



THE BULLSEYE BULLETIN
WISCONSIN HUNTER EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

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YEAR END REVIEW

By the time you get this letter, 2013 will be gone. I wanted to tell you about the things you did this year.

Please keep in mind that this number will grow slightly since not all info has been turned in.

1. 1,271 classes were offered statewide, 148 more than 2012.
2. Internet field days—32 more than 2012.
3. Students certified 33,223 statewide in Hunter Education and archery—2,110 more than 2012
4. Instructors certified 681 in all programs—50 more than 2012
5. Fewer phone calls to the DNR asking for classes due to the extra classes that have been offered.
6. Due to your work, we've added another fatality-free gun deer season. This is the fourth fatality-free season since 1973.

The Hunter Education Program and its entire staff would like to thank you for one of the most successful years we have seen in the last decade.

POLICY ADDITIONS/CHANGES

Here are a few important policy changes that will be taking effect immediately.

Exploding Targets Policy:

Through the years many companies have created targets that explode when shot. One company that comes to mind is Tannerite; when you mix the product and shoot it, the product explodes. It was brought to my attention that a group of instructors was using this product in their field day. I see absolutely no need for this product to be used in Hunter Education Classes. From this day forward no instructor can use this type of product in any way in the Hunter Education Program.

Class Length Policy:

Effective 1/1/ 2015: 70% of you don't have to worry about this policy because your classes are within the recommended timeframe. Hunter Education Courses can be no longer than 3 weeks in length and can no longer last more than 19 hours. Some of you will need to contact your Recreational Safety Warden for guidance and assistance with compliance on this policy. We have one year to get all classes to fit within this policy.

We have been asked by our customers and our administration to reduce the length of our courses. In doing so we will be able to provide better customer service, meet the demand of our customers and still maintain the safety and integrity of the hunter education program in which it was designed.

Please feel free to call me with questions on this. I will be sending a letter with more details soon.

I hope everyone had the opportunity to enjoy the Holidays. Thank you for your continued dedication to Hunter Education.

**WISCONSIN HUNTER EDUCATION
INSTRUCTOR ASSOCIATION (WHEIA)
NEWSLETTER**
The VOLUNTEER
<http://www.wheia.com/>

News from W.H.E.I.A. <http://www.wheia.com/>

The **2014 Statewide Hunter Education Conference** will be held May 3rd, 2014 in Mosinee/Rothschild, WI at the Holiday Inn. This location is centrally located in the state and easily accessible from all directions. This event is open to all instructors, apprentices, junior instructors, retired instructors, and special benefactors to hunter education. In the evening will be the statewide awards banquet for the Instructor of the Year and Hunter Education Professional of the Year. Registration materials will be available from the WHEIA website. There are five firearms on this year's fundraising raffle.

One of the big pluses for you to attend the annual statewide event is for training and to network with the DNR staff, other instructors, and vendors. It is an excellent opportunity to share ideas and discuss issues from your part of the state.

The training this year will be to get more instructors certified to teach the Internet style of classes. Yes, we need to be certified! The DNR is making some changes to the Internet classes, and this will be an opportunity for you to get certified. As a group we will be teaching an actual class with students attending. Warden King will be sharing the info on the class changes.

Instructor recognition! Do you have or know someone who has gone the extra mile? Do you know an exceptional instructor group? Consider nominating them for the Instructor of the Year award or an Instructor Group award. If you have someone in mind, give your RSW a call and discuss with them how to nominate them.

Instructors!! Your help is needed gathering data on treestand accidents. Why are they happening? When a hunter falls from a treestand and a 911 call is made for an emergency response, unless a firearm discharges and someone is shot, the information on the hunter falling is not reported to the DNR. Without knowing why or what caused the accidents, the DNR and all instructor groups cannot make adjustments to our training.

All instructors are being asked to be the eyes and ears for treestand accidents. For the next year, if you read in

the morning paper or hear in the local news of a hunter falling from a treestand and getting injured, send the information to DNR LE Safety, DNRLSafety@Wisconsin.gov. They will follow up with the emergency responders. This past hunting season I noticed twice in the Wisconsin Rapids newspaper of rescue squad responses to assist a hunter who had fallen from a treestand.

Instructors will be needed to help run youth pellet ranges in Green Bay and Mosinee the weekend of February 21-23 and again in Madison April 4th-6th. While I understand events of this type require instructors to volunteer a bit more of their time, it makes a big difference in the education of future hunters and of the goodwill it generates with the parents. If you can volunteer, please contact us using the contact WHEIA tab at: <http://www.wheia.com/contact.html> with your name and telephone number to volunteer.

– Joe Lacenski, WHEIA President

HELICOPTER PARENTS – RSW MARK LITTLE

As an instructor, you should encourage parents to stay with their child during the duration of your course and encourage them to become certified even if it's not required for them and you have the room. Or, maybe it's a fiancé or spouse. Either way, remember that you are the instructor and these are your students and for a short time in their lives they belong to you in a controlled setting where you call the shots.

So what do you do when a parent starts to control your class or when you lose you control to a "helicopter parent?" You know the one. He's the dad that sits beside his daughter at the bench on range day and tells her to forget about what the instructor told her and just listen to him because he knows what's best. Remember, these are your students and the rest of the audience quietly observes. This isn't any different than a high school football game; the players are on the field with the coach and the spectators are up in the stands.

During the first night of your course, you should go over the Rules of Conduct from the Volunteer Instructor Policy and Procedure Manual to set up the atmosphere for your course giving each student a clear understanding of your expectations and what will happen if they aren't met. You should also take this time to remind parents that you are "coach" and they are the ones watching from the stands. It is your duty to teach each student the material presented in the student manual and within the lesson plans as these are the

prescribed methods approved the Department and, in fact, the only ones you are allowed to use.

Mr. Helicopter will need to step aside and let you instruct. Don't be surprised if he compliments you later and says he learned something too. Something like "thanks coach" should fall sweetly on your ears even if it's not said.

GUN SAFE DONATED TO CAMPBELLSPORT HUNTER SAFETY GROUP!



Pictured are Chris Schanen and Bill Hatch, both Lions club members and Rick Heisler, (back row) who is the lead instructor for the Campbellsport Hunter Safety Group.

Since 1978 there has been a special group of dedicated volunteers in the Campbellsport, WI area that have donated hundreds of hours of their time to teach firearm safety to area youth and adults through the WI Dept. of Natural Resource's (DNR) Hunter Education Program.

This group of nine volunteers and two junior instructors, led by Rick Heisler, Lead Instructor, encourages everyone to take Hunter Education including those with special needs. Since 1978, this dedicated group of instructors has taught over 2,000 students how to safely handle and use a firearm.

This gun safe was recently donated to the Campbellsport Hunter Safety program by the Campbellsport Lions Club which was purchased from a local True Value.

"We have an outstanding group of dedicated volunteer instructors whom I believe are second to none and truly strive to provide the best emphasis in safe hunting training," said Rick Heisler. "They are all an asset to the WDNR Hunter Safety Program..."

The Campbellsport Lions Club recognized Rick and his hunter education instructor team and provided the safe along with a letter which outlined the chain of events which led to the donation.

"I am privileged to be part of this outstanding group. It is especially unique to be recognized for our efforts and be given a donation to continue the enhancement of the program," added Heisler. "The safe will be used to house all of our firearms used in training and related accessories used to promote the teachings of the program."

Congratulations go out to all the Campbellsport Hunter Education Instructors! Keep up the good work! A special thank you to Lions Club for all they do and for recognizing such an outstanding group of volunteers.

HUNTER EDUCATION CLASS THANK YOU!

Fred Stoeger recently attended a hunter education class at the Outagamie Conservation Club. He sent this e-mail to the Outagamie Conservation Club:

I just wanted to thank the staff of volunteers that gave their time to teach a very large group of approximately 100 students in the Thursday night Hunter Education program. This is actually the fourth or fifth class I have sat through in my lifetime (the first was back in the very early 1970s) and by far the largest, most diverse group I have ever seen. I was impressed by the number of volunteers, their willingness to go above and beyond to answer everyone's questions and their commitment. I was also impressed by the changes in the program that expand education beyond the basics of safety and shooting a gun. Explaining why ethical behavior is important and how it can impact their sport, explaining conservation practices and that hunting is a privilege not a right and the fact we share resources with all state residents made students think about important issues. Also having Mike Young again share his experiences and time (I've noticed Mike has willingly given his time for Hunter Education for many years) with the students lets them know Game Wardens are on the same side as law-abiding folks, and his humorous touch lets people see he's a good guy. In fact I think even anti-hunters would be impressed with the class and the subject matter that is covered. The bottom line is your club did an outstanding job and should be very proud of the impact they are making with a large group of students

Sincerely, Fred Stoeger

STAFF UPDATE

Mike Watt got his undergraduate and master's degree in Wildlife ecology from the University of Wisconsin, Madison and has worked for the DNR on several projects. Most recently, Mike has been coordinating the Buck recovery and fawn



recruitment studies as a research scientist for the last three years. He is an avid hunter and mentor and loves spending time in the outdoors with his family. Mike is a strong believer in hunter recruitment and retention and can't wait to help in any way he can.

Mike has been working with Keith Warnke in the hunting and shooting sports program and learn to hunt program. He can be reached at 608-266-8597.

SER-SOUTH REGION APPRECIATION PICNIC RSW – JASON ROBERTS



Volunteer Instructor, Stephanie Schuler (left), and RSW Jason Roberts (right) pose for a picture after Jason presented Stephanie with her 20 years of service award.

CONGRATS on 20 years Stephanie!

FISHING FOR HUNTERS

As I sip my second cup of coffee in the goose blind on this Labor Day, my mind wanders back to the events of the past couple days. Yesterday at this same time I had a group of nine first-time hunters sitting in a very similar situation. We were staring at the decoys, waiting for them to lure birds to our hidden cover. Difference was we were dove hunting for a Learn to Hunt program. Though no birds came in close enough for a shot that day either, the spirit remained upbeat. Throughout the morning I overheard the other mentors discussing various topics with their new hunters. Conversations ranged from, “How do I check my shotgun barrel for an obstruction?,” “I just saw a hummingbird!,” “I had duck once, it tasted like liver!” to “How can you tell a nighthawk from a mourning dove?,” and “I keep seeing those dragonflies and think they are doves in the distance!” The bacon-wrapped venison made on my tailgate and another round of shooting on the Five-Stand also helped make this day a success.

When we, as instructors, decide to organize a LTH event, we often have grand visions of all these new hunters, smiling ear to ear, posing for pictures with a tom turkey, brace of ducks or pheasants or a pile of doves at day's end. This is a great goal to strive for but

in reality, hunting is so much more than a body count at the end of the day. If we get to know our hunters, engage them in something that interests them and tie it to the outdoors, we will have succeeded in making their first hunting experience a memorable one.

First we need to BAIT THE HOOK. Offer them something appealing as a first experience to hunting. Make sure they are dressed warm enough, have a firearm that fits and something comfortable to sit on. This will often be a lasting impression of their first hunting experience.

Next, we have to SET THE HOOK. At the conclusion of the hunt, even if the bag is empty, congratulate them on staying safe with their firearm, staying alert, passing on a risky shot, etc. All the little things discussed in the field can add up to them having a positive experience and wanting to try hunting again. Lastly we need to REEL THEM IN! Consider giving them a follow-up call; speak to the parents first if they are a minor. Invite them along the next time you head to the range or sporting clays course, or even just a trip to Cabela's. Maybe we have an open seat for a trip to a local lake for panfish. It's easily to tell which hunters come from an outdoors family and those really in need of someone to help them get a foothold in our outdoor tradition.

By simply making a call and reminding them to get their bear application in on time, or seeing if they followed up on their plan to get into bow hunting, we can fuel the fire we started for hunting and avoid, CATCH AND RELEASE.....

Scott Kirchoff
Volunteer Hunter Safety Instructor

IHEA SURVEY

Fellow Volunteer Hunter Education Instructors,

We at IHEA-USA, are interested in your input and your training ideas. As educators, you are on the front lines in educating the public on Hunter Education, Hunter Safety, Conservation, and much more.

Please visit our survey site, <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/65CY727>, and take a short survey so we can learn from you. As educators, you probably make innovative props and training aids to assist you in class. Please share your ideas with us, so we may share your ideas with others to create a “tool-box” that instructors across the nation can access.

Thank you,
IHEA-USA - Instructor Advisory Committee