

# ALABAMA HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS NEWSLETTER



May, 2004

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

Gary H. Moody, Chief  
Wildlife Section

Ray Metzler  
Hunter Education Coordinator

## Conservation Celebration 2004

The Conservation Celebration will be held on September 25 at Oak Mountain State Park. The Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries sincerely appreciates your efforts during the 2003 expo and looks forward to working with you during the 2004 expo.

The Alabama Hunter Education Association is attempting to provide a blaze orange vest to each instructor that assists with the event. The vest would go nicely with the blaze orange cap that event staff received at last years expo. Please call Ray Metzler at 1-800-245-2740 if you would like to assist with this years festivities on September 25, 2004 at Oak Mountain State Park.



Activities on the shotgun field during the 2003 expo.

### Upcoming Hunter Education Courses

At least one Hunter Education CD-ROM/Internet field day will be conducted every month in each of the six Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries districts beginning in June 2004. Please visit the following website to review the field day schedule and determine if you can assist with these events.

<http://www.outdooralabama.com/hunting/education/>

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# Alabama's First "National Archery in the Schools Program" Championship

by  
Ray Metzler  
Hunter Education Coordinator

Alabama's first annual "National Archery in the Schools Program" Championship was held on April 29, 2004 at the Alabama Wildlife Federation Headquarters in Millbrook. We sincerely appreciate the assistance and cooperation of all volunteers and staff that assisted with the event. We received many positive comments from participants, teachers, and parents stating that all event staff were very cooperative, friendly, and acted in a professional manner. Again, we appreciate your cooperation and assistance in making the event a huge success!

Approximately 220 students from eleven schools located throughout Alabama participated in the event. Participants ranged from 6<sup>th</sup> grade students to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Approximately 130 of the 220 competitors were registered in the Middle School Division. Approximately 75 and 15 students were registered in the Elementary and High School Divisions, respectively.

Debbie Webster, State Physical Education Coordinator, with the Department of Education was present at the event and had an opportunity to discuss the program with many participants, staff, parents, and teachers. She was very excited about the enthusiasm of participants and received many positive comments regarding the program.



Rod White, 1996 Olympic Archery Gold Medalist, prepares to shoot a balloon at 100 yards. He was successful on 3 of 4 attempts.

Rod White, 1996 Olympic Archery Gold Medalist, was present and provided feedback regarding the event. Rod also gave a short speech about the role that archery has played in his life and the impact of "positive thinking". Rod also conducted a brief shooting demonstrations where he shot balloons at 100 yards. All spectators were very impressed when the first balloon he shot popped.

The archery in schools program has the potential to reach thousands of school children annually and introduce them to a life skill that has no barriers to participation. Unlike many activities, people of all ages, gender, and physical abilities can participate in archery. We are currently surveying teachers from schools involved in the program to determine the number of children that participated in the program this past school year.



Timothy Porter of Charles Henderson Middle School prepares to compete in Alabama's first annual "Archery in Schools Program" Championship

The Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries will host the second annual state championship sometime during the spring of 2005. If the program grows in Alabama as well as it has in Kentucky, we expect to have approximately 600-800 participants at next years event. We look forward to your assistance and cooperation in making the event bigger and better! We would appreciate any comments you have to make the event more successful.

## 2003-04 Hunting Incidents

The 2003-04 hunting season had the fewest number of reported firearms related hunting incidents since the Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries began collecting this type of information. The mandatory hunter safety program is working and has influenced the hunting incident rate in Alabama. We sincerely appreciate the efforts of all hunter education instructors who promote safe, responsible hunting through the Alabama Hunter Education Program.

There were 12 non-fatal firearms related hunting incidents that occurred during the 2003-04 hunting season. The only fatal firearms related incident occurred in Monroe County on December 24, 2003. The fatal incident involved a 15 year old shooter and a 14 year old victim. There were ten reported treestand incidents this past hunting season. The only fatal treestand incident occurred in Walker County on January 2, 2004. The victim fell approximately 25-30 feet and appeared to have removed the locking pin on the bottom portion of a self-climbing stand to adjust the horizontal positioning of the stand.

*"Patience is a virtue that carries a lot of wait."*

Church Billboard

# Northern News

By Stuart Goldsby  
Regional Hunter Education Coordinator

This year's annual AHEA Range Day and Awards Banquet will be held in Gadsden on July 31<sup>st</sup>. Accommodations have been made for rooms and banquet facilities at the Comfort Suites Hotel. The hotel is located at the junction of Al. Hwy 77 and I-59 at exit #181. Ten rooms have been blocked for first come first served. The rooms are \$55 plus tax and have been held until 4pm on Friday July 30<sup>th</sup>. To make your reservations for Friday or Saturday night please call Marisa at (256) 538-5770.

Leon McCamy, officer and "Chef Extraordinaire" from Etowah County has once again accepted the challenge for this year's dinner. If you did not attend last year make sure you get there at least by dessert and the chocolate pie. Please RSVP (256) 737-8732 by July 15<sup>th</sup> and leave the number in your party. This will help Leon in preparations.

A Day on the Range will be especially fun and challenging this year. Jackpot Skeet will top the fun for some with a \$5 per round donation going to Best Gun and the AHEA Foundation. Long Range Precision shooting in .22 cal class will prove to be challenging for most with a 200 yard possible bulls-eye at a \$1 per shot donation going to Top Gun and the Foundation. More details on these events will be available the day of the event but in the meantime just brush up on your shooting skills and remember to bring your "shootin irons" and pocket books to this year's event for fun and possibly bragging rights. Lunch will be served on the grounds and provided by AHEA and Pepsi.

Instructor development time will be available at the range with a seminar and demonstration by Mr. Keith Jones of Summit Treestand and Seat-of-the-pants. A short business meeting of the AHEA board will take place prior to the evening's events and will be held in the Hospitality suite. All members and nonmember instructors are invited to attend.

"Excellence is the result of caring more than others think is wise, risking more than others think is safe, dreaming more than others think is practical, and expecting more than others think is possible."

Unknown

## AHEA ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET AGENDA

- FRIDAY JULY 30<sup>TH</sup> 4:00 P.M. ARRIVAL- Gadsden Comfort Suites Hotel  
Event Registration- \$10.00  
5:00 P.M. Hospitality Room Open
- SATURDAY JULY 31<sup>ST</sup> 8:00 A.M. Event Registration- \$10.00  
8:00 A.M. A Day on the Range  
9:00 A.M. Jackpot Skeet- All Day  
9:30 A.M. Long Range .22cal- All Day  
12:00 P.M. Lunch- on the grounds  
1:00 P.M. Mr. Keith Jones- Summit  
4:30 P.M. AHEA Business Meeting- Comfort Suites  
6:00 P.M. Annual Awards Dinner  
Chiefs Allan Andress and Gary Moody- Guest Speaker  
Following Dinner- Hospitality Room Open
- SUNDAY AUGUST 1<sup>ST</sup> DEPART
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## Instructor Dove Hunt

Stuart Goldsby, Regional Hunter Education Coordinator, will once again host a dove hunt for instructors. The hunt will be held on the second Saturday of the north zone dove season in Cullman County. If you enjoyed last years hunt, please make plans to attend this year. Remember, this is your opportunity to bring a kid who would not get an opportunity to hunt otherwise. Please call Stuart Goldsby at 256-737-8732 if you plan to attend.



Aim to be "Bulls-Eye Perfect"

# Alabama Hunter Education Association News

AHEA News by Ricky Moss, President

The 2004 season has begun and it looks as though we are headed for a record year. As of March 31<sup>st</sup> we have 45 members, with seven of them being first time members. That puts us about 20 - 25 members ahead of the normal March numbers.

Congratulations to Stephanie Abbott of Millbrook. She is the 2004 winner of the Lifetime Hunting and Fishing License. The drawing was held at our 4<sup>th</sup> quarter board meeting on February 7<sup>th</sup>. It is not too early to offer your friends, family, co-workers and students the opportunity to be the 2005 winner. If you need tickets let us know or you can pick them up at an Instructor Rendezvous or the Annual Banquet.

Jerry Brown, District IV Director decided not to seek re-election for another term to his board position. He has served on the board since the AHEA was established in 1999. We appreciate Jerry's dedication, hard work, and thank him for putting up with all our growing pains.

Welcome to our new directors: Maron McConnell for District IV and Jim O'Dillon for District V. Maron has been a volunteer instructor in Tallapoosa County since 2000. Jim is a volunteer instructor in Mobile County and has been active since 2001. Jim was certified as an instructor for Tennessee in 1994 and served as a volunteer in the Chattanooga area prior to moving to Mobile.

The association has purchased hunter orange vests for instructors who have been members of the association for five or more years. These will be handed out at your Instructor Rendezvous and the annual banquet. We hope you will wear these during your traditional courses, CD field days and shooting sports activities. Once we have received embroidered patches with the association design, one will be sent to each vest recipient.

If you have not been involved with a CD Field day, I encourage you to assist with one this year. During a field day we end up being an evaluator instead of an instructor. This is a great way to begin your career as a hunter educator. Also, if you happen to be a long time traditional course instructor who really doesn't like getting up in front of a class, this is another way to help without getting all the butterflies! Assisting with a field day lets you meet and work with other instructors. This helps to build multi-county teams that enjoy getting together. With this, we begin our trek to transform 700 individual instructors into a statewide team. Check out the website <http://www.outdooralabama.com/hunting/education/online-course.cfm>. Call the instructor listed and offer to help with a field day in your area.

AHEA members don't forget we now have a 6 X 12 enclosed trailer with CVA muzzle loaders and Ruger 1022 rifles available for you to use for a shooting sports event. This year we're hoping to be able to add Remington 870 pump shotguns to the inventory. Donations received from the Lifetime Hunting & Fishing License fundraiser will help us with the purchase.

Each year the district directors select an officer and a volunteer instructor from their district who are members of the AHEA to be recognized at the annual banquet as the District Instructor/Officer of the Year. If you have someone in your district or on your team that you would recommend for these awards, please send their names along with a letter describing their accomplishments for the past year to your district director by July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The 2004 Annual AHEA banquet will be held on July 31<sup>st</sup> at the Etowah Public Shooting Range in Etowah County. This year we will start a little competition to try to improve attendance. The district with the most instructors attending the banquet will take home a six-year roving plaque to hang on display at a location of their choice for one year.

Please visit [www.alhuntered.com](http://www.alhuntered.com) to obtain a list of all upcoming AHEA events. If you have any questions about the association or need a membership application give me a call at (256) 233-6763 or email [rmoos@steelcase.com](mailto:rmoos@steelcase.com)

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## Henry Rifle Offer

Henry Repeating Arms Company allows hunter education instructors to purchase various products at a significant discount. Instructors are eligible to purchase the products listed below by sending a brief letter showing your complete name, address, telephone number, a photocopy of your instructor card, and an original signed copy of a gun dealers Federal Firearms license to: Henry Repeating Arms Company, 110<sup>th</sup> Street, Brooklyn, New York, 11215. Payment can be made by check, Visa, Mastercard, American Express, and must be included with the letter. You must also include \$7.50 per unit for shipping charges. Individual instructors are only eligible to purchase two units of each firearm.

H001	Henry Lever Action .22	\$ 159.95
H001Y	Henry Lever Action Youth .22	159.95
H005	Henry Mini Bolt Youth .22	125.00
Freight	Shipping Charges	7.50 per unit
HCAT	Henry Catalogs	No Charge

These prices are confidential  
and for hunter education  
instructor use only.

Visit their website at  
[www.henryrepeating.com](http://www.henryrepeating.com)

# District I News

by Ricky Moss

We held our first Instructor Rendezvous on February 28th at the Bluff Creek Trap Range in Marion County. We had a small turn out with 5 instructors attending, but we enjoyed some good trap shooting and some GREAT food. Thanks to Mr. James King, volunteer instructor and Mr. Rick Howard, range operator for hosting this event.

On April 17th we held the second Instructor Rendezvous for our district at Sharon Johnston Park in Madison County. We had 9 instructors/wives attend the event. Thanks goes to Ray Applebaum for keeping the range open for us, Mike Gooch for the BBQ & trimmings, and especially Mae Ott and DK Kell for their desserts. Most of our meeting time was spent trying to come up with ways to get instructors to attend our training/social events. If you have any ideas that will help increase participation, PLEASE let us know!!

Participation in our spring traditional courses has been low, ranging from 3 in our Morgan County course to 28 in our Lauderdale County course. The Walker County course had 4 participants; Colbert - 9; Marion - 12; and Madison - 19. The CD Field day at Camp Meadowbrook in Cullman County had 18 attend. These pre-turkey season courses are traditionally low in attendance. We have a good number of folks to sign up for the courses, but less than 50% of those who pre-register actually attend. These small classes provide us the opportunity for new instructors to get one presentation under their belt before the larger classes hit in the summer and fall.

Please contact one of the following instructors if you would like to assist with a CD Field day in District I: Mitchell Marks, Colbert; Stuart Goldsby, Cullman; Bill Kerlin, Madison; and Kevin Pugh, Walker.

Mark your calendar now and plan to attend the AHEA Banquet in Gadsden on July 31st. Help us to bring home the attendance award for display at the Swan Creek office. This will be a great time to get to know other District I instructors and to meet instructors from all over the state.

## District V News

By Tony Landenwich

The hunter education instructors from District V held a training work shop/instructor rendezvous on Feb 21, 2004 at the FOP range in Fairhope. We had a good turn out with 11 volunteer instructors, a few children of the instructors and 5 instructors from the enforcement division and 2 marine police officers. Richard Bryars gave a presentation on muzzleloaders, accompanied with a hands-on shoot for all the instructors. This was a great opportunity for those new to muzzleloaders to gain some valuable knowledge. The rest of the day was spent shooting clays. A special thanks to Sgt Henry Lowery, "the grill master", for cooking and to the rest of the Department employees for setting up the range and making the day a great event.

The Alabama Hunter Education Association has a new board member from District V, Jim O'Dillon from Mobile. Please offer your assistance to Jim and the AHEA. Together we can help ensure the future of our sport.

Final item in the news is the AHEA Annual Banquet. The banquet will be held on July 31<sup>st</sup> in Gadsden Al. this year. Rumor has it that the AHEA board is going to start presenting an attendance award that can be display in the District office. That award would look great hanging in the classroom in the District V office

## Southern News

By James Altieri

Regional Hunter Education Coordinator

Greetings to all hunter education instructors and thank you for doing a great job in my absence. I am glad to be back in the good ole U.S.A.. Now that I am back it is going to be a challenge to me to get back in the swing of things. I need your help to catch up on all the hunter education activities occurring in south Alabama. This will help me get headed in the right direction. I want to attend any get togethers and meetings you may have scheduled in your county. We are getting ready for the hunter education season, and have new programs for our hunting public and some exciting programs for our youth. These new programs and our on going hunter education programs take a team effort. I am proud to be part of the team that educates our public and helps protect our natuaral resources. We live in the greatest country on earth. And our greatest asset is our natural resources.

I hope to hear from you through our hunter education office and hope to see you at the annual Alabama Hunter Education Association banquet.

# ALABAMA YOUTH HUNTER EDUCATION CHALLENGE

This year's event was another success with everyone having a great time on the range. Thanks to Magic City Gun Club once again for hosting the event and thanks to all the parents and volunteers who brought kids to participate in this 4<sup>th</sup> annual event. NRA continues to support this program in big ways and the AHEA needs to continue to make it happen for all the kids who like to participate in true shooting skill competitions. All who came left with lots of goodies like T-shirts, pins, bumper stickers, guns, and medals. The muzzleloaders, medals and treestand harnesses were prizes to the winners but even the parents left their hands full.



Winners of various YHEC events

Participation is still not up to where we would like for it to be and recruitment of new participants for next year is on this years agenda for the next board meeting. The board will meet in June at the Montgomery office to discuss the 2005 YHEC and anyone who would like to make suggestions or comments should attend.

The YHEC is a great opportunity for an instructor to put to work what he teaches with kids and see the rewards immediately in the faces of those students.

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## Legislative Update

During the recent legislative session, the mandatory hunter education law was modified to exempt currently employed Alabama law enforcement personnel that have graduated from an Alabama Police Officer and Standards Training Commission Academy and active duty military personnel from showing proof of completion of an approved hunter education prior to purchasing a hunting license.

# Alabama Hunter Education Association

## Membership Application

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_

**County** \_\_\_\_\_

**State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Wildlife District** \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructor Number** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone** (Home)\_\_\_\_\_ (Business)\_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual dues \$15** \_\_\_\_\_ (Dues renewed in Jan. each year)

**5 Year Membership \$ 70** \_\_\_\_\_

**Life Membership \$275** \_\_\_\_\_

**Members of any of the following:**

NRA\_\_\_\_ NWTF\_\_\_\_ NBHA\_\_\_\_ NMLAS\_\_\_\_ DU\_\_\_\_

BSA/GSA\_\_\_\_ 4H Shooting club\_\_\_\_ ROTC Shooting club\_\_\_\_

OTHER Organizations:\_\_\_\_\_

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**Office Use:**

Date Processed: \_\_\_\_\_

New or Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Voting Member \_\_\_\_\_

Membership packet Sent \_\_\_\_\_

Added to Email \_\_\_\_\_

Fee Recorded \_\_\_\_\_

Processed by: \_\_\_\_\_

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## New Book

*Rifle in Hand* proudly examines the critical leadership shown by American Hunters, especially Theodore Roosevelt, Ding Darling, Aldo Leopold, and A. A. Robinson "The Chief", in saving North America wild lands, wildlife, and public hunting from the brink of extinction during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Moreover, *Rifle in Hand* calls on today's hunters to rise to our "great occasions" and defend the astonishing public hunting and wildlife legacy that has been passed down through difficult decades to our hunter's camp.

This is the third volume in Mr. Posewitz's series on American hunting. His first two books, *Beyond Fair Chase* on hunting safety and ethics and *Inherit the Hunt* on the history of hunting, have been used by various groups throughout North America.

*Rifle in Hand* is now available in hardcover for \$19.95 and paperback for \$9.95. Please contact Riverbend Publishing, PO Box 5833, Helena, MT 59604 for ordering information.

## Administrative Spring Cleaning

By Janyla "Jay" Genous, Administrative Support Assistant

Thank you all for helping to make my first year with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources a very pleasant one. I want to share a few observations with you which will make my job run a little more smoothly, especially during hunting season. When returning your class information to the office, please be sure that all information is completely filled out. More specifically, be sure that scantrons do notate whether the student passes, fails or incompletes the course. Please ensure students only use no. 2 pencils on the scantron form - blue, black, and red ink produces error messages when scanning for the student database. Also, on the Class Report Form, please notate the class date, county and student quantity information completely. Please be sure all assistant instructor numbers are on the class report form and volunteer instructor form before mailing.

It is extremely important for class materials to be mailed back to this office in a timely manner. Students call daily for replacement cards that are not in our database. It does not reflect well on our agency to call the student back, upon research, to inform them that the instructor will be mailing the class information out to us later in the week and we will mail them a replacement card as soon as we receive the information. Especially if the class was taken more than six months prior to the student's request. I know it sounds infantile, but it has happened numerous times this year. Thank you for your cooperation, and I look forward to working with you all another year. If I can further assist you with anything, please feel free to e-mail me at [jgenous@dcnr.state.al.us](mailto:jgenous@dcnr.state.al.us).