

Spring 2018



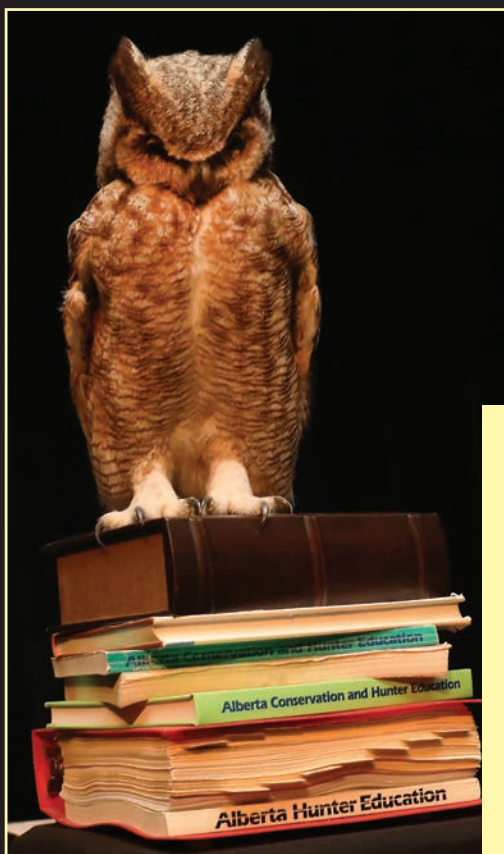
Alberta Hunter Education
Instructors' Association

Conservation Education

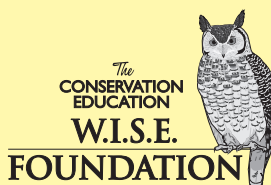


The Voice of Conservation Education in Alberta

Magazine



*Honouring
Outstanding
Albertans*



2018 W.I.S.E. AWARDS

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Honouring Outstanding Albertans

16th Annual W.I.S.E. Awards

February 10, 2018

By Robert Gruszecki



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

The 16th Annual Conservation Education W.I.S.E. Foundation Awards and Banquet was a very special event, with over 400 people joining us in celebration of 54 years of Conservation Education. During the evening we honoured another inductee into the W.I.S.E Awards Hall of Fame,

recognizing the dedication of a group of extraordinary people and their pursuit of promoting wildlife conservation and sustaining natural resources for the enjoyment of Albertans. We also celebrated the remarkable achievement of graduating our 2,000,000th student in 2017, with a presentation to an outstanding young lady who embodies our message of making fish and wildlife a part of the value system of every Albertan.

The noted dignitaries in attendance included Mr. Bob Benzen, MP for Calgary Heritage, Mr. Cameron Westhead, MLA for Banff-Cochrane, Mr. Eric Rosendahl, MLA for West Yellowhead, and the Honourable Brandy Payne, MLA for Calgary-Acadia. Mr. Westhead spoke of his personal activities and enjoyment of Alberta's outdoors, advocating the important work that we do, himself having utilized training offered through our

association. Mr. Benzen conveyed the necessity of continued programming for Albertans, which will help the public enjoy, yet safeguard, our natural habitat and species for generations. It was an honour to have both gentlemen recognize the important work we do, and with the support of our Governments and community, will do for many years to come.

In addition to our distinguished guests, we received many letters of acknowledgement, including Her Excellency The Right Honourable Julie Payette, Governor General of Canada; Her Honour The Honourable Lois Mitchell, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta; Honourable Rachel Notley, Premier of Alberta; Honourable Shannon Phillips, Minister of Alberta Environment and Parks; and Mayor Naheed Nenshi, Mayor of Calgary. The common thread expressed by these dignitaries is our commitment to education, stewardship of the environment, and the promotion and enjoyment of the outdoors in a safe and respectful manner. Every level of Government acknowledges the importance of preserving the environment for Canadians, and entrusts associations, such as AHEIA, to help oversee this important obligation.

2017 was an exceptionally busy year, reaching over 100,000 students through our network of educational programming. Our Calgary, Edmonton and Alford Lake facilities were solidly booked, with people of all ages attending, and

we expanded our firearms facilities to accommodate more Albertans for safe and responsible training. From mentorship programs to our online applications to work with local school boards, we continued to grow and strive to meet the high demand for additional educational programs throughout the province. 2018 is projected to be even more of a success, and with the commitment and assistance of our dedicated volunteers, we look forward to the challenge.

Another highlight of the evening was a presentation to members of the Alberta Game Warden Association (AGWA). At the 2017 W.I.S.E. Banquet and Awards, the AGWA presented us with the first issue of commemorative medallions, and this year we replied in kind by offering a rifle with one of the coins embedded in its stock, to be used to help raise funds for the betterment of their Association. Accepting the gift on behalf of the AGWA were Pat Dunford, Dave Dixon, Todd Ponich, John Clarke and Kelly Wilson, all members of the Game Warden Association and previous winners of a W.I.S.E. Award.

This year we continued the tradition of recognizing outstanding Albertans and their commitment to our cause with the presentation of the Industry Conservation Award. The following is an excerpt of the presentation made to this organization.

Continued ►



AHEIA presentation to the Alberta Game Warden Association.



Safari Club International - Drayton Valley Chapter

Industry Conservation Award

Safari Club International – Drayton Valley Chapter

The Industry Conservation Award is designed to recognize integrity, honesty, public relations and quality of service within the outfitted hunting community. All of these values are synonymous with this year's recipient.

The Drayton Valley Chapter of Safari Club International (SCI) is a society of avid hunters and outdoor enthusiasts who are dedicated to promoting responsible use of our natural resources. They care about hunting, fishing, wildlife and outdoor experiences within the natural environment we all live in and enjoy, and are passionate about protecting and conserving the outdoors and its resources for generations to come. Through the parent organization—Safari Club International—the Drayton Valley Chapter promotes and presents a number of wildlife conservation and humanitarian efforts within our community and supports Safari Club International in their endeavours toward ensuring hunting rights are protected worldwide.

The Drayton Valley Chapter of SCI has been involved in various conservation education activities and has partnered with AHEIA extensively, which includes cooperation with Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (SRD) on a number of studies focusing on conservation efforts of Alberta's wildlife. These studies have involved cougars, black bears, caribou, river otters and moose. The Chapter also provided a FLIR (thermal imaging device) to the Drayton Valley SRD office to aid in the prevention of night-time poaching.

The members of this association have been at the helm of several humanitarian efforts, including a fishing dock for seniors. The Drayton Valley Chapter felt it was important to create a connection to the outdoors for long-term care residents, individuals with disabilities, and disadvantaged

youth in the Drayton Valley area who didn't have access to experience fishing activities. Eight years ago, on the property of a Chapter member, the fishing dock began to take shape, and since then Chapter members have volunteered thousands of hours to build, maintain and operate the dock with a club member always being present to help tie on a hook, net a fish and be a friendly ear to ensure guests enjoy their outdoor experience. Over 1,800 seniors and disadvantaged individuals have enjoyed the dock, making a tremendous impact on their lives they would otherwise not have had.

Another endeavour in which Drayton Valley SCI is to be admired is its Blue Bag program. Chapter members provide "Blue Bags" stocked with essential school supplies, medical supplies, or whatever is needed, to locations such as Africa, Cuba, Haiti and Mexico as part of SCI's global mission. Over \$10,000 in supplies have been distributed since the program's inception.

As a commitment to sustain our hunting heritage and provide the opportunity for youth to enjoy the outdoors, the Chapter offers a free Youth Hunter Training Program every spring at the Drayton Valley Community Hall for youth between 12 and 17 years old. To date nearly 150 youth hunters have been certified.

The Drayton Valley Chapter is a strong supporter of AHEIA's National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) and hosted the 2015, 2016 and 2017 NASP Provincial Shoot, seeing over 1,200+ youth from 54 Alberta communities participating at the 2017 event. Since the AHEIA NASP Program's inception, the Drayton Valley Chapter has committed in excess of \$200,000 towards helping to provide kits to 14 local schools and an outreach school, making Drayton Valley one of the most involved and recognized NASP communities in Alberta. Their involvement in the program has provided an opportunity for youth of all ages and capabilities to participate in the friendly sport of archery, further enhancing their

self confidence and giving them a chance to participate in a competition which teaches discipline and structure.

Embracing the Association's goals and objectives, the message SCI International Drayton Valley Chapter would like to convey is to be true to your outdoor roots. Get out there and enjoy the beauty and splendour that is waiting for you. Protect it, but utilize it. Treat it with respect.

Congratulations to the winner of this year's Annual W.I.S.E. Award. You have distinguished your chapter as a leader in making the outdoors inclusive and accessible to anyone who wishes to enjoy its glory. Your commitment reaches far past the people of Drayton Valley and is an example for all of us to aspire.

Chapter President, Coby Mahan, accepted the award on behalf of the Drayton Valley Chapter.

2,000,000th Student Award

Jaelyn Barwegen

In 2006, AHEIA proudly recorded the 1,000,000th student of our Conservation Education programs since their inception in 1964. In 2017, 11 short years later, we once again reached another amazing achievement in educating Albertans with the graduation of our 2,000,000th student!

Jaelyn Barwegen is a Grade 8 student at Immanuel Christian Secondary School in Lethbridge and was enrolled in the Outdoor Education program developed and taught by Dean Degner, an AHEIA member and a certified Hunter Ed, Fishing Ed and NASP instructor. Jaelyn successfully completed her Hunter Education course in the fall of 2017 and harvested her first white tailed buck shortly after finishing the course. Always the independent one, she even insisted on gutting it herself. Jaelyn plans to continue her Out-



Jaelyn Barwegen

door Education program and will be taking the Fishing Education Course later this year. She is looking forward to spending many hours in the outdoors with her family and friends, and with her enthusiasm for wildlife and the outdoors, we have no doubt she will encourage and lead the charge of others in her generation to be equally engaged in our environment.

2018 is looking to be our busiest year yet, and the challenge to accommodate the demand is resulting in the addition of more programs, more facilities and more staff. As we see the recession slowly turn direction and indicate the slightest hint of recovery, we will strive to meet these demands with new fundraising strategies and financial support from our good partners in both the private and public sectors. Our next fundraising venture will be the 5th Annual Spring Fling Banquet in Edmonton on June 7, so mark your calendars for an evening of good company and fun.

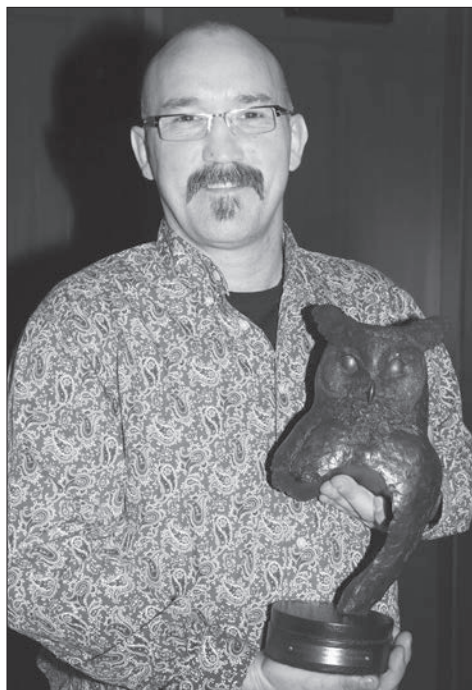
Moving forward, we are very excited about the release of the online component of our Pleasure Craft Operator Training Course, anticipated this spring, and this year marks the 25th anniversary of our Outdoor Women's Program which will take place at our Alford Lake facility this August. The expansion and upgrades at Alford Lake, along with the procurement of facilities in the Edmonton area, will also be a focus of our energy in 2018. It is without a doubt that the success of our endeavours is directly related to the help our volunteers continue to offer, providing the critical component of manpower to our success. Heartfelt thanks to all of our volunteers for your energy, enthusiasm and dedication to our cause. I look forward to working with you in the upcoming months as we strive towards the safe-keeping of our valued resources through quality programming and education.

Thank you to everyone for the role you play in making wildlife and fish part of peoples' value systems and all the best in 2018.

Cheers!



Robert A. Gruszecki, President



Jaelyn Barwegen, our 2,000,000th student, with her family.

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

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Front Cover Photos

Top, Left to Right:
Robert Gruszecki, President, AHEIA;
Cameron Westhead, MLA Banff-Cochrane;
Coby Mahan, President, Safari Club International -
Drayton Valley Chapter;
and Eric Rosendahl, MLA West Yellowhead.

Bottom: Jaelyn Barwegen, 2,000,000th Student
Award winner (left) and Robert Gruszecki (right).



Coby Mahan receiving W.I.S.E. Award on behalf of Safari Club International - Drayton Valley Chapter.



MLA Cameron Westhead

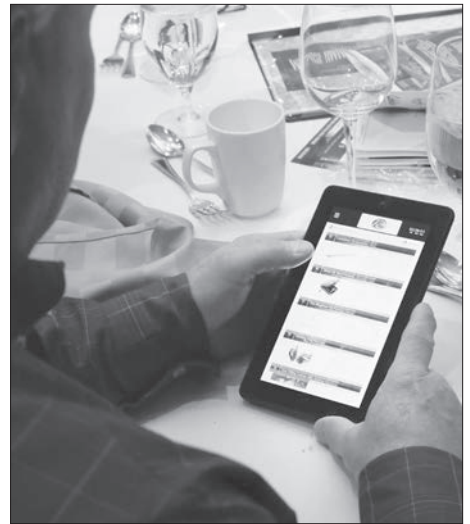


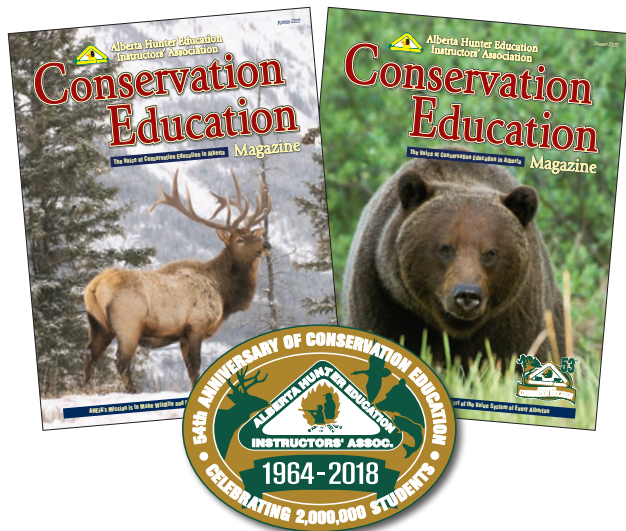
MP Bob Benzen

The Conservation Education W.I.S.E. Foundation & the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association present the

16th Annual W.I.S.E. Awards & Banquet







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

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Women's & Youth Leagues

All abilities welcome, including those who have never held a gun before!

Spring 2018 Session

May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, June 6

Summer 2018 Session

July 4, 11, 18, 25, August 1, 8

Fall 2018 Session

September 5, 12, 19, 26

Cost is \$60.00 per session.

Firearms, eye and ear protection included.

An AHEIA membership is required
and can be purchased onsite.

Sessions held at the Calgary Firearms Centre,
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Firearms Education Report

“ Through the efforts of the instructors, it is estimated 40,000 students were taught this past year. ”

By Glenn McKay



Glenn McKay
Firearms Education
Coordinator
AHEIA

The 2017 Canadian Firearms Program saw another successful year. Through the efforts of the instructors, it is estimated 40,000 students were taught this past year.

As a result of the volume of students trained, a few small problems arose when paperwork audits took place. As a year-end summary, instructors are reminded of the following:

- The yellow class sheet is NOT a class sign-in sheet. The instructor should be filling the class sheet out in a manner in which names can be read. If you see a missing or blank box, correct the mistake. The course reports should then be placed in the same order as the names appearing on the class sheet. Simple to do and very easy to ensure all students are accounted for.

- Any application envelopes for minors that indicate that the students are to send their application to Edmonton should be destroyed. Applications are to be sent to Miramichi, the same as an adult PAL application.
- Class size maximum remains at 12 students if only one instructor is present. If there are more than 12 students, two instructors must be present for the entire class.
- If you are using a proctor, or want to use a proctor, please fill in a proctor assistance form and the new Safety Course Standards contract. Remember, if you are using a proctor they are not considered an instructor.
- Please send in the class sheet and course reports within 10 days. Do not stockpile these, as any mistakes made on the forms are difficult to correct before the student sends in their copy. Errors will delay the student's application process.
- When having the students fill out the course forms, remind the students to use their legal name. If this is not done the application process can be delayed.

- There have been some instances where a student has been told, "You have to retake the course again as it has been too long." Unless the completed course has been taken away by the courts, this is NOT the case and no further course has to be taken. The student must simply fill out a new application to receive their PAL. On page 3 of the application, where it asks for proof of course completion, have the student indicate the results are on file. Please pass on this information to anyone who is incorrectly telling the students they need to retake the course due to length of time since completed.

These are simple "fixes" that will enable the entire process to run much smoother and prevent unnecessary delays.

Many thanks to all the Firearms Program instructors! Any questions or concerns, please contact Glenn McKay at bgm@aheia.com.



Brian Burke's Targets for Kids Award Recognition

By Glenn McKay

On Thursday, June 8, 2017, KidSport Calgary and Area, along with a great group of volunteers from AHEIA, hosted the Brian Burke's Targets for Kids event at the Calgary Firearms Centre. Great weather and a group of 28 teams, along with celebrities, meant an awesome day of fun and comradery at this fun shoot.

In February 2018, AHEIA was notified that this event was chosen as a finalist for the Outstanding Event - 2018 Fundraising Event category by Calgary Event Awards. On March 7, 2018, at the Calgary Event Awards gala, the Brian Burke's Targets for Kids by KidSport Calgary and Area was chosen as the winner of this category!

As mentioned by the emcee at the Calgary Event Awards, to obtain funding for not-for-profits in a tight budget year was a remarkable feat. The crowd that was in attendance came from various backgrounds and all were there to support excellence in successful events. Pictures of the Brian Burke's Targets for Kids were shown and there were some hardy cheers when it was chosen as the winning fundraising event.

The takeaway from the Calgary Event Awards for many was the recognition that guns and shooting events can be safe and fun for the participants and very effective fundraising platforms benefiting the local community.

People who organize the Brian Burke's Targets for Kids are well on track for this year's event. In fact, they have already oversold the program! This year's shooting event will take place at the Calgary Firearms Centre on Thursday, June 7 and everyone is looking forward to another great day.

Here is a well deserved pat on the back to all the volunteers and staff who made such a committed effort to ensure a successful, award winning event.

White Flyer Targets Recognizes AHEIA's Calgary Firearms Centre and Alford Lake Centre

White Flyer Targets, a subsidiary of Reagent Chemical and Research, Inc., recently recognized AHEIA's Calgary Firearms Centre and the Alford Lake Conservation Education Centre ranges for our loyalty and long-term relationship. A substantial rebate cheque was provided to our cause by White Flyer.



AHEIA is very appreciative of White Flyer Targets' recognition.

Thank you to all AHEIA's members, guests, students and special events attendees using our firearms facilities to help us reach another impressive milestone.



Edmonton Report



“Volunteers are the backbone of everything we do.”

By Len Gransch



Len Gransch
Program Coordinator
AHEIA
Red Deer - North

Spring is finally here, and my thoughts always turn to spring black bear hunting. Baiting black bears tends to be a lot of work, but the effort and rewards make it well worthwhile. It is very enjoyable watching bears come into your site. I have learned a lot about their habits which has made me a more successful hunter.

If you missed our 2017 Youth Hunter Education camp, you can get ready for the 2018 camps. Simply download a copy of the registration form on our website or call or drop by any one of our

offices for a copy. At the time of this writing we are about 60% full. Don't miss out!

Our 2018 Outdoor Youth Seminar will run August 24-26 and will be held at our Alford Lake facility. Email our Edmonton office at edmontoninfo@ahcia.com or call us at 780-466-6682, or toll free at 1-866-282-4342, to be placed on our 2018 Notification List.

We continue to look for volunteer assistance. If assisting at our camps and other events is not something you are interested in, but you still wish to volunteer, we can provide many other options. We continue to look for help at the office with our regular daily routines. If you wish to become part of something bigger, please let us know. Paying it forward has great personal rewards. Give me a call if you are able to lend a hand and I will get you started.

Once again I would like to thank everyone who continues to help out by volunteering. Your selfless dedication is very much appreciated, indeed! Volunteers are the backbone of everything we do.

It is still a little way off, but I want you to keep our 2018 Spring Fling Banquet in mind. The banquet will be held on Thursday, June 7, 2018 at the Palace Banquet in Edmonton (same spot as last year). Check our website regularly for updated lists of items that will be up for grabs at the banquet. Items will be added as we procure them. See our Spring Fling poster in this issue.

Until next time.



*Take Care and
Enjoy the Great Outdoors!*

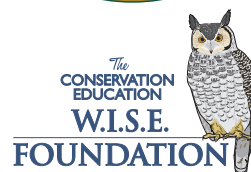
Spring Fling

Early Bird Draw



**Purchase your tickets for the 2018 Spring Fling
no later than Tuesday, May 1 at noon
and you will be entered into our Early Bird Draw!**

Up for grabs is a Savage 64 FXP .22 calibre semi-automatic rifle with a synthetic stock, 10 round detachable magazine, and a 4x32 scope. Also included are 325 rounds of .22LR ammunition, a cleaning kit, and a hard gun case. Retail value \$320.00.



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Fifth Annual **Spring Fling** *Banquet*

Thursday, June 7, 2018 • The Palace Banquet, 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

For additional
information or to
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AHEIA-NASP Provincial Archery Tournament

By Dave Paplawski



Dave Paplawski
Vice President &
Provincial Program
Coordinator
A.H.E.I.A.

The 2018 AHEIA-NASP Provincial Archery Tournament was held March 15-17 at the Edmonton Expo Centre during the Edmonton Boat and Sportsmen's Show.

Eighty different schools attended, from Cardston to Grande Prairie. There were 1,676 boys and girls from grades 3-12 registered to compete and represent their school. The Junior High division had 635, Elementary division had 587, and High School division had just over 400 competitors attend and register a score. Along with the archers, over 300 coaches and 1000 enthusiastic parents also attended.

The competition was intense with great scores, bullseye hits and many personal bests. At the conclusion of the tournament, the top female archer was Haley Ashton from H.A. Kostash School in Smokey Lake with a score of 294/300, and top male archer, with 293/300, was River Hoffos from Ardrossan Junior/Senior High School.

Congratulations to all the archers who attended and competed!

What a great way to take a day off school, competing in an Archery Tournament and getting to see all the displays and events associated with the Edmonton Boat and Sportsmen's Show.

Special thanks to the Canadian National Sportsmen's Show for hosting this event. Thank you also goes to the dozens of volunteers and AHEIA staff who assisted, along with our wonderful sponsors: AHEIA, Cabela's, Trophy Book Archery - Spruce Grove, Badlands, and Korth Group.



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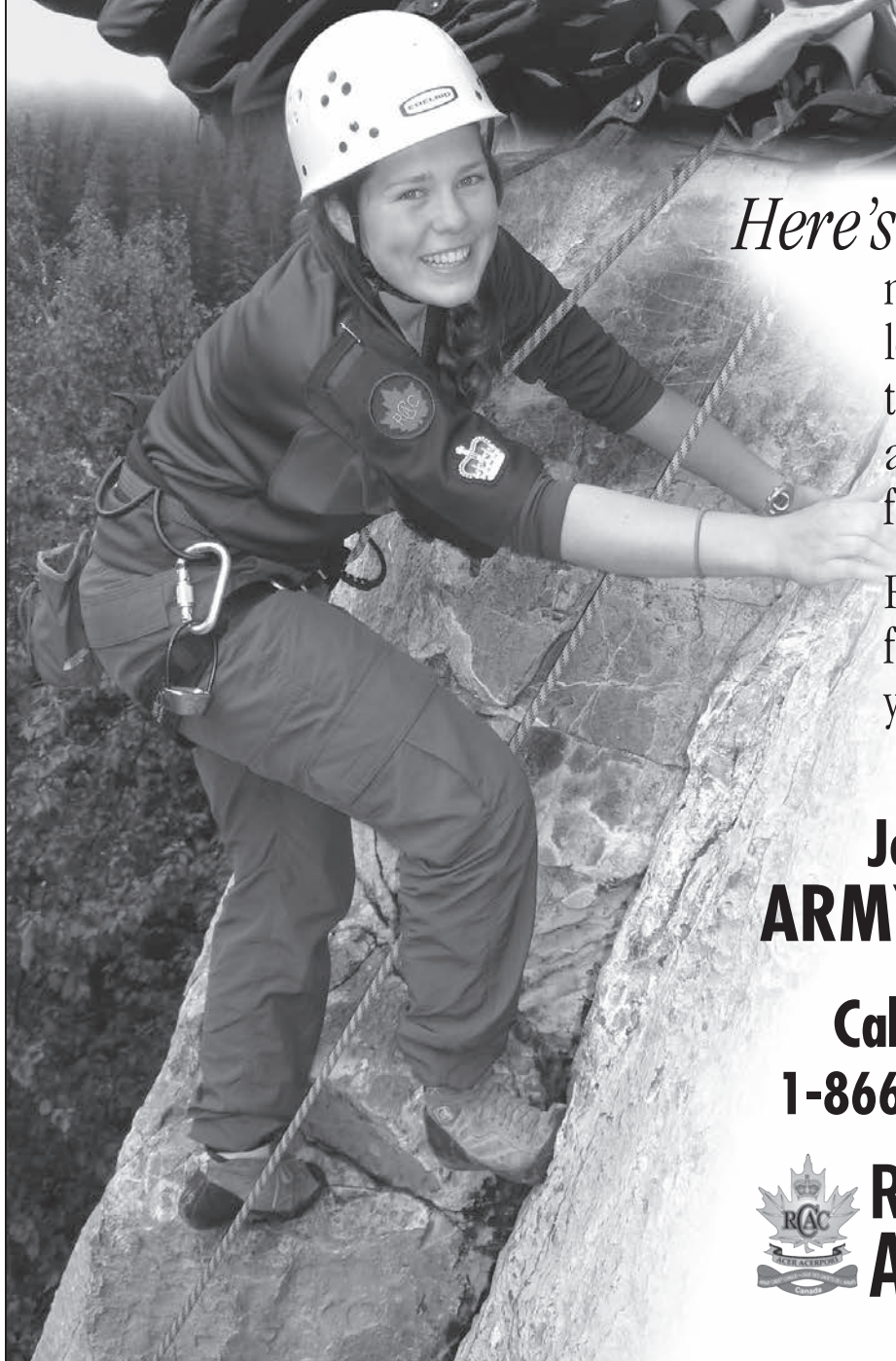
Registration is free for youths 12 to 18 years of age.

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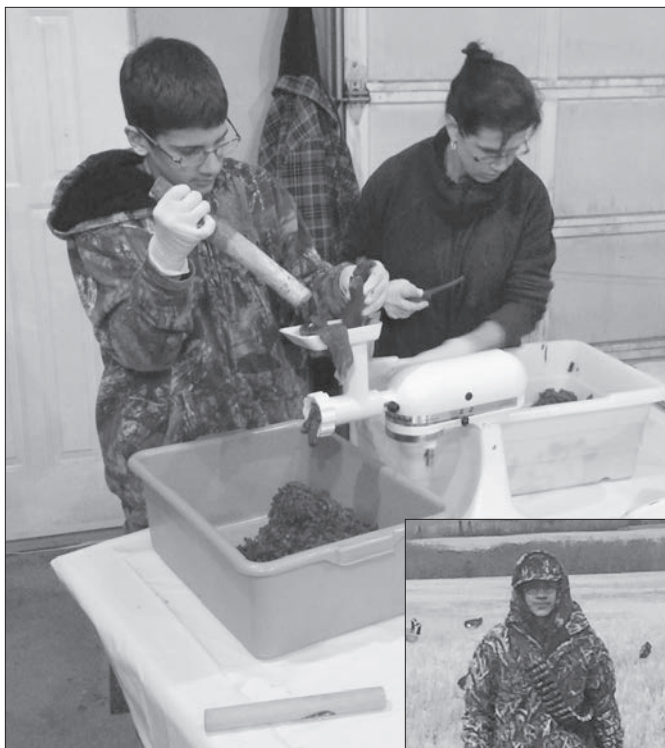


“... when a person or organization excels, they should be recognized for their efforts.”

Praise for AHEIA Instructor Darryl Yacey and AHEIA Programs

By Det. Frank Pagé B.P.E., M.Sc.

Major Crimes Branch - Homicide Section, Edmonton Police Service



“ He has made a huge difference in Samuel's life, and is helping him gain skills and confidence. ”



My 14-year-old son, Samuel, and I are just learning to hunt. He has wanted to for a couple years now, but I do not come from a hunting family. I approached Darryl Yacey prior to Samuel's 12th birthday as Darryl was teaching the PAL course. Darryl asked me when Samuel's 12th birthday was and specifically scheduled a PAL course to fall the week after so that Samuel was able to attend. We took the course together and Darryl was fabulous with Samuel. He made sure to separate Samuel and myself during the practical to force Samuel to be independent in handling the guns. He showed much wisdom there, but he did it in a way that had both of us smiling! When I told Darryl that Samuel is dyslexic, Darryl took him aside and verbally administered the exam. Darryl was fabulous with him. Samuel achieved a higher score than I did! In fact, he also beat me on the practical exam. He was incredibly proud to have beaten his Mom who has been a cop longer than he has been alive. Darryl later sent Samuel an email praising him for his work and success in the course. Darryl has since told me that he uses Samuel as an example for people in his courses who complain that the guns are too big to handle. He tells them about how Samuel learned how to do it when some of the guns were almost bigger than he was. Samuel is very proud of being used as a great example.

Since that time, Darryl has been incredible answering all Samuel's and my questions. He suggested that I take Samuel to Hunter Day at Rocky Mountain House. We trust Darryl so much that if he suggests something, we do it!! We were very impressed with the topics presented, everything that we learned and how welcoming your staff were. We took two firearms sessions and two information sessions. The predator awareness was fabulous, your firearms instructors were amazing, and the Fish and Wildlife member was very good. As we were leaving, Samuel said he wants to go back next year and bring his younger sister. In addition, Darryl told us to take the Hunter Education online, so we did this together. That was very well done. I commend whomever put that online course together.

One final comment about Darryl. He really took Samuel under his wing. He wasn't just a PAL instructor, he is a mentor. He has stressed to me that he wants Samuel to learn to hunt the right and ethical way. He sees the passion Samuel has for the sport and wants to ensure that he is on the right path so that passion is maintained. He took us both goose hunting and while we didn't get anything, we learned so much and experienced the beauty of the outdoors. Samuel was talking nonstop about the experience all the way home. Darryl even had us out to his place to help process a deer to learn that end of things and he gave us some meat to take home and enjoy.

I write this to you to let you know that AHEIA is a valuable organization, especially for people like me who want to help our kids with getting outdoors, respecting nature, and building on their passion for hunting. While I have limited exposure to the scope of your AHEIA staff, I can say that Darryl is a fabulous ambassador for your organization. He has made a huge difference in Samuel's life and is helping him gain skills and confidence.

I wanted to send you this quick line as I am a firm believer that when a person or organization excels, they should be recognized for their efforts. I want to say thank you to AHEIA and to Darryl.





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Alberta Hunting Addicts Donates to AHEIA's Youth Hunter Education Camps



The Alberta Hunting Addicts, Alberta's largest hunting Facebook group with 15,000+ members, donated the proceeds of their calendar sales to AHEIA at the end of 2017 to be applied towards the AHEIA Youth Hunter Education Camps, held in July 2018. Alberta Hunting Addicts' donation was gratefully accepted and will benefit nearly 250 youth in this year's Youth Hunter Education Camp program.

Joey Wolfman created Alberta Hunting Addicts on March 30, 2015 and, along with several co-administrators, manages the Facebook group made up of members from Alberta's hunting community. They are a group which, among a number of things, raises funds for organizations that represent what Alberta Hunting Addicts is about. Alberta Hunting Addicts strongly encourages kids to become involved in outdoor activities, and has had members donate items to create "outdoor prize packages" which are then given to youth to instill a love of the outdoors.

AHEIA would like to thank Alberta Hunting Addicts for their efforts and contribution towards helping create an ethical, humane and educated Alberta youth who value wildlife and the environment.

A Successful Young Hunter

Nov. 21, 2017

Dear Mr. Robert Gruszecki,

We were, if successful, to write a short story about our hunt we had done with our antlerless mule deer licence. This is my story of how I got my deer. My father and one of my younger brothers went with me on a Saturday afternoon. We talked with the landowner, and he told us a bit where the deer were. Then we went quietly into the bush. We were in there a short time when we saw a couple of mules. We went in the direction they were headed, and we saw a big Mulie buck who turned and ran. Then a short time after, we saw a bit of a deer nose. We snuck up and then two does came out of the trees in front of us around ten yards away. I couldn't shoot very well at a target moving as fast as they were, so they got away. Then we saw that they might come out in this bit of a clearing to the side of us, so we dropped down, and I got ready to shoot if I had an opportunity. But then we saw a spike buck to the side of us and were watching him, when looking a bit behind me I saw the leg of a deer. We went the direction it was headed and saw the spike buck and doe. We squatted, but we only saw the buck. He came within 10 yards, but then scared off. We saw a doe go past us on the other side, so we turned in case the other would come that way. Then after a short time we saw another Mulie around thirty five yards off. After looking at it a bit we decided it was antlerless, and waited for it to step in the open, for we had only seen it through the bush. Then it took a couple of steps and stopped. I took quick aim and fired. It hunched its shoulders and went off. We waited a short bit then went after it. It was quite surprising. When we got to where the deer had been there was no blood! But then we saw it around forty yards off, lying dead. Another successful hunt!

Sincerely,
Joseph Fraser



SURVIVAL IS IN OUR CROSSHAIRS



CON CAPIT

DID YOU KNOW:

- that it takes an annual operating budget of approximately \$4.3 million to deliver all facets of Conservation Education to approximately 100,000 Albertans annually?
- that every cent of every dollar that is donated goes into Conservation Education program delivery?
- that the annual printing budget of AHEIA for all program areas, including manuals, tests, certificates, etc. represents in excess of \$400,000?
- the annual premiums to secure liability insurance of \$10,000,000 and all other necessary insurance for equipment, facilities and vehicles for AHEIA and every instructor and participant exceeds \$150,000.
- the annual cost of correspondence to members of AHEIA is approximately \$150,000.
- the annual cost for the purchase and repair of training aids and equipment is approximately \$400,000.
- the cost of the one week long Outdoor Women's Program, including three meals and one snack per day, is approximately \$130,000 or \$550 per participant.
- the cost of running one of our Youth Seminars for 150 youths exceeds \$70,000.
- the cost of running one of our Youth Camps for 50 youths for five days, including three meals and one snack per day, is approximately \$1000 per participant or \$50,000.
- the cost of running a one day Outdoor Wildlife Learning (O.W.L. Days) program for 150 youths is approximately \$120 per child or \$18,000.
- the cost of one instructional techniques workshop for 20 instructors for 20 hours is approximately \$1,500 per participant or \$30,000.
- AHEIA does not charge fees on a cost recovery basis for their programs, and survives by donations!

PLEASE CONSIDER

CONSERVATION EDUCATION FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

FACT:

Our programs survive by donation.

FACT:

Economic woes affect us all, especially the charities.

FACT:

Incomes are down nearly 50%
and operating costs are increasing.

FACT:

Our goal is to continue excellent program delivery,
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FACT:

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

In 2018 our programs will reach over 100,000 men, women, and children
of all ages and our projections for 2019 are to reach an even larger audience.

Our fundraising efforts are being supplemented with a new
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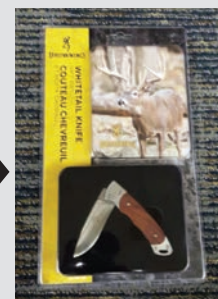
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“Processing your pelt properly is essential for a good quality taxidermy mount, or to bring the best possible price at auction.”

Processing Wild Fur

By Glen Pickering



Glen Pickering
Assistant Conservation
Education Coordinator
AHEIA Red Deer - South

It's been a long cold winter with deep snow and iced-over conditions that can be very hard on our big game populations. As hunters we help to keep big game populations in check by reducing surplus animals to maintain good carrying capacities on winter ranges. Equally important is that we spend the time and effort to help maintain the predator populations as well. Coyotes and wolves can easily run over crusted snow in pursuit of quarry which finds it difficult to escape in deep snow conditions. Fawns, lambs, or calves can be drastically reduced by predators, leaving little recruitment to replace the natural die off that takes place with all ungulates each year. Not all predators

can be hunted for their fur, as some, like the lynx, can only be harvested with a trapping licence. Under the section of *Other Species* in the 2017 Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations (page 58), it describes the rules and regulations for hunting these predators.

Coyote, wolf, fox and badger are some of the pelts that can be tanned for taxidermy purpose, or sold as raw fur to the North American Fur Auction (www.nafa.ca). Raw furs can only be sold to a registered fur buyer or shipped to the auction. This website will let you know where the collection depots are in Alberta and the last receiving dates, enabling your pelts to be shipped to the auction house in time to be graded for the sale. Furs are graded depending on their size, condition, colour and clarity, and this will determine the price you will get at the sale. The auction is live streamed, so you could actually watch your pelts sell according to the lot numbers assigned to them.

The best time to harvest predators for their fur is between December and February, and this year, with the cold snowy conditions, their pelts are in prime condition, and demand is high in both Asian and European markets. Western Canadian pelts top the sales every year, and even though it may not be necessary to harvest some pelts taken on private land, it "pays" to do so. The last sale, in February 2018, brought an average of \$105 USD per coyote pelt (western heavy).

Ideally furs should be harvested with "fur friendly calibres" such as 204, 223 or 22-250 rifles. Bullet choice is equally as important in order to avoid large exit holes, which will downgrade your fur condition and take extra processing time in order to sew and wash the hide.

Processing your pelt properly is essential for a good quality taxidermy mount, or to bring the best possible price at auction. For the wild fur auction, most pelts need to be "trunk or case skinned" and delivered as raw fur, which has not been tanned. Some pelts, such as a badger or beaver, will need to be cut up the belly and stretched flat like a rug.

Check out the
North American Fur Auction
website at

www.nafa.ca

for fur collection depot
locations in Alberta
and their receiving dates.



To begin the process, enclose your animal in a garbage bag and spray with raid in order to kill any fleas. Then follow these steps:

Step 1

Removing the Hide:

- Cut the fur around the hind legs just above the paws, as they are not needed.
- Make a cut down the inside of the legs toward the anus, then make a cut in the shape of a "V" toward the belly in order to open it up like a pillow case.
- Cut up the underside of the tail and pull the tailbone from the hide.
- Next, cut the front legs off below the knee in order to pull the hide off the carcass.
- Hang the carcass from the back legs and begin pulling down on the hide until you reach the head.
- Make a cut at the base of the ears and skin around the eyes and nose carefully.
- The fur from the bottom jaw is not required and needs to be removed.
- Skin around the gum line and the hide can now be completely removed.



Step 2

Fleshing:

- Turn the hide inside out and start removing all the fat and flesh from the hide down to the leather. If you are seeing the roots of the fur you are too deep. The entire hide will need to be fleshed completely or it will not dry properly.
- A completely fleshed hide can be washed in Dawn dish soap to remove any bloodstains.



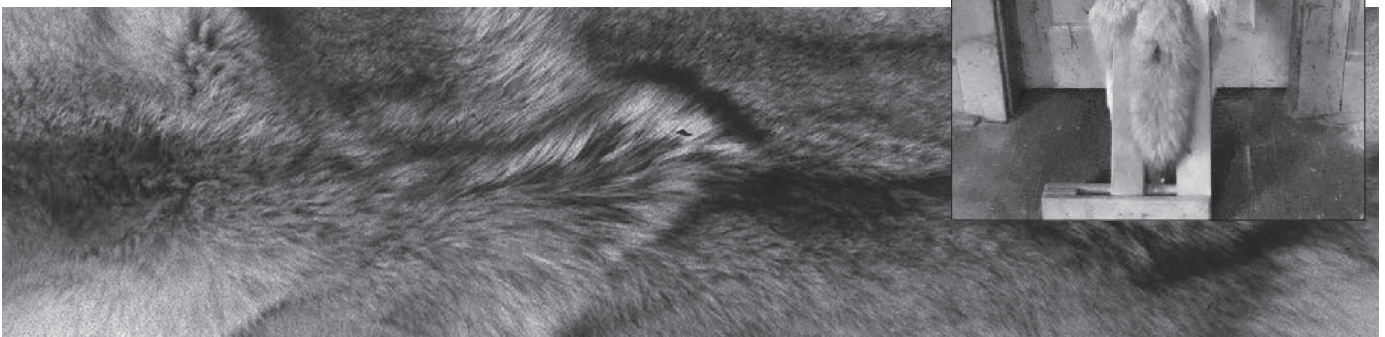
“ Under the section
Other Species
in the 2017
Alberta Guide to
Hunting Regulations,
it describes the
rules and regulations for
hunting predators. ”

Step 3

Drying:

- Turn your hide flesh (leather) side out and put it on a stretching board to dry for about 8 hours, so it is still pliable to the touch. Rub sawdust on the leather to help remove moisture.
- If you dry it out too much you will not be able to remove it from the stretch board and will need to moisten the hide with a damp cloth.
- Turn it fur side out and stretch it one last time.
- Comb the fur up with a dog comb and let it dry completely.
- When it is dry, take it off the stretch board and hang for a day.
- Grab the pelt by the nose and give it a shake.
- If you have done a good job of fleshing, stretching and drying it should sound like a paper bag.
- Comb one last time toward the tail and your pelt is ready to be shipped to market.

Hunting predators in the winter months is a good way to sharpen your hunting and shooting skills for the fall big game season. It is important to realize that the actual vital areas on these predators are much smaller than what it appears due to their long guard hairs. Typically, a coyote will only have a 4-5 inch body target zone and the rest will be long fur. In addition, there are many kinds of predator calls on the market and electronic calls can legally be used to call coyote, fox and wolves.



**“According to Alberta Environment and Parks,
the Alberta black bear population is approximately 40,000 and going strong.”**

Spring Black Bear Tips

By Len Gransch



Len Gransch
Program Coordinator
AHEIA
Red Deer - North

Due to several requests and conversations with our volunteers and the public, I thought I would re-visit the topic of spring black bear hunting.

The black bear (*Ursus americanus*) is one of the most difficult wild game animals to judge under field conditions. Is it big enough? Is it a trophy? My way of thinking

is that a trophy is in the eyes of the beholder. If you like the bear and shoot it, then it is a trophy!

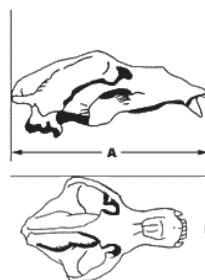
Black bears can be located in approximately 75% of the province, in a range of approximately 190,000 square miles. Their habitat covers most of Alberta's forested land areas, including foothill and mountainous areas as well as open forests. Modern forestry practices of clear-cut technology and the opening-up of forested areas have helped to increase suitable black bear habitat, and populations have increased in recent years because of this and other factors.

According to Alberta Environment and Parks, the Alberta black bear population is approximately 40,000 and going strong. Approximately 6% are harvested annually by hunters, with most being taken during the spring hunt. We can consider our current population to be very strong and on the rise. In Alberta the black bear is considered a "green" species and not at risk.

With all of this in our favour, this is an ideal time to consider giving black bear hunting a try. There are a number of considerations you must contemplate prior to heading out on your adventure.

I have had many conversations over the years with hunters on what constitutes a trophy bear. I have been a bear hunter, guide and outfitter for over 40 years now and have come up with some guidelines that may help you in your quest for that giant bruin.

In 1887 Theodore Roosevelt formed the Boone and Crockett Club as a means "to conserve our country's natural wildlife resources". The club published its first Records Book in 1932 with the goal to recognize records and to standardize the system and process for scoring trophies. When it comes to the black bear, scoring is done by measuring the skull. This is the only legitimate way of scoring your trophy. The length (A) and width (B) are added to come up with the score (see below). There are other organizations who also maintain specific record books, but the measuring formula is the same for all. The minimum scores are as follows:



SCI - 18", Boone and Crockett - 20", Pope and Young (archery) - 18", and Longhunter (black powder) - 18".

Now you know how the bears are scored, but how do you put this into practical use in the field?

The Head

First, let us look at a bear's head. Immature bears will have a smaller, more streamlined head. The top of the nose will be concave. The ears will appear pointed, very large in comparison to the head itself, and located more to the top of the head. The eyes will appear close together. An immature bear will almost be "doglike" in appearance, and therefore likely not a trophy. (Figure 1)



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

As the bear matures the top of the nose will become flatter, approaching a convex shape. The ears will be located more towards the side of the head rather than the top, and the ears will start to become rounded off and give the appearance of being smaller. This bear could definitely have trophy potential. The space between the eyes also gets wider at this stage. (Figure 2)

As the bear matures, the top of its nose will become completely convex in shape. The ears will appear smaller and even more rounded off. The eyes will be even wider apart at this stage. Some mature bears will also develop a pronounced crease running down the centre of their forehead, but not always. (Figure 3)

Nose length also has a bearing on the skull size. Typically, long-nosed bears (Figure 3) will score better than those with stubby noses (Figure 2).

Some mature bears will also get gray haired around their nose and face, just like some old men. The muzzle of a bear can also have different colors. I have seen muzzles that are completely black while others have the black/brown combo. These varieties in colour have no correlation to bear size.

The approximate skull sizes on these bears are 16⁹/₁₆" (Figure 1), 18" (Figure 2), and 20¹²/₁₆" (Figure 3).

The Body

In some instances bears are like humans. There are tall ones, short ones, thin ones, stocky ones, athletic ones, and so on. One method I use to



Figure 4

determine the estimated overall length of the bear is by measuring the width of the print left by the pad of the hind leg. Just add 1" to your measurement. If the print measures 5", just add 1" for a total of 6", which converts to a 6' bear. Not an exact science, but very close. (Figure 4)

Is It Boar or a Sow?

Sexing a bear while sitting in your stand can be challenging, but it is safer than waiting under cover for the bear to come close, then jumping out to examine their private parts. Boars tend to walk "pigeon-toed", rolling their shoulders as they saunter along. Their rumps tend to be quite round. Sows will tend to have smaller, more streamlined body profiles. Their rumps will be less rotund and more "lady-like". When a sow is nursing cubs she will typically have a patch of matted hair on her behind. When she nurses she tends to sit upright on her behind, allowing easy access for her cubs. Frequently sows will approach your bait site prior to her cubs joining her, so it is always advised that you be patient and wait until you are sure.

Other Facts for Consideration

Most of you will be hunting over bait. I utilize 45 gallon steel drums to hold my special bait formula. The drums lie horizontal to the ground and are attached to a tree, and act as another excellent way of judging your bear. Basically, if a bear comes to your barrel and you think you could fit it into the drum ... don't shoot. If the bear comes in and is about 10-12" above the drum, it is a smaller immature bear, so don't shoot. If the bear is about 18" above the drum, take a closer look. Look at the head, keeping in mind what we discussed earlier, and if it meets your criteria shoot it. Finally, if the bear is 24" or more above the barrel, just shoot it!

When you are scouting for potential bear baiting sites, there are a few things to look at. You may encounter so called "bear trees" where bears will mark territory and advertise their presence to other bears with their claw marks. On occasion you will also encounter claw marks running up along poplar trees. When the poplar buds first come out in the spring they are an excellent food source for the hungry bears, and these claw marks indicate their presence in the area. The higher up the tree, the bigger the bear will be. Claw marks 6-7' up the tree are a good sign.

Evidence of scat is also a good indicator of bear presence. Typically, the bigger the pile or the larger in diameter it is, the bigger the bear. On one trip we found black bear scat that was as big around and long as a thermos. The old timer that was with me said, "This is either a very, very big bear or a small bear with a big sphincter." I had a good laugh and indeed it was a very, very big bear.



Figures 6 and 7 (at right).

Bait site etiquette from a bear's perspective can help when making some of your decisions. Firstly, the most dominant bear will control the bait site. At times the most aggressive or dominant bear is not always the biggest, but my bet is it will be a good bear. Bears definitely have a pecking order. When you see an average or immature bear come to your site and appear to be relaxed, and even sleep at the drum, there is likely not a larger bear currently in the area. You may have a decent bear leisurely dining at your bait when suddenly it perks up and gets tense ... pay attention! When this occurs, a lot of hunters think the bear has sensed their presence. This could be the case, but more than likely this bear senses a more dominant bear approaching. Typically, the first bear will retreat out of site and the new, bigger bear turns up. During the breeding season a big boar will cruise his territory looking for a friendly sow. Be aware that they may just skirt your bait and not come in. In situations like this you should be prepared to take that shot when it presents itself.

The Bait Site

The distance one should place their stand or blind from the bait location is determined by a number of factors. For rifle hunters the distance can be greater than for bow hunters. Typically, I prefer to set up my stand 20-30 yards from the bait barrel. By doing this, those who prefer using archery equipment have reasonable distances, and rifle hunters typically have an easy time, provided they turn down the ir scopes to the lowest magnification.

Choose a site that can be easily approached away from the barrel. By doing this you can approach the stand without disturbing the bait barrel. Since the majority of bear hunting takes place in the afternoon/evening time, place your stands so that your back is towards the setting sun. It is difficult to identify the bears and make an accurate shot when the sun is blazing into your eyes. Build or place your stands 12-15 feet off the ground for optimum results and make sure you cut shooting lanes. (Figures 6 and 7)

Continued ➤



The Bait

There are many different opinions on how to actually set up your luring station. Over the years I have harvested many bears, as have my former clients and friends.

I make every effort to keep human smells away from the bait barrel and surrounding area. I like to utilize some type of scent to advertise that food is present. One attractant I use all the time is something we affectionately call "The Funk". This concoction is made months prior to the actual spring bear hunting season. Fill five gallon pails about $\frac{2}{3}$ full of fish guts, add water to the $\frac{3}{4}$ full mark, place a tight-fitting lid on it, and let it percolate until it gets used in the spring. Your neighbours may question your sanity, but it is well worth it. Check with your local fish markets, as they will often be happy to give you the fish guts. Just tell them you are using it as a fertilizer for your garden or rose bushes. To use "The Funk", carefully pour about two cups of the liquid into a sturdy plastic bag (approximately 10"x16") and securely tie off the top. Pound a 3 1/2" nail about 6' up from the ground on the bait barrel tree. Hang the bag on the nail. Find a stick about 3/8" in diameter and 12" in length and sharpen one end. Next, push the sharpened

end through the bag a few times until the liquid starts to run down the tree. Replenish every few times that you visit the site.

Anise oil is another product that seems to peak the bears interest. The oil can be purchased at many Asian supermarkets, as well as trapper supply houses. To use anise, take a two-litre plastic pop bottle and cut about six slits roughly 3" long around the circumference of the base. Next, cut up a sponge into approximately 1" pieces and shove those pieces through the top of the bottle opening. Next, pour about 10 tablespoons of anise oil into the bottle. The oil will be absorbed by the sponges for easier scent distribution. Next, tie about 50 yards of paracord, or similar rope, securely to the top of the bottle. Now fling the bottle high into the same tree that the bait barrel is attached to. Adding rocks to the jug can make the task easier. Pull on the rope to move the bottle higher into the tree for better scent distribution, and then tie off the rope to the tree. Replenish the oil as required.

Beaver carcasses are a fabulous way to put scent in the air to attract bears. Carcasses can be purchased from your local trappers and can help to up the ante. Hang the carcass about 5' off the ground and attach it to the bait barrel tree

by tightly wrapping to the tree with wire. I use the bottom wire from chain link fences as it is inexpensive, flexible and very durable. Use multiple wraps to secure the carcass. You want the bear to work at getting the treat, not just grab it and run. The longer the bear stays at the site the better chance to judge and harvest the animal.

I prefer to utilize a 45-gallon drum with a closeable, bolted lid to hold the bait. The barrel is secured to the tree with a 1/2" polyethylene rope. An eyebolt installed in the centre of the lid and secured with double washers (top and bottom) and double nuts does the job. The bears can access the bait through holes drilled in the side of the drum. Lay the barrel on its side, then measure about 12" down from the top and bottom lip of the barrel. Drill a 1" hole at both locations. Rotate the drum 180 degrees and repeat the process. If the holes are too small, the bears have difficulty getting the bait out, and if too large you will need to continually fill the barrel and consequently waste lots of the bait.

For the primary bait I prefer to use whole oats. Oats can be purchased at your local feed store in 20kg bags, or contact local farmers who may sell to you in bulk. Mix 4 bags of oats, 4kg granulated white sugar, 8 ounces of liquid smoke, and one gallon of used cooking oil. The used cooking oil can be acquired by making friends with your local restaurants. Mix right in the drum on site, a bag at a time. Using a hand ice auger works well. Once the bait is mixed, secure the lid and lay the drum on its side with the holes lined up parallel to the ground (this helps keep the bait dry). Place logs across the drum to help determine if the bait has been hit or not, thus helping to keep your scent away from the bait (Figure 5). If the logs are off, the bears have arrived. Check your baits regularly and replenish as required. Active sites with multiple bears feeding can empty a barrel in approximately five days. Keep barrels full to keep the bears coming back.

To learn more about black bears, check out AHEIA's award winning Bear Essentials online program. Take the demo at https://319.ysecure.com/cart_builder.cfm?ProductID=39037

Good luck this spring!



Figure 5



To register as a mentor or mentorship participant, please visit the Hunting for Tomorrow website at www.huntingfortomorrow.ca or www.aheia.com for more information.



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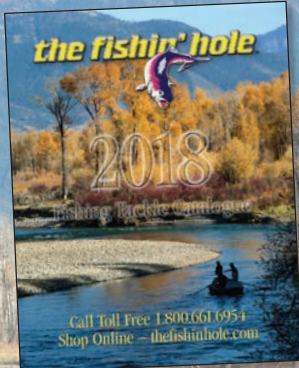
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Thank you once again for your continued support of The Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association.

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Parks Canada

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AHEIA's Calgary and Edmonton offices are now selling
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Beginning April 1, 2018.

\$34³⁰ Annual

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Great Meals

from the

Harvest

with Len Gransch



Len Gransch
Program Coordinator
AHEIA Red Deer - North

Roast Duck with Apple Dressing

1 - 4 pound whole duck	1 teaspoon poultry seasoning
1/2 tablespoon butter	3 tablespoons onion (chopped)
5 stalks celery (chopped)	1 teaspoon dried parsley
3 cups cornbread crumbs	1 tablespoon olive oil
Salt and pepper to taste	
3 cups Golden Delicious apples (peeled, cored and chopped)	

Rinse duck and pat dry with paper towels. Rub with salt, pepper and poultry seasoning.

Melt butter in a small skillet over medium heat. Sauté onion and celery in butter until tender.

In a medium bowl, combine sautéed onion and celery with apple, parsley and cornbread crumbs. Mix together to make the dressing (if necessary, add a little water to moisten).

Preheat oven to 350°F.

Fill the duck's cavity with dressing and sew shut with kitchen twine. Rub outside of bird lightly with olive oil and place in a shallow roasting pan or 9x13" baking dish.

Bake for 60 to 80 minutes, or until internal temperature reaches 180°F.

Serve with Brussel sprouts, coleslaw and a bold red wine.

Slow Cooker Wild Game Stroganoff

1 pound of your favourite wild game (cubed)	3 tablespoons olive oil
1 tablespoon salt	1 teaspoon ground black pepper
1 teaspoon onion powder	1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
1 cup water	1 can Campbell's cream of mushroom soup
1 package medium egg noodles (16 ounces)	2 cloves minced garlic
1/2 teaspoon hot sauce	1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce

Heat olive oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Toss cubed game with salt, pepper, garlic, and onion powder. Cook the meat in the hot oil until browned on all sides, about 8 minutes. Once browned, remove from the skillet and place into a slow cooker, leaving the remaining oil in the skillet.

Reduce heat to medium-low and stir the flour into the remaining olive oil. Cook and stir until the flour has turned golden brown, about 5 minutes. Stir in the water and bring to a simmer, then pour into the slow cooker along with the cream of mushroom soup, hot sauce and Worcestershire sauce. Cover and cook on low for 4 hours, or until the meat is tender.

Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Add the egg noodles and cook following the package directions. Drain. Spoon the Stroganoff over the egg noodles and serve.

Doesn't this just cry out for some crusty bread or buns and a beer?

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We have recently been approved by Transport Canada to provide training which would allow people to obtain their Pleasure Craft Operator Card. At this time we are taking names of anyone interested in teaching this course when we roll it out in the near future.

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Instructor training will be provided at no charge to those interested.

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at allan@aheia.com
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for more information,
or to express your interest.

“The longer fouling builds up and is left in the action and barrel the more likely the rifle is to develop issues affecting accuracy and dependability.”

Bolt Action Rifle Cleaning 101

By Chuck Strong



Chuck Strong
Assistant
Program Coordinator
A.H.E.I.A. - Edmonton

Why Clean Your Rifle?

- Safety. Safe operation of the rifle may be affected by a poorly maintained firearm.
 - Accuracy. A fouled barrel decreases the accuracy of the rifle.
 - Reliability. A well maintained rifle will not let you down in the field.
 - Longevity. Dirty actions and barrels can cause premature wear and corrosion. Moisture and sweat can cause rusting of external and internal rifle parts.
 - Maintain value. We pay a lot of money for our rifles. A well maintained firearm retains its value.
- Familiarization with the workings of your firearm.
 - Facilitates visual inspection of the rifle, allowing the user to spot premature wear of functioning parts.

**Read and follow the manufacturer's recommendations for cleaning and maintenance.
Failure to do so could result in damage to the firearm.**



Safety When Cleaning Your Rifle

- Unload and PROVE your firearm safe prior to cleaning.
- Clean your rifle in a well lit, clean and ventilated area (most solvents contain petroleum products and are explosive) and away from all distractions.
- Wear proper PPE. Safety glasses/goggles and rubber gloves are a must. Solvents can be corrosive and cause eye damage and skin irritation. Solvents may also cause pitting of standard eye glasses.
- All new rifles are supplied with a parts and maintenance manual. Never disassemble your rifle any further than the manual suggests.

Continued ►



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How Often Should You Clean Your Rifle?

Everyone has an opinion on how often a rifle should be cleaned. My opinion is that the rifle should be cleaned after each use. The longer fouling builds up and is left in the action and barrel the more likely the rifle is to develop issues affecting accuracy and dependability.

Equipment and Materials (Suggested)

- **Gun Vice**

A gun vice will provide a stable, secure and flat surface for you to work on your rifle.

- **Cleaning Rod**

The cleaning rod is one of the most important pieces of equipment when it comes to cleaning your rifle. Carbon fibre is well-suited to the tough tasks assigned to cleaning rods. It combines the best features of stainless steel and coated cleaning rods. Stainless steel rods can scratch or wear barrels if they are not used properly. Coated rods work well, but solvents can soften the coating which may then pick up small abrasive particles that will act like fine sandpaper in your barrel. If you use a coated cleaning rod it is important that you also clean the rod after each use. Carbon fibre rods are the best of both; the carbon fibre won't scratch your bore like stainless steel, and they won't allow abrasive materials to collect as with coated rods. Carbon fibre rods can be bent to an extreme degree and return to their original straightness. The handle should spin so that the cleaning rod follows the rifling when pushing or pulling the rod during the cleaning procedure. The rod should be mated to your barrel. Jointed rods are only recommended for minor cleaning as they tend to bend at the joints and the joints can mark the bore of the barrel.

- **Crown Protector**

A crown protector is an essential tool for properly cleaning firearms from the muzzle. The crown protector protects the barrel's crown from accuracy-affecting damage caused by rod drag or rod strike of the crown. Made of either brass or synthetic material they slide easily onto your cleaning rod to simply and effectively provide protection from crown damage.

- **Bore Guide**

The bore guide will help protect the bore and action of your rifle by properly aligning the cleaning rod and reducing solvent overflow. The bore guide will also help to keep barrel crud and solvent from being pulled back into the action. Cleaning without a bore guide can allow the rod to bend, and rub or gouge the chamber and throat of the bore of the firearm, causing damage and loss of accuracy. Keeping the rod properly aligned protects your barrel and directs the force exerted on the cleaning rod handle allowing tight patches to be pushed more easily.

Bore guides can be purchased to fit your particular action and calibre or as a universal unit that can fit multiple firearm actions and calibres.

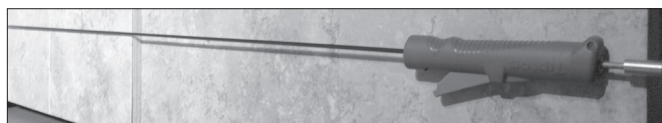
- **Bore Brushes**

Hard-scrubbing bore brushes strip fouling quickly, leaving the bore sparkling clean. Premium-quality phosphor bronze bristles with the bristles all the way to the tip will have twice the fill and a much longer life than generic brushes. More bristles mean fast, thorough cleaning. The preferred centre core would be looped-and-wound brass to withstand a substantial pull force without separating. Brushes should be selected for the bore diameter of your rifle. Select brushes that have the bore diameter stamped on the stem to make it easier to select the proper brush for your firearm. For lighter bore clean up you can use bore brushes that have nylon or synthetic bristles.

Bore brushes should be considered a consumable as they do not last forever. Throw away any brushes that are starting to wear and begin to lose their bristles. The brush should be cleaned with a solvent and dried after each cleaning session to remove any fine particles that have become lodged in the bristles.



Gun Vices



One Piece Cleaning Rod



Crown Protector



Bore Guide



Bore Brushes



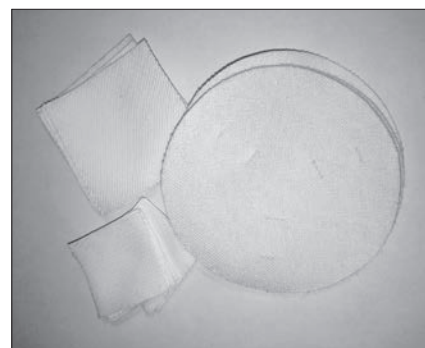
Brass Jags



Brass Loops



Plastic Loops



Patches

• Jags and Loops

Jags and loops are just fancy words for the little attachment that goes on the end of a cleaning rod. All these parts do is hold a cleaning patch on the cleaning rod while you push it through the bore. A jag has a small point on the end. Stab the middle of a cleaning patch, and push it through the barrel. The point keeps the patch in place while you push it through.

A loop accomplishes the same task in a similar way. As the name implies, it's a hole, much like that on the thread end of a sewing needle. Pull the patch through the hole halfway, and it's secured for a pass through the bore.

Jags and loops can be made of either brass or synthetic materials and should be sized to your rifle bore. As with the bore brush, the jag or loop should be marked as to the calibre to facilitate easy selection for your firearm.

Jags and loops should be cleaned with solvent to remove any fine particles that stick to the jag or loop after each cleaning session.

• Patches

Cotton, lint free patches are a one-use throw away consumable. They come in various sizes and shapes; one size patch will fit multiple bore diameters and can be purchased in bulk. It is necessary to make sure that the patch you are using is sized to fit your calibre of rifle. Do not reuse patches. You should go through multiples of these patches during one rifle cleaning session.

• Solvents

Solvents are designed to remove foreign deposits in your action and bore left behind by the powder and bullet during the firing sequence. The deposits may consist of powder fouling, lead, copper and salts. The old standby Hoppes' No.9 is useful for everyday cleaning and removal of powder and lead residue, as well as minor copper fouling. This solvent works well, but with the advent of mono-metal bullets, other solvents may work better. There are also products out there that clean, lubricate and protect, but I am convinced that they can't do all these jobs well, so I tend to go with a product designed for the job at hand. I am not here to debate the virtues of each solvent on the market; just suffice it to say that you will need to explore the solvent market and find one that works best for you. Just a reminder that solvents are chemicals and are "usually" petroleum based, which means they will be explosive and corrosive, so use in a well ventilated area with proper PPE when handling. Read the instructions supplied with the solvent.

• Gun Oils

Just like solvents, there are many lubricating gun oils on the market and not all are created equal. The gun oil you choose, when used sparingly, will lubricate and protect the metal parts of your rifle. Quality gun oil should be lightweight, able to be used at all temperatures, and protect your rifle well. If the oil lives up to these expectations, you can bet that you've found a product that will protect your gun and keep it functioning well for years to come.

Continued ➤



Solvents



Oils



Bore Clean



Silicone Wipes

Bolt Action Rifle Cleaning 101 *cont.*



Gun Toothbrush



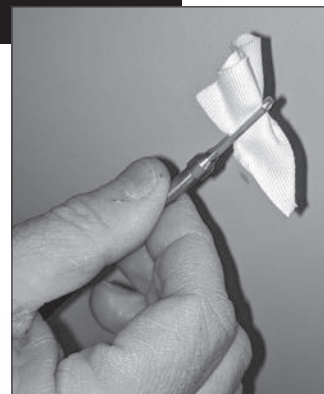
Patch Catcher

• Other Products

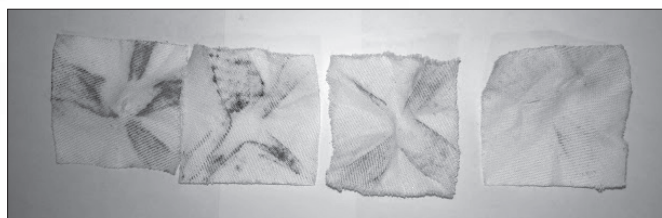
Bore shine, cotton swabs (Q-tips), patch catcher, toothbrush, bronze brushes, picks, silicone gun wipes, orange oil or your preferred furniture oil, etc. These products are useful, but not necessary.

Cleaning Your Rifle

- Set up your work station in a well lit and ventilated area by first laying down a gun mat or a layer of thick plastic under your gun vice to protect your work site surface. Make sure you have all your cleaning supplies within easy reach.
- Unload and PROVE your firearm safe.
- Secure your rifle into your gun vice.
- Depending on the the firearm, disassemble only to the extent recommended in the owner's manual.
- Using a clean, lint free cotton cloth wipe down the rifle to remove any extraneous dust and dirt.



- Cleaning from the chamber end, install the bore guide. If you are cleaning from the muzzle, make sure you slide the crown protector onto the cleaning rod.
- Install the appropriately sized jag or loop onto the cleaning rod, add patch to jag or loop, spray or dunk your patch in the solvent.
- Run the solvent soaked patch through the barrel and remove the patch from the jag or loop before pulling the rod back through the barrel. If you get solvent on the rifle stock wipe off immediately. Solvents can damage the finish on wood stocks.
- Let the solvent soak for the recommended time set out by the solvent manufacturer. This will give the solvent time to loosen up the fouling in the bore of the rifle.
- While you are waiting, now would be a good time to wipe down your bolt with some solvent and a lint-free cotton cloth. Inspect the bolt face for damage and, if needed, run a clean cotton swab or toothbrush with solvent around the bolt face.
- Once you have cleaned your bolt, use a small amount of lubricating oil on a clean lint-free cloth and wipe down the bolt. I like to follow this by wiping away any excess oil with a clean dry cloth. Do not use too much oil, as this just gives dust and dirt a place to stick. In place of oil you can wipe down the bolt with a silicone cloth.
- Attach the calibre specific bore brush to your cleaning rod, and spray or dunk your brush in the solvent. Do not dunk your cleaning brush directly into the solvent container, as this could transfer contaminants from the brush into the solvent.
- Run the bore brush completely through the length of the barrel a few times. Do not reverse in mid stroke as the bore brush bristles will bind up inside the bore of the rifle.
- Install your loop or jag with a clean patch onto the cleaning rod and push through the barrel. Remove the dirty patch and continue with new patches until they come out clean.



- Remove the bore guide. Using a cotton swab and solvent, clean the chamber. Make sure to finish up with a clean, dry cotton swab.
- Using a silicone, or a lightly oiled cloth, wipe down the rifle to remove any solvent or fingerprints and leave a light coating of oil to prevent rust, but not enough oil to collect dust.
- If your rifle has a wood stock, wipe it down with a good furniture polish such as orange oil. This will help preserve and hydrate the stock.
- Store your rifle in a cool dry area and remember to run a clean patch through the barrel prior to shooting.
- Final Step ... Clean up your mess.





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