

ALABAMA HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS NEWSLETTER



January, 2006

M. N. Pugh, Director
Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division

Gary H. Moody, Chief
Wildlife Section

Ray Metzler
Hunter Education Coordinator

3rd Annual Alabama NASP State Championship

Alabama's third annual NASP state championship will be held on April 18, 2005 at the Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center in Birmingham. The Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries is expecting approximately 950 students to compete in this event. Your support and cooperation in making this event a huge success is greatly needed! Please mark your calendars and make plans to attend this event. Please call Marisa Lee-Sasser, Regional Hunter Education Coordinator, at 1-800-245-2740 or email her at Marisa.Lee-Sasser@dcnr.alabama.gov to confirm your availability to assist with this event.

Hunting Incident Update

No firearms related hunting incidents occurred during the Christmas and New Years holidays. One non-fatal treestand incident that occurred in Lamar County on December 27 was reported. The Christmas holidays are a time period with many hunters in the woods and several firearms related incidents usually occur. There were several hunting related incidents that didn't involve the discharge of a firearm or bow while hunting. A squirrel hunter had a limb fall on her head as a result of shaking a vine. A deer hunter in Lee County died from an apparent heart attack while bending down to retrieve a deer.

Missing Instructors

The following instructors have had mail returned to the hunter education office in the recent past. Please call the hunter education office at 1-800-245-2740 if you can provide information regarding a current address for the following instructors.

Wade Fleming
Glendale Rutherford
Dennis Brand

Russellville, AL
Tallapoosa, GA
Dothan, AL

James Brown
Rick Cofer

Troy, AL
Maplesville, AL

Another Year is Upon Us!

By Ricky Moss

District 1 Representative and President of AHEA

Another hunting season is nearly over and it's time to start a new year of hunter education. BUT, before we begin a new year let us take time to reflect on what we have accomplished and fell short on in 2005.

Membership grew to an all time high of 110 members in 2005. We welcome all our members and hope we have given you a reason to renew in 2006. Along with your renewal, we wish you would offer the fellowship of our association to one of your team mates from your local hunter education group.

We have two openings on the board for the first time since the establishment of the association in 1999. We need input and representation from your districts to help make this a truly statewide organization. Each term is for a period of three years and all AHEA members in those districts are eligible for nomination.

Last January, we were finally able to provide our members with an embroidered patch of the AHEA logo. The patch was promised as part of our membership package when we were searching for ways to grow our association and get people together back in 2000! You think the federal government moves slow? Actually we tried, we went through 3 or 4 different logo designs and just when we thought we were ready to order patches.... Someone would change the logo.

We cancelled the 2005 YHEC state championship due to a lack of participants. We need your help to locate youth in your area and put together a team to compete in the 2006 event on April 29 at the Magic City Gun Club range near Pinson.

We were able to work out an agreement with St. Bernard Preparatory School in Cullman for the privilege to hunt deer on 450 acres of school property. This property is available to all AHEA members and their guests to enjoy for the 2005-2006 hunting season. You can sign up to hunt on your AHEA website: www.huntereducation.net

Most of the members are reporting that they have helped with a record number of courses this year. So, if there is someone out there who hasn't been able to obtain their hunter education certification, it's probably because they didn't look very hard to find a class or a field day to attend. Our courses will start again in March, maybe even some small (low attendance) ones in January and February. If you are not a part of an instructor team in your county, get involved and join one. If there is not a team already established....then build one!

Thanks for helping to make 2005 a record year for our association and let's do all we can to see that 2006 is even better!

District II News

By Pam Jackson, District 2 Board Member

Being a member of the Alabama Hunter Education Association has always afforded our family the opportunity to meet hunters across the state and in some cases be allowed to hunt in some great hunting areas. Hunting with my husband Jerry and our son, Wes, along with our daughter in law allows us to experience the outdoors as a family and share many days afield together.

Such was the case on a cold day this past October when Jerry, Wes and me signed in at the AHEA trailer on the campus of St. Bernard. Jerry and I have bowhunted together for the past twenty years and have encouraged Wes to become a bowhunter as well. About one hour before dark the deer began to move and Jerry observed a mature doe slowly feeding in Wes's direction. At twenty-two yards and broadside Wesley came to full draw. He released and watched in disbelief as the arrow missed the deer.

Five minutes before dark another mature doe appeared at thirty-two yards from Jerry's treestand. He connected and fifty yards later the first bow harvest for this hunting season for the Jackson family was in the book. As for me, the enjoyment of being with my family, hunting and sharing the experience together is what it is really all about.

This family hunt was a result of several members of the AHEA, working together to create an environment whereby friends, family, youth hunters and fellow AHEA members could enjoy the fellowship of hunting and assist the landowner as well.

I am proud to be a member of AHEA supporting the Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries. Together, working in concert, educating all ages of hunters, we do make a difference.

Henry Firearms

Henry Firearms is once again offering special prices to certified hunter education instructors. You can request a copy of their current pricing program and be placed on their mailing list for future correspondence by emailing info@henryrepeating.com. Instructors must provide a brief letter, copy of their instructor card, a copy of a Federal Firearms License for shipping and payment to Henry Repeating Arms. Their address is Henry Repeating Arms, 110 8th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11215.

Email Address Book

Please email ray.metzler@dcnr.alabama.gov if you are interested in receiving hunter education newsletters, updates, etc..... by email. I have a folder in my address book for hunter education instructors and periodically send out group messages about issues that may be of concern to hunter education instructors.

District III News

By David Hartin

District III AHEA Board Member
Tuscaloosa County EMA Director

Saturday, December 3 was a miserable day. The National Weather Service Office had briefed Emergency Management Agency Directors of the potential for severe weather. You would not have known this if you were inside the national guard armory on Hwy 69 in Cullman. While members of the unit did a physical fitness test, students were arriving with great anticipation to take part in a cd/internet course field day.

An unusual aspect of this field day was the number of volunteers (24) that were present. Most were easily identifiable because they were wearing the instructor shirts available from AHEA. Instructors were able to take breaks from their stations to interact with other instructors, students, and parents. This is the time that so often gets overlooked during a field day. When you have a small staff, everyone is concentrating on getting the student through their station and you really don't have time for answering very many questions.

A field day is one of the few times that our students and their parents have an opportunity to network with a hunter education instructor or an employee of the Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries. This is the time that they may ask the question that has been in the back of their mind, but is never asked because they don't know who to see or don't want to ask a dumb question.

Where else can you network with the public and sell the Hunter Education Program? An outstanding way to do this is through the 4-H and Scouting programs. In the Black Warrior Council, during summer camp, we have an optional class on hunter ethics. If the camp offers shooting sports, this is an excellent opportunity to work with the shooting sports director and offer to help. This provides them an outside instructor. We may also use this to recruit additional instructors. Don't forget our Girl Scout camps, while they may not have a firearms range, they may be very interested in the archery program. Don't forget to ask yourself—How many lives did I touch this year?

Upcoming Workshops!

There will be an International Bowhunter Education Program (IBEP) Workshop at Camp Meadowbrook on February 24 and 25 in Cullman County. The workshop will begin at 5:00 PM on February 24 and will conclude during the afternoon of February 25. Showing proof of completion of an IBEP course is required in approximately 14 states prior to purchasing a bowhunting license.

CVA Instructor Discounts

Blackpowder Products, Inc. offers hunter education instructors a 40% discount on all CVA products except the Optima Elite guns. Contact Dave Meredith at 770-449-4687 for additional information.

Hunter Education Staff Contact Info

Ray.metzler@dcnr.alabama.gov	1-800-245-2740
sgoldsby@bellsouth.net	256-737-8732
Marisa.lee-sasser@dcnr.alabama.gov	1-800-245-2740
James.altiere@dcnr.alabama.gov	