

THE BULLSEYE BULLETIN

WISCONSIN HUNTER EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

#111 April, 2009

What's Coming in 2009?

From: Tim Lawhern, Hunter Education
Administrator

Occasionally I get reminded that volunteer instructors don't like surprises especially when they involved matters that affect how the hunter education program is delivered or when new policies or procedures are developed and implemented. It's good advice when I hear it and so this news column contains some of the things that are coming this year. On my wall in my office hang 4 signs in this order: Step 1 = What is our mission and why is it important? Step 2 = Let individuals know how they fit in and can contribute to the mission. Step 3 = Keep the mission in front of your people.... Step 4 = Keep the mission as core to decision making and work planning. With that here are some of the things in our mission for 2009:

1. Continue and expand the 4 Basic Rules of Firearms Safety outreach campaign. We again have sent letters to the FFL dealers that were involved in helping us last year. This year we have asked them to include our wallet sized card with the 4 Basic Rules on it along with not only every firearm sold but with every box of ammunition sold. How do you fit in and how can you contribute to this mission? If you know of a business that sells guns and /or ammunition check to see if they have our large posters displayed and have a supply of the wallet sized cards on hand. If not, encourage them to do so and then let Brenda Von Rueden, program assistant know so she can get those supplies to

that business. You can email Brenda at Brenda.Vonrueden@wisconsin.gov with your requests.

2. Increase the number of participants in hunting. We've all said it, we all know it, but we all need to practice it more. Invite someone to go hunting this year. Our partners in the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) have come up with a clever way to accomplish this via the modern world fashion – send an invitation via an email. How do you fit in? Each of you can invite one person and you can provide this same information to your students in your hunter education courses; encourage every hunter you know to do this. Here's how it works:

E-MAIL AN INVITATION TO HUNT AND SHOOT THIS SEASON . . .

For those last-minute shoppers struggling to find a gift, there's always the gift of hunting and shooting. Through www.stepoutside.org, visitors can now deliver that gift in the form of an invitation to go hunting or shooting by sending an [e-mail postcard](#). Visitors to the site can choose from nine photo-illustrated cards that showcase various types of hunting and target shooting. After choosing a card, you simply fill in a personalized message and enter the recipient's name and e-mail address. The postcard is then automatically sent to your hunting or shooting partner's inbox. A program of the National Shooting Sports Foundation, [STEP OUTSIDE](#) is based on the premise that men and women who are

passionate about hunting and shooting owe it to the future of these activities to introduce them to newcomers. To date, the program has been a key element in exposing hundreds of thousands of newcomers to the outdoors.

3. Recruit and certify 10 volunteer instructors of cultural diversity. Our RSW's are actively seeking qualified individuals from diverse communities for this purpose. The program is developing a presentation which will include some hands-on experiences of what our students do within hunter education courses to help recruit those volunteers. Our office of Diversity Affairs is also working with us to get us audiences within those communities. How can you fit in and contribute? Encourage the parents our guardians of students of culture to become instructors in our program. You can also offer to assist your RSW when presentations are made so that you too can learn more about the diversity among other cultures.

4. Implement the exam required of all NEW instructor applicants. We've developed an exam that all new instructors must take prior to them being certified as one of our volunteer instructors. In the early days of the program (for the first 25 years) all new instructors took an exam and this is a return to that policy. It's an easy exam in the sense that it can be taken in an open-book manner. This verifies that all new instructors will have seen the program instructor manual, read the program policies and understand how our program works. How do you fit in and contribute? Support this policy and assist those new instructors you acquire in your instructor groups in taking this exam. It's always a good thing to review policy and procedures no matter how long one has been teaching.

5. Continue and improve the rewards to volunteers for their efforts. All length of service awards from the 2 year through the 15 year award will be mailed directly to those receiving awards. The 20 year – 40 year awards will continue to be hand delivered by a conservation warden. By mailing the awards they will get into the hands of the volunteers sooner and save time and money. Additionally, we have added more vendors to the list of discounts offered to volunteer instructors. If you have not looked at the instructor discount list you may want to do so as you can purchase items like scope and

binoculars cheaper than wholesalers can in some cases.

6. Work in partnership with the Wisconsin Hunter Education Instructor's Association (WHEIA) to establish a "List Server" for all volunteer instructors with an email address. Currently WHEIA has such a list server in place but are in need of current email addresses for instructors that have one. This is important work because it will allow faster and timelier communications with the Volunteer Instructor Corps. It will also save money, money we can use for specialized training for you, the volunteer. How do you fit in and contribute to this? Let WHEIA know your current email address so we can get you on the list today.

7. Provide instructor training. We are planning and scheduling numerous mini-academies around the state so that volunteers can see and learn exactly how to deliver the curriculum in our program. Consistency is an issue and the best way to address this is by providing the needed guidance on how best and what to teach in our program. How do you fit in and contribute? Every volunteer in the state should attend one of these sessions sometime with the next couple of years; the sooner the better. We need everyone on the same page. Those that have been to the training already can offer to assist the RSW's in delivering these sessions.

These are just a few of the things coming in 2009. Your RSW's also are working on other issues including a Test Out for certification and Mandatory Recertification of volunteers. When we have something ready to offer, test or pilot more information will be coming on those. Buy be assured that by the end of 2009 both of those topics will be a part of the program in some way. Maybe they will only be in the testing stage but progress towards their implementation will already be well underway.

Thanks for everything you do that keeps us going! Your commitment to our mission and support in the directions we are taking are what keeps us at the forefront of all programs in hunter education. The Wisconsin Volunteer Instructor Corps remains the envy of most all other hunter education program world wide.

DON'T
MISS OUT
ON THESE

INSTRUCTOR DISCOUNTS FOR 2009

There is a listing of companies that are participating in the 2009 discount offerings. Please contact the company personally for a copy of their catalog and discount price list. These companies are aware and proud of the important work you do. They want to show their appreciation of the efforts you are making on behalf of firearms safety.

When you are ready to place your order you will need to photo copy your current instructor card and photo id in order to obtain the instructor discount with each company.

SAVE the list or access the list of 2009 Instructor Discounts by going to the following link-

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/es/enforcement/instructor.html>

On the left hand side of the page you will see 2009 Instructor Discounts. Click the link to view the list.

You can also check out other discount specials at:

<http://www.ihea.com/instructors/special-offers-for-instructors.php>



Traditional Ammunition From the NSSF

Firearms retailers know as well as hunters that traditional ammunitions that hunters have used for literally hundreds of years pose no threat to those who consume harvested game meat.

For more than a century, hundreds of millions of Americans have safely consumed game that was harvested using traditional hunting ammunition, and despite there being no scientific evidence that consuming the game is endangering the health of individuals and special interest groups.

THE STRAIGHT STORY ON LEAD AMMO

Consider passing along these facts about traditional ammunition:

- Consuming game harvested with lead ammunition has never been shown to pose a health risk to anyone.
- The Iowa Department of Health has been testing blood lead levels in children since the early nineties and has never seen a case of lead poisoning attributable to ammunition.
- Participants in the CDC study of blood lead levels in hunters had lead levels lower than the national average, and well below the level the CDC considers to be of concern.
- Children in the CDC study had lead levels that were less than half in the national average and far below the level the CDC considers to be of concern.
- The CDC study did not show a valid association between consuming harvested game and higher blood lead levels.



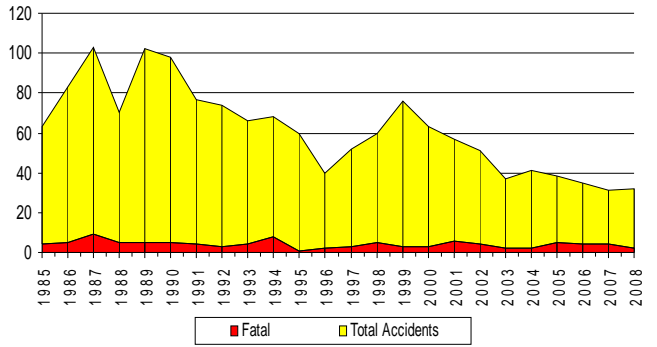
BOWHUNTER EDUCATION

TREE STAND SAFETY COURSE!!

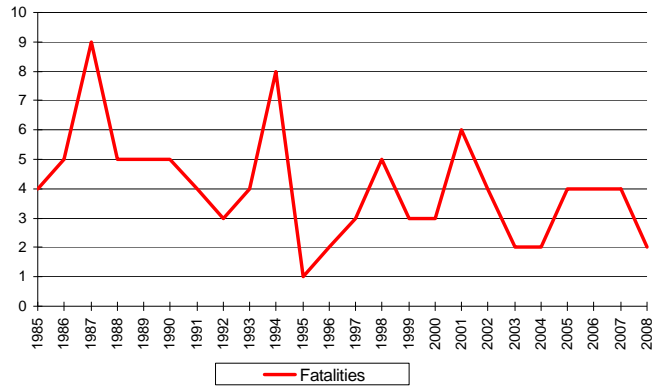
Whoa! What's that, a safety course for hunters that hunt from tree stands? Yep, that's right. The National Bowhunter Education Foundation in partnership with the Treestand Manufacturer's Association has developed an on-line course that anyone can take for free! There's no certification or anything like that but it's some great information for anyone that hunts from a treestand. Here's the link if you want to try it out yourself or mention it to your students.

<http://www.tmastands.com>

There's also a link to this from our hunter education WebPages on the DNR website.



History of Hunting Fatalities



Henry Ford said it best...“Whether you think you can, or think you can’t...you’re right.”



Trivia Question? How many students have been certified in Hunter Education alone since 1967?

Total Number Of Students Certified **928,458**

“We must view young people not as empty bottles to be filled, but as candles to be lit.”
-- Robert H. Shaffer



Have a Safe and Enjoyable Spring Turkey Hunt!

Hunting 'accidents' a thing of the past
By Lawrence Pyne • December 28, 2008
Vermont

To borrow one of my kids' favorite expressions, hunting accidents are so 1970s.

For one thing, there are a lot fewer of them than there were 30 years ago. Since hunter education became mandatory in Vermont in 1975, the number of hunting-related shootings have declined from several dozen a year to a handful today -- 5 in 2008, none fatal.

For another thing, they are no longer called "accidents." They are now considered "incidents," and in Vermont and elsewhere, careless hunters are increasingly being held accountable for their actions.

Both are positive trends.

"The old attitude was, 'Yeah, it was an accident; too bad it happened,' and a one-page report was filed," said Rod Slings, director of the International Hunter Education Association's Hunting Incident Academy, a CSI-style school founded in 1993 that teaches state wildlife officers, including many Vermont game wardens, how to investigate hunting-related shootings.

"But that's changed, and a big reason why is we now have more people in the woods who are properly trained how to investigate hunting-related shootings," Slings said. "When you are able to determine what really happened, you can no longer call them 'accidents,' because most could have been prevented," if the basic tenets of safe firearm handling had been followed.

Just as significant, society's view of hunters has also changed. As the number of hunting-related shootings has declined, so too has the public's tolerance of such shootings, and "the bar has been raised for how hunters are expected to act," said Maj. David LeCours, acting director of law enforcement for the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. "That's something we've pushed hard for," LeCours said. "For years we've been saying that when someone shoots at and hits what he or she intended to hit, it's not an accident."

Sometimes, it's a crime.

A good example is a case that has worked its way through the Vermont court system for the past two years. It involves a then 17-year-old Lamoille County man who went onto his neighbor's posted property to hunt grouse, saw movement in a tree, and snapped off a shot with his 12-gauge shotgun.

Instead of a grouse, he struck and severely injured another hunter who had permission to bow hunt on the property and was in a tree stand dressed in camouflage. After a thorough investigation by a game warden and state police detective, which refuted some of the shooter's initial statements, the shooter was charged with trespassing and aggravated assault, a felony that is punishable by up to 15 years in jail.

Prior to trial, the defense sought to have the aggravated assault charge dismissed, arguing that because the shooter did not know the other hunter was in the tree, the prosecution could not show that he consciously acted recklessly.

The trial court denied the motion. It stated that while he may not have been aware of the victim's presence, his "entire course of conduct leading up to the moment when the trigger was pulled" could be considered by the jury -- including the fact that he had been told to stay off the property -- and the jury subsequently found him guilty of both charges. The aggravated-assault conviction was then appealed to the Vermont Supreme Court, which recently affirmed the trial court's rulings.

The Supreme Court disagreed with the defense's primary argument that the prosecution had to show that the shooter was aware that another person was in the area in order to prove that he disregarded a known risk.

The high court noted that the prosecution had shown that the shooter had taken a hunter safety course, and it ruled that, "It was enough for the State to demonstrate that (the) defendant knew that shooting at an unidentified target presented a risk of harm."

As any hunter education graduate can tell you, the "Ten Commandments" of firearms safety unequivocally states, "Positively identify your target and what lies beyond."

The Supreme Court also rejected the defense's claim that there is no precedent for an aggravated-assault conviction in similar cases where the defendant was unaware of the victim's presence. Instead, it ruled, "Shooting indiscriminately at an unidentified target in an area where one knows there are tree stands is sufficient to fairly and reasonably support the charge of aggravated assault."

Wow. How times have changed.

Three decades ago, it is very unlikely that criminal charges would have been filed in a case like this, Slings and other hunter safety officials said. To see a 17-year-old convicted of a felony for what was once widely dismissed as an accident is sobering.

But it is also encouraging.

"When you look at the big picture, hunter education has been one of the most successful programs of its type in the country, and hunting is a much safer activity today because of it," Slings said. "Cases like this only re-enforce the importance of what hunter education teaches, and they send the message that if you don't follow the basic rules of firearms safety, you're going to be held responsible."

And that's good news for hunters, who are also invariably the victims in hunting incidents, which in Vermont are mostly of the mistaken-for-game and line-of-fire varieties.

"The vast majority of hunters take firearms safety very seriously," said Chris Saunders, hunter education coordinator for the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. "They should be pleased to see that the justice system takes firearms safety as seriously as they do." Lawrence Pyne writes about the outdoors from his home in Cornwall. He can be reached at PyneOutdoors@shoreham.net.

The Atom

Is this new product legal for use in Wisconsin?

The ATOM is touted by the company as “the most lethal and effective broad head in the world for any size of game.” The manufacturer claims it has a razor edge, but goes on to justify why they are not sharp-to-the-touch and how the metal edge flexes to become less than 7/8 inch in diameter upon impact so that you get more complete pass-thru kills.



Bureau of LE Policy Officer Tom Van Haren was asked to research whether or not this broad head is legal under NR 10.09(3) (c) which says:

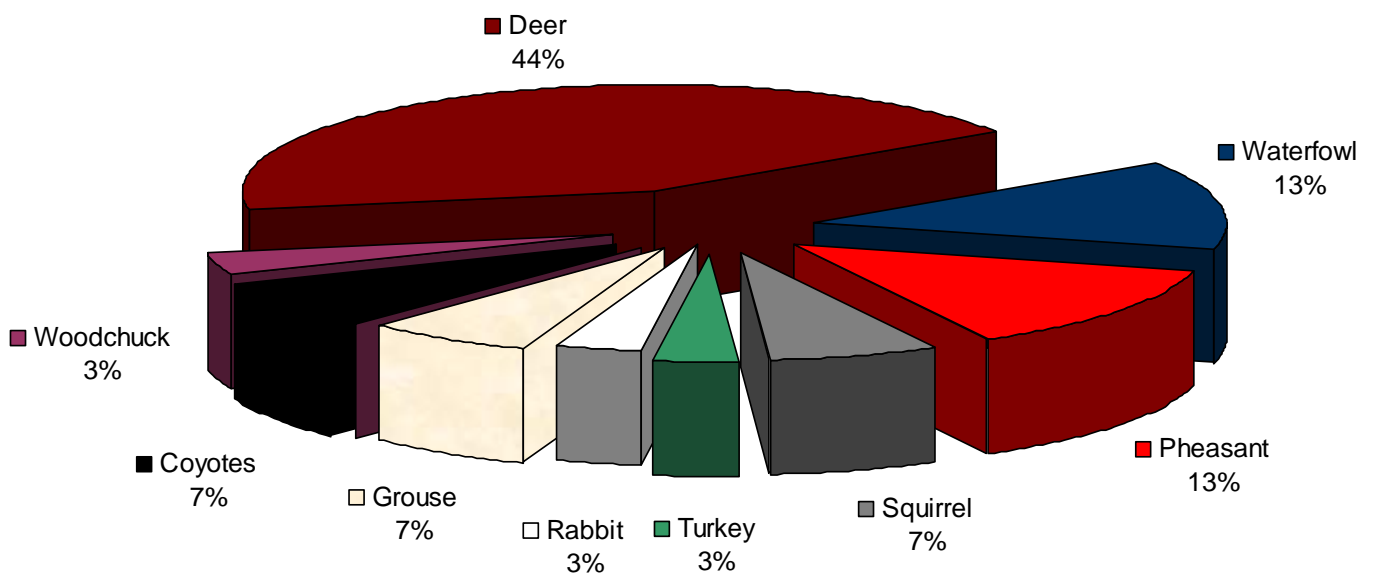
(c) Arrow standards. Use, possess or have under control while deer or bear hunting, any arrow with a metal broad-head blade less than seven-eighths of an inch in width. Such broad-head blades must be well-sharpened.

Answer:

It is our opinion that this would be legal for hunting deer in Wisconsin.

Animals Hunted by Shooter

All Incidents 2008



Don't forget to take advantage of the Volunteer Safety Instructor Corner!

This webpage is specifically designed for your use.

See what's going on with the Hunter Education Program.

Updates

Changes

Upcoming Events

Instructor Discounts

Sign up for a free copy of Wisconsin Outdoor News

Get Instructor Lesson Plans and

Much More!

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/es/enforcement/instructor.html>

Why more instructors are e-mailing their Safety Course Registration Start Card.

It's fast, free, convenient, & easy.

Register your upcoming hunter or bow hunter education class by e-mail.

Step 1: Go to the Safety Education Volunteer Instructor Corner:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/es/enforcement/instructor.html>

Step 2: Click on FORMS (left hand side of the page)

Step 3: Open your 8500-130 - Safety Course Registration Start Card form as a Word document.

Step 4: Fill out the Word form by tabbing to each gray box and typing in your class information.

Step 5: Save the Word document to your computer.

Step 6: Open your email and send the 8500-130 – Safety Course Registration Start Card form as an attachment.

E-Mail To:

LESafety@dnr.state.wi.us.

If you have questions please call Brenda Von Rueden at 608-267-7509 or e-mail

brenda.vonrueden@wisconsin.gov



PUBLEH132