

The program is seeking volunteer adult mentors and landowners who will allow hunting on their property. "Insurance coverage for participating landowners is provided," said Jerry Warden, Texas Youth Hunting Program coordinator.



A Success Story – Youth Hunt

by Heidi Rao

Double D Ranch near Smithville hosted the 5th annual youth hunt sponsored by the Houston Safari Club on Saturday, September 27, 2003. Youth between the ages of 13-17 were selected who have never had the opportunity to hunt. Participants went through hunter education, and to the shooting range to practice with the firearms they used on the hunt. Everyone had a hunting license and their hunter education certificate on their person, as required.

Adults were coordinated to drive to the hunt, and caravanned to the Double D Ranch early in the morning on September 27. The group arrived before sunrise, and everyone was

taken through an orientation from the ranch staff and biologists about the upcoming hunt. Several groups were invited to participate in the day's hunt. Once the group finished orientation, they went to the ranch's shooting range, where all kids were able to practice under the supervision of their guides. Once the guides and kids felt comfortable, it was off to hunt!

The group was successful and everyone had their "trophy" animals around lunch. Ashley Lynch (Beaumont) took a sika buck, Michael Berzosa (Houston) took a lechwe antelope and Patrick Markland (League City) took a Corsican ram. After the hunt, the DD Ranch staff provided a tremendous lunch.

Staff works with a local processing plant that donates processing of the animals for all kids on these youth hunts. The meat was then transported back to the Houston area and dropped off for processing. Staff later picked up all the meat and delivered it to the successful hunters and their families.

These kids saw some amazing animals on the hunt, as well as some awesome trophies at the Ranch headquarters. These kids will never forget the memories from their first hunt on the Double D Ranch.

Thanks, Mr. Dan Duncan for your generosity and hospitality.



Welcome New Instructors

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

July

Elizabeth Holster	Stafford
Kelley Adams	Friendswood
Chandra Davis	Dayton
Darin Divinia	Dallas
Dawn Divinia	Dallas

August

Marty Reed	Coleman
Ronald Brown	Coleman
Beri Deister	Lewisville
Matthew Tittle	Lantana
Gary Hanks	Fort Worth
Otha Stewart, Jr.	Garland
Cody Chambers	Coleman
Jose Carranza, Jr.	McAllen
Ronald Moore	League City
Marsha Ridlehuber	Lott
Marcus Doan	Live Oak
Arthur Mancinas	Schertz
Lorie Kempen	San Antonio
Marvin Isaacks	Arp
Benjamin Snowden	Linden
Terry Singleton	Kopperl
Ben Teague	Childress
Richard Stone	Angleton
Juan Casas, Jr	Palmview
John McNeill	Sulphur Bluff
Britina Robinson	College Station
Justin McCabe	Buna
Matthew Allen	Abilene
Jarrold Usener	Fredericksburg
Robert Briggs	Odessa
Joshua Ureta	Ft. Stockton
Billy Jackson	Ft. Stockton
Jacob Dueck	Stanton
Kerry Roy	McKinney
Jerry Hudec	Weimar
Jimmy McKee	Baytown
Jeanie Almond	Flower Mound
Barret Angst	Needville

September

Suzan Rector	La Porte
Ryan Pieniasek	Krum
Coby Johnson	Slaton
Joe Rushing	Lancaster
Jo Ann Oney	Harleton
Johnny Oney	Harleton
John Barton	Moscow
David Vela	La Blanca
Ruben Alaniz	Mission
James Odonnell	Alba
Coy Latimer	Granbury
Andrea Shouse	College Station
Josh Koenig	Austin
John Hodges	Lubbock
Larry Watson	Linden
Jennifer Shearrer	Pleasanton
Casey Jones	Quinlan
Clinton McPhail	Cuero
Justin Risner	Nacogdoches
Michael Billings	Floresville
Christin Pack	Cleburne
Amanda Fowler	La Grange
Kyle Bates	Stephenville
Ricky Coppedge	Gilmer
Kevin Gibbs	Riesel
Wendy Balch	Cameron
Leanna Shores	Stephenville
Lauren Langbein	Boerne
Landon Denson	Stamford
Brian Kopriva	Cameron
Beau Rains	Brownfield
Jason McCoy	Laredo
Scott Terrell	Artesia Wells
Mauricia Colchado	Cotulla
Elena Lopez	Cotulla
Harold Reed	Dilley
James Gallagher	Dilley
Anthony Garza	Zapata
Fred Berg	Del Rio
Kevin Cavett	Brownfield
Russell Bradley	Kingsville

James Nall	Lubbock
Virginia Torres	Raymondville
Michael Ivy	El Paso
Thomas Bryant	El Paso
Jessica Colvin	Lubbock
Randy Orsborn	Edgewood
Kevin Newsom	Ballinger
Michael Towers	Pipe Creek
Clinton Narcisse, Jr	Channelview
Van Duffey	Pittsburg
Clark Campbell	Byers
Marla Williams	Fairfield
Bethany Meaders	Lufkin
Jamie Smart	Lometa

October

Clark Teague	Texline
Tony White	Texline
Darrel Schacht	New Braunfels
Kevin Campbell	Lubbock
Kevin Wieghat	Magnolia
Joseph Lemmons	Cypress
Jimmy Rumsey	White Oak
Meredith Cook	Tyler
George Clifton	Cumby
Kevin Burns	New Boston
Joe Barron	Maud
Roger Smith	Graham
Richard Brand, Jr	Balch Springs
Howard Gray, Jr	Grand Prairie
Homero Garza, Jr	Eules
Christina Wilkins	Fort Worth
Donald Bills	Lewisville
John Gray	Irving
Hector Cavazos	Laredo
Tammy Morison	Ingram
John Bourrous	Bay City
Dan Tolar	Cleveland
Travis Laqua	Bellaire
Kathleen Milligan	Katy
Jimmy Loewe	Carmine

WELCOME NEW AREA CHIEFS

Roger Coleman is a resident of Edna and has been certified since 1999. He has taught 101 courses and certified 502 students. He will cover Jackson County and all surrounding counties. Roger teaches some of his courses at Lake Texana State Park. He will work with Area Chief Billy Imes who recently returned to the Victoria area. Congratulations Roger!

Lee Morris resides in Dumas and has been certified since 1989. He has taught 37 courses and certified 266 students. He will cover Moore County and counties west, north and east of him. Lee is involved with YHEC, and hosts a regional competition during the month of April. He is actively involved with 4-H Shooting Sports as well. Congratulations Lee!

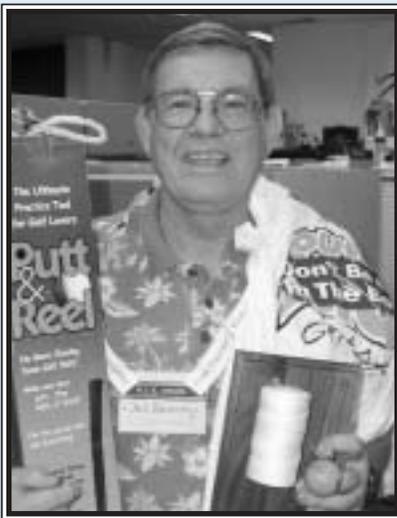
Kudos

Mobile Hunter Ed Trailer

Bryant Truitt, Area Chief from Kerrville, is shown with the latest Mobile Hunter Education Program trailer he acquired through a Friends of NRA Grant. He applied for the grant through THEIA, and with the help of various sponsors and his personal contributions, he has completely outfitted the unit to allow an instructor to provide a complete structured or home study course, including live fire and field activities. This mobile unit should be a model for all instructors and wildlife agencies across North America when it comes to “going the extra mile.” Thanks to all the businesses who cooperated and contributed. Most have their logos on the trailer. The lettering and entire montage mural was done courtesy of **Jim and Jara Sowles** who own **J & J Signs & Banners, Inc.** of Mountain Home, Texas. Congratulations Bryant on a “Job Very Well Done!”



Note: J & J Signs & Banners, Inc. donated lettering for two of our other trailers, which will be seen in use by Ty Harris in South Texas and Jimmie Caughron in West Texas. Thanks Jim and Jara!!



Jack Nasworthy Retires

After a little over 15 years, Jack decided to take an “early out” when it was offered to state agency employees. Yes, he just up and left us! How could he do that? He explained that he was going to play some golf, but only could play a couple of days a week. We suggested that he return and volunteer the other three days, but so far, he hasn’t shown up. Take a look at the picture. It has a new golf club that combines a putter and a reel. At least he can practice and then reel it in and try again. The other item is for those shots around the water hole. Just tee it up and hit away! If it goes in the ‘drink,’ pull it out and hit again. Then of course, it could be used in narrow fairways just in case it goes into the rough. Just follow the string and take the next shot.

We will miss Jack, but wish him the very best. Congratulations on your retirement and new ventures! “Fore!”

Expo Features Wetlands Viewing Area

During Expo, the new holding pond built this year was used as a wetlands viewing area and manned by Rollin Macrae and staff from the Resource Protection Division. Various examples of waterfowl were needed to demonstrate species that would ordinarily be found in this type of habitat. Thanks to Dave Richards with **Gary Grant Sales**, because he was instrumental in acquiring donated decoys from **G & H Decoys** for use by spectators in the waterfowl identification stations. A special thanks also goes to Charleen Lambert and **G & H Decoys** for their generous contribution.





Rao Makes First “Off-Shore” Presentation

Did you ever wonder how far our staff goes to give safety presentations? The hunting season is in full swing, and ExxonMobil wanted to offer their offshore personnel an opportunity to receive some tips to help them be safe and enjoy their hunting activities when they returned to the mainland. Heidi Rao was flown 160 miles offshore in the Gulf of Mexico to the Hoover-Diana Platform to give her presentation. ExxonMobil continually offers job-related safety presentations and decided to offer on-site safety presentations for off-site, non-job-related outdoor and recreational activities. She went through a 30-minute pre-flight safety orientation and a 30-minute on-site safety presentation upon arrival at the platform. Heidi was the first female and the first TPWD employee ever to present in this manner.

This is one of the largest platforms in the Gulf, and is floating like a cork bobber. It is anchored with cables that extend from the platform out as far on all four corners as Loop 610 is from the center of Houston. Hard to imagine Heidi was contacted last year about the presentation, but it took almost a year to gain approval for a non-employee to gain access to this area. Due to budgetary constraints, only three outside entities are allowed to be flown to the site for presentations or contract work. Congratulations Heidi for a job well done!



Jerry Couch was presented the **Silver Star Award** by the City of Irving Parks and Recreation Department for his volunteer work with the elderly residents. He delivered food, transported them to various places and became basically involved with their restricted activities. Only six of these awards are given annually. Congratulations Jerry!



Shown here is Don Murray, Waxahachie, with his red deer, taken in Bandera County at 98 yards with his 7mm-08 handgun. It is ranked #5 in the Exotics World Record-Pistol Class, and #28 overall. Congratulations Don!



Ross Martin is shown with his latest achievement. He was recently certified as an IBEP instructor, although he lives in Louisiana, where he is attending college. He took this fine animal during bow season in Louisiana. He will move to South Texas in January and attend Texas A&M at Kingsville while pursuing a degree in wildlife management. Congratulations Ross!

Game Wardens Deserve Our Appreciation

By Doug Pike, Houston Chronicle Staff

Joe Williams, 1919 • Harry Raymond, 1919 • Claude R. Murchison, 1938. • R.M. Wynne, 1948.
Gus Engeling, 1951 • Claude Keller, 1956 • J.D. Murphree, 1963 • Joe Evans, 1965
Lloyd Gustin, 1968 • Ronnie Germany, 1973 • James Daughtrey, 1978 • Barry Decker, 1990
Bruce Hill, 1990 • Mike Pauling, 2001 • Wesley Wagstaff, 2003

While investigating a possible deer-poaching incident, Wagstaff was involved in a head-on collision on FM 1293 in Hardin County and became the 15th Texas Parks and Wildlife Department game warden to die while on duty. He was 40, and he leaves a wife and son.

I never met Wagstaff and so cannot say whether he was tall or short, heavy or thin, but I can say with absolute confidence that he was dedicated to his work and courageous in his effort. All of the men and women who wear the badge he wore share at least those traits if no others.

Game wardens work long, lonely hours in daylight and darkness, in heat and cold and mud and dust. They dodge snakes and slap mosquitoes more often than most of us, and they push as much bureaucratic paper as any law enforcement officer. Game wardens are tireless guardians of the state's natural resources who seldom get and never ask for the recognition they deserve.

Wagstaff's loss is tragic and underscores the seriousness of his profession. Most people rarely encounter game wardens, and thousands of Texas hunters and fishermen never have seen one. The state has too few – game wardens, not people – and they are spread too thin. Individual wardens sometimes are responsible for the enforcement of wildlife and fisheries regulations across hundreds and even thousands of square miles of Texas.

For a division that is so dreadfully understaffed and underpaid, however, TPWD's

500-odd field officers do outstanding jobs of patrolling Texas' 160-plus public lakes and reservoirs, 80,000 miles of rivers and streams, thousands more square miles of coastal bays and marshes, and 260,000 square miles of dirt and rock.

Most Texans recognize game wardens as the men and women who issue citations, either for missing licenses or life jackets or for shooting too many doves or taking a deer out of season. They do those jobs as often and as well as they can and they do more.

I had the good fortune to accompany a game warden recently on a less adventurous assignment, a day-long sweep that yielded more than a ton of an aquatic plant illegal in Texas for the threat it poses to state waterways. Our crew and six others, each led by a state game warden, visited markets around the city and spent considerable time explaining to owners and managers how something that makes such good soup can be so bad.

The same day, I heard stories from wardens about their efforts to thwart the illegal import of exotic and potentially dangerous animals into the state and the equally unlawful export of many native species. I was shown jars, large and small, of various fish and eels and snails collected or confiscated in the Houston area. Had those species not been retrieved by game wardens, and had they eventually found their way into local streams and bayous, they could have turned the regional ecological balance upside down.



Wesley Wagstaff

F.Y.I.

For Your Information

B.O.W. Celebrates 10th Anniversary

The TPWD "Becoming an Outdoors Woman" program celebrated its 10th year at a workshop attended by 105 women recently. One of those was CFO Mary Fields, who said the program is not only wonderful for participants, but important because it sends women back home with new skills to pass on to their families. To date, more than 3,000 Texas women have learned to shoot, fish, paddle, ride horseback and other activities, many for the first time. The next workshops are set for next March 12-14 outside Austin, April 16-18 near Fort Davis in West Texas and May 21-23 near Palacios on the coast. Details are online at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/edu/baow.

Crosman Corporation Announce Recall of Air Rifles

WASHINGTON, D.C. - In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), Crosman Corporation, of East Bloomfield, N.Y., is voluntarily recalling about 1,500 spring-piston, break-action air rifles. The air rifles can discharge unexpectedly when the user closes the barrel, posing a serious risk of injury to consumers and bystanders.

Crosman Corporation has received one report of an air rifle unexpectedly firing, though no injuries have been reported. The recalled break-action, spring air rifles include Crosman Model numbers RM177, RM177X, RM677, RM677X, RM877 and RM622 that were produced before August 2001. Models produced after that time are not included in this recall. The recalled air rifles have brown wood stocks, black barrels and blue and white striped spacers on the butt plate. The RM622 shoots .22 caliber airgun pellets; the other models shoot .177 caliber airgun pellets. The RM177X and RM677X were sold with scopes. Each barrel is imprinted with the model number and the words, "Manufactured for Crosman Corp. by Mendoza."

Authorized dealers, gun shops and sporting goods dealers nationwide sold the air rifles from June 2001 through August 2001 for between \$130 and \$250. Consumers should stop using these air rifles immediately and contact Crosman Corporation at 800-724-7486 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. ET Monday through Friday for instructions on returning the rifle for a free repair or replacement with a comparable model. Crosman will also reimburse consumers for the cost of shipping. Consumers also can log on to the company's Web site at www.crosman.com to view safety and recall information posted since September 2001. To see a picture of the recalled item, use this link: www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml04/04001.html

Hunting Participation Improves in 2002

In numbers just released from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and available on the Hunting section of the NSSF Web site, there was an increase in the total value of hunting licenses, permits and stamps of 2.4% over 2001. While the total number of hunters remains near 115 million, hunters spent 2.6% more in the latest reporting year, a total of \$658,993,798, in pursuit of their sport. And, since 1939, in special taxes paid only by hunters and shooters, almost **\$4 billion** has been contributed toward conservation. Keep those numbers handy when you make that call or write to your senators.

As Close as Your Pocket

As a sportsman or woman who enjoys hunting, you can change perceptions among the non-hunters or anti-hunters you may encounter when you are armed with facts. NSSF's Hunter's Pocket Fact Card provides statistics showing you are among the largest group of contributors to conservation, paying for programs that benefit wildlife and habitat restoration. Pocket one card for free. Send a \$5 check to NSSF for a packet of 100, or contact Colleen Swain to order 500 or more at \$.04 each. Visit NSSF's Web site for more helpful information on hunting.

New Information For Instructors

TPWD hunter education now has an area on our Web site for instructor information. It will include special advanced in-service workshop information and other helpful items, including "Instructor Forum," and "Instructor Resources." You must have a username and password to access this location for information.



“Burn-Out”

In the beginning there was a fire, small or large, and its beautiful glow gave you comforting warmth. As time passed, rain fell, wind blew and the fire started diminishing. Now it's down to a small coal with a faint glow, or in some, just warm ashes, and others, cold ashes. The term “Burn-out” has many definitions. In marriage it is called “divorce,” in school age children it is called drop out, in food it is said to have lost its savor.

This reminds me of the story about a preacher that visited a member of his congregation, who had not attended services in some time. The member being shocked by the presence of the preacher welcomed the preacher in and asked to be excused for a few minutes in order to write a check. The preacher sat down next to a table and noticed a dish of peanuts. Now peanuts were the preacher's weakness, and he couldn't resist. Boy, were they good, so good the preacher could not stop eating the peanuts until they were all gone. When the member returned with the check the preacher tried his best to explain, but the member said that is all right. I like M&M's but can't eat the peanuts so I just suck the chocolate off and put the peanuts back in the dish.

Have you just had the chocolate removed? Are you just lying in a dish like the peanuts? Is the fire out? Or, is there a smoldering ember that with tender loving care could produce a new fire? How long has it been since you told your wife or husband, “I love you?” How long has it been since you told your children you loved them? How long has it been since you taught a class? How long ago did you stop loving Texas Parks and Wildlife Department? Fan the embers, re-start the fire, because TPWD is in need of people on fire!

Jim Parker
Area Chief Instructor

Just a Small “Thank You”....

Have you ever wondered why it is so difficult to find a nice classroom with good amenities to teach in? Perhaps it may be the previous person who was allowed to hold a class there may have either left it in less than “desirable” condition or just simply forgot to say thank you. As volunteer instructors for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, we cannot afford to do this because it leaves us with a less than desirable image than we prefer to maintain. A few simple rules apply ... and these are rules we learned as children. First, treat others as we want to be treated ourselves. Second, a simple thank you goes a long way to maintaining the respect both parties are due. Third, leave the classroom in better condition than you found it. And last, send them a thank you card, or better yet, request a certificate of appreciation from the staff at TPWD and present it to those who support Texas' Hunter Education Program. You will be surprised just how many doors this will open to all of us.

Fred Berg
Del Rio

To Our Friends in Hunter Education

You do not know how much Suzanne and I have enjoyed the time we have spent in the Hunter Ed. program, getting to know all of you. But the time has come and we must move on. Considering the state of tech companies I was lucky to find a job with Cray Inc. in April. I'm the new pre-sales engineer for the southeast region. Since the job is heavily involved with customer support, I'll mostly work out of my house. They'd like for me to be near Huntsville, AL, because of being central to most of the current customer sites. Cray has been gracious enough to allow me to work from our house in the Woodlands until it sold. That sale finally happened and Suzanne and I are moving to north Alabama to be closer to my customer base and to be closer to family. We've found a little place on some acreage just south of Huntsville that fits the requirement for access to high speed internet and we moved in on Sept. 15th.

I will not miss the life in the suburbs of Houston, the 5-mile, 30-minute commute to work, but I will miss hunting dove, duck and quail on the prairie west of Houston, hunting deer and turkey in the Hill Country and most

continued on the next page

importantly the time that we spent at events like Expo, YHEC, and the other Hunter Ed. training events. We will miss our friends in Hunter Ed. The program gave me the chance to make a difference, to give hunting a fighting chance in the face of anti-hunting sentiment. I could never expect to put into classes what I personally got out of them. Thank you all. Maybe as the pressure of getting the X1 to market lets up we can come back to check on you guys. Take care and if you're ever in north Alabama, look us up.

Alan Minga, Ph.D.
Sr. Systems Engineer
Cray Inc.

Editor's note: First time I ever met Alan and his wife, Suzanne, she had on a t-shirt that read: "Yes, my husband really is a Rocket Scientist." They will really be missed. Come back anytime, and we will have a place for you.

TEXAS GAME WARDEN FIELD NOTES

Too Much Time on Their Hands

Palo Pinto County game wardens were informed that all defendants involved in a five-month investigation into deer poaching had pleaded guilty to all charges. Forty-two cases were filed against seven defendants. The total amount of criminal fines on all cases totaled \$23,016. Three of the defendants had one charge each while the other four had 39 cases filed against them. There were 37 deer killed between October 2002 and April 2003. When asked why they had killed so many deer, they said they were having a contest to see who could kill the most deer. Most of the deer were killed at night while the suspects were trespassing on private property and others were killed on private property during the day and at night from the road.

The Tank Gave Him Away

A Young County game warden was checking bird hunters when he came across an individual coming out of a 1,000-acre ranch. This person smelled strongly of ether or starter fluid. In the bed of his truck was paraphernalia and equipment for a drug lab. A second person was also arrested when he drove up pulling a large anhydrous ammonia tank behind his vehicle. This person also was in possession of freshly completed product of methamphetamine. Felony charges were made against both people for manufacturing narcotics and possession of methamphetamine over 200 grams. Bond was set at \$100,000. Cases are pending.

Local Hunters and Meat Processors Partner to Fight Hunger



Hunting season is fast approaching, and it's time for hunters to decide what to do with their game meat. For over a decade, Texas hunters have used their skills to help combat hunger through the **Hunters for the Hungry** (HFTH) program. Last year, Texas hunters and meat processors partnered to donate a record breaking 118,994 pounds of meat, which was distributed to food banks and food pantries statewide. While efforts to promote and expand HFTH have led to a 29% increase in donations since the 2001-2002 hunting season, there is still an enormous need to supply meat to food assistance providers facing shortages. In Texas, nearly 15% of families don't know where their next meal will come from.

The success of HFTH depends on the combined efforts of hunters, meat processors and food assistance providers. Hunters take their legally harvested deer, hog or other wild game to participating meat processors, who process and package the donated meat for a nominal fee to cover basic costs. Meat processors then notify local food banks, food pantries and emergency feeding sites, which distribute the meat to families in need.

Any volunteer organizations, processors or hunters interested in donating or working with HFTH can contact Janet Leubner of TACAA at 800-992-9767, ext. 206.

Training Efforts and Workshops

Laser Shot Workshop

Hunter Education Instructors and TPWD employees attended a Laser Shot training session at the Houston Arboretum & Nature Center on May 31 to become familiar with the operations of a new Laser Shot system. All participants were able to set up and successfully access the various programs. The Laser Shot system stays pretty well booked throughout the year. Quite a few Hunter Education Instructors check it out during the year to incorporate hands-on training into their hunter education courses. TPWD employees use the system at facilities where they work, such as state parks and wildlife management areas, and during special events. Professional educators check out the Laser Shot system to use during wildlife management courses.

Volunteers are called upon to operate the system for special events such as hunting shows, safety fairs or career days. In the Greater Houston area, if anyone is interested in booking the system for an event or course, please contact Heidi Rao at 281-534-0126 for availability.



Responsibility, Ethics and Game Laws

An excellent group of instructors came out for this workshop. Rod Chalmers, game warden from Bandera, was, again, recruited from his duties in the Hill Country to present his session on "How to use the *Outdoor Annual*." Fortunately, we had the new versions, and he helped instructors become acquainted with all of the new changes. Everyone should attend this workshop to become familiar with updated rules and regulations so they can pass them on to their students. Thanks Jimmie Caughron for hosting and teaching in this workshop.

Wildlife Management at Kerr WMA

Area Chief Don Barker hosted this workshop in September due to staff obligations in other locations of the state. Bill Armstrong and Gene Fuchs did their usual tremendous job with sharing knowledge about the world's best white-tailed deer laboratory. Thanks folks!





Alligator Workshop

My daughter, Megan, and I recently attended the Alligator Management Workshop at the J.D. Murphree Wildlife Management Area. What an awesome workshop! I would recommend this workshop to all instructors across the state. I realize that alligator hunting is limited to a smaller group of hunters however, the information we gained by attending the workshop will be spread at each one of our student hunter education courses. Just today there was another article in the *Houston Chronicle* about a nuisance alligator or what a

homeowner considered a nuisance. Learning to coexist with our wildlife resources as their habitat shrinks in one area and spreads is extremely important to all the citizens of Texas. Thanks to Heidi Rao for coordinating this workshop and special thanks to the employees at the J.D. Murphree Wildlife Management Area who put the program on for us, K.J. Lodrigue, Amos Cooper, Monique Slaughter, and Bill Hartje. All of us that attended are looking forward to this workshop again next year.



Thanks, Tom Stashak, Area Chief, Pasadena

TPWD Starts 'Hook Up With Your Kids' Free Fishing Year



On August 29, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department kicked off its Family Fishing Celebration, a yearlong event that gives families just one more reason to visit dozens of scenic and historic state parks from Caddo Lake to the Big Bend. A main purpose of the celebration is to encourage families to discover fishing as a way to spend quality time together.

From Aug. 29, 2003 to Aug. 31, 2004, TPWD will waive fishing license requirements inside park boundaries at more than 70 state parks, where waters offer ample angling opportunities.

The state agency has the authority to grant the license waiver for such events according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code. The waiver will save visitors fishing in state parks the cost of a fishing license. Park admission fees, as well as fish catch and size limits, will still apply during the event. Any fish requiring a tag, such as oversize red drum and tarpon, must still be tagged. The license waiver does not apply to the state's 50 Wildlife Management Areas.

In support of the Family Fishing Celebration, TPWD will host several special events and "Learn to Fish" seminars during the year at select state parks throughout the state. Park visitors will be greeted at state parks by "Hook Up With Your Kids!" promotional posters and flyers.

New NWTF Study Reveals Surprising Motivations, May Predict Future Hunting Trends

Assumptions can be misleading, and sometimes just plain wrong. For instance, hunters are primarily concerned with firearms safety education and providing hunting opportunities for youth – not harvesting game as is often believed. That's just one of the significant findings in a recent hunter behavior and attitude study commissioned by the National Wild Turkey Federation.

The study, Behavioral, Attitudinal and Demographic Characteristics of Spring Turkey Hunters in the U.S., was unveiled to a diverse group of writers, editors and communications professionals at a special presentation during the Outdoor Writers Association of America 2003 Conference in Columbia, Mo. Mark Damian Duda, Executive Director of Responsive Management and principal researcher for the study, noted that many of the results of the study were revealing.

“The study reinforced some of our ideas about what motivates and interests hunters, but it also showed that hunters are strongly motivated to hunt for reasons that aren't as obvious. For instance, most hunters said that they hunted primarily for recreation and to spend time with family and friends. Harvesting turkeys wasn't a top reason to hunt for most respondents.”

The top reasons for “liking” to spring turkey hunt were for the challenge (42%) or to feel close to nature (37%). Another interesting – but not necessarily surprising – finding was that protecting or enhancing habitat for other wildlife besides wild turkeys (78%) ranked high on hunters' lists of priorities. The study results paint an interesting picture of the spring turkey hunter. A short list of other study findings reveals that:

Turkey hunters are dedicated conservationists who want to share the outdoors

with others. An overwhelming majority of turkey hunters rated the following state wildlife agency programs/efforts as very important:

- firearm use and safety (89%);
- providing wild turkey hunting opportunities for youth (81%);
- conservation projects, such as protecting or enhancing habitat for other wildlife besides wild turkeys (78%);
- protecting or enhancing habitat for wild turkeys (75%);
- providing wild turkey hunting opportunities for disabled hunters (73%).

Turkey hunting is addictive. A majority (58%) of turkey hunters had hunted each spring for the past five years, the only exception being in the western region of the country. Most turkey hunters said that their level of turkey hunting has increased (36%) or remained about the same (49%) over the past five years. Some of the findings were especially revealing and shed some much needed light on what the future of hunting may be.

“One surprising finding was that the largest percentage of respondents (39%) said they were self-taught turkey hunters, or taught by a friend (26%), as opposed to other types of hunting in which they were typically introduced by their father,” said Tammy Bristow Sapp, NWTF's vice-president of communications. “In fact, turkey hunters may be experiencing a role reversal where grown children are introducing their fathers to the sport.”

Many of the findings in the study point the way to a bright future for spring turkey hunting and for passing on hunting traditions.

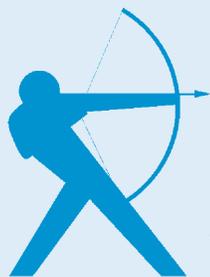
“Based on the study, spring turkey hunting appears to be the next big thing in hunting,” said Sapp. “The study shows

that most spring turkey hunters have hunted turkeys for fewer than 12 years, a short time relative to how long most hunters have been hunting in general. This, and the fact that most hunters are spring turkey hunting an average of 7.6 days every year, suggests a young, dedicated hunting movement with lots of growth potential for the future.”

The telephone survey polled 1,410 spring turkey hunters identified in nine states including California, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Mississippi, New York, Ohio, Texas and Washington. Hunters surveyed in eight of the nine states were taken from the hunting community in general and were identified through hunting license records, except in California, where NWTF member database records were used because state license records were not available.

The NWTF also has commissioned an economic impact study to compliment the behavioral and attitudinal study. Results from the second study conducted by Rob Southwick and the staff at Southwick Associates, a fish and wildlife economics and business consulting firm, should be available by late summer 2003. “By combining the two studies, we'll have a detailed view on who a spring turkey hunter is, what their wants and needs are, and what they bring to the table as an economic and political force,” said Duda. “I commend the NWTF for being farsighted and going after this type of data. These studies will support conservation and hunting heritage efforts for many years to come.”

Highlights from the attitudinal/behavioral study can be viewed by visiting the NWTF Web site at www.nwtf.org and visiting the NWTF newsroom. Details from the study are available by contacting James Powell or Jonathan Harling at 1-800-THE-NWTF.



THE BOWHUNTER

TEXAS BOWHUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

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NEW IBEP STUDENT / INSTRUCTOR MANUALS COMING OUT SOON

The long awaited NEW student and instructor manuals should be available this winter. There are great improvements over the current manuals both in format and content. My appreciation to those instructors who were asked and provided input into these new manuals. The NBEF is planning a training session for Regional Coordinators and State Chairman in December. I will be conducting Instructor In-Service workshops in San Antonio, Houston, Austin and the DFW area this spring to introduce these new manuals. The primary purpose of the workshops will be introduction of the new manuals. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend one of these meetings.

HAGERMANN NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Well it happened again this year, the panic driven demand for classes generated by the drawing for Hagerman NWR permits. I have discussed the demands with the folks at Hagerman and there may be some changes in their application requirements in the future. However I will ask that instructors in the North Texas area anticipate the demands for next year and schedule classes in advance of the major push (May, June). We have received approval for IBEP Instructors to conduct the Hagermann Proficiency Shooting. The requirements are 14 targets at various ranges from 20 to 32 yards. Scoring is 5,8,10 rings (No 12 rings) with a minimum score of 80%(112 points). You must use an Official TPWD / IBEP score card which is available from TPWD. The proficiency shooting is in addition to the regular IBEP curriculum.

COMBINED HUNTER ED / BOWHUNTER ED CLASS

IBEP-TX and TPWD have reached an agreement on a combined curriculum for hunter education / bow hunter education combination course. The combined curriculum is a minimum of 17 hours of instruction. Hunter education "home study" does NOT apply to the combined curriculum. Instructors must be certified as a Hunter Ed instructor and IBEP instructor and receive training on the combined curriculum. If you are interested in conducting the combined course please contact Terry Erwin or myself for more information.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to each of you who took the time this year to pass on our heritage of bowhunting. You truly do make a difference. Now reward yourselves by getting into the woods.

Good winds and straight shots.

Aim to be "Bulls-Eye Perfect"

KATHY'S
KORNER

Hi folks! Yep, it's that time again. The end of the year is near, and we have all the classes scanned and entered, except for what comes in daily, and we usually get those done by the next day. It is important to send in the funding with your courses, or you will be contacted by us. Remember, beginning January 1, 2004 ALL COURSES WILL BE \$10 and \$5 per student that comes in with ALL student forms. No exceptions! Don't forget to fill out a Final Report for each course and submit it with your student registration forms. Now, after having reminded you.... I hope you all have a very Happy New Year!

K A T H Y

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Target Talk

Texas Hunter Education Program
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
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