

# ALABAMA HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS NEWSLETTER



February 5, 2007

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

Gary H. Moody, Chief  
Wildlife Section

Ray Metzler  
Hunter Education Coordinator

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## NO FATALITIES THIS DEER SEASON

We are happy to report for the first time since records began in 1973 that this past deer season, which ended on January 31, 2007, there were no firearms or tree stand related fatal incidents. Alabama's hunting incident rate has decreased since the mandatory hunter education program was implemented in 1993. Nine non-fatal firearms incidents have been reported since the opening of dove season in September and only four of the nine occurred as a result of deer hunting activities. Eight non-fatal tree stand incidents have been reported since the opening of the archery deer season on October 15, 2006. **We appreciate your cooperation and assistance in promoting safe, responsible hunting through the Alabama Hunter Education Program.** Your efforts have been significant and have long lasting effects on Alabama's hunting heritage.

## County or Regional Social Gatherings - Your Input is Needed!

Regional Hunter Education Coordinators want to meet with volunteer groups or "teams" around the state to discuss the hunter education program and fall hunter education courses. These gatherings are extremely beneficial and allow our agency to ensure there are adequate courses offered to fill the needs of potential hunter education students. Each of us also wants to provide you with an opportunity for advanced instruction related to hunter education. **Please contact your respective regional hunter education coordinator if you want to host a gathering of volunteers from your county or have a particular subject matter in mind for advanced workshops. Please share this information with us.**

Stuart Goldsby - Regional Coordinator (North Alabama) Phone: (256) 737-8732 or [sgoldsby@bellsouth.net](mailto:sgoldsby@bellsouth.net)

Marisa Lee-Sasser - Regional Coordinator (Central Alabama) Phone: (334) 242-3620 or [Marisa.LeeSasser@dcnr.alabama.gov](mailto:Marisa.LeeSasser@dcnr.alabama.gov)

James Altieri - Regional Coordinator (South Alabama) Phone: (334) 222-5415 or [James.Altiere@dcnr.alabama.gov](mailto:James.Altiere@dcnr.alabama.gov)

Newly elected AHEA District 5 board member, Randall Gautney, has scheduled a meeting of interested instructors from southwest Alabama to discuss several topics including the inaugural south Alabama YHEC event and the scheduling of hunter education courses. The meeting is scheduled for the Daphne United Methodist Church, 2401 Main Street, Daphne at 6:00 PM on February 15. Pizza and soft drinks will be served. Please RSVP Randall at [rdgautney@bellsouth.net](mailto:rdgautney@bellsouth.net).



# Alabama Hunter Education Association



## Membership Application

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ County # \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Wildlife District      1      2      3      4      5      6      (Circle)

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

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

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Make check payable to: AHEA

Return to: Ricky Moss, 20621 Edgewood Road, Athens, AL 35614

### Lifetime License Winner

The AHEA board recently concluded their annual fundraiser at the February 3 board meeting at Oak Mountain State Park. Susan Foster, past AHEA board member from District 6, sold the winning ticket to Hunter Paul of Greenville, AL. He will receive a lifetime hunting and fishing license in the near future.

# Lucinda's News

By Lucinda Taylor

Hunter Education Administrative Support Assistant

It has been almost one year since I started working with the hunter education program. I like to stay busy, but late fall and early winter were especially hectic. Hopefully, we can reduce the organized "chaos" during this upcoming hunter education season by utilizing our website to a higher degree for online registration and dissemination of course information.

We urge anyone that may be holding on to scantron cards, class report forms and other hunter education documents from previous courses to submit them to this office as soon as possible. We just recently received documents from six hunter education courses from one instructor dating back to the fall of 2000. It is impossible to issue replacement cards to students if this office has not received the original documents to upload into the hunter education databases. It is the instructors commitment to make sure course documents are accurate and promptly forwarded to this office.

About nine months ago, we started using a new system to track outgoing and incoming course materials. It appears to be working, but we have asked our information technology staff to "tweak" it some during the upcoming months. Hopefully, these changes will take place in the near future and allow us to better serve you and our other constituents.

## 4th Annual Alabama NASP State Championship

Alabama's fourth annual NASP state championship will be held on April 26, 2007 at the Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center in Birmingham. The Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries is expecting 800 - 900 students to compete in this event. **This event will require the assistance of about 100 volunteers to score targets, provide instruction, and perform many of the other essential functions of an event this large. Your support and cooperation in making this event a huge success is greatly needed!**



Please mark your calendars and make plans to attend this event. Call Marisa Lee-Sasser, Regional Hunter Education Coordinator, at 1-800-245-2740 or email her at [Marisa.Lee-Sasser@dcnr.alabama.gov](mailto:Marisa.Lee-Sasser@dcnr.alabama.gov) to confirm your availability to assist with this event.

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*"A peculiar virtue in wildlife ethics is that the hunter ordinarily has no gallery to applaud or disapprove of his conduct. Whatever his acts, they are dictated by his own conscience, rather than a mob of onlookers. It is difficult to exaggerate the importance of this fact."*

*Aldo Leopold*

## NORTHERN NEWS

By Stuart Goldsby, Regional Hunter Education Coordinator  
[sgoldsby@bellsouth.net](mailto:sgoldsby@bellsouth.net) or (256) 737-8732

I am interested in hosting an International Hunter Education Association (IHEA) Rendezvous with an emphasis on advanced treestand safety instruction. Gary Berlin, IHEA Executive Director and Marilyn Bentz, Executive Director of the National Bowhunter Education Foundation (NBEF), and I met briefly in Orlando at this years southeastern hunter education conference to discuss the possibility of co-hosting a workshop which would include a certification in treestand safety instruction. The workshop agenda and certification is the result of a partnership between the Treestand Manufacturer's Association and the NBEF. This multi state workshop will be open to all certified instructors and retailers and will take considerable planning and a lot of help from our state ranks to make it a success and allow our hunter education program to shine! Please share your thoughts with me in the near future or no later than February 28 since planning should begin immediately.

Planning for this year's AHEA annual event is almost complete and it promises to be a very fun filled weekend. The event June 2-3 will take place on the border of Marshall and Jackson counties in Kennamer Cove. Beginning at 10:00 AM on Saturday events will include a tour of Cathedral Caverns, 5-stand shotgun, a visit with 250,000 bats at Sauta Cave, and a dinner and awards banquet hosted by Kennamer Cove Trading Post. The weekend will be concluded on Sunday with a hike to the Walls of Jericho, a Cherokee Sunrise Celebration and some good old fashioned cowboy action shooting. Other events will be included and more information will be forthcoming with registration information.

The upcoming year promises to be very busy for the hunter education staff, instructors, and volunteers. I truly believe the more we do to stay connected with each other and the public through events and activities the more successful and fulfilled our lives will be in our quest to make Alabama a safe, responsible, and knowledgeable leader in Hunter Education.

## Increased Communication

At the recent Alabama Hunter Education Association board meeting, several volunteer board members brought up the need for additional timely communication at the local level regarding upcoming courses. For this reason, the hunter education staff will be developing an electronic address book sorted by county to notify hunter education instructors of upcoming events. At the same time, I encourage all Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries employees to notify volunteer instructors of upcoming courses in your county. If you haven't already done so, we sincerely request you provide us with an email address to facilitate the distribution of newsletters and other pertinent information regarding the hunter education program. Please provide Ray Metzler, Hunter Education Coordinator, with a valid email address. Ray can be contacted at 1-800-245-2740 or [ray.metzler@dcnr.alabama.gov](mailto:ray.metzler@dcnr.alabama.gov). This office does not have a valid email address on file if you did not receive this newsletter via email on February 5, 2007.