

ALABAMA HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS NEWSLETTER



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2005 State NASP Championship Update

The Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries appreciates the support and cooperation of volunteer instructors and employees that assisted with the 2nd annual NASP state championship in Autaugaville, AL. Approximately 479 students from 16 schools participated in the event. The excitement was contagious as students, parents and teachers cheered for their teammates to see who would bring home the titles of male and female state archery champion. Teams competed in Elementary (K-6), Middle (7-8) and High School (9-12) divisions. Students shot 30 arrows, 15 each from distances of 10 and 15 meters. Individual winners in each division received a trophy and medal. Team winners received a trophy for the school trophy case and each individual team member received a medal.



Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries (WFF) employees learned a great deal from this event and will incorporate many of these ideas into the 2006 event. The large increase in participants has led us to investigate the possibility of hosting the event at the Birmingham Jefferson Civic Center (BJCC) in 2006. The BJCC is large enough to host almost 1,000 participants in two flights of shooters. This would allow us to begin shooting flights at 9:00 and 11:45 AM and the awards ceremony at approximately 3:00 PM.

WFF appreciates the cooperation and assistance of all hunter education instructors, school teachers, administrators, parents, and students in making this event a success! We look forward to making this event bigger and better in 2006!

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2004-05 Hunting Incidents

For the second year in a row, the number of firearms related hunting incidents declined to an all time low. This past hunting season was the first in which there were no two-party firearms related hunting fatalities. 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 eight non-fatal firearms related hunting incidents that occurred during the 2004-05 hunting season. There were three self-inflicted fatal firearms related incidents during the past hunting season. The first fatality occurred in Dallas County and involved a 12 year old boy that died from a gun shot wound that was caused when his firearm apparently fell from an insecure rest. The second fatality occurred in Choctaw County when a hunter fell from a treestand and his pistol discharged during the fall. The bullet struck the victim while in mid-air. The third fatality was also in Choctaw County and involved a turkey hunter that apparently stumbled and fell with a loaded firearm.

Thirteen treestand incidents were reported to this office during the 2004-2005 hunting season. Three of the 13 were fatal and occurred in Montgomery, Bibb, and Jackson counties.

Continuous Improvement

Success is about learning, unlearning, and relearning.

It's about sharing big ideas. No strings attached.

It's about agility:

The kind that lets you take quantum leaps forward.

It's about earning your reputation. Every working day.

It's about tying rights to responsibilities.

So the world's a better place.

It's about *Continuous Improvement*.

The above message was presented in a workshop conducted by the Management Assistance Team of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. The message was borrowed from the Eastman Kodak Company. *Continuous Improvement* is one of Kodak's five core values. I believe this message has a place in every day life and our hunter education program.

TEACHING TIP

Hold up a shotgun in one hand and a pencil, with eraser, in the other. After a short pause, ask "what is the difference between these two items, the shotgun and the pencil?" There will likely be silence as the kids try to figure out what you are up to. The answer, of course, is that with the pencil you can erase your mistakes but you can't erase mistakes made with the shotgun.

Originally seen in the Kansas Hunter Education Newsletter

Missing Instructors!

Correspondence mailed to the following instructors was returned to this office for various reasons. If you know any of these instructors, please have them call the hunter education office to provide a current mailing address.

Chris Wigley	Marshall County	Robert Thomas	Cullman County
Rick Cofer	Chilton County	Michael Bailey	Mobile County
John Lawrence	Coffee County	Greg Hamner	Lauderdale Co.
Ricky Allen	Henry County	Daniel Williams	Madison County
Dennis Brand	Houston County		

Central Alabama News

By Marisa Lee Sasser
Regional Hunter Education Coordinator



In the few months that I have been on board, I have been able to meet many of you and see you in action. It is touching to see the dedication and commitment that you have made towards the future of hunting and shooting in Alabama. I feel honored to be working with such a dedicated group of individuals that are making a difference in the youth of Alabama and the future of hunting in our great state. I have thoroughly

enjoyed meeting many of you at various workshops and meetings and I appreciate the phone calls and emails that I have received welcoming me to the team. If I have not met you yet, I look forward to doing so soon. Thanks again for all you do with Hunter Safety in Alabama; I wish you a safe and enjoyable hunting season. Please contact me at 334-242-3620 or Marisa.LeeSasser@dcnr.alabama.gov if I can assist you.

Upcoming Hunter Education Courses

Traditional hunter education courses and CD/internet course field days have been scheduled for the upcoming fall and winter months. Please visit the following website to review the schedule and determine if you can assist with these events. Your assistance and cooperation would be greatly appreciated.

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

Henry Repeating Arms Company Offer

Henry Repeating Arms Company offers hunter education instructors a discount on specific firearms as outlined below. Orders must be accompanied with a brief letter showing your complete name, address, telephone number, photocopy of your instructor card, and an original signed copy of a gun dealers Federal Firearms license. Payment must also be included and can be a personal or business check, Visa/Mastercard or American Express. Please include \$10.00 per unit purchased for shipping. Purchases are limited to two units of each model. Purchase requests should be sent to: Henry Repeating Arms Company, 110 8th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11215

<u>Model</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Price</u>
H001	Henry Lever Action .22LR	164.74
H001Y	Henry Lever Action Youth .22LR	164.74
H005	Henry Mini-Bolt Youth .22LR	128.75
H007	Henry Acu-Bolt .22LR	206.00

Hunter Safety Systems and Summit Provide Instructor Discounts

**IF TREESTAND FALLS ARE
THE #1 HUNTING ACCIDENT...**



*No more excuses:
safety is now
fast, easy, and
convenient!*

*STATS:
1 in 3 hunters
will fall at some
time!*

*treestand safety
is vital for every
hunter!!!*

*Finally, a Safety
Harness as simple
as wearing a vest!*

**...THEN TREESTAND SAFETY
SHOULD BE OUR #1 CONCERN!**

**Xtreme Discount for
Hunter Safety Instructors!**

To order: call 256-773-7732 with your instructor number
and receive one Hunter Safety System vest for only \$69.95.
(normal retail price \$99.95 and \$109.95)



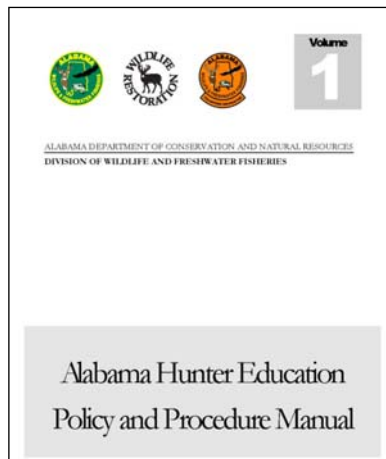
Summit Treestand Products Pricing

Summit Treestands, Inc. offers all hunter education instructors a discount on all treestands and safety harnesses. The following is a price list for Seat O The Pants harnesses.

Fall Woods SOP Harness	35.40
Mossy Oak SOP Harness	47.40
SOP Fastback Harness	29.40
SOP Supreme Harness	59.40

Contact Ray Metzler at
ray.metzler@dcnr.alabama.gov to
receive a complete price list on
Summit Products by email.

Instructor Manual Update



Alabama Hunter Education Association board members and various Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries employees developed an updated hunter education instructor manual. Ericha Nix, Wildlife Biologist in District IV, was the primary person responsible for the layout of the initial revised manual. Her efforts are greatly appreciated.

The instructor manual has been revised and includes a three ring binder, a CD containing hunter education powerpoint presentations, pdf files of reports and targets, Today's Crossbow, and various files of interest to instructors. Hunter Education staff members have been distributing these manuals to instructors at various functions throughout Alabama. Please contact a hunter education staff member to notify them of any upcoming hunter education functions that we could distribute these manuals to instructors that have not yet received one.

Hunter Education Instructor Certification Changes

Revisions to the Hunter Education Instructor manual include a change in the certification process for becoming an instructor. After completing a background check



Hunter Education Instructor Trainers (L to R): Ricky Moss, Stuart Goldsby, Ray Applebaum, Hal Schwartz, Maron McConnell, Bill Kerlin, Ralph Teague, Duwain Brundage, Jerry Riley, Jerry Brown, James Altieri, Jack Mitchell

and providing two references, instructor candidates are issued a hunter education instructor number and called an Associate Instructor. They can assist with a course but not act as the primary instructor. Associate Instructor's must assist with two courses and complete a hunter education instructor workshop to become a fully certified Hunter Education Instructor.

Another change includes the training of ten volunteer instructors that in the future will conduct instructor training workshops. These volunteers are called

Hunter Education Instructor Trainers. These changes were made to facilitate more active volunteer involvement in the hunter education program.

Vo-Ag Professionals Enjoy Auburn Workshop

The annual advanced hunter education workshop for Vocational-Agribusiness teachers was conducted at Auburn University on June 7-10. Participants received approximately 24 hours of in-service training hours for this workshop. Activities included discussions on the Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Act, Conservation Advisory Board, hunting accident trends, shooting range development, changes for the upcoming hunting season, and other items of interest to hunter education instructors.

Frank Boyd, Animal Damage Control Specialist with the US Department of Agriculture, conducted a seminar regarding animal damage control and various trapping techniques. Part of the seminar focused on beavers and the associated damage they can cause to timber and property. The seminar culminated with an explosion and removal of a beaver dam from a watershed on a local tract of land around Auburn.

Participants had the opportunity to compete against each other in a .177 caliber pellet rifle event. This is a standard part of this workshop and allows participants to experience first-hand how easy it is to introduce live firing to a hunter education course. Pellet rifles can normally be safely fired indoors with the use of a pellet trap. The top gun in the pellet gun competition was **Kevin Stewart** with a score of 95 out of a possible 100. The group also took a trip to the Auburn Police Department firing range for instruction on the use and operation of many common types of hunting firearms. Scores were recorded for a shotgun and archery event for inclusion in the overall top gun score. **John Meeks** won the archery event with a score of 94. **Johnny Mills** won the shotgun shooting event with a score of 90 out of 100.



The overall top gun was **Jonathan King** at Mount Hope High School in Lawrence County. Mr. King received a custom handmade knife that was made by Mr. John Harbuck, retired Vo-Ag teacher at Florala High School. We appreciate Mr. Harbuck's interest and generosity for providing such a gift as an award for this workshop.

We sincerely appreciate **Dr. Gordon Patterson** at Auburn University for his assistance and cooperation in making each of the past five workshops a success! He has been instrumental in promoting the hunter education program as a vital part of the vocational agri-business curriculum.

Northern News

By Stuart Goldsby
Regional Hunter Education Coordinator

Hunter Education has always been a corner stone of first experiences for beginning hunters. Many students have never been in the field before they attend our class. We literally have the ability to set in stone the direction and attitude kids will carry with them in the field as well as the rest of their life. I know from my own experience with a daughter and two young sons, kids remember more than we give them credit for, especially if it is an event which strikes home to them. Practicing in life what we preach in class is most important to future hunters and the future of hunting.

We are continually being challenged to lessen criteria or compromise the course of study we teach for reasons which tend to have nothing to do with safety. The tendency to become complacent is due to the fact that our safety record is far better than it was twenty years ago and before. We are doing a good job. The course material we teach has had little change since 1949. We sometimes think of it as common sense. But what we teach is important to the non hunting public and the future of our lifestyle. It also happens to be important to our natural world. Other states and nations depend on Alabama's hunter education instructors to do their best in the classroom just as we depend on them. Just because the information hasn't changed for many years doesn't mean that new ideas and innovations aren't useful. Try not to stand in front of the class and read from the manual for ten hours. We have treestand equipment, videos, artificial blood for trailing, non firing guns and ammo for training aids. Use them to keep your students excited, moving and interested. Make them want to come back for more. They'll appreciate it more and you will make memories that last a lifetime for them.

Remember to take a kid hunting or fishing!

Alabama Hunting and Fishing Conservation Alliance Event

The Alabama Hunting and Fishing Conservation Alliance is a group of non-government organizations from Alabama that have a common interest in promoting wise use of our natural resources. This group is participating in an event with the Boy Scouts at the Talladega Superspeedway on November 5. Approximately 10,000, (yes 10,000) boy scouts will attend the event and participate in many events coordinated by various groups. The alliance is hosting a casting, archery, and pellet gun event that will be located in the garage area of the infield of the race track. The Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries will provide 30 bows and 30 pellet guns and assist the alliance in providing instruction. Your assistance and cooperation in making this event a huge success would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Stuart Goldsby at [256-737-8732](tel:256-737-8732) or sgoldsby@bellsouth.net if you are able to assist. **This is an opportunity to practice what we teach!**

Advanced Workshops

By Stuart Goldsby



Advanced Instructor workshops were conducted at Camp Meadowbrook in Cullman County throughout the year. The final advanced workshop was led by Paul Topham, Regional Coordinator for the National Bowhunter Education Foundation. Johnny Gottler, Alabama IBEP Chairman and a volunteer hunter education instructor, assisted Paul with this successful workshop. This workshop focused on bowhunting safety and led to nine

volunteer instructors becoming certified to teach the International Bowhunter Education Program. This course is required in many states prior to purchasing an archery license. The course was very informative and led to increased knowledge regarding bowhunting safety techniques that can be applied in our basic hunter education course. Ricky Moss, Gary Suckow, and I intend to host a student course the last weekend in February at Camp Meadowbrook for any instructor wanting to obtain IBEP certification.

Shooting Range Development

The Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries has been busy developing two shooting ranges this summer. The first range was built in the Oakmulgee Division of the Talladega National Forest on the northeast corner of the Oakmulgee WMA in Hale County. It will be called the South Sandy Shooting Range and is located about 15 miles from Tuscaloosa. This range was built in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service and will open during the fall of 2005.



The second range development project was started in July on the Upper Delta WMA in Baldwin County just north of Stockton. This range is unique in that the shooters will shoot through a steel pipe at their respective targets. This is the first of its kind in Alabama and was constructed using plans from a similar range in Kentucky. Hopefully, this range will open during the spring of 2006.

The Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries is interested in range development partnerships and opportunities. Please call Ray Metzler at 1-800-245-2740 if you know of property that could possibly be developed into a public shooting range.