

# ALABAMA HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS NEWSLETTER



Winter 2018

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**Thank You!** The Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries appreciates all of our hunter education instructors and your efforts to promote safe, responsible hunting through the Alabama Hunter Education Program. Your efforts have definitely helped reduce the hunting incident rate and made Alabama a safer place to enjoy our hunting heritage. So far this season we have had around the same number of hunting accidents as last season. Last year we had 20 accidents and currently we are holding at 16. Hopefully we won't see any additional incidents during turkey season.

I am excited to announce that the 2019 IHEA-USA Annual Conference will be held in Gulf Shores! This is a great opportunity to showcase what Alabama has to offer, mingle with hunter education instructors and administrators from other states and also talk with our Industry partners. The dates for the event are May 5-9, 2019. Save the date; more information to follow.

Community archery parks are continuing to grow. Alabama has more archery parks than any other state. We now have 14 parks open with three more planned to open this fiscal year. The two most recent parks are located in Wind Creek State Park and Madison County (Huntsville). The three slated to open this year are in Troy, Wetumpka and Walker County State Lake.

Instructor cards were mailed to all active instructors last month. If you did not receive your card please call our office to make sure we have your correct address and that your status is current. If you assist with classes, please make sure the lead instructor is giving you credit for helping on the reporting site so that you remain active in the system. If you ARE the lead instructor, be sure to report all instructors that help. If you are not sure how to do this, contact our office for assistance.

Loose your instructor card? You can print a replacement yourself. Just log into the instructor website and click on the link that says "Instructor Card". It is that easy! In addition your students can also print a replacement card on the public hunter education website: <http://www.outdooralabama.com/hunter-education-alabama>

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***"Today I Will Do What Others Won't,  
So Tomorrow I Can Accomplish What Others Can't."  
.....Jerry Rice***

## MOSSBERG NON-FIRING TRAINING SETS



We are currently replacing all of our old non-firing hunter education firearms with new bright orange Mossberg non-firing 5-gun training sets. Many of our current non-firing firearms are worn out or falling apart, so it was time to replace them. The new sets are being dispersed throughout the Districts to be used in all future classes. Please call us if you need assistance finding the set that is closest to you.

## NEW HUNTER EDUCATION DOWNLOAD/VIDEOS AVAILABLE NOW

New Hunter Education Videos are now available to instructors! The videos are produced by Kalkomey Enterprises, the same company that produces Alabama's hunter education manual and tests. These videos feature a combination of professional educators, entertaining storylines and up-to-date scenarios; making them one of the most effective online ways to learn safe practices. Video topics include understanding ballistics, fence crossing, safe carries, loading and unloading, safe transport, zones of fire and more! If you are interested in these new videos contact our office and we will send you the log-in link and code. Please note that downloadable videos are currently not available for MAC operating systems. However, for those using a MAC we have a DVD of the videos available. Just let us know which format you prefer when you contact us.

## IHEA-USA HUNTER & SHOOTING SPORTS EDUCATION JOURNAL

See the message below from Susie with the IHEA-USA Journal:

Dear Hunter Education Instructors,

Thank you for all you do to help preserve our hunting heritage and for your tremendous efforts towards ensuring that all new hunters are safe, responsible and knowledgeable.

One of the main goals of the *IHEA-USA Hunter & Shooting Sports Education Journal* is to provide a platform for the exchange of ideas and teaching experiences to help improve the education process for over 700,000 new hunters each year. In order to fulfill that goal, we need input from instructors and educators in the field. Please consider submitting your stories about teaching techniques that work for you, thoughts about the state of our hunting heritage today, anecdotal stories about "it happened to me" in class, visual training aids, etc... Don't worry about spelling or grammar or anything else but your message and email directly to: [susiekiefer@msn.com](mailto:susiekiefer@msn.com). Your input could help other instructors become better trainers.

We need pictures too! Please send us your field and class photos so we can reflect real life training situations to compliment articles. Images sent to us electronically are preferred however, you can also mail your pictures or save your images on a disc and send to the address in my signature below. Please indicate a credit caption for each image and do not send originals as they will not be returned. To be considered for

inclusion, images must reflect safe and responsible firearm handling, hunting, or teaching situations. Images to be considered for the Journal cover must be sent electronically and must also be high resolution.

Every submission that is chosen to print receives a gift from supporting manufacturers!

Editorial deadlines for the next few issues in 2018 are as follows:

#### **Summer 2018**

Editorial deadline: May 1

Print date: Aug. 8

Complete mail/ship: Aug. 15

#### **Fall 2018**

Editorial deadline: July 3

Print date: Oct. 3

Complete mail/ship: Oct. 10

#### **Winter 2018**

Editorial deadline: Oct. 2

Print date: Dec. 14

Complete mail/ship: Dec. 26

I look forward to hearing from you soon!

Susie Kiefer Editor,  
***IHEA-USA Hunter & Shooting Sports  
Education Journal***

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## **POLO SHIRTS**

If you were unable to attend the last couple of banquets or have not received the black and orange instructor polo shirt please let us know. We have a limited number of sizes available and will be happy to mail one to you on a first come first serve basis.

## **IHEA-USA JOURNAL**

The latest edition of the *Hunter & Shooting Sports Education Journal* has now been posted to the *Hunter's Handbook* website. The login link and password are below:

<http://huntershandbook.com/alabama-ihea-journal/>

password: winter17ihea

## **NEW MATERIALS/TESTS**

As you know, 20 questions on our old hunter education exam were true/false questions. We were told that true/false questions were not adequate when trying to measure knowledge and should not be used. Rather than reinventing the wheel, we reached out to other states to see what was being used. We have replaced our old exam with a new one from Kalkomey, the same company that produces our hunter education manuals. This same test, or something very similar, is being used in approximately 39 other states.

The new tests and answer sheets are now available. Please discard all old test materials. All classes as of October 2017 should be using the new test. You will receive new materials when you schedule your classes with the Montgomery Office.

## **IHEA-USA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE**

The IHEA-USA Instructor Advisory Committee is having a membership drive with some great prizes; such as a Ruger Rifle, Mathews Genesis Bow, and an Alpen scope and binoculars. Find more information here...

<http://www.outdooralabama.com/sites/default/files/membership%20application%202018.pdf>

# FLYERS

## Hunter Education Class

*Sponsored by the*

Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division  
Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

DATES:  
TIME: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
PLACE:

CLASS REQUIREMENTS:

TO REGISTER: Visit [www.outdooralabama.com](http://www.outdooralabama.com) or call 334/242-3620

All hunters born on or after August 1, 1977, must complete a Hunter Education Course before purchasing their first hunting license unless hunting under supervision required status or exempted by law.

Federal Law prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin, age or handicap. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against should write to:

O.E.O.  
U.S. Dept. of Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20204

Anyone requiring special assistance, please call at least 1 week in advance.

Need flyers for your upcoming classes? Just send us an email and we will be happy to print and mail them to you.

## SCHEDULE SPRING AND FALL CLASSES NOW

District offices are in the process of setting dates for their fall hunter education classes. If you have not already scheduled your class with us, please do so now. If you have a location where you can include live fire with your traditional class we encourage you to do so. When available we will provide a shooting trailer for you with all the ammunition and firearms you need. Contact our office to schedule.

In addition, please let your local conservation officer or biologist know your dates so they can work with you to avoid duplication. We have had some instances where a volunteer and an employee scheduled a class in the same county on the same day, or in the same month. We would like to prevent this as much as possible. In addition, if you are having trouble getting in

touch with other instructors in your area let us know and we will be happy to provide you a contact list of hunter education instructors in your county or district.

## CLASS REPORTING

Are you closing out your classes in a timely manner? We are finding many instructors are forgetting to log in and close out their class after the course is finished. When a class is not closed out students are unable to access or use their hunter education number. Please make sure you close out your class as soon as possible after its completed. If you need a reminder of how to do this just call and we will walk you through it. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

## TREE STAND SAFETY HARNESS LIMITED LIFESPAN REMINDER



Did you know the full-body safety harness you wear when you hunt from a tree stand has an expiration date?

Due to federal regulations, all safety harnesses are stamped with a date

identifying when the harness was made. The effective service life is considered to be five years from that date, although some harness manufacturers say the life of a new, unopened harness is five years from the purchase date.



"We're making product now that won't be on a store shelf until next year," said Jerry Wydner, co-owner of Hunter Safety Systems, which makes harnesses and related gear for hunters. "It wouldn't really be fair to take that year away from the customer."

Certainly, a harness can exist in good working condition for more than five years. So what does the expiration date mean?

According to Wydner, all harnesses used for safety - whether it's one used by a hunter in a treestand, or by a utility lineman climbing telephone poles - are considered to have five-year life spans. That's a standard set by most organizations that deal with safety equipment and safe working

conditions, including OSHA, ASTM International, ANSI and TMA- the Treestand Manufacturers Association.

"That's considered to be the normal, effective service life of that harness," Wydner said. "Beyond that, you should retire the harness."

Essentially, manufacturers are saying their harnesses are capable of doing what they're supposed to do for five years - assuming the harnesses are maintained properly and are regularly inspected to insure they remain in good condition.

"We don't know what people are doing with these harnesses," he said. "They could be exposing them to anything."

So manufacturers are not saying a particular harness will definitely fail after five years. They're just saying it shouldn't fail within five years.

"If you have a \$100 harness, and you keep it for 5 years, that's \$20 a year," Wydner said. "That's not a lot to pay for something that's keeping you safe."

Within the five-year service life, Wydner said any harness should be retired if the user notices damage or excessive wear, or if a fall occurs while the harness is being worn.

- P. J. Reilly, Lancaster Archery Supply



The warning information tag for this harness indicates it was built in June 2017. Its effective lifespan is five years from this date, or five years from the date of purchase - assuming it is purchased new and unused.

## WFF Hunter Education Staff

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***"I Can Accept Failure.  
Everyone Fails at Something.  
But I Can't Accept Not Trying."***

***.....Michael Jordan***



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***"The Difference in Winning and Losing is Most Often...  
Not Quitting"  
.....Walt Disney***