

ALABAMA HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS NEWSLETTER



February 19, 2007

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

Gary H. Moody, Chief
Wildlife Section

Ray Metzler
Hunter Education Coordinator

HUNTING INCIDENT UPDATE

Treestand related incidents continue to be the primary cause of injuries to hunters during the hunting season. Twelve non-fatal treestand incidents occurred during the 2007-08 deer season. Most of the incidents occurred while the victim was either climbing into or descending to the ground. Proper use of a full body harness and climbing system that keeps hunters attached to the tree would minimize falls and injuries.

One fatal firearms incident has occurred since the beginning of the current hunting season. The two party incident occurred in Henry County and involved an 18 year old shooter and 15 year old victim. The 15 year old victim was wearing a blaze orange cap but had it covered up with the hood of his sweatshirt. The incident occurred in an densely wooded area dominated by pine monoculture. A total of four non-fatal firearms incidents have occurred in Jackson, Chambers, Choctaw, and Winston counties. All four incidents occurred while deer hunting and involved a shooter and victim. Three of the four incidents involved victims being mistaken for game.

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.

5th Annual Alabama NASP State Championship

Alabama's fifth annual NASP state championship will be held on May 1, 2008 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 130**



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 to confirm your availability to assist with this event.

District II News

Barry Hagan, AHEA Zone II Director

Alabama Hunter Education Association members from District II appreciate the five years of service and contributions that Pam Jackson provided to hunter education as a representative on the AHEA board. She provided great leadership and worked to promote AHEA and the benefits of safe, responsible hunting.

Members of the Talladega County hunter education team are planning to host a social for all instructors within District II. Details regarding this event will be provided in the near future. We urge all instructors in District II to attend as these events provide an opportunity to discuss upcoming events, participation, recruitment, and new ideas regarding AHEA and Alabama's hunter education efforts.

Talladega County instructors provided two hunter education students with a guided fishing trip on Lake Logan Martin and a deer hunt. These trips were provided by local citizens and were intended to offer an exciting outdoor adventure for two lucky hunter education students. We hope to offer these opportunities each year to a lucky recipient that participated in a hunter education course in Talladega County.

ALABAMA WILDLIFE FEDERATION
2008 GOVERNOR'S CONSERVATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS
NOMINATION FORM AND GUIDELINES

Candidate

Name: _____
Street Address: _____
City, State, Zip _____
Daytime Phone _____ Fax Number _____

Nominator

Name: _____
Street Address: _____
City, State, Zip _____
Daytime Phone _____ Fax Number _____

Category (check one or more as appropriate)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Conservationist of the Year | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hunter Safety Instructor of the Year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Judicial Conservationist of the Year | <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative Conservationist of the Year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Enforcement Officer of the Year | <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Organization of the Year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Communicator of the Year | <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Educator of the Year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Conservationist of the Year | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Conservationist of the Year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soil Conservationist of the Year | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Conservationist of the Year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Conservationist of the Year | <input type="checkbox"/> Conservationist of the Year |

The Committee may consider this nomination for other categories as appropriate

Items to be submitted with Nomination Form

- ➔ Nomination Letter – As the nominator, submit a one-page letter stating why you believe the candidate is deserving of the appropriate Governor's Conservation Achievement Award.
- ➔ Letters of Support – Include two, one-page letters of support for your nomination of the candidate.
- ➔ Documentation of Conservation Activities – Summarize, up to a maximum of three pages, the conservation accomplishments of the candidate.
- ➔ Attachments – Attachments may include newspaper and magazine articles copied onto 8-1/2 x 11 paper. Videos, tapes, etc. should not be submitted.
- ➔ Presentation – Staples, notebooks, or other forms of binding should not be used. Simply gem clip this Nomination Form and the above referenced materials together and mail to:

Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries
Attn: Ray Metzler
64 North Union Street
Montgomery, AL 36130

- ➔ NOMINATION DEADLINE: April 29, 2008

AHEA NEWS FROM DISTRICT 1

Ricky Moss, AHEA President and Zone 1 Director

Can you believe another hunting season has flown by and it's time to start a new year of hunter education? We finished up our local classes for 2007 on December 15th with a field day in Cullman and started the 2008 season on January 22nd with another field day in Cullman. Just a few years ago we were really busy in March, August & November, now we're busy all 12 months. With the additional courses, we don't have much time for a break. It's pretty much a year round job for us as volunteers. I haven't seen final numbers, but I feel the total student count for 2007 will be down; even though the number of courses taught has increased.

A big THANK YOU goes to Pati and Hannah Goldsby for preparing a great feast of pheasant, quail, grouse, goose & duck with all the trimmings following our field day on December 15th. Also, we appreciate Caleb, Colter & Stuart for the sharing of their bountiful harvest. We had over 25 instructors who enjoyed the meal and helped with the certification of 79 new hunter education graduates.

It is renewal time for your membership in AHEA. For annual members, your membership expires on December 31st of each year. Members who renew by March 31st will continue on without a 12 month lapse in their volunteer liability insurance coverage.

We didn't quite achieve our membership goal for 2007, but with your help we'll surpass our '06 numbers in 2008. We're proud to have you with us on our trek to become a statewide organization of hunter education instructors.

To renew, simply log onto your website at

<http://www.huntereducation.net/ahea/joinform.htm>

You can print the form or use the one in this newsletter and mail it to us at AHEA, 20621 Edgewood Road, Athens, AL 35614.

This year please take the opportunity to get to know your local instructors by attending one of your district socials. Our first AHEA social, in District I, for 2008 will be on March 22nd beginning around 12:00 noon, following the completion of our field day. We'll have the meet, greet & eat event at the new Athens Community Archery Park just behind the Athens High School. Bring your personal archery equipment or tryout the "one size fits all" Matthews Genesis bow on our new archery range. **RSVP is required to plan for food.** So give me a call at 256-233-6763 or send me an email rmoss@steelcase.com to reserve your place at the table!

Thanks to each of you for all you do for the association and our hunter education program.

**SEVENTH ANNUAL
AHEA ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER AND EVENTS
JUNE 6-7, 2008
SCHEDULED EVENTS**

Friday June 6, 2008

5:00 PM – Until – Dinner at Islamorada Restaurant at Bass Pro in Prattville. We have the entire porch reserved for ourselves. Tour the store afterwards, fish feeding at 7:00 PM.

Saturday June 7, 2008

Choices of: (Pick two – will have two sessions, one before lunch and one after depending on demand)

Lower Wetumpka Shotgun Sports Club - This complex offers a sporting clays course, a covered 5-stand, wobble trap, skeet and archery.

Hank Williams Museum - The Official Hank Williams Museum is located in Downtown Montgomery where Hank lived from 1937 - 1953. Come and visit the place where the man who left his mark on the Musical world, will inevitably leave his mark on you. The Museum houses Hank's 1952 Cadillac in which he made his final journey. Oakwood Cemetery, which is the resting place of Hank and Audrey Williams, is located only five minutes away of the Museum. A life size statue of Hank is located in Lister Hill park in Downtown Montgomery, just across from the City Auditorium where Hank's funeral service was held. They will have a jamboree with local musicians from 1-4:00 PM that day.

Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts – Oldest fine arts museum in Alabama houses outstanding collection of American paintings and sculpture. Artists represented among its holdings include Rembrandt, Whistler, Copely, Peale, Goya, Homer, Sargent, Hopper and Church. Weil Collection of Old Master Prints. Southern regional art, porcelain and glass collection, decorative arts. Art works interactive gallery for children of all ages. Gift shop and café. In June they will have original illustrations from the Babar children's book, a centennial celebration of Karsh, a photographer known for famous photos of Audrey Hepburn and Winston Churchill and also photos by Lynn Saville, known for photos taken at night, for a unique perspective.

Jasmine Hill Gardens – Jasmine Hill Gardens and Outdoor Museum, "Alabama's Little Corner of Greece", now features over 20 acres of year-round floral beauty and classical sculpture, including new statuary honoring Olympic heroes and mythical gods. The Olympian Centre welcomes visitors with a video presentation of Jasmine Hill's history and a display of Olympic memorabilia from the Games of past years. A tour of Jasmine Hill, now completely accessible to visitors with disabilities, offers spectacular and ever-changing views, including our full-scale replica of the Temple of Hera ruins as found in Olympia, Greece, the birthplace of the Olympic Flame.

Montgomery Zoo - Penetrate deep into the jungles of South America. Travel the savannahs of Africa or the hilltops of Asia. Venture the tall grasses of the North American plains. See the Zebras graze on the plains while white tigers roam nearby. Or just visit your Montgomery Zoo and see it all. If you haven't been to the Zoo in a while, you are missing out on a fun-packed and educational adventure. Our residents include over 500 animals from five different continents, all housed in natural, barrier-free habitats. The Zoo spans over 40 beautifully landscaped acres, offering you a magnificent view of exotic wildlife and endangered species. By leisurely stroll, or with a ride on the miniature train, the Montgomery Zoo is a sight to see!

12:00 Noon - BBQ lunch – Lower Wetumka Shotgun Sports Club

6:00 – Until – Banquet at Mann Museum in Montgomery followed by a private tour with George Mann himself!

Mann Museum - Feel the fur of a wolf or bear.....The Mann Wildlife Learning Museum at the Montgomery Zoo lets you get closer to wildlife than you ever thought possible. Our museum includes one of the nation's finest collections of professionally presented North American wildlife. Bear, wolf, moose and much, much, more, all in displays that allow you to view them from all sides. The collection also includes freshwater and saltwater fish, reptiles, birds, small mammals and more. Of course, our main attractions are the larger mammals and all the carnivores. We have complete families of North American bear, deer, fox, skunk and cat, to name a few. All are shown in realistically created environments including painted mural backdrops depicting the natural habitat of the animal. Each recreated environment helps explain nature's delicate balance. Adding to the realism, are the authentic sounds of animals and several 'touch and feel' exhibits to further enhance your experience. There's also a little of the past with fossils and displays relating to saber-tooth tigers, wolves, woolly mammoth and other creatures from prehistoric times. With 28,000 square feet of display area, we cover just about everything that's wild in North America. With an emphasis on conservation, it's the best place to learn about our continent's diverse wildlife and habitats. Surrounded by 40 acres of flora and wildlife from five continents, the Montgomery Zoo offers an abundance of wildlife in their natural habitats. Families will enjoy visiting both the Mann Wildlife Learning Museum and the Montgomery Zoo. Together these organizations are dedicated to wildlife conservation through education.

Sunday June 8, 2008 – Optional

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Marisa Lee-Sasser at marisa.leesasser@dcnr.alabama.gov or (334) 242-3867.

District VI News

Jerry Riley, District VI AHEA Zone Director

I was recently elected to the AHEA board as the Zone Director for District VI. I appreciate the opportunity to serve on the board and will hopefully be an asset to AHEA and the volunteer instructors in southeast Alabama. The Fort Rucker team of volunteer instructors will attend the Outdoor Adventures Expo at Ft. Rucker on February 23. We plan to have a booth to provide the public with information regarding hunter education.

A district social will be scheduled to provide an opportunity for volunteer instructors to gather and discuss items related to Alabama's hunter education efforts. Please feel free to contact me riley@graceba.net at any time to discuss hunter education.

Link Change for Instructors on Instructor Only Site

The website link for the instructor only site has changed to the following address: <https://huntered.dcnr.alabama.gov/Instructors>. Please make this revision to your favorites on the Internet Explorer toolbar on your computer. Our internet services staff recently notified us of this change. The address change was necessary to fulfill encryption security certificates.

Looney Notes

By Karen Looney, Hunter Ed Secretary

Hello to everyone! My name is Karen, and I will be the new voice you hear when you call the Hunter Ed office. This is a new experience for me, learning all about wildlife and hunting. If anyone has any tips or advice that might be helpful to me, I would greatly appreciate it! I am looking forward to meeting and working with everyone in the near future. Also, I ask that everyone bear with me during the learning process, and in return I promise to be an expert, or at least somewhat, by the opening of the 2008-2009 hunting season. If I can assist in any way, please feel free to contact me at 1-800-245-2740.

Abbott's Info

By Brett Abbott, Biologist Aide - Hunter Education Program

I have been an employee with the Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries for over 19 years as a Biologist Aide in Autauga County. I moved to the hunter education office in October 2007. My primary responsibility is to input all data from hunter education courses taught throughout the state. I have enjoyed my short tenure with the hunter education program and look forward to a long career working with the dedicated volunteers and employees that promote safe, responsible hunting through the Alabama Hunter Education Program.

Several issues have risen since I began inputting hunter education data that need to be brought to the attention of all instructors. Please send in all data, including scantron forms, for each student involved in a hunter education class - even if they fail. For those doing the on-line classes, after printing cards, please remember to submit data by completing the "Class Completion" process on the website - including pressing the "Report Complete" button. Please demonstrate to students how to properly fill out the scantron forms and check them before class ends. I am looking forward to working with you!

Athens Community Archery Park

The Athens Community Archery Park grand opening event was February 28, 2008 at 1:00 PM. The Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries partnered with the Archery Trade Association and City of Athens to construct the new facility. This range provides opportunities for individuals, families, groups, school students, clubs, and organizations to enjoy archery. The new state of the art facility is equipped with four youth targets (5-20 yards), eight adult targets (15-50 yards), and a 12-foot elevated platform with 3-D and Olympic style targets available for bowhunters to simulate shooting or hunting from a treestand. A simulated ground blind is also available for bowhunters to practice shooting from a kneeling or seated position.



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 2 board meeting in Montgomery. Susan Foster, past AHEA board member from District 6, sold the winning ticket to Todd Whigham of Greenville, AL. He will receive a lifetime hunting and fishing license in the near future.