

# ALABAMA HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS NEWSLETTER



January, 2005

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## Hunter Education Volunteer Instructors Why They are Important!

By Corky Pugh, Director

Volunteers are necessary, effective, and important people within the Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Hunter Education Program. Approximately 300 of the 700 hunter education instructors are volunteers who freely give their time and money to promote safe, responsible hunting through the Alabama Hunter Education Program. We sincerely appreciate their commitment and interest in ensuring the future of our hunting heritage.

Volunteers have the desire to teach hunter education in a professional manner. They provide valuable training services in their communities and represent a strong, positive force that can help fellow citizens understand the need for safety and the issues facing modern wildlife management.

Volunteers are motivated by a combination of reasons, such as an interest in promoting safe, responsible hunter behavior, personal fulfillment, prestige, or simply good citizenship. A hunter education team comprised of volunteers in a county provides an invaluable community service and allows WFF employees to focus their efforts where needed. I encourage all hunter education instructors to seek out volunteers to assist with the delivery of the 400+ hunter education courses taught annually in Alabama. Remember, the future of hunting depends on our youth. **Our youth depend on you!**

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## Schedule Your 2005 Classes Now

The Conservation Advisory Board will conduct two meetings in early 2005 to promulgate regulations regarding seasons and bag limits for the upcoming 2005-06 hunting season. The first meeting will take place in February to receive and discuss recommendations for the upcoming 2005 season. The board will then meet in March to establish the hunting seasons and bag limits.

The earlier date for establishing seasons and bag limits will hopefully allow the Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries to print the season digest earlier than past years. [For this reason, I request volunteer instructors notify this office of scheduled hunter education courses for the fall by March 18, 2005. Division employees will be given updates on courses scheduled by volunteers and asked to schedule courses accordingly by mid-April.](#) The Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries does not expect any major changes to opening dates such as bow season or gun deer season. We expect these dates to be on or about October 15 and November 19, 2005.

## 2004 GOVERNOR'S CONSERVATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The recipient of the Governor's Conservation Achievement Award sponsored by the Alabama Wildlife Federation for hunter education in 2004 was Pam and Jerry Jackson of Oxford. Pam and Jerry are members of the Calhoun County team and have promoted safe, responsible hunting through the Alabama Hunter Education Program for several years. Pam and Jerry have both served as an AHEA board member for District 2.

Their efforts and those of all instructors that promote safe responsible hunting through the Alabama Hunter Education Program are sincerely appreciated.



Left to right: Willard Bowers, Alabama Power Company; Barnett Lawley, Commissioner, ADCNR; Pam Jackson; Jyles Machen, Past-President AWF; Jerry Jackson was unable to attend due to illness

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“Education is the power to think clearly, the power to act well in the world’s work, and the power to appreciate life”

*Brigham Young*

# Attention Vocational Agri-business Instructors

By Ray Metzler

The Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries developed a partnership with the Department of Education to begin implementing an exciting, new archery curriculum in the public school system. The program entitled "Archery - On Target For Life" involves a two week curriculum geared toward 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. As part of this program, our agency is providing schools a storage box for use in the gymnasium. Several Vocational Agri-business Teachers have built these boxes in the past. The success of the program has created a need for additional boxes. These boxes make great projects for students and Boy Scouts. The Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries will pay for all building materials for the boxes. Please contact me at 1-800-245-2740 if you or someone you know is interested in constructing some of these boxes for use in the archery program.



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## A Message from Commissioner Barnett Lawley

Dear Alabama Hunters:

Hunt Outdoor Alabama is an exciting program! We're enthusiastic about this innovative new venture that encourages mentors to introduce newcomers to the hunting experience. It's a win-Win-WIN situation!

As hunters, you have more incentive to take someone hunting with you, to share your love of the outdoors, to teach another about safe and ethical hunting practices.

As students, the newcomers will benefit from your years of experience, will learn more about their natural surroundings, and will develop a new interest that will last a lifetime.

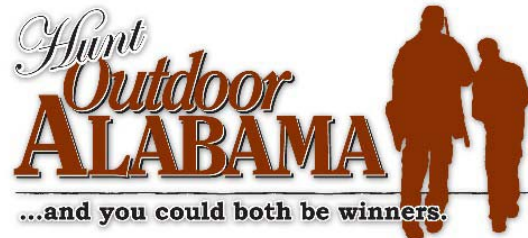
The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources will also come out ahead. The success of this program will bring a new generation of hunters into the fields and forests. An increase in hunters will aid us by increasing license sales, for which we qualify for matching federal funds. Those funds, in turn, will allow us to better serve the public and manage the state's natural resources.

Everyone comes out a winner! Some hunters may even end the season by bagging one of the special prizes available to those who complete the mentoring program.

Log on to [www.outdooralabama.com](http://www.outdooralabama.com) for additional information regarding the "Hunt Outdoor Alabama - Share the Wonder!" campaign.

Sincerely,

M. Barnett Lawley  
Commissioner



## News from IHEA

The IHEA Instructor List serve is growing. They currently have over 1,500 instructors on their list serve and would like to build that to 30,000 over the next several years. Instructors can sign up through the Instructor Only site on the IHEA website: [www.ihea.com](http://www.ihea.com). All messages that go on this list serve also go to all state coordinators.

The password to access the instructor segment of the IHEA website has changed. The old username/password of instructorbonus/iheasupport is no longer valid to access the Instructor Resource password protected segment of the IHEA website. The new username/password is instructor/gohunt.

**Hey instructors! Check out this special discount offer!**

### ROSSI USA Special Offer

Instructors working with the International Hunter Education Association (IHEA), 4H, NRA, or the Boy Scouts of America are eligible for discounted prices on firearms and special products that will teach kids gun safety and shooting proficiency. Visit the Rossi USA site at [www.rossiusa.com](http://www.rossiusa.com) for complete details and to download an order form and instructions.

Leupold's Hunter Education Instructor Program offers a 30% discount off jobber cost to certified hunter education instructors. To learn more and to be placed on the program list, contact Leupold & Stevens, Inc.: Attn: Stacy Gundry; 14400 NW Greenbrier Parkway; Beaverton, OR 97006; Phone (503)526-5182 or email [sgundry@leupold.com](mailto:sgundry@leupold.com)

### *Timeless Wisdom*

An elder Cherokee native American was teaching his grandchildren about life.

He said to them, "A fight is going on inside me... It is a terrible fight, and it is between two wolves. One wolf represents fear, anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego.

The other wolf stands for joy, peace, love, hope, sharing, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, friendship, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith.

This same fight is going on inside you, and inside every other person, also.

They thought about it for a minute and then one child asked his grandfather, "Which wolf will win?"

The old Cherokee simply replied with a soft smile..."The one you feed."

*I read this passage in another hunter education newsletter and firmly believe in its principles. Please take the time to feed your children a diet of peace and love every day and take them hunting or fishing every chance you get. Ray Metzler*

## Special Offer from Bushnell

Bushnell has special discounts available to certified hunter education instructors. You must request a catalog in writing and provide a copy of your hunter education instructor card prior to placing an order. Please contact Laura Olinger, Public Relations, Bushnell Performance Optics at 913-752-6105 or fax 913-752-3489 or email: [lolinger@bushnell.com](mailto:lolinger@bushnell.com) to request a catalog and special pricing information.

## Special Offer from Brunton

Brunton offers special pricing on their products to hunter education instructors. Brunton also donates back to IHEA 10% of all sales from Hunter Education Instructors through this exclusive offer until April 30, 2005. For additional information please contact Brunton customer service directly at 800-443-4871 during the hours of 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM MST, Monday-Friday, or visit their website: [www.brunton.com](http://www.brunton.com).

To obtain your special pricing and ensure that 10% is donated to the IHEA, please be sure to identify yourself as a Hunter Education Instructor when ordering.

**BRUNTON**  
GET OUT THERE

**HELP US GIVE BACK.**

GET BRUNTON PRODUCTS AT SPECIAL DISCOUNTED PRICES AND WE'LL DONATE 10% BACK TO THE IHEA! TO ORDER CALL BRUNTON CUSTOMER SERVICE TOLL FREE AT 1.800.443.4871 BETWEEN 8 AM AND 5 PM MST MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY AND IDENTIFY YOURSELF AS A HUNTER ED. INSTRUCTOR. THIS IHEA OFFER ENDS 4/30/05.

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## Moral Predictament!

Ginger Howell in Calhoun County reported an incident to me where an adult male came to a fork in the road and had to make the correct decision. The individual brought two children of a friend to the course with him. This individual had a friend who was unable to attend the first portion of the course and requested that his buddy sit in for him until he came back to town and was able to attend the course. The individual came to class with the intention of registering under a false name but did not complete the registration process. The gentleman knew that he was committing a violation and was not living up to the ethical standards that he wanted to live by. He notified Ginger of his situation and they agreed that she would ask each adult in the course for a picture ID prior to continuing with the course. When Ginger checked his ID and found that it did not match the scantron form, she tore the registration card up. The two children with the man were able to complete the course. The buddy was unable to obtain a hunter education card from this course and he had to enroll in a course taught later in the year. It was good to hear that this man chose to return to the fork in the road and take the right path when given the option.

# ALABAMA HUNTER EDUCATION ASSOCIATION NEWS

By Ricky Moss

President, Alabama Hunter Education Association and District I Director

The year has closed for the AHEA and 2005 is waiting for us to move the Association forward. Before we get too far down the road, we need to take some time to review what we have accomplished.

We purchased \$1,000,000.00 liability insurance that covered an AHEA instructor during a Hunter Education Class or youth shooting sports event. The coverage period is from January 1 through December 31, the same as the membership period. The funding for the insurance comes from a portion of the annual dues.

The NRA Youth Hunter Education Challenge was very successful again for the fourth year. Let's all get behind it for the kids and continue to make it a success in 2005.

Mr. James King, an AHEA member and instructor from Franklin County, took a team of kids to the National Scholastic Clay Target Program National Championship in Vandalia Ohio. The five young men from various high schools in northwest Alabama on the team broke 1,091 of 1,125 clay targets to win the Senior Experienced Division. Congratulations to the team members and thank you Mr. King.



We held our fourth annual banquet in August at the Etowah Public Shooting Range in Etowah County. The banquet was attended by approximately 50 individuals. Awards for outstanding service and commitment were given to a volunteer instructor from each district. The banquet for 2005 will be held in October at or near the beach in Baldwin County. Plans are being made to have a chartered fishing trip in the Gulf. Details are being finalized and will be sent to you in the near future.

The Alabama Hunter Education Association has various shirts with the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Instructor logo on the left chest area for sale. Most sizes are in stock except for 3XL. They must be special ordered. Additional information such as quantities, sizes, sleeve length, colors of shirts is available on the AHEA website at [www.huntereducation.net](http://www.huntereducation.net). These shirts are very professional and all proceeds benefit the AHEA. Please call Ray Metzler at 1-800-245-2740 to order a shirt.



All-in-all, 2004 went well for the Association. The board is scheduled to meet on February 5 to develop an agenda for 2005. One project for sure will be to increase the number of members, our membership increased from 53 in 2003 to 74 in 2004. If you are not a member, please join. A membership application is enclosed in the newsletter. Just fill it out and send it in along with the \$15.00 annual dues. Other projects include the Youth Hunter Education Challenge on April 2 at Magic City Gun Club. If you have any questions about the Association please give me a call at (256) 233-6763 or email [rross@steelcase.com](mailto:rross@steelcase.com).

### Special Offer from Summit



Summit Stands of Decatur, AL offers special pricing on their products to hunter education instructors. Please contact Ray Metzler, Hunter Education Coordinator to receive a copy of the 2005 Instructor Purchase Program information. Please visit their website to obtain product information: [www.summitstands.com](http://www.summitstands.com).

### Instructor Email Database

The Hunter Education Program has begun building an email database for hunter education instructors. This allows us to email information to instructors in a more timely manner. Please email me at [rmetzler@dcnr.state.al.us](mailto:rmetzler@dcnr.state.al.us) if you would like to begin receiving news from the hunter education program via email. I will add your name to the Alabama Hunter Education Instructor address book. This list serve of instructor email addresses is used only for official hunter education business.

# NORTHERN NEWS

By Stuart Goldsby  
Regional Hunter Education Coordinator, North Alabama

This past year was full of excitement and many new adventures for hunter education. CD/internet field day course work was held at the Greater Birmingham Council scout camps in Dekalb and Cleburne counties. The results weren't what we hoped for, but you learn something every time you participate in an event. Boy Scout administrators at the national level are discussing methods to develop a hunter education merit badge. The Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries is discussing the mandatory hunter education program with Alabama Boy Scout administrators to make them more aware of the requirements and possible partnerships to promote the program.

Ricky Moss, President of AHEA, and I attended the Kentucky Hunter Education Instructor Banquet to gather ideas on developing an event more successful partnership between an instructor association and state agency. The event was a huge success and demonstrated that camaraderie and organization play a huge role in developing a successful instructor association.

The first annual Alabama "National Archery in the Schools Program" Championship hosted at Lanark by the Alabama Wildlife Federation was the biggest success of the year for everyone involved. Two hundred and fourteen kids from 11 schools throughout Alabama shot Genesis bows all day long and had a great time. This event would not have been the huge success it was without the assistance of hunter education instructors from throughout central Alabama. Thank you very much! Alabama's second annual state championship will be April 26, 2005 at the Autauga County Agricultural Arena. We are expecting 900 participants for this event. Please put this event on your calendar. We will need your help.

We really expect 2005 to be just as interesting. I intend to hold two instructor certification workshops and three advanced workshops at Camp Meadowbrook in Cullman County. The instructor certification workshops will be on May 13-14 and August 12-13. Advanced workshops will be held on March 4-5, June 17-18, and July 22-23. Each workshop will be held on Friday evening beginning at 6:00pm and ending on Saturday by 3:00 pm.

There will be agenda information on these events available in the near future. Mark your calendars and make plans to have another exciting and educational year in Alabama Hunter Education. If you would like to share your knowledge and expertise in a particular subject and be included in the advanced workshop agenda please contact me with information on the subject and a date that is good for your calendar and I will be glad to include you on that agenda.

You can always contact me at [sgoldsby@bellsouth.net](mailto:sgoldsby@bellsouth.net) or by phone (256) 737-8732.

# CROSSBOW SAFETY TIPS

The Conservation Advisory Board approved the use of the crossbow during Alabama's archery and gun seasons. This office heard many reports from various archery pro shops, sporting good dealers, hunters, and media personnel about crossbow users that were injured due to improper use. All of the injuries were minor in nature and involved the shooter placing his weak hand fingers above the rail when shooting. These incidents result in injuries such as lacerations or removal of the fingertips. These incidents took place prior to the opening of the archery season while individuals were practicing in a non-hunting environment. The following crossbow safety tips were sent to me by the American Crossbow Federation and should be presented in a hunter education course at an appropriate time.

- Never carry a cocked crossbow with a bolt loaded
- Maximum effective range is 40 yards
- Carry a bolt with a field point on it for unloading purposes at the end of a hunt
- Always keep fingers and thumb of the weak hand below the grooves in the forearm or the plate that the bolt rides on when shooting.

## Crossbow tips for use in a treestand

- Cock the bow at the bottom of the treestand while on the ground
- Attach crossbow foot stirrup to haul line
- Climb the tree while using a fall restraint system
- Pull up crossbow using haul line
- Load bolt from quiver into crossbow
- Never try to bend over and cock a crossbow while in a treestand
- Reverse these procedures to descend from treestand.
- Once on the ground, load a bolt with a field point into crossbow and shoot into soft dirt to safely unload crossbow.
- Never try to decock a crossbow by hand or with the aid of a cocking device.

*"Time invested in improving ourselves cuts down on the time wasted in disapproving of others."*

## Dates to Remember:

April 2, 2005

Youth Hunter Education Challenge, Magic City Gun Club

April 26, 2005

Alabama's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Archery in Schools Program Championship

## Citizens Conservation Forum

Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Commissioner Barnett Lawley recently announced the formation of a new Citizens Conservation Forum. The Citizens Conservation Forum will take advantage of the constantly expanding use of the Internet to survey public interests and concerns regarding conservation issues.

Anyone can join the Forum. Members will be invited to periodically respond to e-mail based surveys on a variety of subjects and issues. This e-mail based approach will provide timely and cost effective public input on important conservation issues and give Forum members the flexibility to respond based on their own schedules.

Each of you has an interest in hunting or shooting and some expertise in certain areas of our hunting or shooting sports heritage. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources wants to hear your ideas regarding issues of concern and importance to you. For this reason, you are invited to become a part of the Forum. Surveys will be based in an individual's interests as defined when registering to be a part of the Forum.

Conservation officials have traditionally conducted mail and telephone surveys to gather opinions from constituents. These methods took months to complete and analyze. Computer technology will allow surveys to be completed in a matter of days.

The mission of ADCNR is to manage and protect Alabama's natural resources for the enjoyment of the state's residents and future generations. ADCNR's constituency is very broad based considering the Department's responsibilities for fish and wildlife resources, boating, parks and other state lands. "We need to be constantly aware of the public's interests and concerns regarding conservation issues." Commissioner Lawley said. "This Forum is another tool in our expanding public outreach efforts." Log on to [www.outdooralabama.com](http://www.outdooralabama.com) to join the Citizens Conservation Forum.

## New Instructor Manual

Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries employees and various hunter education instructors have written and reviewed a new hunter education instructor manual during the past two years. The new manual outlines changes to the instructor certification process, new hunter education instructor trainer positions, and various other changes to the hunter education program. The manuals contain a tutorial section outlining requirements for completing course documentation, a CD containing hunter education powerpoint presentations, and various other items useful to hunter education instructors. New manuals and binders will be distributed at various hunter education functions throughout 2005.

## Special Offer from Horton Crossbows

Horton crossbows offers a significant discount on their products for hunter education instructors. To receive a catalog and price sheet, send a copy of your hunter education instructor card to: Horton Crossbows, Attn: Tim Eskew, 484 Tacoma Avenue, Tallmadge, Ohio 44278

## Hunting Incident Update

As of December 14, 2004, there have been three non-fatal firearms/bow incidents reported since the beginning of dove season. This is the fewest number of reported incidents for this time period since the Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries began collecting hunting incident data. One of the three incidents involved a bowhunter that fell on his arrow and had several lacerations on his face from the broadhead. We have only had two other reported incidents involving archers since we began collecting hunting accident data in 1973.

Treestand incidents continue to be a major cause of hunting related injuries. There have been two fatal and eight non-fatal treestand incidents this hunting season. Several of the non-fatal incidents resulted in serious injuries such as a broken pelvis, ribs, legs, etc.... These are all tragic accidents that can be prevented. We must all continue to emphasize the importance of using a fall restraint system that keeps hunters attached to the tree the entire time they are off the ground. Many hunters choose to attach their safety harness to the tree once they reach their desired height on the tree. Unfortunately, most incidents occur while a hunter is climbing, descending, or stepping on or off of the platform. This emphasizes the need to wear a fall restraint device the entire time a hunter is off the ground.

We have not received any information regarding incidents involving crossbows during the hunting season. We did hear about many incidents prior to the archery season that resulted in hunters losing parts of fingers or being lacerated. Incidents occurring prior to archery season are not considered hunting incidents because they did not occur in hunting conditions. The Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries conducted several crossbow safety workshops around the state to familiarize instructors and employees with this new hunting tool. A list of crossbow safety tips to provide students is inside this issue. These tips were a result of gathering information from the American Crossbow Federation and the National Bowhunter Education Foundation.

### Join AHEA

Membership in the Alabama Hunter Education Association provides each instructor member with liability insurance coverage while involved in a hunter education course or shooting sports event. The Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries (WFF) has no mechanism to provide volunteers with liability insurance. Becoming a member of AHEA requires a small annual investment but could pay big dividends in case of an accident were to occur in a hunter education program.

**The biggest reason all instructors (employees included) should join AHEA is to support a volunteer organization that is attempting to assist WFF with team building, volunteer recruitment, and other issues affecting the delivery of the hunter education program.**

**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)

**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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Return to: Ricky Moss, 20621 Edgewood Road, Athens, AL 35611