

ALABAMA HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS NEWSLETTER



February 28, 2007

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2007 AHEA Annual Banquet

The annual AHEA Awards Banquet will be held on June 2, 2007 at Kennamer Cove Trading Post near Grant, AL in Marshall County. Please mark your calendar and make plans to attend this annual event. Registration for the event is \$15.00 per adult (16 and older, 15 and under are free) or \$25.00 per couple. Registration includes lunch, supper (quail, chicken, fixins and dessert), a complimentary tour of Cathedral Caverns State Park, 5 stand shotgun event, and a private tour of the Sauta Cave National Wildlife Refuge. Other included activities on Sunday morning include a trip to the DAR school for a sunrise celebration of life, hike to the Walls of Jericho, or a visit to the North Alabama Regulators SASS range. Pre-registration is required and should be mailed to Ricky Moss at 20621 Edgewood Road, Athens, AL 35611. For more detailed information regarding the annual banquet, visit www.huntereducation.net.



June 2, 2007

10:00 - Noon	Tour of Cathedral Caverns State Park
12:30 - 1:30	Lunch just outside Cathedral Caverns at the pavilion
2:00 - 5:00	5 Stand Shotgun Event
5:30 - 8:00	Annual Awards Banquet
8:30 - 9:30	Tour of Sauta Cave National Wildlife Refuge

June 3, 2007

6:00 - 6:30	Sunrise Celebration of Life
6:00 - Until	Hike into the Walls of Jericho
9:00 - Noon	North Alabama Regulators SASS Range

Please RSVP with Stuart Goldsby at 256-737-8732 or sgoldsby@bellsouth.net.

"Children are like wet cement. Whatever falls on them makes an impression".

Haim Ginott

4th Annual Alabama NASP State Championship

Alabama's fourth annual NASP state championship will be held on April 26, 2007 at the Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center in Birmingham. The Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries is expecting approximately 900 students to compete in this event. We need approximately 120 people to assist with 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. Your assistance is needed from 8:30 AM to about 4:00 PM. Lunch and water will be provided to all assistants. Please call Marisa Lee-Sasser, Regional Hunter Education Coordinator, at 1-800-245-2740 or email her at Marisa.Leesasser@dcnr.alabama.gov to confirm your availability to assist with this event.



Hunting Incident Update

There were no fatal firearms or treestand incidents reported to the hunter education office **during** the past deer season. As a result, we conducted a press release stating that this past hunting season was the first in which there were no fatal firearms or treestand related incidents during the deer season. This information was picked up and used by various media outlets throughout the state and country. Shortly after the media blitz, Conservation Enforcement Officer Richard Hartzog received a phone call from a member of a hunting club in Bullock County that outlined a fatal treestand incident that occurred on January 29. The victim was a Mobile County resident that was hospitalized in Montgomery and died of complications related to the incident on February 6, 2007.

There were 10 treestand related incidents, 9 non-fatal and 1 fatal, reported to the hunter education office as of February 28, 2007. Ten non-fatal firearms related incidents, 5 deer hunting related, have occurred since the beginning of the 2006 dove season. The firearms related incident rate has declined significantly over the past decade. Your efforts to promote safe, responsible hunting through the Alabama Hunter Education Program are appreciated. They have influenced Alabama's hunting incident rate and helped ensure the future of our hunting heritage.

Legislative Update

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has drafted legislation that would increase fees related to hunting and fishing licenses. The legislation would also modify the hunter education law to exempt hunters over the age of 16 from the hunter education requirement as long as they were under the direct supervision (within 30 feet) of a properly licensed adult hunter. This legislation has gathered support from several non-governmental organizations in Alabama. The draft legislation is available online at www.outdooralabama.com/hunting/education/instructor. Your support of this legislation would be greatly appreciated.

"Sharing what you have is more important than what you have."

Albert M. Wells, Jr.