

# ALABAMA HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS NEWSLETTER



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## IHEA Peer Review

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I recently assisted the International Hunter Education Association (IHEA) with a peer review of the Louisiana Hunter Education Program. The review process took 3.5 days and entailed a series of interviews of personnel from all levels of the hunter education program. The process was designed to provide a summary of unbiased findings and recommendations.

The IHEA will conduct a review of the Alabama Hunter Education Program during the week of August 24-28, 2009. This peer review will be conducted by Mr. Wayne East, Executive Director, of IHEA along with 4 representatives from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other state hunter education programs. We believe this review will provide us with constructive criticism and hopefully enhance our program. Each of you should have received a survey about two months ago to return to IHEA. They summarize the surveys and utilize them during the peer review process to provide our agency with their findings and recommendations. They may call a few instructors to obtain additional comments as needed to get a broad overview of our program and activities. Please provide them with honest answers if they call on you for your comments regarding our program.

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## INSTRUCTOR DISCOUNTS

Certified instructors receive discounts on many items from various manufacturers and retailers such as Beretta, Ruger, and CVA. Please visit [www.ihea.com](http://www.ihea.com) for a complete list of discounted items available to hunter education instructors. The username/password for the secure area of the instructor resources portion of the IHEA website is "instructor/gohunt."

# Workshop Report from Jerry Brown

Volunteer Instructor, Tallapoosa County

The Tallapoosa County Hunter Education Instructor team conducted an advanced workshop on Saturday, June 27, 2009 at Jerry and Genelle Brown's farm in Tallapoosa County. The topics and activities presented were subjects from the hands-on portion of our traditional student hunter education courses. Our traditional courses entail one evening of classroom activities and a full day of hands-on activities on and around the shooting range. The focus of the workshop was a blood trailing exercise, compass course, instruction on the safe use and maintenance of a muzzleloader.

Eight certified instructors and a visitor attended from other parts of the state. Fourteen instructors from Tallapoosa County participated and assisted with the workshop. While the blood trailing exercise and compass course are part of the field exercise portion of a traditional course in Tallapoosa County, either can be modified to fit any open space, school grounds or parking lot, to give students hands-on training while breaking the monotony of sitting in the classroom. The blood trailing exercise can be used to teach or test hunter ethics and responsibility, safe firearms handling, game laws and regulations, shot placement, landowner relationships, and shoot or no-shoot situations.

The compass exercise consisted of a short powerpoint presentation, a hands-on period to demonstrate proper use and find designated points. Muzzleloading firearms, equipment and supplies were shown and the proper use of each was demonstrated. Participants then went to the range to get hands on training in firing muzzleloading rifles and shotguns. Lee Brown also showed a powerpoint presentation on firearm safety he developed. Copies of the CD were distributed to participants.



Jennifer Crutchfield, Vocational Agri-business teacher, from Tuscaloosa County enjoyed the muzzleloading portion of the workshop and demonstrates to Larry Hutcherson that she was paying attention to his instructions regarding proper loading techniques.

The workshop allowed the Tallapoosa County group to show the powerpoint projector, laptop, and accessories obtained through the memorial to Alan Williams. Alan, who died from a heart attack in 2008, was a member of the original Tallapoosa County Hunter Education group formed in 1992. His co-workers in the Alabama Forestry Commission established a memorial to honor Alan's work as a hunter education instructor. Tallapoosa County hunter education instructors also contributed to the memorial.

Powerpoint presentations were shown in a new 12'X 24' storage building at the firing range. Most of the range was constructed in 2006 and consists of four firing points, one each for .22 rifles, muzzleloaders, skeet and archery. Each firing point is covered by an open shed and enclosed on three sides by a dirt berm. Several instructors enjoyed a round of skeet after the workshop.