

ALABAMA HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS NEWSLETTER



June 12, 2006

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

Gary H. Moody, Chief
Wildlife Section

Ray Metzler
Hunter Education Coordinator

Upcoming Events

A workshop very similar to the 4-H shotgun instructor training program will be conducted at Jerry Brown's farm on the Tallapoosa/Coosa County line on June 24 from 9:00-3:00. This workshop will focus on teaching the beginning shotgunner the fundamentals of shooting. RSVP Marisa Lee-Sasser, central Alabama Regional Coordinator, at 334-242-3620 or email at Marisa.leesasser@dcnr.alabama.gov. Lunch and ammunition will be provided. You may bring your own gun if you choose.

The Alabama Hunter Education Association will provide marksmanship and firearms handling training to expo participants with the laser shot machine at the Alabama Deer Expo at the Birmingham Jefferson Convention Center on [July 21-23, 2006](#). The laser shot is a great tool to provide young kids with dominant eye, sight alignment, and sight picture basics. It allows kids to have fun but learn the basics of shooting in a fun, exciting atmosphere. Instructors assisting with the laser shot training receive a **free** entrance pass to the deer show. Please contact Ricky Moss at rmoss@steelcase.com or call (256) 233-6763 to volunteer your services for one shift at the deer show and then browse the show for the newest gadgets in the hunting world.

Stuart Goldsby will host an instructor social on Tuesday, August 1, 2006 at 6:30 PM on Lake Guntersville for instructors from Cullman, Blount, Marshall, Madison, and Jackson counties. This is intended to be a team building event for instructors to "meet and greet". A meal will be provided. Please RSVP with Stuart at 256-737-8732 or sgoldsby@bellsouth.net.

The Department of Conservation has hosted two mini-expos in south and north Alabama during the past few months. We will once again host a large expo at Oak Mountain State Park on [September 30, 2006](#). The following shooting activities are being coordinated by Marisa Lee-Sasser: beginning and advanced shotgun, .22 rifle, 3-D and target archery, pellet guns, 3 laser shot machines, and muzzleloaders. The Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries (WFF) requests your assistance in providing instruction at one of these stations. Please contact Marisa at 334-242-3620 or Marisa.leesasser@dcnr.alabama.gov to volunteer.

Hunter education staff members are trying to schedule opportunities for instructors to socialize and enjoy an afternoon of hunting during the upcoming dove and deer seasons. Additional information regarding these opportunities will be available as details are finalized.

Hunter Education Instructor Certification Workshops

Hunter Education Instructor Trainers have scheduled several hunter education instructor certification workshops for the upcoming year. The following is a summary of pertinent information regarding the scheduled workshops. Please pass this information on to anyone interested in becoming a certified hunter education instructor. Additional workshops are in the process of being scheduled.

Date	Location	HEIT	Time	Phone #
July 8, 2006	Camp Meadowbrook Cullman, AL	Stuart Goldsby	9:00 AM	256-737-8732
July 15, 2006*	Red Eagle Gun Club Childersburg, AL	Stuart Goldsby	9:00 AM	256-737-8732
Aug. 5, 2006	Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station Camp Hill, AL	Marisa Lee- Sasser	9:00 AM	334-242-3620
August 12, 2006	Shelby County Sheriff's Office Training Facility 543 McDow Road Columbiana, AL	Marisa Lee- Sasser	9:00 AM	334-242-3620
Aug. 26, 2006	Monroe County Ag. Center 334 Agriculture Drive Monroeville, AL 36461	Jack Mitchell	9:00 AM	251-862-2083

*Kenny Boggin of "Whiskers" fame will be cooking for the course at Red Eagle Gun Club in Childersburg. This workshop will have a "social" as well as "instructional" function. Please RSVP with Stuart Goldsby at 256-737-8732 or sgoldsby@bellsouth.net so plans can be made to purchase the appropriate amount of food. Any HEIT certified instructors who would like to help with this course should also contact Stuart Goldsby.

Address Changes

The individuals listed below have had recent mailings returned to the hunter education office for various reasons by the U. S. Postal Service. If you know any of these individuals, please have them call the hunter education office at 1-800-245-2740 to provide a current mailing address.

John David Smith	Evergreen, AL	Conecuh County
Roderick Reynolds	Opp, AL	Covington County
Johnny Mills	Warrior, AL	Blount County
John Lawrence	Enterprise, AL	Coffee County
Timothy Marsh	Eufaula, AL	Barbour County

AHEA UPDATE

By Ricky Moss
President of AHEA

We appreciate all instructors and their families who attended our AHEA annual banquet on June 3rd. If you did not attend, you missed a great time at the Lower Wetumpka Shotgun Shooting Club, near Montgomery. We had an enjoyable afternoon of shooting sporting clays and chowing down on some GREAT BBQ & Fixins'. Next year, we will be in the Jackson/Marshall county area around the same time. So, watch for exact dates in future newsletters or emails and make plans to attend. A suggestion was made to show appreciation to the spouses of hunter education instructors. More than likely, we will have a few prizes or awards for the spouses that attend next years banquet.



The AHEA annual event was a blast, literally. We shot sporting clays near Wetumpka and I have found a new love. We should all be so lucky to have a course like this near our home. If you have never participated,

run don't walk to the nearest range and give it a try. For those interested a little friendly wagering went on and yes **Stuart Goldsby lost by 19 birds**. Words of advice to everyone, if you plan to shoot against Marisa, bring cash.

Coming off a record year of 110 members in 2005, our 2006 Membership Goal is 150. If you are not a member of the Alabama Hunter Education Association, we continue to need you to become a member and help support our efforts for all instructors. Our premium, for this year's liability insurance, is due the last week of June. A couple of weeks ago, we received our 2nd notice for payment. Our general liability coverage is \$1,000,000 per occurrence. You are covered during your role as a hunter education instructor while in the classroom and in field activities, including shooting sports activities & hunting during mentoring situations. If you wish to be included on this year's liability coverage, send in a membership application with updated information (available from our website www.huntereducation.net) & annual dues by June 26th.

Our 2nd quarter AHEA board meeting will be coming up in August, if you have anything you want added to the agenda please send me an email or get in touch with the representative from your district.

THANKS for all you do for hunter education!

CRITICAL INFORMATION

Changes to Hunter Education Database

By Ray Metzler
Hunter Education Coordinator

The hunter education office recently began using a new system to track the status of each and every hunter education course. Implementation of this new application is being phased in as each of the applications are tested by instructors throughout the state. Prior to receiving student course materials, instructors must provide the following information to the hunter education office for input into a database: instructor name and number, county of course, type of course (traditional vs field day), location of course, start date, maximum number of students, dates and times of course, and registration information (phone number or online).

The new system allows instructors to continue to use scantron forms as in the past. However, it has the option to allow students to register for a course online through our website: <https://applications.outdooralabama.com/HunterEducation/>. The online registration process can be done in two ways. The first method creates a roster for the instructor to download prior to the beginning of the course. This method minimizes personnel time required to create a registration list or roster. Most district office personnel have been very enthusiastic about the possibility of reducing the number of phone calls regarding hunter education course registration. The second method allows the instructor to print cards and submit course information to this office electronically. We hope to move forward with increased electronic registration and data submission in the future. We believe this will expedite data collection and accuracy.

The new system verifies that student data is in a correct format and then uploaded into our database. The student data is also paired up or "married to" a course in the database by comparing instructor number, course date, and county. This enables the hunter education office to track student course information and contact instructors that fail to return student course information to this office within a 30 day period.

We hope that this new system will better serve our constituents and allow this office to obtain more accurate data regarding hunter education courses and participants.

The value of any trophy from the field depends not on its size but on the magnitude of the effort expended in its pursuit.

Aldo Leopold

Hunter Education Incentive Awards

The hunter education program changed the methodology in which incentive awards are given to instructors. Many of you received caps, belt buckles, and various prints based on the number of students you certified. The new hunter education policy and procedure manual states that incentive awards will be presented to instructors based on the number of courses in which they provide instruction. Hunter education staff members have presented instructors with various awards during the past couple of weeks. Some items were shipped to instructors via UPS or the U.S. Postal Service. Additional awards will be presented to instructors during the upcoming months as they are received from various vendors.

Lucinda's News

By Lucinda Taylor
Hunter Education Administrative Support Assistant

I began my career with the Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Hunter Education Program on March 13, 2006. I have enjoyed working with the program and look forward to many years in this capacity. I appreciate all of the instructors that have introduced themselves to me over the phone during the past months. I especially enjoyed meeting several of you during the afternoon of the AHEA banquet at Lower Wetumpka Shotgun Sports Club on June 3, 2006. I look forward to working with all of you in the upcoming future.



2005-06 Hunting Incident Summary

The 2005-06 hunting incident report has been compiled and will be available in the near future for downloading from our website. The WFF would like to make this and other documents available through our website to minimize the cost of distribution. Please send Ray Metzler, Hunter Education Coordinator, an email at ray.metzler@dcnr.alabama.gov to begin receiving electronic correspondence. We will probably begin printing only hard copies for those instructors that choose not to receive electronic correspondence. Sending correspondence via email is extremely cost effective. Please visit <http://www.outdooralabama.com/hunting/education/instructor/> to download a copy of the current hunting incident report.

"In the end we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; and we will understand only what we have been taught."

--Baba Dioum, Africa

Something to Raise Your Spirits

Seen in the Texas Hunter Education Program Newsletter
Revised to reflect Alabama WFF

This story has been passed around many times and has been changed somewhat from the original author's version to fit the situation. Please read and absorb it for what it is worth and apply it to your life as needed.

A young man went to his father and told him about his life and how things were so hard for him. He did not know how he was going to make it and wanted to give up. He was tired of fighting and struggling.

It seemed as one problem was solved, a new one arose. His father took him on a camping trip and shared the following during that time. After camp was set up and the fire was glowing nicely with hot coals, he filled three pots with water and placed each on the fire. Soon the pots came to a boil. In the first he placed carrots; in the second he placed eggs; and in the last he placed ground coffee beans. He let them sit and boil, without saying a word.

In about 20 minutes he removed them from the fire to cool. He fished the carrots out and placed them in a bowl. He pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. Then, he ladled the coffee out and placed it in a cup. Turning to his son, he asked, "Tell me what you see." "Carrots, eggs and coffee," he replied. His father brought him closer and asked him to feel the carrots. He did and noted that they were soft. The father then asked the son to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, he observed the hard boiled egg.

Finally, the father asked the son to sip the coffee. The son smiled as he tasted it and smelled its rich aroma. The son then asked, "What does it mean, father?" His father explained that each of these objects had faced the same adversity...boiling water. Each reacted differently. The carrot went in strong, hard and unrelenting. However, after being subjected to the boiling water, it softened and became weak.

The egg had been fragile. Its thin outer shell had protected its liquid interior, but after sitting through the boiling water, its inside became hardened. The ground coffee beans were unique, however. After they were in the boiling water, they had changed the water in color and aroma.

"Which are you?" he asked his son. "When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a carrot, an egg or a coffee bean?"

Think of this: Ask yourself, which am I? Am I the carrot that seems strong - but with pain and adversity, do I wilt and become soft and lose my strength? Am I the egg that starts with a malleable heart, but changes with the heat? Did I have a fluid spirit, but after a death, a breakup, a financial hardship or some other trial, have I become hardened and stiff? Does my shell look the same, but on the inside am I bitter and tough with a stiff spirit and hardened heart?

Or am I like the coffee bean? The bean actually changes the hot water, the very circumstance that brings the pain. When the water gets hot, it releases the flavor and fragrance. If you are like the bean, when things are at their worst, you get better and change the situation around you. Only YOU can do that.

When the hour is the darkest and trials are their greatest, do you elevate yourself to another level? How do you handle adversity? Are you a carrot, an egg or a coffee bean?

May you have enough happiness to make you sweet, enough trials to make you strong, enough sorrow to keep you human and enough hope to make you happy. The happiest of people don't necessarily have the best of everything; they just make the most of everything that comes their way. The brightest future will always be based on a forgotten past; you can't go forward in life until you let go of your past failures and heartaches.

We have all endured times of trouble and often wanted to give up. The challenge is to overcome adversity and make the best of any situation.

We have the greatest instructors in the world and I am very proud to work with each and every one of you. Anytime you feel the need to vent, discuss, request assistance or just want to say "Hello," I am always willing and will be there. Thanks for all you do for Hunter Education, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries, WFF and the hunters of Alabama and for supporting the efforts to *continue the heritage of hunting for future generations*.

Remember, "Do well your part, for there all honor lies."

WFF Hunter Education Employee Staff Contact Information

Ray Metzler - Hunter Education Coordinator

Phone: (334) 242-3620 or Ray.Metzler@dcnr.alabama.gov

Stuart Goldsby - Regional Hunter Education Coordinator (North Alabama)

Phone: (256) 737-8732 or sgoldsby@bellsouth.net

Marisa Lee-Sasser - Regional Hunter Education Coordinator (Central Alabama)

Phone: (334) 242-3620 or Marisa.LeeSasser@dcnr.alabama.gov

James Altieri - Regional Hunter Education Coordinator (South Alabama)

Phone: (334) 222-5415 or James.Altiere@dcnr.alabama.gov

NORTHERN NEWS

By Stuart R. Goldsby
Regional Coordinator

There is a lot happening in the north Alabama area with hunter education. Hunter education courses taught during the past couple of months have not been well attended. Although they are small when compared to most fall courses, they do provide a public service to some constituents that need hunter education. Manpower involved to conduct these courses with low participation has been an issue of concern. Having a team of instructors in place really pays off when having to conduct courses on a monthly basis is necessary. Teams can share the responsibility of teaching courses and no one individual is overburdened with the majority of the workload. Division employees in charge of a course should stay in contact with volunteers this time of year and volunteers can make contact with employees by contacting the District offices. This way no one gets overworked unless they are the type who likes to be there. As a reminder, smaller courses can be taught in an evening during the week so not to take up your valuable weekends.

The new "Hunters Handbooks" have been delivered to the warehouse and are available for distribution along with your other course materials. The "Hunters Handbook" is a leaflet published by the hunting industry that highlights various hunting products and provides educational information young hunters may enjoy. Be sure to request copies for your students when you call the hunter education office to request student course materials. That is it for now from the North, but remember if you need anything contact me at sgoldsby@bellsouth.net and remember to take a kid hunting.