

ALABAMA HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS NEWSLETTER



December, 2005

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CRITICAL INFORMATION Changes to Hunter Education Database

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There is an old saying that information obtained from a database is only as good as the data being entered. Obtaining complete data on each and every hunter education student is critical to ensuring that students are able to purchase licenses and obtain duplicate cards. During the past several years, hunter education staff members have noticed that there are a multitude of issues that can go wrong with the scantron forms. The Montgomery staff has been working with our internet services staff to develop an electronic computer application that allows students to register online for a hunter education course and allows instructors to print hunter education cards, class report forms, volunteer instructor forms, and submit course data to the Montgomery office electronically.

Beginning in January, 2006, the Montgomery office will begin using this new system to track the status of each and every hunter education course. Implementation of this new application will be phased in as each of the applications are tested by instructors throughout the state. It will be necessary for instructors to provide the following information for each hunter education course scheduled: primary instructor name and number, course dates, times, location, maximum number of students, and a telephone number.

Implementation of this program will require us to input all of the outstanding course data by early January. PLEASE RETURN ANY COMPLETED SCANTRON FORMS, CLASS REPORT FORMS, AND VOLUNTEER INSTRUCTOR FORMS TO THIS OFFICE ASAP SO THE STAFF CAN INPUT THEM INTO THE EXISTING DATABASE PRIOR TO IMPLEMENTING THE NEW COMPUTER APPLICATION. YOUR COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE IN THIS MATTER WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

Thanks Very Much!

The Hunter Education Staff appreciates the cooperation and assistance of everyone that is involved in promoting safe, responsible hunting through the Alabama Hunter Education Program. This includes volunteer instructors, school teachers, and WFF employees. This has been a relatively calm hunter education season as far as the number of students requesting replacement cards and course information. Most prospective students have been able to enroll in a course to obtain their certification prior to purchasing a hunting license.

Early Season Accident Report

There have been two fatal firearms incidents as of December 1, 2005. The first occurred in Jackson County and involved a 28 year old victim and 26 year old shooter. They were squirrel hunting in Jackson County on October 8 with .22 rifles when the shooter apparently mistook the victim for a deer. The second incident was self-inflicted and occurred in Walker County on November 7, 2005 when the 28 year old victim was removing his rifle from his vehicle. There have been three non-fatal firearms accidents that have occurred since dove season. Three non-fatal treestand accidents have been reported and none of the victims were wearing a harness.

AHEA News!

The Alabama Hunter Education Association has been busy during the past few months. St. Bernard's Catholic School in Cullman granted permission for AHEA members to deer hunt on approximately 450 acres of school property. AHEA members have put up 14 ladder stands on this property and held one organized youth hunt on November 12, 2005. Two deer were harvested on the youth hunt and 4 others have been harvested on various other days when hunting was allowed. Visit the AHEA website at www.huntereducation.net for details regarding future hunt dates. Summit Treestands, Inc. in Decatur was a big supporter of this program and we are appreciative of their contributions to make this endeavor a success! Special rules regarding the hunts are also on the website and must be adhered to by all AHEA members and guests to ensure this opportunity can continue in the future.



AHEA members after the youth deer hunt on November 12, 2005.