



THE BULLSEYE BULLETIN

WISCONSIN HUNTER EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

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Focusing on what we CAN Do:

From: Tim Lawhern, Hunter Education Administrator

If someone were to ask you what are the barriers to the participation of hunting you might come up with a pretty good list of things. Collectively, the hunting community has compiled a lengthy list. In watching the reaction of folks that attend state, regional and national events involved in addressing this topic one could conclude that there's simply no good answer; some have the 1,000 yard stare and others have the deer in the headlights facial expression. It often reminds me of a quote I recall....."How does one eat an elephant? One bite at a time." And "The journey of a thousand miles begins with? The first step." Here are a couple of things that might help you focus your efforts where they will make the most significant investment outside hunter education.

Take someone new hunting or shooting this year. Yep, that's where you will make the most significant investment of your time and energy. It's the first thing most people say when asked why they have not hunted; "No one ever asked me if I wanted to go." So, make it your mission as a hunter...as a hunter education instructor...to take just one new person hunting or shooting this year. The research is out on what it takes to make a hunter. It takes one to make one. You might begin by looking at your own family. Who hunts and who does not.

Have you asked all of them if they would like to try it? Once you've exhausted that then look at your friends or co-workers. Don't let age stand in the way either. It does not matter if they are young, old or somewhere in between. Just do it. In a future edition of the IHEA Journal you will read about my experiences this Fall doing what I'm asking all of you to do.

Tell our story. We all have great stories (I've never met a hunter or hunter education instructor who didn't). The stories I'm referring to are those where hunter education or the efforts of a person to introduce someone to hunting paid off. What we ultimately need is for HUNTER EDUCATION to become a household phrase. Even if people do not hunt they need to know about the great things hunting, shooting and hunter education are doing. In many cases families have taken up shooting as a way to have "family time." Hunting has always been good for that and still is. Share your stories with your regional safety wardens and with the staff of Hunter Education in Madison. The IHEA will also be charging it's members to do the same this year. The more we tell our story the more the words hunting and hunter education are in front of people. Too many folks don't know who we are, what we do or what we stand for. Even the "choir" of our brotherhood of hunting lacks sufficient knowledge of hunter education. Your stories are important so please share them.

Those two things will make a significant difference if we put our collective shoulders behind them. Encourage as many folks as you can to do the same thing. Set the example by leading by example. Your contributions on these two things are like an investment in an account that grows with exponential interests.

Have a Great Fall Hunting Season. Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Involved.

Tim



Continuing the Heritage

Your Involvement Ensures Tomorrow's Hunting

Throughout North America in the 1950's and 1960's, Hunter Education programs began as hunter safety courses. The Wisconsin hunting accident rate average from 1940 to 1979 was 15.1 accidents per 100,000 hunters. The Wisconsin 1966 hunting seasons recorded 264 hunting accidents, a record high of death and injury among Wisconsin hunters (44 accidents per 100,000 hunters). This serious hunting accident record led to the original Wisconsin Hunter Safety program in 1967. Dedicated volunteer instructors met the high hunting accident rate challenge, concentrated on developing safe and responsible hunters, and they succeeded! During the 1970's, the hunting accident rate in Wisconsin (accidents per 100,000 hunters) had dropped 38% to 17. This achievement was the direct result of trained, dedicated volunteer instructors, proud of their involvement in a quality, concise hunter training

program. The hunting rate continues downward. In the 1980's the rate was 11.14, and in the 1990's it was 6.9. Thus far in the first decade of this century the rate has dropped to 4.5 accidents per 100,000 participants. That's about a 90% drop in accidents since 1967!

From 1972 to 1980, Hunter Safety grew into Hunter Education. My role expanded from Hunter Safety Supervisor to Hunter Education administrator. Cooperative efforts by everyone involved grew and broadened the program into true Hunter Education, recognized throughout North America as a leader in Hunter Education innovation. We focused on hunting accident investigation techniques designed to determine accurate causes. Hunter behavior studies uncovered true hunter behavior, both good and bad. Hunter Education courses focused on solutions to problems the studies determined needed improvement.

Six district Safety Specialists, wardens and instructors all worked together to help pass our mandatory hunter education law and hunter orange clothing for deer hunting. By the time our legislators passed the hunter clothing requirement, our joint promotion had 87% of deer hunters wearing hunter orange. This innovative hunter clothing law has been a major factor in reducing deer hunter injuries and deaths. We also researched and drafted a sensible handgun deer hunting law. The legislature passed the plan into law in spite of strong opposition by anti-gun people.

In 1982, the DNR administration requested that I be liaison to the newly appointed Disabled Advisory Council for several years prior to my retirement. The council was successful in improving outdoor recreation opportunities so disabled people could still enjoy hunting, fishing and other outdoor sports. Specially designed fishing docks and boats now provide access to all disabled anglers. Special hunts for disabled hunters are also held throughout the state. Organizations have developed that focus specifically on outdoor recreation opportunities for disabled people of all ages.

As Wisconsin's Hunter Education Administrator, true admiration came to me in experiencing the involvement of volunteer

instructors, wardens and safety specialists in all facets of hunter education, hunting accident investigation and positively improving hunter behavior. Working with the late Dr. Bob Jackson and Dr. Bob Norton on hunter behavior studies was especially rewarding. Bob and Bob shared the results of those innovative studies in Hunter Behavior workshops in dozens of states and provinces all across the United States and Canada.

All of you old-time instructors who were around when I retired in 1989 have my sincere thank you for your outstanding involvement and dedication, and to all the guys and gals who became volunteer instructors in the last twenty years, thank you for caring enough to get involved. Your hunter education instructor volunteer efforts will be the major reason hunting remains as an accepted outdoor sport, with major wildlife management implications and lifetime involvement opportunities.

My twenty years of retirement have been rolling by faster than ever. Early activities included eight years spent as an expert witness on hunting accidents in 40 cases in six states. I also helped create the Retired Hunter Education and Administrators Association (RHEA) and we meet annually in the Midwest.

My wife of nearly 55 years and I spent eight six-month winters in southern California. They knew what to do with the snow – stack it 10,000 feet up on the mountains!

I had major spinal surgery in 1993 and carry two titanium bars on six bolts in my lower back, the result of an on-the-job injury years earlier while investigating a pollution violation. June 1997 found us in Alaska for a once-in-a-lifetime RV vacation. I was fishing for king salmon on our second day there, when I found myself being washed downstream in the whitewater stream in which I was fishing. I thought I must have slipped on the slick boulders. But I had a stroke. My right side was wiped out. I suddenly remembered warden survival training while wearing waders, knees bent and feet up, flailing those arms! But I only had one arm and one leg that could move. I made a crutch from a limb and hobbled back to camp, falling often along the way.

In April 2008 I had another stroke at home; took out my left side. Now I get around with a four-wheel walker. It mostly works. I can still hunt. I have a Class A permit, but only hunt deer and turkey.

Thank you for being an active Wisconsin volunteer hunter education instructor. And thanks to Tim Lawhern for inviting me to share my memories with each of you. All the best to you and yours!

Homer E. Moe

Retired Hunter Education Administrator

(After the submission of this newsletter we were informed that Homer E. Moe passed away on August 8th 2009)

60th Anniversary of Hunter Education Commemorative Knife



The International Hunter Education Association (IHEA) is commemorating the 60th Anniversary of hunter education in North America with a collector knife.

The anniversary knife is a Browning model 322571. This large drop point hunter knife was designed by Jim Crowell and comes with a top-grain leather sheath. The 5 ½ inch blade is made from 420HC carbon steel and has a satin finish. The handle is made from stabilized walnut. Only 500 of these knives were ever produced and the IHEA has 250 of them for this anniversary knife.

The IHEA logo, edition number (X of 250), and “1949-2009 Celebrating 60 years of hunter education” is etched onto the left side of the blade. The knife’s serial number (X of 500) is etched onto the right side of the blade. We are selling these knives for the **low price of \$175 + S/H***. Feel free to shop around. You will

not find this knife available anywhere else for less than \$250! We only have 250 knives. Order yours before they are all gone!



Call IHEA at 303-430-7233 to order today and inquire about getting matching edition numbers on the IHEA anniversary gun and knife. *Shipping and handling is \$10 to the 48 contiguous states which includes shipping via FedEx with delivery confirmation. Alaska, Hawaii, and international orders will be extra.

60th Anniversary of Hunter Education Commemorative .22 Henry Golden Boy Rifle



The International Hunter Education Association (IHEA) is commemorating the 60th Anniversary of hunter education in North America with a collector Henry Golden Boy .22 caliber lever action rifle. The **Henry Golden Boy was named the Gun of the Year in 2001 by Guns and Ammo**. Only 500 of these IHEA limited edition guns are available. The IHEA logo, "Celebrating 60 years of Hunter Education" is etched onto the left side of the receiver. A custom design depicting a mentor and a youth, along with "Safe Hunting is No Accident" is engraved onto the right side of the receiver. The custom serial number will indicate which gun in the series you received. For example a serial number of IHEA005 indicates you have the fifth gun out of 500 in this series.

We are selling these guns for the **low price of \$499 + S/H***. We only have 500 guns. Order yours before they are all gone!



Call the IHEA at 303-430-7233 to order your gun today and inquire about getting matching edition numbers on the IHEA anniversary gun and knife. *A \$50 shipping and handling fee will be added to each gun shipped to the 48 contiguous States. International orders may be higher. This includes the IHEA's FFL dealer fee and shipping via FedEx with confirmation to the FFL Dealer of your choice. Any fee your FFL dealer charges will be the sole responsibility of the purchaser. The IHEA can only ship this gun to an FFL dealer.

IHEA - Annual Conference

Mark your calendars! Details on the 2010 annual conference should be available in January, 2010.

2010 Annual Conference – Estes Park, CO June 3-5

Safari Club

Every Hunter Education instructor or administrator that joins Safari Club International by March 31, 2010 will be entered in a drawing for a S&W 629 Stealth Hunter from the Smith & Wesson custom shop. Retailing at \$1722.00, the 629 Stealth Hunter comes chambered in .44 Magnum and features a custom 7.5" full-lug, MagnaPorted, optics-ready barrel with integral weaver-style rails. Also with Ball Detent lock up, Performance Center tuned action, and a forged hammer and trigger, this pistol promises any Hunter Education Instructor a great reward for an active role in international game conservation.

"Safari Club remains committed to supporting hunter education, along with our SCI corporate sponsor Smith & Wesson," said SCI President Merle Shepard, "and we enjoy our relationship with the dedicated IHEA instructors who,

through their volunteer work, do such a great job of creating safe, ethical hunters.”

“Smith & Wesson is pleased to be working with SCI in order to show our gratitude and appreciation to the hard working men and women who have dedicated their time and talents to continuing hunter education,” said Paul Pluff, Director of Marketing for Smith & Wesson. “Each year, thousands of first time hunters and shooters are positively influenced through their participation in hunter education courses. Not only do these courses instruct students on proper firearm safety, but they also educate students on the importance of wildlife management and the responsibilities we all share as hunters.”

Instructors need to go to www.safariclub.org/swcontest to enter.

Twitter

What is Twitter?

Twitter is a service for friends, family, and co-workers to communicate and stay connected through the exchange of quick, frequent answers to one simple question: **What are you doing?**

You can follow Tim Lawhern representing Wisconsin Hunter Education on Twitter by creating a free account. His Twitter name is WIHunterEd. Tim will provide timely informational updates to what’s going on in the world of Hunting, Shooting, and Hunter Education.

Surveys now Online!

We now have two surveys on-line; one for our graduating students and one for our volunteers.

Information will be placed in with your course materials when you register a class.

The students receive the information when they receive their Hunter Safety Education Certificate in the mail.

Please be sure to tell your students about the survey!

Instructor Survey - Complete the survey only once -- even if you teach multiple courses.

"Go to dnr.wi.gov and search “hunter ed instructor”

Student Survey -

"Go to dnr.wi.gov and search “hunter ed”

Instructor Evaluation Process to Change in July (From Another State)

LAST YEAR at this time we reintroduced the instructor evaluation process to all hunter education instructors. Conducted since July 2007 by fellow instructors Judy Littlefield, Larry Lufkin and Dan McLean, the renewed evaluation program relied upon the collective experience of Judy, Larry and Dan to identify strengths and weaknesses in hunter education classes. They used a matrix ranking ten performance categories that ranged from classroom management and instructor preparation to program policies and skills handling. Their goal since the beginning has been to provide an objective analysis that can benefit students, instructors and the overall hunter education program.

Judy, Larry and Dan have done quality professional-level work-just ask any team that has had the opportunity to participate in the evaluation process. Their instructor-centered approach, their careful observations and their detailed report-writing provided an excellent springboard to re-launch the long-dormant evaluation program. We all owe Judy, Larry and Dan our thanks for undertaking this huge task.

Beginning July 2008, Chuck Ray and Dan Boes will take over the reigns of the instructor evaluation process. Chuck and Dan will be working with chief instructors over the next several months to develop an agreed-upon evaluation format and process that builds upon the work of Judy, Larry and Dan. Whether or not you are a chief instructor, be sure to provide Chuck and Dan with your insights and

suggestions to help improve our instructor evaluation process.

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.



From Brenda VonRueden, Program Assistant

It's been a pleasure working with all of you and getting to meet so many of you over the past year and a half. Please don't hesitate to call or e-mail me anytime with questions or concerns.

- Do you have an e-mail address? (From Washington State)

We're planning to migrate from paper to e-mail for much of our communications-including future issues of the IHEA Journal.

We'll need your e-mail address, in case you haven't already provided it.

Before the end of this year, the IHEA Journal will only be available via e-mail. Eventually, we want this newsletter to be e-mail, too.

Naturally, instructors ask "Why the change?"

One simple word of response – Money! – should be easy enough for all of us to understand. The Last Journal and newsletter averaged \$1.68 per address, for a one time mail bill of more than \$1,600. Multiply that figure by four or five, throw in some paper and printing costs and you can quickly see how we can promote sustainability, reduce paper usage and spend about \$10,000 more on students and instructors – not paper and postage. Thanks for your help in facilitating this transition!

- Do we have your current mailing address and phone number?

We've been getting a ton of returned US postage mail. Please take a moment to verify that we have your most current mailing address and phone number on file. You can e-mail Brenda Von Rueden at brenda.vonrueden@wisconsin.gov or call 608-267-7509 to update your file.

- Information to tell your students.

Tell your students to verify their name and address when calling the customer service number (888-936-7463). Too many students are getting their certificates mailed to them with errors or they are being returned to us because of the wrong mailing address. Students need to clearly spell their name and verify their address when getting a new customer id number. Our customer service center is also aware of this problem and should be asking more detailed questions before issuing a customer id number.

Remind the older students that they may have a customer id number already from a fishing license or a recreational vehicle registration. Customer Service should be verifying that before issuing a new number. If they have a current number they still need to call and make

sure we have their most recent mailing address and personal information.

- Student DNR Customer ID Numbers – Up to 9 digits

DNR Customers ID Numbers can be “up to” 9 digits long. They are not required to have 9 total digits.

- Instructor Corner

The “New Instructor Certification Form” (8500-161) is now updated and available on the instructor corner.

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/es/enforcement/instructorforms.htm>

Be sure to mail the Safety Course New Instructor Certification Forms and “Pre Certification Exams” to your local RSW! See page two of the Apprenticeship Application form 8500-161 for RSW mailing information.

- Fall Hunting Season and Classes

The fall hunting season is approaching fast and so is the most demanding time of year for classes. Basic hunter education is in high demand this time of year. There is a growing need for the Internet Field Day Course as people have not planned their time to include hunter education until last minute. If you are not sure about holding an internet course or have questions contact your Recreational Safety Warden. They can help get you started. Try the course yourself at www.ihea.com.

Thank you for your commitment and dedication to the Hunter Education Program. Have a Safe and Enjoyable Fall Hunting Season! – Brenda

News from W.H.E.I.A. (The Wisconsin Hunter Education Instructor Association)

W.H.E.I.A. recently held their Annual Training Conference and Business Meeting this past April

in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. After an opening photo slide show of Hunter Education Instructors in action, and accomplishments by W.H.E.I.A. over this past year, WisDNR Secretary Matt Frank, Chief Warden Randy Stark visited the conference as guest speakers. Their attendance and insight into the challenges of teaching Hunter Education was greatly appreciated.

The conference itself was a huge success with a panel of Recreational Safety Wardens fielding Q & A, hands-on instructor training at a local shotgun range, and a joint round table on technical topics and automation issues. A true training experience where sleeves got rolled up and “how-to-do-it” got shared. To all the RSW’s and Administrator’s Staff, thank you.

Please mark your calendars and hold May 1st, 2010 open for our next Annual Training Conference to be held in Waupaca, Wisconsin. We hope to see you there.

For all members of W.H.E.I.A. if you haven’t sent in your annual dues, please send to WHEIA at PO Box 24, Stevens Point, WI 54481-0024 Watch for the big changes coming in the WHEIA Website!

Joe Lacenski, WHEIA Secretary



Todd A Schaller - Recreation Enforcement and Education - Section Chief

Todd is our new BOSS! He’s a 20 year veteran of the warden service and previously a supervisor in Oshkosh. Welcome aboard Todd!

Trivial Intelligence (Worth Reading**)**

As Ron White likes to say, you can't fix stupid. Jay Leno has proven that for almost twenty years with the 'Jaywalking' segment of the Tonight Show. In case you're not familiar with the Tonight Show, or Jaywalking, or stupid people, I'll explain.

Leno goes out on the streets of Los Angeles, armed with nothing but a cameraman and a list of incredibly easy questions, and causes people to present themselves as absolutely the most ignorant life forms in the universe. He asks them questions like, "Who was the first president?" He gets answers like, "Benjamin Franklin," or "Ronald Reagan," or "President of what?"

The people Leno finds seem far too dumb for the segments not to have been staged. Leno claims they are all random people who are actually trying to answer the questions correctly. If you've ever seen one of these Jaywalking bits, you probably find that hard to believe.

So do I. So I decided to find out for myself if there were really people in the world, specifically in Texas, who were as intellectually challenged as those on Jaywalking. I went to San Antonio, to a mall, where people seem to waste a lot of time, and looked for folks who didn't appear to be in a big hurry, and asked them basic outdoor questions. I figured, at a mall, with lots of witnesses around, I might not get killed too often.

Since this was Texas, I expected most people to know something about hunting and fishing. So I started with deer. I asked several random people what a baby deer is called. Simple, right? Wrong.

The answers I got ranged from 'kid' to 'papoose.' One lady said a baby deer was called a calf. One guy said 'herd.' I'm not sure he was from Texas, though, since he was wearing a shirt that said, "If you don't know where you're going, go faster."

Next I asked people what is going on when you see bucks chasing does. Mostly what I got was, "What?" No one seemed to have heard of the rut. Almost every person I explained it to seemed fascinated, but skeptical. The concept of deer mating only for a month or two of the year sounded unreasonable to them, obviously. They seemed to think I had my facts wrong.

So I went to fishing. I asked, "What do they fish for at the Bassmaster's Classic?" Only one person I talked to had heard of the event, and he didn't know what they fished for. One lady said, "Tuna." One guy told me, "Oh, I never get in a boat." When I told him it was a contest for professional anglers, he looked at me strangely and said, "Yeah, right," and walked away.

I decided the questions were too hard, and I needed to tone things down a little. I asked some people, "If you're an angler, what do you do?" One lady said you're a welder. I guess she'd heard of angle iron. One girl said you're a carpenter. One just started laughing and walked off. One guy said, "A hang glider?" I said, "No, an angler." He shook his head and said, "Oh, man, are you a cop?"

Fishing was evidently not commonly understood in San Antonio, so I moved on to bowhunting. I asked, "If you practice archery, what do you do?" Two people said, "You shoot a bow and arrow." They looked at me like I was an idiot. One guy said an archer runs a fish farm. I guess he got it mixed up with 'hatchery.' One lady said you were a Satanist. I think she thought I said 'witchery.' Or something. She also told me it was illegal, and I should be ashamed of myself. Another lady said someone who practices archery is an engineer. I believe she figured it must have something to do with arches.

I decided to switch to camping. Just about everyone knows something about camping. I asked people, "What do you do call it when you put up a tent?" One lady said, "Throw . . . no, toss . . . right?" At least she had the general verb category. Most everyone else had no idea.

I moved on to guns. I asked what 'semiautomatic' means. Everyone thought it was the same as automatic. I figured I was dreaming if I expected anyone to know anything about bolt actions or lever actions. Gave up on that.

Then I decided to ask people what the NRA is. Phhhh. One woman said, "Oh, they're those bad lobbyists." Another said, "I don't like them. They want to give guns to kids." Where she got that I have no idea. Shows what the liberal media has been up to, I guess. One woman said, "The NRA? My kids' school has one of those. I had to make a lot of punch one time." I think she thought I was asking about the PTA.

So, for your information, Jaywalking is probably real and unrehearsed. Our country has no idea where it's going. Which is probably why it's going faster . . .

Kendal Hemphill is an outdoor humor columnist who doesn't believe anglers can actually communicate with the spirit world. Write to him at PO Box 1600, Mason, Tx 76856 or jeep@verizon.net



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