

ALABAMA HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS NEWSLETTER



July 2, 2007

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

Gary H. Moody, Chief
Wildlife Section

Ray Metzler
Hunter Education Coordinator

Changes to the Mandatory Hunter Education Law

Enclosed with this newsletter is an insert for your "Alabama Hunter Education Policy and Procedure Manual". This insert is the text for the current mandatory hunter education law. Please remove pages 5-7 from your hunter education manual and insert the attached amended version of the law. The Alabama legislature recently approved a revision to the law at the request of our agency. The revised law allows a person born on or after August 1, 1977 to purchase a license without completing a hunter education course. Individuals purchasing the "supervision required" license must be accompanied by a properly licensed adult 21 years of age or older and be within normal voice control not to exceed 30 feet. Under no circumstances shall the supervising hunter be the holder of a "supervision required" license. This change in the law was requested to allow new hunters an opportunity to participate in our hunting heritage without completing a hunter education course. Hunting incident statistics indicate that beginning hunters accompanied by properly licensed adults are very safety conscious.



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES

Alabama Hunter Education
Policy and Procedure Manual

Upcoming Events

<u>Date and Time</u>	<u>Function</u>
July 14 8:00 AM	Instructor Certification Course Phenix City Police Dept. Range, Russell Co. Marisa.leesasser@dcnr.alabama.gov 1-800-245-2740

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Alabama Hunter Education Association

By Pam Jackson, RN MSN

AHEA Secretary and District 2 Board Member

Questions have recently been brought up about the AHEA board and its constitution. Any AHEA member may nominate themselves or another member to serve on the board as a district representative. The Hunter Education Coordinator of the Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries also has a position on the board. Regional hunter education coordinators attend board meetings but do not vote on issues related to the operation of AHEA. Officers such as President and Secretary are elected from within the group of district representatives currently serving on the board. The president of the group may only hold one office, but other officers may hold more than one. The president may appoint a non-board member to serve in any of these offices if the board seats are not all filled.

The board positions are voted on every four years on a revolving basis; therefore every year there are some changes to the board if the district so desires, however there is also some stability, because not every one changes at once. My husband was elected in District 2 in 2001 I believe, however because of demands of his job he could not fulfill his two years, therefore the President at that time appointed me to fill his position which is allowed in the by-laws. I was later voted in by the members of my District and will serve until the end of this year. At this time a new person can become a member of the board or I may continue if the membership wishes. In any event nominations will be held the last quarter of the year with voting of the membership the first of next year.

In November of 2005 our current president and board members voted to allow Mike Gooch to be our treasurer, because we were lacking a full board. He is currently Treasurer and I am the Secretary and as you know Ricky Moss is our President.

As board members we work on strategies to encourage more participants in Hunter Education as well as plan different opportunities for the group to get together. Since we are all volunteer instructors we like to plan events for our instructors to get a huge THANK YOU or perhaps another award. We love to have the opportunity to share ideas about our passion, which is teaching safe, ethical hunting and conservation. In addition we like to be an encouragement to others who may not share this lifestyle.

As we continue to get new instructors and new members please don't hesitate to ask about what our objectives are and how you can help. Being a board member requires extra travel to four meetings a year as well as help with outside projects whenever needed. This generally requires a "little" extra work, but a lot of rewards as we see the organization grow and realize that we had a part in the safest hunting season on record!

New Report on Hunting and Fishing Available

A new report based primarily on the results of previous National Surveys of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation shows that recruitment rates of children in hunting and fishing have stabilized after declining through the 1990's.

The report sheds light on numerous questions regarding fishing and hunting recruitment and retention. What percentage of children in the U.S. households have ever been exposed to these activities. How much did this percentage change from 1990 to 2005? At what age do individuals tend to stop fishing and hunting? How do recruitment and retention rates compare among different socio-economic groups? How does the participation of parents affect children's participation?

The document, Fishing and Hunting Recruitment and Retention in the U.S. from 1990 to 2005 is available at http://library.fw.gov/nat_survey2001_recruitment.pdf. It is based on a preliminary review of information being compiled for the 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, and on information collected by the 1991, 1996, and 2001 surveys. The survey, conducted every 5 years, is one of the nation's most important wildlife recreation databases. The survey is conducted at the request of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. The U.S. Census Bureau collects the information, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service analyzes the results and writes the reports. The survey is considered to be the most definitive source of information concerning participation and expenditures associated with hunting, fishing and other forms of wildlife recreation nationwide.

From 1990 to 2000 there was a steady decline in the percentage of children living at home who had ever participated in fishing and hunting. During the past five years this decline has stabilized. Now, 42 percent of our nation's youth have gone fishing and 8 percent have gone hunting at least once. The report also shows that many first-time hunters and anglers—about 33 percent of all first-timers—are 21 years old and older.

The report also shows that recruitment declined the least among those with higher incomes, those living in less populated areas of the United States, and those living in the north central regions. In contrast, the greatest declines were found among people with the lowest incomes, those living in urban areas, and those in the New England, Pacific, and Rocky Mountain regions.

Hunting retention rates look better. Hunting retention rates leveled off in the last five years. During this period, the conservation community maintained 43 percent of hunters after losing 4 percent from 1990 to 1995 and 2 percent from 1995 to 2000.

The survey is funded by a portion of an excise tax on firearms, ammunition, archery and fishing equipment, and a tax on small-engine boat fuel. A wide range of individuals and groups depend on the survey to analyze hunting and fishing participation, total monies spent on outdoor recreation, and demographic characteristics of different wildlife-dependent recreation groups.

CPSC and Hunter's View Announce Recall of Safety Harnesses Sold with Treestands

The U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and Hunter's View of Peoria, IL announced a voluntary recall of approximately 500,000 safety harnesses. The 2004 model year Fall Arrest Systems (harnesses) have model number 3333 and Model Year 2004 written on a white label attached to the harness or the tree strap. These harnesses were included with every Hunters View and Comfort Zone brand tree stand sold under 47 different names and models. They were sold by many hunting and sporting good stores nationwide, including some of the bigger retailers, beginning in January 2004 for between \$100.00 and \$300.00. Consumers should stop using these harnesses immediately and contact Hunters View at 888-878-0440 or www.huntersview.com to receive a free replacement harness.

Outdoor Edge Offers Discount to Hunter Education Instructors

Outdoor Edge, a manufacturer of knives and other cutlery items, will allow certified hunter education instructors to purchase up to four items annually at **75% below MSRP**. They made this offer at the recent International Hunter Education Association conference in Baton Rouge, LA. Please visit their website at www.outdooredge.com to view their products and then request the electronic order forms from Ray Metzler, Hunter Education Coordinator, at ray.metzler@dcnr.alabama.gov.

Auburn Vo-Ag Workshop

An advanced workshop was held for Vocational Agri-business teachers that are certified to teach hunter education at Auburn University on June 26-28, 2007. Activities included a visit to the mammalogy/herpetology museum for a short tour and discussions regarding Alabama's zoological history. Discussions also focused on changes to Alabama's mandatory hunter education law, antlered buck harvest restrictions, and hunting license price changes. Barry Hagan, a volunteer hunter education instructor from Talladega County and owner of Sylacauga Motorsports, provided a short course on ATV safety. Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries employees provided instruction on firearms handling and marksmanship at a field day conducted at the Auburn Police Department firing range.

Another workshop for vocational agri-business teachers will be conducted at Auburn University beginning at 1:00 PM on July 10 through noon on July 12. This workshop will be for teachers that are not certified to teach the hunter education program. Training will consist of a complete student course and instructor workshop. Please share this information with any vocational agri-business teachers that may be interested in becoming a certified hunter education instructor.



Matthew Whisenant, Vo-Ag teacher at Hokes Bluff High School, receives the top gun award from Stuart Goldsby. The custom made knife was made by John Harbuck of Florida, AL.

Shooting Range Update

The Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries began construction on the Athens Community Archery Park in May. The archery park is located directly behind the Athens High School and adjacent to the Athens Park and Recreation facility and is being built through a cooperative agreement with the City of Athens and the Archery Trade Association. We expect to finish the range during the summer or early fall. The range consists of four youth targets from 5-20 yards and eight adult targets from 15-50 yards. Plans are being discussed to include an elevated platform and ground blind with 3-D targets to allow bowhunters an opportunity to practice under simulated hunting conditions.

We should also begin construction on a firearms range located between Linden and Demopolis, AL in Marengo County later on this summer. The range site is near a reclaimed county landfill and provides an excellent area for local shooting enthusiasts to enjoy the shooting sports. Hopefully this range will be completed prior to the beginning of gun deer season. Construction plans include a 6-10 bench rifle/pistol range and an area for shotguns and clay targets. This range is a cooperative effort between our agency and the Marengo County Commission. Local shooting enthusiasts worked diligently for approximately one year to find a suitable location for the development of a public shooting range. We sincerely appreciate their efforts and look forward to this cooperative effort to provide citizens of west central Alabama with an area to enjoy Alabama's rich shooting heritage.

Please contact Ray Metzler, Hunter Education Coordinator, at 1-800-245-2740 or ray.metzler@dcnr.alabama.gov if you know of a potential site for the development of a public firearms or archery range. We firmly believe that 50 years from now, our constituents and descendants will be very grateful for our efforts to develop this facilities.

Significant Changes for the 2007-08 Hunting Season

Several changes were made to the seasons and bag limits for the upcoming hunting season. A 3 buck limit per hunter was established with the intent of reducing the antlered buck harvest and improving antler quality. Two bucks can be hunter's choice but the third must have at least 4 points on one side. Hopefully, hunter's that have limited their antlered buck harvest in the past will not be encouraged to change their hunting strategies and self imposed harvest restrictions.

Deer and turkey hunters will be required to possess and complete a self-validated "tag" each time they harvest a buck or gobbler. These self validated tags will be available online at www.outdooralabama.com and in the season digest. Information regarding the "self-validated" tag is outlined on the following pages.

"Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you will land among the stars."

Les Brown

ANTLERED BUCK AND TURKEY HARVEST RECORD

A mandatory hunter harvest record is in effect this season. It is illegal for a hunter to field dress or move an antlered buck or turkey before dating a hunter harvest record (see example below). This record will be provided on all licenses. For license exempt or lifetime license hunters, a sample form is provided below.

If someone other than the hunter is transporting a harvested antlered buck or turkey, the individual transporting the antlered buck or turkey **MUST** have in their possession written documentation including name, address, license number (if applicable), telephone number, date of harvest and signature of the person who harvested the antlered buck or turkey, until it is processed and stored in a cooler or freezer at one's residence or delivered to a commercial processing plant.

YOU MAY USE THESE FORMS OR USE THEM AS EXAMPLES TO MAKE YOUR OWN

Name _____
License No. (if applicable) _____

Antlered Buck and Turkey Harvest Record

Record before field dressing or moving carcass.

Antlered Buck ___/___/___ (date of harvest)

Antlered Buck ___/___/___ (date of harvest)

Antlered Buck – 4 pts, 1" or longer, on one antler ___/___/___ (date of harvest)

Turkey Harvest Record

___/___/___ ___/___/___ ___/___/___ ___/___/___ ___/___/___
(date of harvest) (date of harvest) (date of harvest) (date of harvest) (date of harvest)

DONATION CERTIFICATE

Use this certificate to give an antlered buck or turkey to someone.

I, _____ hereby give to: _____
the following buck deer or turkey (insert description): _____
on _____, 20___. This animal(s) was taken by me under Alabama Hunting License
_____ on _____, 20__.

DONOR

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____ Signature: _____