

Spring 2015



Alberta Hunter Education
Instructors' Association



Conservation Education

The Voice of Conservation Education in Alberta Magazine



*Honouring
Outstanding Albertans*

2015 W.I.S.E. AWARDS

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Honouring Outstanding Albertans

13th Annual W.I.S.E. Awards

February 7, 2015

By Bob Gruszecki



Bob Gruszecki
President - A.H.E.I.A.

The 13th Annual Conservation Education W.I.S.E. Foundation Awards and Banquet were possibly the most successful to date with 500 people in attendance to honour three extraordinary Albertans for their contributions to conservation in its many forms.

Also in attendance was the Honorable Kyle Fawcett, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD), who offered sage words of encouragement and support on our mutual cause. The Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association looks forward to working with Minister Fawcett's office to achieve our lofty goals for 2015.

Much was said about 2014: the 50th year of Conservation Education, a record breaking year with over 90,000 students graduating from our courses, overall a highly successful year. 2015 is projected to have even more success with over 95,000 estimated to be reached by A.H.E.I.A. programming.

As mentioned, three Albertans were recognized this year. The categories were 1) Public Service Conservation Award, 2) Volunteer Instructor Conservation Award, and 3) The Alva Bair Conservation Award. Following is an excerpt of the presentation made to these outstanding individuals.

Public Service Conservation Award

This award recognizes achievements in public relations, conservation ethics and community leadership by federal, provincial or municipal employees who devote time to educate Albertans in the area of fish and wildlife resource use.

It is designed to recognize government personnel who have been conscientious in their duties and able to create partnerships with all user groups. These individuals demonstrate a true commitment to a "team environment" and a partnership between people, government and the resource.

This year's recipient of the Public Service Conservation Award is **Mr. John Clarke** from Blairmore, Alberta.

Not too many people knew what they wanted to do for a living when they were eight years old, but John Clarke did. From the time he was a little boy, he knew he wanted to be a Game Warden. He freely admits that his idols were Grizzly Adams and Flipper.

John was born in Edmonton and didn't get his first taste of rural living until he was invited to live with some friends in High Prairie when he was 15 years old. He loved the farm life and learned so much about hunting, fishing, trapping, farming and even poaching. He loved the lifestyle and had plans to stay until an unfortunate incident with a neighbour resulted in a shortened stay. The neighbour had decided to dispose of some newborn kittens in an unfortunate manner. This brought out the fight (literally) in John and that brawl landed him and the rescued kittens back in Edmonton.

John's compassion for people and animals was demonstrated at an early age. At 16, he started doing field trials with Labrador dogs and then some friends' parents invited him to go hunting. This began a lifetime passion for hunting and fishing.

After graduating from high school, he worked as an orderly at the University of Alberta hospital for four years, dealing mainly with War Veterans. He volunteered to drive the DATA bus and truly enjoyed listening to the stories and memories that the vets shared with him.

Continued ➤

"John's passion to become a Game Warden was not to become an enforcer, but rather to be an educator and protector of both people and wildlife."



13th Annual W.I.S.E. Awards *cont.*

While maximizing his outdoor experiences, he realized that he needed to upgrade his marks in order to pursue his career dreams. After graduating from Vermillion College in 1987, he was stationed in Lethbridge and then later in Manning. He now had two children, Megan and Landon, to join him on his outdoor pursuits.

John's passion to become a Game Warden was not to become an enforcer, but rather to be an educator and protector of both people and wildlife. He had always had an obsession to care for animals — from the kittens that he rescued to the five dogs that he brought home when they needed rescuing. The need to understand and help others understand the complex relationship between management, predator and prey relationship and man's role as a hunter/gatherer in the cycle of life, was something that John took very seriously.

John's love for what he does is so evident. His work is his life and his commitment is to ensuring a secure place for wildlife in the future.

All dressed up in an official uniform, John looks like a formidable guy, but really, he has a very soft heart. His volunteer efforts have led to the development and expansion of several highly recognized programs. While reluctant to share his file of accolades and achievements, the recognition and commendation letters read like a "Who's Who" portfolio. You have to dig a bit to learn that he saved more than one person's life and nearly died in the process. This "no holds barred" commitment is evident in the programs that John has championed. In his mind, he believed that surely there must be a better way to deal with wildlife/human conflicts besides just putting the animal down.



The Fish and Wildlife Crowsnest Pass BearSmart Program began in 2006. This program consists of local certified volunteers who are used to assist in managing two species of bears within the Crowsnest Pass area. Over several years, different BearSmart community projects have been in place. Their aim is to manage bear behaviour, co-existence between wildlife and humans and reducing the amount of man hours spent on bear complaints. They work to limit the number of bear mortalities, the number of bear encounters with the public, identifying travel corridors used by the resident bear populations and finally, handling bear relocations when necessary.

Volunteer participation is crucial to the success of this project and involves: Bear awareness courses for industry and recreational businesses, organizing an annual Apple Picking Day by local student groups, providing emergency removal of apples from trees by BearSmart Volunteers, local radio announcements on Bear Awareness, public and school presentations, TV interviews, provincial exposure, trade shows, Wildlife Expo "Go-

ing Wild", and "door knocking" after the sighting of a bear within a residential area. Volunteers inform the public of its presence and offer attractant assessment of yard sites and recommendations to improve the areas.

The program also uses the Karelian Bear Dog Unit to provide aversive conditioning if required. These dogs are considered a huge asset to the program and are skilled resources to the units.

John has been an integral part of the Injured Orphaned Wildlife Program. It was created to assist Fish and Wildlife Officers on matters pertaining to wildlife that are injured or orphaned in areas of Southern Alberta. This program consists of certified ESRD/JSG volunteers who will receive a call from Fish and Wildlife staff requesting them to respond to a location to meet an officer or complainant, taking possession of the animal to be transported to a certified rehabilitation centre.

John believes that these programs are dependent upon public support, knowledge, trust, commitment and care. They combine the benefits of local residents, understanding and respecting the wildlife with which we share space. Educating both people and animals has paid high dividends. Whether it is dealing with injured wildlife, working with the Birds of Prey Centre, the Medicine River Wildlife Centre, local veterinary



clinics, hot spot bear monitoring or the Injured Orphaned Wildlife Program, John recruits volunteers at every turn and readily rolls up his sleeves to pitch in. And while he provides an essential role, he would deny that and pass all the credit over to the volunteers and coworkers. In his eyes, "They make me look good."

This deep love of the outdoors has allowed John to have a career that embodies that and to spend his recreational time hiking, hunting and fishing. Whether he is taking a first time hunter out, old or young, the commitment is the same. Teach respect and awareness, understand our role and impact, be responsible for our actions and take nothing for granted.

John considers every interaction with the public an opportunity to engage and educate, to take a negative experience and allow it to be a lesson learned and in most cases, not soon forgotten. While the programs that John is involved in keep him busy day and night, he has further committed to becoming involved with the A.H.E.I.A. mentorship program. He is becoming involved at a local level in launching the very successful hunter mentor programs that A.H.E.I.A. delivers.

For John, the uniform that he wears is a bridge, not a barrier. For nearly 25 years, his role as a Fish and Wildlife Officer is not measured by tickets or violation reports, it is about attitudes being changed and values being broadened. It is about new and shared experiences and lessons learned. It is about changing lives, one person at a time, one day at a time, resulting in a contribution that truly cannot be measured.

It is said that "the best teachers teach from the heart, not from the book" — this is the legacy of Stan Genert.

Born in Millarville, Stan grew up on a farm and was connected with nature before he knew what that meant. While he participated in organized activities like 4-H and football, both hunting and fishing were self taught, starting with wildlife management of gophers to other small game, big game, upland and waterfowl to fishing on streams and lakes, big water or small, that is where you would find Stan.

Stan married his high school sweetheart Cheryl and they decided that getting a post secondary education had to be squeezed in, so they both attended the University of Calgary where they each graduated with a Bachelor of Education degree. For a few years they taught in Calgary, then Bowden and finally settled in Delburne until retirement. In 1978, Stan started teaching Conservation Education in the classroom — they needed an option in the curriculum and what

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Volunteer Instructor Conservation Award

The Volunteer Instructor Conservation Award recognizes outstanding contributions in the field of conservation education. Award recipients in this category demonstrate a passion and commitment to deliver conservation education programs to Albertans of all ages.

This year we are pleased to recognize **Mr. Stan Genert** of Delburne, Alberta.

“ Stan's style of teaching was focused on success, making sure every experience was a positive one ... ”



Alberta Hunter Education
Instructors' Association
**Conservation
Education**
Magazine

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better course to add? He progressed through various instructor levels up to a AAA status and the 24 hour survival course. He taught the program both in and out of the school setting and to many non-school groups and still continues to teach the course today.

While teaching was a full-time occupation, Stan and Cheryl also made it a priority to take their son and daughter fishing, camping, skiing and hunting all over Alberta. The outdoors were truly their playground.

Stan had a unique style of dealing with the bureaucracy of the day. When he encountered problems with school administration, he simply changed the class time to outside regular school hours. When necessary he taught evening courses and his shop was a classroom for many years. He always used a variety of demonstration materials with his classes: antlers, firearms, shells, mounts of different game, bows and arrows, you name it. He taught the students how to build their own survival kits.

Stan embraced the idea of an outdoor classroom (AKA Field Trips). Many of these trips were taken to Alford Lake teaching Hunter Education, firearms training and survival. They also made many visits to Fish and Wildlife offices, taxidermy shops, trade shows — basically anything to get away from school. In the spring they would take a bus to look at ducks and geese. Then they would build new duck boxes, clean old ones out and return the next year to do it again. One of those field trips involved a camping trip. A young male student complained that his backpack was too heavy and so Stan kindly packed it in on the hike. Only once they reached the camping spot did Stan learn that the heavy pack was actually full of beer! Which quickly resulted in confiscation but, alas, the energy to carry it was already expended.

Stan's style of teaching was focused on success, making sure every experience was a positive one, whether it was hitting a target or landing a fish. Over the past 27 years, Stan has certified close to 750 students in Conservation Education. He was certified as a Firearms Instructor in 1996 and for the first two years was so mad about the legislation that he refused to charge anyone for course materials. This feeling eventually mellowed and Stan still successfully offers the Canadian Firearms Safety program today. He is even having success teaching this in the local schools, which is practically unheard of.

The kids that Stan initially taught and took out hunting and fishing are now taking their own kids out and Stan is often invited to join them.

Stan and Cheryl have travelled the world and many of these experiences have worked their way into the classroom. Stan was known as "Genert" to the kids and he enjoyed a remarkable rapport with them. Well liked and well respected, he was and still is a local legend to look up to. And throughout this impressive career of teaching people about wildlife and wild places, he has only asked for one thing in return: just the desire to have the students carry on some as-

pect of what they have learned. Those students and other community members have benefited so much from this "go-to guy". His desire to teach was only surpassed by his true desire to see that others learn and prosper.

The Alva Bair Conservation Award

Each year a person is selected to receive the Alva Bair Conservation Award. The presentation is intended to honour the memory and amazing contribution to the cause of Conservation made by Alva. The recipients are recognized for demonstrating similar levels of passion and commitment to wildlife that Alva did. By presenting this award, Alva's name, personality and love for wild things and wild places will be perpetuated.

As a pioneer in the Conservation movement, Alva was able to create and share a vision with all who were interested. His vision was for a future that included viable wildlife populations and a society that recognized the value of wildlife and the contribution that wild creatures make to the overall quality of our lives. Alva was a leader among a large group of conservation-minded people from every part of the North American continent.

These people were responsible for creating a conservation movement that has become the most successful effort of its kind in the history of the world. Wildlife populations were at all time lows during the early 1900s and, beginning in the 1930s, the modern conservation movement was relentless in its accumulated determination to ensure that wildlife, fish and the places these resources lived would have a secure place in our future. It remains a wonderful cause — Wildlife needs the attention and help of all of us.

The award is designed to encourage all people to become involved and lean on those who went before us to show us how to do it. Such a Conservation giant was Alva Bair.

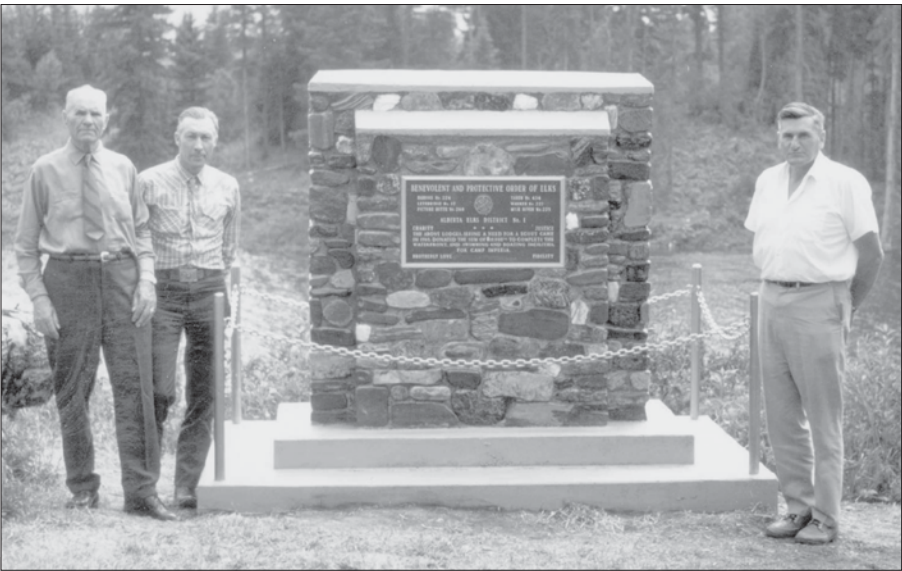
The Alva Bair Memorial Conservation Award is presented to the volunteer who most exemplifies that which Alva Bair represented during his life: our connection between wildlife and wild places.

This year's recipient in this category has spent his entire life perpetuating this type of commitment, **Mr. Venny Chocholacek**.

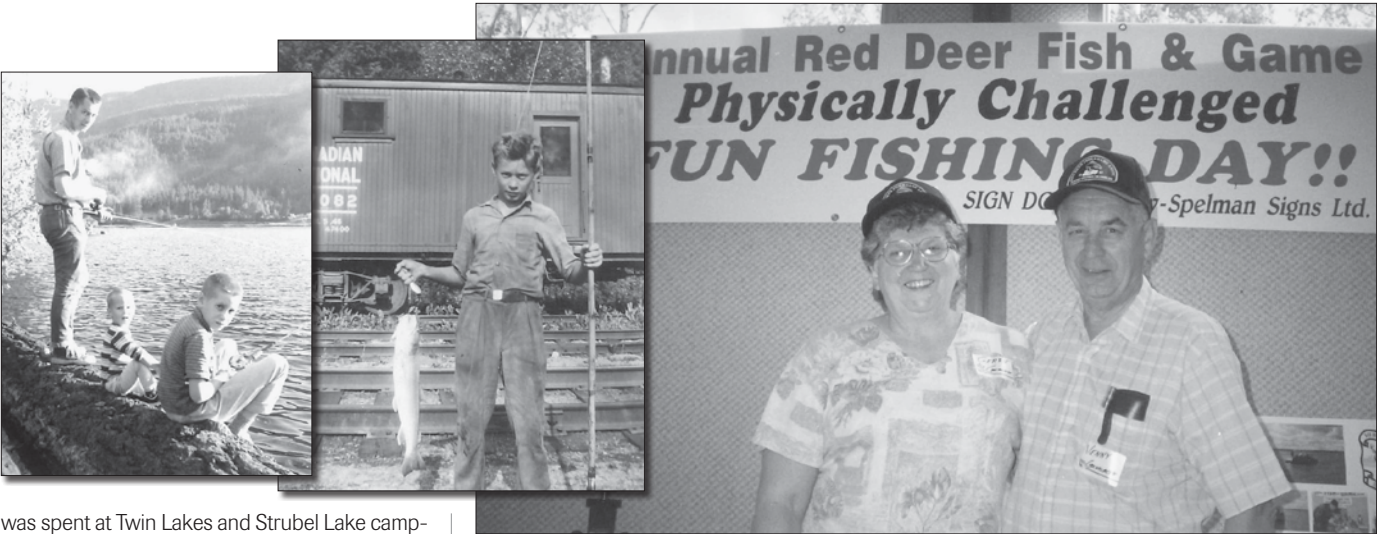
Venny grew up in the outdoors and his love for this lifestyle started at an early age. Hunting and fishing were a way of life and indeed a main source of food. His father worked on the railway and the family moved a lot, finally settling in Kamloops, where Venny finished high school. This was a great location for Venny as every Saturday morning he would hitchhike the 20 miles or so to Monte Creek to go fishing. Minimal equipment was required; no fishing rod, just tuck some line in his pocket and cut a willow switch when he got there. Brook trout never tasted so good.

After graduating high school, Venny began a career with the railway. Initially as a timekeeper for CN, then off to college to become certified as a Telegraphy Operator and was hired on with Canadian Pacific. He worked as a station agent in the late '50s at Rogers Pass. It was during this time that he married Gerrie and they began their 60 years of marital happiness. With a young daughter to feed, Venny needed a more stable income. At that time there weren't too many jobs available and at 26 he was considered too old for any jobs there! So, in 1960 they moved to Calgary. Son Jeff was born and Venny worked for Kingsway Transport, then Goodyear Tire as a Credit Manager and then, in 1966, Venny was promoted to Store Manager in Red Deer where he resides today.

In 1988 Venny welcomed retirement and set about focusing on the more important things in life. The kids had received an early introduction to the outdoors and hunting and fishing were a way of life. It was important to teach the kids a love of the outdoors and nearly every weekend



Alva Bair (at right).



was spent at Twin Lakes and Strubel Lake camping and fishing.

In the early '80s Venny had joined the Red Deer Fish and Game Club and like any good volunteer, when the call was made for volunteer help, Venny's hand went up. There was a need for a Show Manager for the local Sportsmen's show and he took on the job. His philosophy was that this was the exhibitor's show and that interesting exhibits and vendors would encourage strong public support of the outdoors. The show participation had seen some peaks and valleys and at one time attendance had declined from more than 12,000 to under 3,000 attendees. Through Venny's hard work and co-ordination with others, the show rebounded and exhibitors filled three pavilions and more than 10,000 people attended each year. While Venny has passed the torch to his son, Jeff, his vision, commitment and desire to make the Sportsmen's show a place where the public learned about wildlife, the resource users and the need for people to understand conservation in a practical sense has not been lost. This year the show will celebrate its 49th anniversary and its testament to reaching the lives of more than a quarter of a million people is undeniable.

This endeavour, along with his involvement with the Red Deer Gun Show, has been a major fundraiser to create lasting legacies within the community. These financial efforts were invested in 320 acres of conservation land east of Red Deer where he has spent hundreds of hours improving and looking after that habitat land. The money has also found its way to purchase other



“ When asked to help, Venny simply said yes and that has made all the difference to so many lives. ”

habitat parcels, the Youth Pheasant release program and many other worthwhile projects and programs in conservation.

For more than 35 years he has been involved at the Zone 3 Conservation Camp at Pofianga where he instructed various courses. Those activities have produced a great number of

graduates from both the Conservation Education and Canadian Firearms Safety courses. He has volunteered over 30 **weeks** to Conservation Camps and remains a pillar of the volunteer staff to this day. This doesn't include the hours of preparation required to run such activities. To

Continued ➤



13th Annual W.I.S.E. Awards *cont.*

annually give a week of one's life to a cause for more than three decades is commendable and remarkable. Both Venny and his wife have given that effort to the youth of central Alberta. During this time, he has also run dozens of courses in Red Deer. In recent years this area of volunteerism expanded to include the four major centers around Red Deer to an area from Rocky Mountain House to Stettler and from Ponoka to Olds. Whether he was teaching shooting sports or Hunter Education, Venny encouraged students to be all that they could be, with several students winning National Championships in small bore and trap shooting competitions.

He has also worked and participated in events for AHEIA, Ducks Unlimited, Trout Unlimited, Pheasants Forever and many other organizations which support and adhere to our conservation ethics.

As an individual, he stands out as holding the highest ethic and "walking the walk". He has been a positive role model for the youth of the City of Red Deer and surrounding area throughout this entire time.

At 81 years young, Venny is an inspiration to all. His dedication over a lifetime has literally impacted thousands of people. When asked to help, he simply said yes and that has made all the difference to so many lives.

Congratulations again to the winners of the 13th Annual W.I.S.E. Awards! You have each earned your place in this illustrious assembly of winners through hard work, dedication to your beliefs and a commitment to bettering your fellow Albertans. Thank you for being the standard to which the next generation can aspire and for helping to advance the cause of Conservation Education: ***To Make Fish and Wildlife a Part of the Value System of Every Albertan.***

This coming year, though promising to be the busiest yet, will hold many challenges for A.H.E.I.A. Budget cuts, record low oil prices, job losses — while not directly relating to Conservation Education, these things affect us all and have already begun to bite into our bottom line. Difficult times call for creative measures as demonstrated by the fundraising strategies we are employing. Some are tried and true, such as raffles, but some with a twist. Some are still fairly new; the Capital Campaign will be running again in 2015 as will the Spring Fling on June 4 in Edmonton. Others will be brand new to A.H.E.I.A. and we look forward to both your input on brilliant new ways of raising money and your support as we endeavour to continue producing the quality programming and events for which A.H.E.I.A. is known. There is no question in my mind that our goal is to continue our trend of excellence in program delivery, but we also need to plan for and deliver growth. The status quo is simply unacceptable.

I look forward to working with all of you as, together, we face the many challenges that face us in 2015. On behalf of all of us in Conservation Education, thank you for the role you play in making wildlife and fish part of peoples' value systems.



Left to right: A.H.E.I.A. President Bob Gruszecki, Public Service Conservation Award recipient John Clarke, and the Honourable Kyle Fawcett, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development.



Presentation of Volunteer Instructor Conservation Award to Stan Genert.



Presentation of Alva Bair Conservation Award to Venny Chocholacek.




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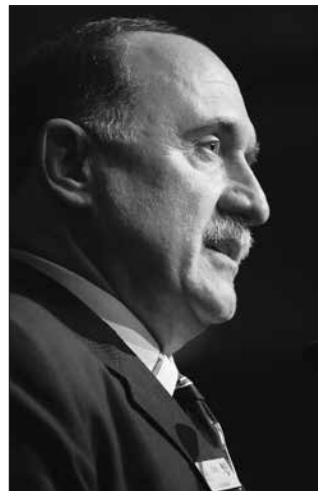
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13th Annual W.I.S.E. Awards & Banquet





JOIN US!
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great food and camaraderie
with like-minded individuals
while helping
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The Conservation Education W.I.S.E. Foundation and
Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association are pleased to announce the

Second Annual Spring Fling Banquet



Thursday, June 4, 2015 • Taliani Palace, 3223 Parsons Road (99 Street), Edmonton, Alberta

Tickets \$70.00 each or \$630.00 for a table of 10.

Silent Auction & Cocktails 5:00 pm • Deluxe Buffet Dinner 6:30 pm • Live Auction to follow • Casual Attire

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A.H.E.I.A.'s Mission is to Make Wildlife and Fish Part of the Value System of Every Albertan



Edmonton Report

“ Volunteers are the lifeblood of our organization and you can definitely make a difference. ”

By Len Gransch



Len Gransch
Program Coordinator
A.H.E.I.A.
Red Deer - North

By the time you read this report, our ever popular Youth Hunter Education Camps will likely be sold out. For those of you who missed out or know someone who has, they can be placed on our 2016 Advance Notification list by calling 780-466-6682 or emailing edmontoninfo@aheia.com. Those on the list

get about a three week jump prior to the registrations being released to the general public.

Registrations for the Outdoor Youth Seminar should be available for download and at our offices by mid-April. Another option is to be placed on the 2015 Advance Notification list by calling 780-466-6682 or emailing edmontoninfo@aheia.com.

While on the subject of these 2015 camps, I would like to recruit some volunteer help during these camps which will be held July 5-10, July 12-17, July 19-24 and July 26-31 at our Alford Lake facility. We are always looking for qualified instructors to come out and impart their wisdom on the minds of these youngsters. You will be welcomed with open arms whether you wish to come for a day or a week. Of course we will supply all lodging and meals during your stay.

If you are in a position to help or require more information, please contact me directly at len@aheia.com.

Keeping on the subject of volunteer help, we continue to look for assistance in many other areas. We require instructors and testers for all of our in-house non-restricted and restricted courses and challenges. We also require qualified volunteers to assist with student firearms handling. I know that a number of you instructors out there still need to teach courses to maintain your instructor status. Give me a shout and I will be happy to get you into the mix and get the “ball rolling”.

We similarly continue to look for more volunteer help in 2015. This includes Hunter Education, NASP, and I.B.E.P courses that are coming up. Help is also required at the Outdoor Youth Seminar and the Edmonton Boat and Outdoorsmen's Show, as well as the Spring Fling fundraising banquet. Remember, you do not need to be an instructor to volunteer at many of these events. Your opportunities are endless and extremely rewarding. Volunteers are the lifeblood of our organization and you can definitely make a difference. Please contact me to find out how.

This year's second annual Spring Fling will be held on Thursday, June 4. The location once again will be the Taliani Palace located in Edmonton at 3223 Parsons Road. The doors will open at 5:00 pm with our silent auction, bucket raffles, gun raffles and cocktails. The fabulous

deluxe buffet starts at 6:30 pm, followed by our live auction. Tickets are \$70.00 each or \$630.00 for a table of ten and available now at either of our offices. If you would like to be part of the banquet committee and give us a hand, please contact me directly and I would be happy to get you started.

Join us for an evening of great food and camaraderie with like-minded individuals while helping to raise funds for Conservation Education. The hope is that you, as well as your family and friends, will be able to join us for this special evening.

We really need your support on this one, so please spread the word and help make this another successful event. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

We are already working hard at procuring more quality merchandise for our silent auction, bucket raffles, specialty packages and, of course, our live auction. We have already acquired many tremendous items and once finalized they will be available for viewing on our website.

Our 2015 Range Officer Workshop will be held at Alford Lake on Saturday, April 25 followed by the Shotgun Coaching Workshop on Sunday, April 26. These workshops are open to all certified A.H.E.I.A. instructors in good standing. You can choose to attend either or both of these hands-on workshops. To register or for more information, please contact me directly at len@aheia.com.



Take care and enjoy the Great Outdoors!



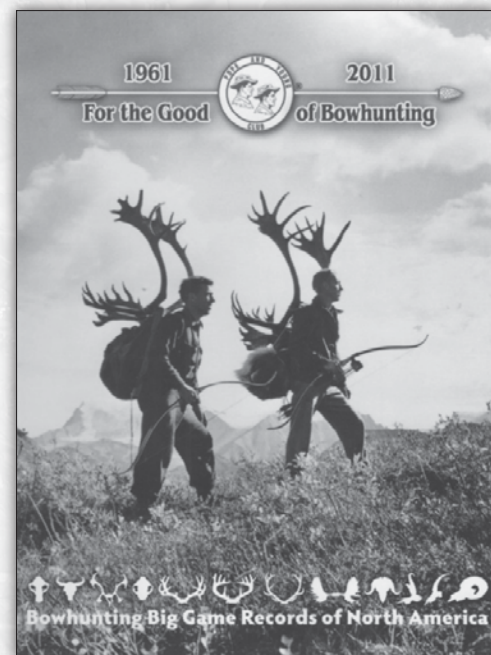
Cheque Presentation

In recognition of the long standing partnership between Capital Power, A.H.E.I.A. and Hunting For Tomorrow, George Greenhough and Sean Furey present a cheque for \$5,000.00 as a contribution to the first-time hunters program.

The Genesee lands provide us with a fantastic environment to practice some elemental hunting skills and introduce new people to the hunting fraternity. In turn, participating hunters provide valuable information about wildlife and the overall environment.

Pictured left to right: Sean Furey, VP Operations - Coal, Capital Power; Kelly Sample, Executive Director, Hunting for Tomorrow, Director A.H.E.I.A.; and George Greenhough, Manager, Land Services, Capital Power.





Hunting For Tomorrow partners with the Pope and Young Club as the Canadian distributor for the 7th Edition of the **Bowhunting Big Game Records of North America**

This edition contains records from the inception of the Pope and Young Club in 1961 to December of 2010. The statistics within this edition reference bowhunters, wildlife professionals and other seriously interested in the native big game populations in North America.

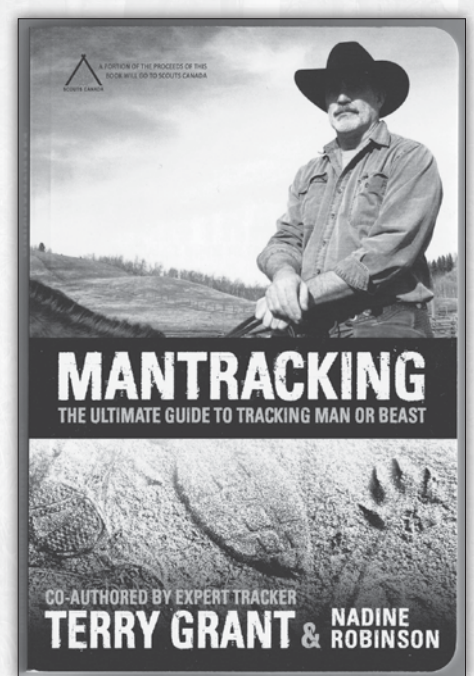
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A.H.E.I.A. Introduces "Field Techniques" as a Smart Phone App

"A.H.E.I.A. continues to work towards expansion and improvement of the many aspects of Conservation Education."

By Robert Gruszecki



Robert Gruszecki
President - A.H.E.I.A.

The first draft of our much anticipated smart phone app is now available for Apple and Android products. This new app assists novice and experienced hunters alike as they enter the hunting field. This "Field Techniques" app teaches proper care and eviscerating of cloven hoofed animals.

Specifically, this preliminary version shows how to field dress deer — both bucks and does. It covers the following:

Basic Tools

- Chapter 1 - Knives
- Chapter 2 - Saws
- Chapter 3 - Gloves, Bags & Rags

Basic Anatomy

- Chapter 1 - External Anatomy
- Chapter 2 - Internal Anatomy
- Chapter 3 - Butchering Anatomy

Basic Field Dressing

- Introduction
- Chapter 1 - Tagging
- Chapter 2 - Preparing the Deer
- Chapter 3 - Splitting the Brisket
- Chapter 4 - Keeping the Cape
- Chapter 5 - Removing the Eviscera While Keeping the Cap
- Chapter 6 - Separating and Inspecting the Organs

Contents will be regularly updated and added, including improved video and additional species. We are pleased to offer this new material to enhance our current course offerings. Future offerings will include Field Techniques for Fish, Waterfowl, Upland Birds, Fur Bearing Animals, caping, skinning and more.

While Field Techniques has always been a part of our Hunter Education certificate program, this newest addition to our training material uses the current technology to place this education format in an electronic version. This version is available in classroom settings and in the hands of the actual user in the field with cell phone coverage. Once downloaded, it can be reviewed again at any time for continual reference.

A.H.E.I.A. continues to work towards expansion and improvement of the many aspects of Conservation Education. Please consult your smart phone app store to connect with this new educational product.



Screen captures of the Field Techniques app main menu.



Screen capture of skinning footage featured in the app.

For further information about A.H.E.I.A.'s course offerings or resources, please go to www.aheia.com or contact any of our offices.



Completed Career

Daniel Somerville

August 1, 1949 - February 28, 2015

Dan Somerville had been a volunteer with A.H.E.I.A. for more than 15 years. He assisted with the Sportsmen's Shows, Outdoor Youth Camps, Outdoor Youth Seminar, Provincial Hunting Day, Outdoor Women's Program, Conservation and Hunter Education, and Canadian Firearms Safety Courses.

He was a great volunteer who always had a smile for everyone and took the time to make a difference. Our hearts and prayers are with his family and we offer our support to his lovely wife Noella.



Firearms Education Report



“ ... I can say that the firearms industry is very much alive and well in the province. ”

By Glenn McKay



Glenn McKay
Firearms Education
Coordinator
AHEIA

Wow what a year! Without a doubt this last year has been the busiest year on record for the Canadian Firearms Program. Did not seem to matter what area of the province you lived in or taught in, this past year you were busy. As all of the course reports cross my desk, I looked at pounds of course reports on a daily basis. It was very interesting to see the ages and gender of the students being taught and I think I can say that the firearms industry is very much alive and well in the province.

As busy as it was, I had a chance to speak with a number of instructors and students and can say that, for the most part, all is well with the program. The common theme from the instruc-

tors was when are we going to get new exams or material. To that I can safely say probably not soon. As much as I hate to say that, there does not seem to be any urgency on behalf of the program administrators to get new material to us. This is not a reflection on those people; it is a case where the new material is on the Minister's desk awaiting his signature.

Closer to home, we had a number of long-time instructors call it quits this past year and as a result, some of the areas within the province are in need of instructors. The major centres, Edmonton and Calgary are doing fine, but the east central area (between Hanna and Provost) is in need. As soon as new instructors are identified, they will be taught and put into the system.

By way of an update, students applying for a PAL are still waiting about 45 days to be processed as long as their application is filled in properly. The Alberta CFO Office is now moving into its new offices and hopefully new phone numbers will be published shortly. If you have questions or if your student is looking for answers, call the

1-800-731-4000 number and get directed to the Alberta office. The staff in the Alberta office have been awesome in dealing with requests from students or instructors so make sure your students are patient with their inquiries.

On the federal Common Sense Bill there is nothing really new to report. It is known that the Bill has been put before the House and other than some debate, there is no new news on the Bill. Of note, if the Bill goes through, then new students may not have the option of taking a challenge, therefore instructors will have to modify a current practice of teaching a non-restricted course and then a restricted challenge. It is something that should be kept in mind if and when this is voted on.

To those who are still in the system, thank you for looking after your area. If you have any questions or concerns, please give me a call or drop a note.



Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association

911 Sylvester Cr. S.W., Calgary, Alberta T2W 0R8
Tel: (403) 252-8474 • Fax (403) 252-3770
E-mail: info@aheia.com • Toll Free: 1-866-85-AHEIA

www.aheia.com

Volunteer Hour Tracking

The Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association enjoys the commitment of approximately 3200 hardworking and dedicated volunteers. We know the great amount of work that goes into running our programmes and would like to properly acknowledge the people who do this work as well as to be able to accurately reflect the massive energy expended by volunteers. Various agencies, such as government and many of our sponsors/donors, request annual summaries of our reach and impact including commitment to our cause by our volunteers. To do this, A.H.E.I.A. tracks all volunteer hours throughout the province. We are improving our tracking system to ensure accuracy and timeliness of information.

In your Instructor packages you will find forms that will help you track these hours. For Firearms Safety Instructors, this will be the class record sheet and, for Hunter Education Instructors, the nominal roll form. Each will show a new section specifically for tracking Volunteer Hours. Your assistance in this endeavour will help us to honour those devoted people offering us the most precious gift of their time and energy in furthering the goal of our organization: to make wildlife and wild places a part of the value system of every Albertan. Please do not hesitate to contact the Calgary office with any questions or concerns you may have.

Thank you for everything that you do! A.H.E.I.A. is very proud of our volunteers and grateful for all of your support to our great cause. Keep up the good work!

Cheers,

Robert A. Gruszecki
President - A.H.E.I.A.



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Congratulations!

A.H.E.I.A. Raffle Winners

Thank you to all who purchased tickets.

Elements of Wildlife Fundraising Raffle

Drawn December 4, 2014.



Prize #1:
"Mallard Duck Pair in Flight"
Wood Carving
won by
Alexander Frank



Prize #2:
"Legend of Time" Mule Deer Bronze
won by **Brad Dary**



Prize #3:
"Diving Bear with Fish"
Soapstone Carving
won by
Leah Pipe



2015 Youth ATV Raffle Draw

Drawn March 15, 2015.

Winner:
Angie Royer
of Ardrossan, Alberta



2015 ATV Raffle Draw

Drawn March 15, 2015.

Winner:
Travis MacLean
of Edmonton, Alberta.
Presented by Chuck Strong (right).



Hunting for Tomorrow

Yes ... Ladies Do That!

"Women are considered to be one of the fastest growing sectors in the outdoor industry."

By Kelly Semple



Kelly Semple
Executive Director
Hunting for Tomorrow

My nephew is getting married this year and while having a discussion with the young couple about their wedding plans, his fiancée mentioned that the person performing the service was a lady. My nephew responded, "What — Is that even legal?" After we finished laughing, we then informed

him that, "Ever since we got the vote, women have been popping up everywhere, participating in many different activities!"

While we enjoyed the moment, later it got me thinking. At the risk of dating myself, when I started hunting over 30 years ago, I was the exception. Most of the time, I was the lone woman in a hunting camp. The first time I went into a store to buy an archery target, it was less than a positive buying experience. After waiting 10 minutes and finally asking for help, the guy who I asked for assistance not so politely explained that I didn't know what I was asking for. Leaving the store somewhat sheepishly, embarrassed and lacking confidence in the outdoor sporting world, I went home to refresh my memory of just what the heck I was trying to purchase. It turned out that I actually had the correct product name. For some people that may have been a deterrent to persevere. Fortunately, times have certainly changed.

Today, women are considered to be one of the fastest growing sectors in the outdoor industry. A new market has exploded and settled into being able to provide quality, quantity, selection and price competitive products. Equipment has been specifically researched and tailored to women's smaller stature, strength, size and other physical attributes. Modern technology and equipment advances allow equal opportunities to hunt. The same factors influence hunter participation and success for both men and women; equipment selection and self-limitations as a hunter.

In Alberta, women make up approximately 10% of the hunting population and this number continues to increase annually. More encouraging is that approximately 20% of youth hunters (age 12 to 17) are female. In 2014, nearly 25% of the graduates from the On Line Conservation and Hunter Education Program were females. A.H.E.I.A.'s programs such as the Youth Hunter Education Camps, Outdoor Youth Seminar, Outdoor Women's Program, Provincial Hunting Day, Outdoor Bound Mentorship Program and many other events are great opportunities to welcome first-timers or assist others in continuing to further develop their skills and interests.

In an ongoing effort to continue to provide unique opportunities for women in the outdoors, watch for more information about our upcoming "Camo Is the New Black" event. You won't want to miss this one!

If you are interested in learning more about programs geared towards women, the following is a quick list of websites that may interest you:

- **Alberta Fish and Game Association**
Website: www.afga.org
- **Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association (A.H.E.I.A.) Outdoor Women's Program Information**
Edmonton: Phone 780-466-6682 or 1-866-282-4342
Calgary: Phone 403-252-8474 or 1-866-852-4342
Website: www.aheia.com
- **Becoming an Outdoor Woman (BOW)**
Website: <http://nprg.ca/programs/becoming-an-outdoors-woman-bow/>
- **Babes With Bullets**
Website: www.babeswithbullets.com
- **Girls With Guns Clothing Apparel**
Website: www.gwgclothing.com
- **International Coalition for Women in Shooting and Hunting (WISH)**
Website: www.ic-wish.org
- **National Rifle Association - Women on Target**
Website: www.women.nra.org

- **National Wild Turkey Federation**
Website: www.nwtf.org
- **Ontario Women's Hunting Association**
Website: www.owhaontario.com
- **Safari Club International Foundation Sables Program**
Website: www.scifirstforhunters.org
Click on *Women's Corner*
- **Shooting for Women Alliance**
Website: www.shootingindustry.com
Click on *Request a Free Copy* to receive a complimentary magazine
- **Women and Guns**
Website: www.womensshooters.com
- **Women in the Outdoors**
Website: www.theoutdoorwire.com
- **Women's Outdoor News**
Website: www.womensoutdoornews.com
- **Women's Outdoor Wire**
Website: www.womensoutdoorwire.com
- **Women's Shooting Sport Foundation**
Website: www.nssf.org
- **Women's Sport Foundation**
Website: www.womenssportsfoundation.org

Women hunt for the same reasons that men hunt; it connects us to the natural world, so we better understand our roles as stewards of wildlife and wild places. We really are very fortunate that we live in a province with so many outdoor activities to participate in year round. Take advantage of the opportunity to spend quality time with friends and family in the great outdoors.



Kelly Semple, Executive Director
Hunting For Tomorrow
#87, 4003 - 98th Street
Edmonton, Alberta T6E 6M8
Phone: 780-462-2444
Fax: 780-431-2871
Email: ksemple@huntingfortomorrow.com
www.huntingfortomorrow.com

"In Alberta, women make up approximately 10% of the hunting population and this number continues to increase annually."

All Ladies CFSC at Cabela's

"I have noticed that females make up at least 25% of the students I teach."

By Hans J. Brink ABL 776



Hans J. Brink

I think that my fellow instructors out there have seen the trend of more ladies taking their Canadian Firearms Safety Course (CFSC) and getting a PAL. Cabela's hosted a Ladies Day Out event at their stores on October 4, 2014.

After discussions with many of the lady participants, many indicated a desire to get their PAL, so it was decided that an all ladies CFSC should be run. The date was Saturday November 1.

The event was heavily advertised by Cabela's (made my job easier) and I coordinated the instructors and testers. I reached out to a couple of the female instructors in the Edmonton and surrounding areas and Monique Romeo was available and willing to take on the task. Others were committed to other events or holidays.

In the last week, we went from 12 students to a full class of 21. We also had a walk-in, a person who didn't pre-register, so we kept her in the class. She brought her own chair, which was good.

I stayed long enough to introduce Monique and do the pre-course administration, and then



I left. I returned at the end of the day with fellow instructor John Partica to help with testing. The majority of the ladies did very well and all of them passed. Three of them went on to take the restricted course the following Tuesday.

We learned a lesson or two from this experience. The first and most important is that an all ladies CFSC was very popular and we want to do it again. Second, we need to decrease the student to instructor ratio. The ladies needed a little more one-on-one supervision during the handling

sessions to ensure that they got it. It would also help with building their confidence so they are not so nervous during the test.

As we move forward, we all know more ladies are taking the courses and getting their PAL. I have noticed that females make up at least 25% of the students I teach. I would think that this would be a trend throughout Alberta. A.H.E.I.A. records could confirm those statistics.

I will definitely be holding more all ladies firearms courses in 2015.



Great Meals from the Harvest

with Len Gransch

Elk Sloppy Joes

- 2 lb. ground elk
- 1 red bell pepper (diced)
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1/3 cup water
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 cup ketchup
- Hot sauce to taste
- 1 medium onion (diced)
- 4 cloves garlic (minced)
- 1 1/2 teaspoons apple cider vinegar
- 1 - 284 mL can tomato sauce
- 1/2 tablespoon chili powder
- 3/4 cup chopped parsley



Len Gransch
Program Coordinator
A.H.E.I.A.
Red Deer - North

In a medium sauce pan over medium/low heat, brown elk meat along with bell pepper, garlic and onion. The burger should be lightly browned and the veggies transparent.

In a bowl, combine all the other ingredients except parsley and whisk well to incorporate everything.

Pour mixture over elk and stir well. Simmer and stir for 30 minutes over medium/high heat until well combined. Add parsley, stir and serve. Serve on a toasted rugged style bun. Garnish with minced onion, minced pickled jalapeno peppers and your favourite shredded cheese. Simply add a green salad and a beer and you are set.

White Chicken Chili

Courtesy Sandi Bedford

- 2 medium Vidalia onions (chopped)
- 1 tablespoon cooking oil
- 4 garlic cloves (minced)
- 2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 1-2 small cans green chilies (chopped)
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 3 cans chicken broth
- 4 cups cooked chicken breast (cubed or shredded)

In a pan, sauté onions in oil until tender. Stir in garlic, chopped chilies, cayenne pepper and cumin. Continue to stir for 2-3 minutes. Add broth, chicken and beans. Simmer for a minimum of 15 minutes, uncovered. Garnish with shredded cheese, sour cream and jalapeno peppers if desired.



22nd ANNUAL

Outdoor Women's Program

AUGUST 5-9, 2015



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- Alford Lake Olympics
- Bow Tuning and Maintenance
- Camp Fire Evening!
- Cleanin' My Gun
- Feature LIVE Auction on Saturday Night
- Fly Tying
- Game Calling 101
- Knife and Axe Sharpening
- Learn How to Photograph Your Harvest
- Nature Power Walk
- Outdoor Jeopardy - Learning About Wildlife and Wild Places in the Most Entertaining Way Possible
- Rope Making

POTENTIAL SESSIONS AVAILABLE:

- Advanced Hunting - Big Game Animals
- Advanced Hunting - Upland Game Birds and Waterfowl
- Building Your Own Survival Bracelet and Learning How to Use it
- Canadian Firearms Program - Challenge
- Canoeing - Basic and Advanced
- Crossbows - Getting Started
- Field Techniques - Preparing Your Animal for the Taxidermist
- Firearms Basics - Guns, Guns, Guns
- Get Out Alive! - Basic Outdoor Survival
- K-9s at Work (Each day will feature a different type of working dog: K-9 Police Dogs, Search and Rescue, Retriever and Pointer Hunting Dogs)
- Predator Awareness - Preventing Conflicts with Carnivores
- Where Am I? Where Should I Be?
- Archery
- Chainsaw Basics
- Fly Fishing
- Geocaching
- Handguns
- Introduction to ATVing
- Let's Go Bowhunting
- Making Leather Moccasins
- The Real Mantracker
- The Science of Fishing
- Trailing
- Walk on the Wild Side
- Wildlife Identification
- Wilderness Cuisine
- Wilderness First Aid
- Wilderness Survival - Basic



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

jessica@aheia.com • 780-466-6682 • 1-866-282-4342

Classroom Management

“ Despite what score our students attain on their exam, we should be very concerned that they will retain as much of their education as possible for ‘the real world’.”

By Allan Orr



Allan Orr
Assistant Conservation
Education Coordinator
A.H.E.I.A. Red Deer - South

The objective of adult learning is not to simply attain a passing mark. Nope, the objective is to learn and retain as much information as possible. As an instructor you might think that your teaching style does not need tweaking because your students are doing well and hardly any of them fail. Maybe you think that, because you are the expert, the students need to listen to you, not be entertained by you. While this in and of itself is true, what you can't tell is how long this information will be retained by your student and be available for use in the future. Learning theory (adult learning theory, in particular) tells us that the more engaged a learner is, the longer they will retain information and the more useable that information is. The old style of simply standing in front of a class and lecturing for eight hours has long since been discredited and new, innovative ideas are being brought forward in order to maximize student engagement.

Why is this important, you may ask yourself? Well, consider that we are teaching people to partake in a sport where social pressure is constantly on them and we are certifying the people we teach to be safe and efficient in their use of a potentially deadly tool. Despite what score our students attain on their exam, we should be very concerned that they will retain as much of their education as possible for “the real world”. Think of it this way ... do you want the surgeon operating on you to retain less than 80% of what they learned? I don't think so!!

Adult education theory suggests that the more an instructor actively engages his/her students, the more information the students will retain. A combination of seeing, hearing and doing will help your students be actively engaged in your classroom.

Here are a few tips for you to help you actively engage your students in their own learning.

Active Audience

Keeping your students as active as possible will keep them engaged. Think of activities that will get your students up out of their seats and on the floor (standing, sitting, kneeling, prone ... for example!) In addition to keeping your students actively engaged, you will find that your students will much more easily grasp the various shooting

postures if they have the opportunity to try them. Of course they don't need to be handling a firearm for this to be effective, make use of every broom, every meter stick, every mop handle or whatever else you can find to simulate a firearm for this exercise.

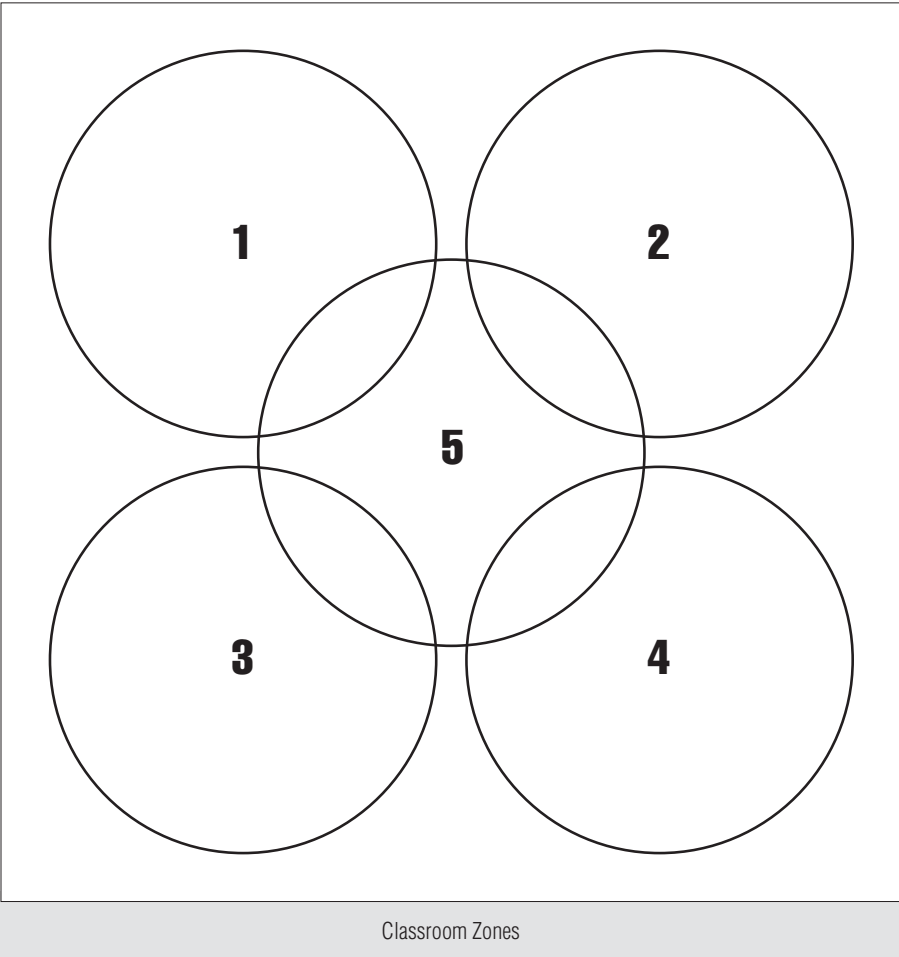
Eye Contact

Looking at people will keep their attention and help them feel a part of the class. However, too often (and I used to be very guilty of this) an instructor's eye contact will settle on one or two students in the class. This is ineffective for a couple of reasons. First of all, when we focus on one or two people or areas in a classroom, we effectively ignore the rest of the class. That “ignored” part will soon feel they are no longer part of the class and that the instructor doesn't care whether they are there or not. Consider the instructor who turns and speaks exclusively to

students in the left front corner of the class. He is effectively shutting out the entire right side of the classroom and those students towards the back, left hand side. Students on that right hand side (particularly in the back) will disengage and even if they have something valuable to contribute, will not offer any questions or comments to the instructor. This is detrimental to the entire class because someone may be wanting to ask a question that others are wanting to ask, but are too shy to do so. As well, the instructor may not even see a student raise his hand in order to ask that question.

As well, the one or two students that are on the receiving end of the eye contact will become uncomfortable and may actively attempt to disengage so as to break the continuous eye contact.

In order to overcome this, stand in a place where you can see everything you need to see at once. Find a location, or move around in such



a way that you can see the entire class. Make five points of visual reference that you rotate through. Mix things up a bit. Try 1,2,3,4,5 first, then 1,3,2,5,4, then 3,5,1,2,4, etc. Look at different people within each of those five areas and you will soon find your students paying more attention and becoming more actively involved in your class.

Ask Them Questions

Huh??? Ask THEM questions? Aren't they supposed to be asking ME questions? Well, actually, to be ultimately effective, the questions should be flowing both ways! It is a well known and widely practiced, umm, practice to begin a new learning section with a question or two. This allows those who know something about the topic a chance to show the class their wisdom and perhaps even teach the instructor a thing or two. It also gives the class an opportunity to see what will be presented in the upcoming section. Either way, it is an effective ice breaker commonly used to introduce a topic.

But don't reserve your questions for the beginning of a new section; sprinkle questions liberally throughout your presentation to ensure your students are thinking about the topics you are talking about. One way to do this effectively is to “Think-Pair-Share”. This technique is used to give students the opportunity to become actively engaged in the teaching of the class. The instructor will ask a question (“Give me an example of a moral dilemma you were faced with and tell me how you solved it”), or give a series of topics that need to be covered (identify moose, mule deer, elk, white-tailed deer) to the class. Ask them to get into groups (two or three depending on the class size) and have them discuss the topic for a few minutes. After the allotted time, they are asked to share their learning or their experience with the class. Their presentation can be as long or as short as you need them to be.

Effective Use of Audio/Video

One of the quickest ways to lose your audience is through the ineffective use of A/V. Most often this is done through a difficult-to-follow PowerPoint presentation. PowerPoint and other presentation software are powerful tools that can give remarkable results, but used incorrectly, can absolutely kill a presentation. There are many, many PowerPoint tutorials online and I would strongly suggest that anyone who is teaching any kind of course using this software take some time and go through a tutorial or two.

For now, though, here are some of the most common errors instructors will make when using or developing a PowerPoint presentation.

Reading the slide. Too often an instructor will turn his back to the class and read from the screen. As a student I ask myself, why does he need to read that, I can do that for myself?? Students want to have the instructor TALK to them like adults, not read to them like children. Of course you will need to see what is on the screen in order to present it, so ensure that your computer is set up in a location where you can see it, and that you can get the needed information from it rather than from the screen.

Too many words. Having too many words on the screen can lead to several problems. The first of which is to allow the instructor and/or the students to simply read the presentation from the screen. Typically this would result from the instructor developing the entire presentation on PowerPoint, rather than on word processing software. By developing it on word processing

software, the instructor can take the pertinent points from the word processed copy and put them into PowerPoint. The points should be no more than eight or nine words in length and there should be no more than six points per slide. This will cut down on the number of words on your slides and will keep your attention focused on your students, and their attention focused on you.

Pump or Slide Action

- A pump action is one where the forestock acts as a mechanism to load a cartridge from the magazine (usually a tubular magazine) into the chamber.
- The operator pulls back on the forestock to move the cartridge from the magazine onto the carrier.
- The operator then pushes the forestock forward effectively loading the cartridge into the chamber to be shot.
- As the forestock is pushed forward, the next cartridge moves into position at the end of the magazine, ready to be pumped onto the carrier.

Example of a wordy slide.
Difficult to read and can lead to the instructor turning his back to the audience while reading it.

Pump or Slide Action

- Forestock is used to load cartridge.
- Pull back and push forward.
- Empty cartridge is ejected as live one is loaded.



Example of an easy-to-follow slide.
Minimal wording keeps the attention of the instructor and the audience on each other.



“ Adult education theory suggests that the more an instructor actively engages his/her students, the more information the students will retain. A combination of seeing, hearing and doing will help your students be actively engaged in your classroom. ”



Julie St. Louis



Fabio De Stefani



Jacobs Kriek

Pay It Forward

“As a mentor, you will learn equally as much as your hunter ...”

By Glen Pickering



Glen Pickering
Assistant Conservation
Education Coordinator
A.H.E.I.A. Red Deer - South

You have just completed the on-line Hunter Education course or have taken the course in person from one of the many instructors in the province. Now what do you do? As a first time hunter with no previous experience, it can be a challenge to put everything learned in a course into practice. How and where do you get permission, what species are you going to hunt and what gun are you going to use? We all learn best by the actual “hands-on part”, and that is the role of the coach or mentor.

To be able to ask questions in the field — whether it is to get help judging distance, to make a safe shot, or to better understand the ballistics of a given bullet — can help give confidence to a first-time hunter in order for them to have a positive experience which will last a lifetime. It is easy to judge success and understanding in the field by the smiles on their faces, and see the respect for the outdoors and wildlife as it develops. After all, the harvest at the end of the day is only a bonus that can be shared with family and friends; the true learning is in the understanding of your own limits and in becoming in touch with nature.

In the last few weeks of November, some mentored hunts were organized on a ranch near Fort Macleod which has a high population of antlerless White-Tailed Deer, and it was a win-win situation for the hunter and the rancher. It gave the first-time hunters an opportunity to experience different hunting methods, such as still hunting, spot and stalking, or sitting behind natural blinds to wait for a deer that has been patterned between its feeding and bedding areas.

Learning how to take a clean shot into the vital areas of an animal, tracking, processing, learning respect for the land, and making a follow-up shot when needed, are all part of the mentor-hunter process. Seeing first-hand the “will to survive” of these animals or observing the type of habitat that produces surplus animals is something that cannot be learned in a classroom.

As a mentor, you will learn equally as much as your hunter, and be reminded of why wildlife has become such an important part of your value system. To be part of a first-time hunting experience as a mentor and role model only helps to ensure that good ethics will be a strong part of our hunting tradition. The demand for volunteer mentors is always high.



If you want to “Pay It Forward”
you can contact me at gpickering@aheia.com

The Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association

would like to thank

Wildlife Habitat Canada



The Mentored Hunt Program Materials
project was undertaken with the financial support of:
Ce projet a été entrepris avec l'appui financier de:



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Since 1985, Wildlife Habitat Canada, a national, non-profit, charitable conservation organization, has invested over \$50 million to support hundreds of conservation projects on private and public lands across Canada, through its granting program. Wildlife Habitat Canada works through partnerships with communities, landowners, governments, non-government organizations, and industry to conserve, enhance, and restore wildlife habitat. To learn more about the projects that Wildlife Habitat Canada has funded or to see our annual report, please visit www.whc.org.

Without habitat ... there is no wildlife. It's that simple!



Don't Miss These Events!

A.H.E.I.A. 3-Gun Raffle

Last day to buy tickets is June 19, 2015.
To purchase tickets phone the
Edmonton office at 780-466-6682
or the Calgary office at 403-252-8474.

A.H.E.I.A. Ladies Firearms Raffle

August 16, 2015.
To purchase tickets phone the
Edmonton office at 780-466-6682
or the Calgary office at 403-252-8474.

SCI Chapter Fundraiser

April 25, 2015.
At the Calgary Petroleum Club.
Contact Natalie Nesbitt at 403-397-0742
for more information.

A.H.E.I.A. Spring Fling Banquet & Fundraiser

June 4, 2015.
At the Taliani Palace in Edmonton.
To purchase tickets phone the
Edmonton office at 780-466-6682
or the Calgary office at 403-252-8474
See details on page 12.

A.H.E.I.A. Husqvarna Groundskeeper Tools Raffle

June 8, 2015.
To purchase tickets phone the
Edmonton office at 780-466-6682
or the Calgary office at 403-252-8474

To view other events, go to
www.huntingfortomorrow.com
and click on the
Calendar of Events link.



Angling and Hunting Levy Increase

“Our most important partners are Alberta's hunters,
anglers and trappers, and we expect you,
along with our many other partners and stakeholders,
to hold us accountable.”

By Todd Zimmerling *M.Sc., PhD, P.Biol.*
President & CEO
Alberta Conservation Association

As of April 1, 2015, a levy increase will be implemented on hunting and angling licences in Alberta. The majority of hunters and anglers supported this levy increase during our consultation process over the last two years. Our stakeholders told us loudly and clearly that they are willing to provide more financial support to ACA, as long as we use these funds for increased conservation efforts.

What Will We Do With Your Money?

When our stakeholders talk, we listen. Based on feedback from stakeholders and Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, the majority of the increase in levy funds will go towards fish stocking, lake aeration, rehabilitation of native fisheries, fish and wildlife habitat enhancement, pheasant release programs, and hunting and angling mentoring events like Kids Can Catch and the Taber Pheasant Festival.

Our Fisheries Program will:

- Stock more fish each year.
- Stock a wider range of species.
- Look for opportunities to add stocked and aerated lake locations in the province.
- Rehabilitate winterkilled native fisheries such as Isle and Hasse Lakes.
- Protect/manage riparian areas. Without healthy riparian areas, long-term water quality and healthy fisheries are in jeopardy. ACA has undertaken several riparian management projects over the last decade and will now be able to expand how many watercourses we positively impact.

Our Wildlife Program will:

- Boost the pheasant release program throughout Alberta by increasing the number of birds released and the number of locations where birds are released.
- Increase the ACA 4-H raise and release program to release 10,000 hen pheasants each fall.
- Increase habitat enhancement activities on both public and private lands.

- Develop a demonstration farm to work with producers on techniques that improve wildlife habitat while have a minimal or positive impact on farming operations.

Our Information, Education and Communications Program will:

- Increase the number of Kids Can Catch events throughout the province to provide greater opportunities for families to participate in angling.
- Grow the Taber Pheasant Festival to increase hunting opportunities and improve the understanding of upland gamebird habitat issues.
- Increase awareness of the impacts of invasive species introduced into Alberta.

How Much Will a Licence Cost?

Please visit our website (www.ab-conservation.com) for further information on how the levy increase impacts individual licences.

Note: During our consultation process we proposed to increase the non-resident Canadian fishing license to \$56.00. This increase has been approved by the Minister, but an unforeseen regulatory change will delay its implementation until April 1, 2016.

Are We Doing a Good Job With Your Levy Dollars?

We want to hear from you.

Our most important partners are Alberta's hunters, anglers and trappers, and we expect you, along with our many other partners and stakeholders, to hold us accountable. We want to hear from you if we do not meet your expectations for the conservation work you have told us you want to see happening in Alberta.

We are always open to suggestions for areas where we can increase our conservation work. Please send us your feedback.

If you require further information,
please do not hesitate to contact Todd Zimmerling,
ACA President and CEO
via email or telephone at 780-410-1990.



The Other Shooting Sports

“There exists a multitude of shooting sports that provide other forms of training, skills development and the opportunity to broaden our shooting repertoires ...”

By Brian Joubert



Brian Joubert

As hunters, many of us have an abiding love of shooting and firearms, and shooting our hunting firearms is an important part of preparation and ensuring competence in the field. There also exists a multitude of shooting sports that provide other forms of training, skills development and the opportunity to broaden our shooting repertoires, while feeding our interests in all things shooting.

An interest in different firearms can be accommodated in a series of shooting sports that are not necessarily hunting related but can be practised all over Alberta. Many of us are familiar with some of the more “traditional” disciplines that we often see at ranges and our fish and game clubs, such as trap, skeet, sporting clays or more casual clay target shot gunning. There are, however, a much larger set of shooting disciplines that many A.H.E.I.A. members could find themselves attracted to:

International Practical Shooting Confederation

“IPSC” is an action pistol sport that is active in 90 countries on six continents, from Argentina to Zimbabwe. Born in the 1950s, it really got its



International Practical Shooting Confederation. Author is featured in this photo.
(Photo courtesy Jeffery Cheng)

“official” start in the mid-1970s. The initial idea was to encourage handgun owners to become proficient with self-defence firearms through fun, competitive events. The “practical” aspect alludes to the fact that it was originally intended to improve handgun owners’ tactical skills. While the name still stands, it’s come a long way since then and it no longer focuses on “defensive” shooting.

In short, the sport requires shooters to complete courses of fire, or “stages”, that can require up to 32 rounds to complete. A typical match will have five or six stages per day. The stages are designed so that a shooter will not be required to shoot more than eight shots from any one position, normally less. Hence, it’s a game of movement and speed with stage designs often requiring you to contemplate various possible “freestyle” options for engagement, in order to minimize time. Qualified Range Officers maintain a critical eye on the competitor throughout each stage.

Stages incorporate standardized paper and steel targets and final scores are a function of a shooter’s hits on the targets and their time to complete the stage. Scores are also calculated depending on whether a shooter is shooting “major” power factor or “minor” power factor. Paper targets have three scoring zones: A, C, and D. A major factor hit scores 5-4-2 for these zones and in minor 5-3-1 respectively. It pays to shoot major unless you are an excellent shot! It is these three aspects that underpin the philosophy of the sport: “Speed, accuracy, power”. The aforementioned power factors are simply a function of bullet momentum (weight x velocity/1000). Minor must be at least 125 and major either 160 or 170, depending on the division.

IPSC does have rifle and shotgun divisions but they are not nearly as common as the handgun divisions; in fact I don’t know of any official long gun IPSC being practiced in Alberta. There are five main handgun divisions:



International Practical Shooting Confederation. Typical rig used for this competition.
(Photo courtesy Jeffery Cheng)

Production. This allows a shooter to compete with an out-of-box double action or striker fired pistol and almost no modifications are permitted. It’s the most affordable option and very popular. It came about largely as a response to the sport becoming an “equipment race” and becoming less attainable for many people. Production pistols need only make minor power factor (there is no major factor scoring here) and 9mm Luger is by far the most popular choice.

Standard. These pistols are permitted to have a fairly broad range of modifications and single action platforms are most popular. Major factor



International Practical Shooting Confederation.
(Photo courtesy Jeffery Cheng)

is an advantage here and must be at least 170. Major power factor ammunition needs to be at least .40” (except the .357 Sig).

Classic. A recent addition and already very popular. This is a tip-of-the-hat recognition to the pistols that started the sport — the classic 1911 single stack magazine pistols. There are some limitations to the pistols permitted and the modifications allowed. If shooting major power factor, shooters may only load eight rounds in the magazines, minor shooters get the advantage of 10 rounds. Most adherents to this class shoot 40 S&W in major; some keep it really classic and choose .45ACP.

Open. These are the “race guns”. Custom work and modification are the order of the day, as are optical sights and compensators that reduce muzzle jump and recoil. Major shooters must make 160 power factor and can do so with a 9mm bullet. Here the .38 Super and “9mm Ma-

jor” rule. In countries where it is legal, open guns commonly hold 20+ rounds in their magazines. (Remember our handgun magazine capacity in Canada is limited to 10).

Revolver. Not a common division anymore which is a shame, as there is a certain romance about revolvers and good revolver shooters are very impressive to watch.

To compete in IPSC in Canada you need to first pass a two-day training course/assessment to earn your “black badge”. This ensures that new shooters are safe with holster use and movement when firing. The sport has a strict safety culture and impeccable safety record. There is zero tolerance for poor gun safety and, from what I see in the field each year, I think that some hunters could benefit from the improved gun manners that these kinds of sports entrench.

• IPSC Alberta
www.ipscalberta.com

International Defensive Pistol Association

IDPA has grown rapidly since its inception and is now represented in 50 countries. It started in part as move back to the “practical” aspects of handgun shooting that some felt were being lost in sports like IPSC, as they became more gear intensive and “game” orientated (hence the development of the “production” division in IPSC).

In short, IDPA has many similarities with IPSC, albeit with some clear differences. IDPA matches are also shot on courses of fire that are designed to present varied and challenging scenarios to the shooter. Scoring is slightly different to IPSC but the scores are also a function of hits within scoring zones on standardized targets and the time within which a shooter completes the stage.

There are also different equipment based divisions. These include: **Stock Service Pistol** for typical double action and striker fired pistols, **Enhanced Service Pistol** which caters more to 1911 style single action pistols, **Custom**

Continued ➤



International Practical Shooting Confederation. Moving through barriers.
(Photo courtesy Jeffery Cheng)



International Defensive Pistol Association rig.
(Photo courtesy www.shootingillustrated.com)

“An interest in different firearms can be accommodated in a series of shooting sports that are not necessarily hunting related ...”

Defensive Pistol for larger bores and **Stock Service Revolver**. There is also a requirement for minimum power factor, which is also 125. The exception is Custom Defensive Pistol, which requires a 165 power factor. IDPA stages typically require fewer rounds to complete and while in IPSC you need at least four, preferably five, magazines to compete, in IDPA you are normally fine with three.

Some of the main differences are that in IDPA, stages are shot with targets in a predefined order of engagement, while IPSC is typically more freestyle in your choice to engage targets as they

become visible to you. In IDPA the pistol must be concealed by a garment like a vest or jacket at the start of the stage, reloads must be done behind cover and unlike IPSC, magazines that still hold ammunition must be retained after a reload and cannot simply be dropped on the ground.

- *IDPA Canada*
www.idpacanada.ca
- *Alberta Tactical Handgun League*
www.myathl.ca
- *Wild Rose Action Shooting*
www.wrasalberta.com



3-Gun action shooting.
(Photo courtesy www.rangereport.org)

3-Gun

If you feel that action shooting with only a handgun is still lacking, then perhaps 3-Gun is for you. As the name implies, 3-Gun is shot with three different firearms: pistol, shotgun and rifle. 3-Gun incorporates many of the attributes of the action shooting disciplines covered above but then also adds elements of riflery and clay pigeon shooting into the mix! To compete, you need a pistol, a semi-automatic rifle of .223/5.56 or larger, and a shotgun (preferably 12ga).

Many competitors use pistols identical to what they would use in IPSC Production or IDPA Stock Service Pistol, so you don't need an all-out custom gun. A semi-automatic shotgun is faster but there is no reason why your old 870 or Mossberg 500 won't work well. For rifles, the AR-15 platform rules this game but there is also nothing stopping you from using an SKS to get your feet wet.

- *Wild Rose Action Shooting*
www.wrasalberta.com

Steel Challenge

Steel Challenge is an internationally standardized match and as you probably guessed, it is shot on steel targets. The event always incorporates the same eight standardized stages, each with five steel plates. Competitors shoot each stage five times and the lowest score is dropped. Your score is simply the time taken to shoot the stage and you finish the stage when you shoot the designated "stop plate". It is a game of speed!

The nice thing about Steel Challenge is that there is a huge array of different divisions for handguns, shotguns and rifles, including rimfire divisions. So even if you have a Ruger 10/22 or Marlin Model 60 plinker in the safe, you can bring it out to a Steel Challenge match.

- *Alberta Tactical Handgun League*
www.myathl.ca
- *Wild Rose Action Shooting*
www.wrasalberta.com
- *Steel Challenge Shooting Association*
<https://steelchallenge.com/index.php>

Cowboy Action Shooting

If you like historic outfits and being called by an old west cowboy moniker, then CAS might be your new obsession. This sport is not only all about looking the part, but also shooting the guns of the old west.

CAS is often referred to as "Western 3-Gun" as it requires replicas of period-specific single action revolvers, shotguns and rifles. Have you noticed the proliferation of double barreled "coach guns" on the shelves in the last few years? You can likely thank CAS for this. Typically the guns and cartridges are those that would have been designed prior to 1900. In this game there are also requirements for maximum and minimum velocities.

- *Alberta Frontier Shootists*
<http://www.albertafrontiershootists.ca/index.htm>
- *Single Action Shooters Society*
<http://www.sassnet.com/>

International Hunting Rifle Shooting Association

Although I mention IHRSA here, they are based in South Africa with not much reach into North America, but I think that the format is fantastic. Think of "practical hunting rifle" shooting. There other local events and "rifle rodeos" that are similar. but I think that these guys really have some merit in their format. The goal is to create a match that simulates hunting shots and allows the "average" rifle that we all likely own to remain competitive without becoming an equipment race. I am hoping to try and get a similar match off the ground here in Alberta, if I ever get the time! I must also include a running target to test all of those "bush-pushers" out there ...

- *IHRSA*
<http://internationalhuntingrifleshootingassociation.com/>

In conclusion, this is just a small sample of some of the exciting shooting disciplines that are being actively practiced in Alberta. There are more of course, as we haven't yet discussed Police Pistol Combat, Bianchi, Pin Shooting, and more.



Steel Challenge. Author's wife Christine is featured in this photo.
(Photo courtesy *Brian Joubert*)

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- Toasters and other kitchen appliances in working order

Rather than toss those old hunting clothes out because you've outgrown them, donate them to A.H.E.I.A. for our Hunter Mentor Programs.

Every year kids and first-time hunters show up without proper boots, jackets and other necessary gear.

Everything is of value and nothing in good useable condition will be rejected!

REWARD

Knowing that your old items are put to use in our Youth Programs and Youth Mentorship Programs.

Contact our Calgary or Edmonton office if you have something else that you can't use and you think we might be able to.

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