

Spring 2014



Alberta Hunter Education
Instructors' Association



Conservation Education

The Voice of Conservation Education in Alberta

Magazine



Honouring Special Albertans



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Honouring Special Albertans

12th Annual W.I.S.E. Awards

February 8, 2014

By Bob Gruszecki



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

The 12th Annual Conservation Education W.I.S.E. Awards and Banquet marked a very significant milestone and celebration: — the 50th anniversary of the Conservation Education Program in Alberta.

The Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD) Minister Robin Campbell was present for the awards presentations, giving words of encouragement and attaching himself and the ESRD to the importance of this shared responsibility of the Conservation Education Program. There is little doubt that A.H.E.I.A. and the ESRD, working in concert, are capable of achieving so much more than what we could each do on our own, and the past 50 years of collaboration stand as testament to that success!

It is with a deep sense of pride and humility that we celebrated 50 years of Conservation Education. Humility in the wake of what our predecessors have done to get us where we are at present — celebrating two milestones on the backs of our volunteers and the 1,600,000 students that our efforts have reached! We all know and share a sense of pride in reflecting on the achievement of delivering these programs for half a century which has been shouldered by many skilled, experienced and dedicated people. The reach of our programs continues as we expand both in person-to-person delivery of the programs, but also through the on-line community. It is estimated that 95,000 students will graduate in 2014 from A.H.E.I.A.'s many program offerings. Each year this number has continued to increase, with every indication pointing to its continued expansion in future years. It is a great privilege to be involved in such a movement, with the core value "to make fish and wildlife a part of the value system of every Albertan."



CONSERVATION EDUCATION

Over the last 50 years we have learned a lot.
So have our students.



Happy **Golden** Anniversary!



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The Alva Bair Conservation Award

“It is rare to be able to honour someone who has been involved in the program for 50 years, indeed since the inception of the Conservation Education program.”

By Bob Gruszecki



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

The W.I.S.E. Awards sprung from the idea of honoring a special Albertan and advocate of Conservation Education and the province's flora and fauna, Mr. Alva Bair. He was truly a giant in the Alberta Conservation arena, a man that motivated many of us and many of us called him friend.

The Conservation Education W.I.S.E. Awards profile special achievements in the area of responsible consumptive and non-consumptive use. We started these awards with the intention

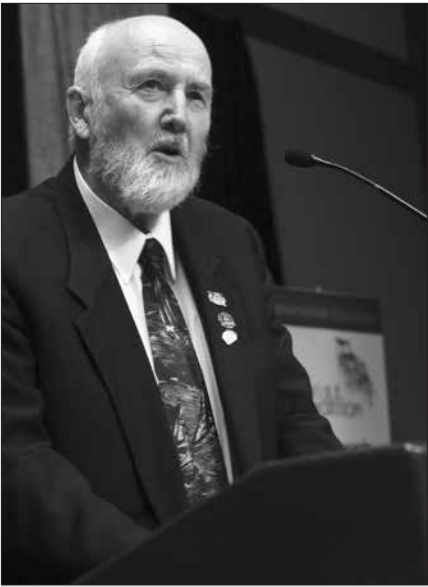
of profiling unique people, indeed “heroes” like Alva, who stand out in local communities and amongst their peers. We want to create a celebration around these heroes that provide an opportunity to share in the achievements and set standards of performance for all of us to follow. Stringent controls and guidelines have been established and the bar is held high. Recipients of these Awards will not only receive special recognition from the people they serve, but also will be recognized as part of a coalition that is committed to making wildlife and fish part of the value system of every Albertan.

It is our intention that these Awards establish a standard of excellence for all Albertans to emulate the activity, performance and commitment demonstrated by the heroes profiled by these Awards.

Over the past 12 years, we have recognized Conservation Education volunteers, special ambassadors from the outfitted hunting industry, Conservation Officers, government employees, industry representatives, and each year we have made one special presentation regardless of connection to volunteer, industry, enforcement or other area, that most exemplifies that which Alva Bair represented during his life ... true Conservation and Resource Perpetuation. Alva Bair holds a special place in the hearts of Conservation Education people. As such, the Alva Bair Conservation Award 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 is perpetuated.

Alva Bair was a pioneer in the Conservation movement. He 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 contribution that wild creatures make to the overall quality of our lives. Alva was a leader among a large group of people from every part of the North American continent. These people were responsible for creating a conservation

“He represents 50 years of passion and commitment and 50 years of making people's lives brighter and richer because of the wonders of wildlife and wild places to which he has introduced them.”



Howie Johnston accepting
Alva Bair Memorial Bronze Award.

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 live 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 to lean on those who went before us to show us how to do it. Such a Conservation giant was Alva Bair. May he rest in peace.

It is rare to be able to honour someone who has been involved in the program for 50 years, indeed since the inception of the Conservation Education program. It was with pleasure that A.H.E.I.A. presented the 2014 Alva Bair Award to Mr. Howie Johnston. Mr. Howie Johnston was the First Conservation and Hunter Education Instructor certified and, more importantly, he still remains very involved and was present at the awards presentation on February 8 to help us celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Conservation Education in Alberta.

He represents 50 years of passion and commitment and 50 years of making people's lives brighter and richer because of the wonders of wildlife and wild places to which he has introduced them.

Born in the dirty 30s, Howie grew up with six brothers and sisters, living on a farm northwest of Ponoka. As youngsters, they may have ran a little wild, as the farm was always filled with adventures around every corner. As school began to interfere, the kids moved from the small country schools and had to go to town for their education. It may be pride or embarrassment, but Howie admits to the fact that he started going to school on a pony and finished by riding the little yellow school bus.

Around Grade 7, the Johnston family moved into Ponoka. Mr. Johnston bought a 50 acre hobby

“The local support for the delivery of these types of programs has amazed Howie. He remains grateful and appreciative of the ‘team effort’ that has always prevailed. A good indicator that ‘like attracts like’.”

farm, enough space for a few horses, a place to sight in the rifles and store the hunting camp. During the year and after school, Howie worked at the Dairy Pool, but when fall came around, he headed out hunting. The family would head out past Nordegg and would spend weeks in the mountains and never see another person. Some of the most amazing knowledge learned came as a result of riding down the trail with Dad or glassing a mountain watching for critters.

While still in High School, Howie was at the Ponoka Mental Hospital. It's important to mention here that he was working part time — stationed in the shipping and receiving department there. Later he switched to the night shift at the hospital and then started commuting to Red Deer College during the days. He went on to work at the hospital for 13 years as a Registered Psychiatric Nurse. Not only was the job a demanding one, but Howie continued to pursue his education and graduated with a Degree in Psychiatry. As you can see, his roots in caring for others are deep indeed.

In 1964, a local Fish and Wildlife Officer named Frank LaFoy made a presentation to a small group of Fish and Game members in Ponoka, looking for volunteers interested in becoming Instructors. Young Howie Johnston joined six other people in this inaugural class and became certified as a new Hunter Education Instructor. The testing was arduous and ensured that instructors had mastered the necessary fundamentals. Howie still recalls when he wrote the qualifying exam and was asked to identify all the elements necessary to build a fire. He got them all, except oxygen. When his mistake was pointed out, Howie said, “I told that S.O.B. if I ever go to build a fire

in a vacuum, I'll sure remember this.” And apparently he has not forgotten this lesson.

Howie's lifestyle was a busy one. With two young boys, Leif and Danny, demanding attention, wife Gail working full time, and Howie working and going to University, the days and nights were often a blur. However, Howie still found time to teach several Hunter Education courses per year. It was through his instruction as a Hunter Education instructor that Howie realized his passion for teaching and sharing knowledge with others. He also realized he was good at it and expanded his own accreditations to include a Bachelor of Education.

Looking for a change, the Johnston's made another move and in the early 1970s Howie and Gail moved to Edson to a new career. His role in the school there was varied, with a job description that constantly expanded. He started as a Drug Education Co-ordinator and then for 17 years served as a High School Counsellor. It was here again where Howie became involved with pitching a new initiative; to introduce the Hunter Education course into the High School curriculum. His goal was to combine Hunter Education and First Aid training, to create a locally developed five credit course. This was before the Conservation and Hunter Education program was formally part of the Outdoor Education curriculum, as it is today. Once again, Howie was a pioneer for this program. He likens his thirst for knowledge and teaching as similar to Panasonic, “Slightly ahead of our time.”

In 1989, Howie began teaching the Canadian Firearms Course (which pre-dated the National

Continued ➤



Minister Robin Campbell (left) and Howie Johnston receiving pin from Markus Furrer (Bronze Sponsor - The Calgary Shooting Centre).



Left to right: Minister Robin Campbell, Howie Johnston, Markus Furrer (The Calgary Shooting Centre) and Robert Gruszecki.

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12th Annual W.I.S.E. Awards: The Alva Bair Conservation Award *cont.*

program). The CFO at the time, George Reed, had reached out to Howie and said, "I need a guy in Edson."

Howie's response, "What the hell do you want me to do?"

"Sell compliance to Bill C-68", George replied.

"O.k.!" said Howie. And so it began.

There are many events that still take place today that share Howie's legacy. In 1966, he was part of a core group who started the "Riflemen's Rodeo". The goal was to create a realistic competition for big game hunters to practice skills before going into the woods. This event is still a crowd pleaser today and enjoys an accident-free history.

Over the years, Howie has worn many hats, from being part of the Regional Education Consortium tasked with providing advanced college programs for local people, to serving as a School Trustee for three terms, to owning a trapline. Today he still has his fingers in many pies and not

only continues to be an active instructor, but he also remains a substitute teacher.

Our A.H.E.I.A. memory bank reminds us that "back in the day", when the Conservation Education program was still with Fish and Wildlife, Howie was one of the instructors who was recognized as an Instructor of the Year. Dave Paplawski travelled to Edson and, amidst the loud cheering and celebration from the students, presented Howie with a Knight Muzzleloader Rifle as recognition for his service. While I'm sure Howie enjoyed using the gun, this was not something that he mentioned as one of his accomplishments.

After 50 years, it is indeed rewarding to hear someone comment that they received more from teaching than they ever gave. It has paid a huge dividend, and Howie says that he cannot say enough about the wonderful people he has met who were associated with the various programs. He also discovered that he liked to teach and eventually became a Professional Teacher. It is

somewhat ironic when he himself admits that he "didn't like school; it interfered with the important things like hunting and fishing."

The local support for the delivery of these types of programs has amazed Howie. He remains grateful and appreciative of the "team effort" that has always prevailed. A good indicator that "like attracts like".

Today, although semi retired, Howie is as busy as ever. If he's not teaching a course somewhere, he's learning about something to teach. His most avid students are his young grandchildren who not only believe their papa is wonderful, but can't wait to learn more "cool stuff".

We too look forward to those skills continuing to be passed forward to another generation. After 50 years, we are extremely honoured to celebrate Howie's contributions by bestowing on him the honour of being the 2014 Alva Bair Memorial Award recipient.



Inauguration of A.H.E.I.A. Quarter Century Club

2014 not only signifies the 50th year of Conservation Education in Alberta, but also marks the inauguration of the Quarter Century Club. According to our records, 127 of the 3200 Certified Hunter Education Instructors have been certified for at least 25 years — a quarter century of dedication and support to the cause of Conservation Education in Alberta. Approximately 24 of these people were able to be with us February 8 from around the Province to help celebrate this significant achievement. Inductees were honoured with a presentation from the Honourable Robin Campbell, Minister of ESRD, with the Quarter Century Club Commemorative Pin and a fine clock/compass desk set as tokens of appreciation from A.H.E.I.A. for the many years of loyalty toward the cause of Conservation Education in Alberta. These instructors have blazed the trail for others who will follow in their footsteps in future years, ensuring the ongoing success that such volunteers bring to the passing on of our core value "to make fish and wildlife a part of the value system for every Albertan."



Back row, left to right: Tom Bateman, Sheldon Frissell, Len Gransch, Howie Johnston, Terry Pearen, Conrad Fenema, Keith Denoncourt, Bob Tabaka, Dave Powell, Doug Urichuk, James Talbot, Arnie Schmidt, Linda Wagers, Dave Paplawski, Clayton Jensen, Lionel Veldkamp, George Blakley, Minister Robin Campbell, Dale Halmrast, Wes Goretsky.

Front row kneeling, left to right: Rob Giles, R.A. Gruszecki, Brian Chipchase, Nelson (Sonny) Smith.

Community Conservation Award

"The entire purpose of the Big Country Rod and Gun Club is to help others. Their endless fundraising events are re-invested back into the community as quickly as they are earned."

By Bob Gruszecki



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

This year, at the 12th Annual W.I.S.E. Awards and Banquet, we honoured new inductees into the W.I.S.E. Award Hall of Fame in the category of Community Conservation.

We recognize the importance of the public's involvement in managing our Natural Resources. As such, the

Community Conservation Award was this year awarded to a group called the Big Country Rod and Gun Club.

Twenty years ago, a small group of people gathered together and decided to formalize what would later be recognized as a mentored hunt. Their concern was the decreasing number of young people involved in the activity of hunting and the sobering fact that many young people who did have the interest and desire to hunt, simply had no one to show them the way. They also wanted to ensure that classroom learning was expanded by moving into real life and getting the chance to put theory into practice. A partnership between A.H.E.I.A., a "club", landowners, Mentors, Conservation Officers and first time hunters was created.

While the concept of mentored hunts was A.H.E.I.A.'s brainchild, the delivery was taken to extraordinary lengths by a local partnership that decided to make this their primary cause.

Terry Pearen, a former WISE award winner and local community hero, has been involved with this program since its inception and remains active today. He has participated in every big game mentored hunt since it started.

The program began with two mentored hunts taking place near the small community of Coronation. A husband and wife took a boy and girl hunting and the kids stayed at their mentors' home. Gradually the program expanded with more mentors and participants and, for the first six years, the "first time" hunters stayed with the families of local community partners. About that time, the club decided to create more of a "camp" experience. They purchased outfitter tents and began to establish a permanent site. Each year the proceeds from the Club's efforts were reinvested back into this project.

This past year, the Club undertook another partnership with a local landowner and constructed four new cabins: three for sleeping and one for



Left to right: Minister Robin Campbell, Doug Norris, Steve Arena (Bronze Sponsor - The Shooting Edge) and Robert Gruszecki.

" Their concern was the decreasing number of young people involved in the activity of hunting and the sobering fact that many young people who did have the interest and desire to hunt, simply had no one to show them the way. "

eating. Since then, they have also purchased a cooking trailer to add to their camp's efficiency. From the beginning, this group has hosted the first time hunters, sponsored the facilities, provided vehicles, fuel, ammunition, firearms, access to the shooting range, and the list goes on and on. In fact, the local interest in this program is such that mentors have to be rotated to participate every second year — there are so many that wish to be involved. What a great problem to have! And for this, the mentors and volunteers receive nothing in payment; however, the privilege of being involved is priceless to them.

Continued ➤



Doug Norris accepting the Community Group Bronze Award on behalf of the Big Country Rod and Gun Club.

12th Annual W.I.S.E. Awards: Community Conservation Award *cont.*

Since its inception in 1994, 160 first time hunters have deer hunted at Oyen. In 2004, the Club expanded to create a first time bird hunt and since then 63 first time hunters have participated. A total of 223 new hunters have enjoyed the wonders of this first time hunting experience; over half were youth and nearly 25% were female.

The club has had nearly 50 volunteers involved with this project alone. All of the Mentors are club members and, as the group wanted to recruit more female first time hunters, they recruited female members to join the cause.

A few of these people have joined us at today's annual ceremony: Randy and Reg Wiechnik, Audrey and Murray Beaumont, Ken and Joanne Miller, Bill Smith, Kelly and Elizabeth Lewis, Kelly and Dayna Wilson, Terry and Velma Pearen, Kevyn Parker, Ken Smith, Doug and Joanne Norris, Jack and Brenda Steenson, and Kate Wilson.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the range of other projects that this group is involved in. They have purchased pheasants for upland game bird hunting and then went on to set aside some land in the hope that there would be some natural recruitment of birds. The Club sponsors several trips to the Conservation Education Centre for Excellence at Alford Lake, taking local kids to experience firsthand the practical side of the

material they have learned in class. An annual Kids Fishing Derby is sponsored and the club arranges for fishing trips for people who are in Extended Care health care facilities. They are also involved in fish stocking local lakes for recreational purposes.

Big Country has donated funds to the National Archery in the Schools program, sponsoring the Acadia Valley School. They have sponsored students from Castor to attend the International competition in Orlando, Florida. The Club has served as a sponsor and donor for endless local events, from the Tri Country Youth Day, Fire Fighters Banquet, Family Services programs, aerial surveys for wildlife counts, goose nesting projects, and providing a scholarship for Environmental Science students. In everything the common denominator is service. They have given to various organizations and associations, helped the local swimming pool, erected Report a Poacher signs and helped with the "Cure For Cancer Walk" — these individuals profile what a group of people can do when they are focused on an end result.

The entire purpose of the Big Country Rod and Gun Club is to help others. Their endless fundraising events are re-invested back into the community as quickly as they are earned. This is

a group of people who care, a group of people who act, a group of people who give so much more than they receive, but wouldn't want it any other way. This is a group of people who have touched many lives in ways that they probably don't even understand, not fully knowing the doors that they have opened for people.

What is taken away cannot be measured by inches or mass, but rather by pride and accomplishments. Not all of the participants harvest an animal, but they do learn the honour of hunting and from that day forward they are part of the hunting fraternity. The small victories each hunter takes away from the experience teaches necessary life lessons that often go by the wayside in today's modern society.

For all, it is truly a humbling experience to realize the hunt was never about the kill, but rather a quest to learn about oneself and about nature. These memories will last a life time.

Doug Norris received and spoke on behalf of the Big Country Rod and Gun Club. Congratulations to all members of this distinguished club on being selected as the 2014 recipients of the WISE Community Service group award.



12th Annual W.I.S.E. Awards and Banquet Dinner.

Yardstick Donates Polaris Quad for the 12th Annual W.I.S.E. Awards and Banquet

A.H.E.I.A. would like to express sincere and grateful appreciation to Yardstick Testing and Training Experts for their ongoing commitment to Conservation Education in Alberta.

Yardstick Testing and Training Experts is an Alberta based leader in online education delivery. A number of years ago they joined forces with A.H.E.I.A. to bring Hunter Education training to Albertans in an easy-to-access format. This is a very significant milestone in that the A.H.E.I.A.'s Conservation and Hunter Education Course is now available to every Albertan in the province who has access to an internet connection, even if they live in the farthest reaches of the province. Thanks to this relationship, A.H.E.I.A. has been able to greatly expand delivery of its award winning online programs, including the Conservation and Hunter Education On-line Course, the Bear Essentials On-line Course, and the newest additions of the Archery Essentials and Kidwise Firearm Safety On-line Courses. This year Yardstick chose to recognize and celebrate the milestone of 50 years of delivery of the Conservation Education Program in Alberta by donating a Polaris 570 EFI ATV to the lucky prizewinner at the 12th Annual WISE Awards and Banquet Celebration, Kavi Paramanathan. A.H.E.I.A. would like to express sincere and grateful appreciation to Yardstick Software for their ongoing commitment to Con-



Polaris 570EFI ATV generously donated by Yardstick Testing and Training Experts.

servation Education in Alberta. A.H.E.I.A. has already reached more than 1,600,000 students and expects to reach another 90,000 students in 2014. It is through relationships such as this that A.H.E.I.A. is able to extend the reach of the mission "to make fish and wildlife a part of the value system of every Albertan".



Congratulations to Kavi Paramanathan, winner of the Yardstick Software Polaris Quad! From left to right: Kavi Paramanathan, Stephen Tremblett, Alexis MacMillan, Derek Weisbeck, Cindi Cunningham and Greg Kureluk (COO, Yardstick Testing and Training Experts).



Kavi with her new ATV.



Silent Auction Fun



Silent auction items at the 2014 W.I.S.E. Awards and Banquet.



" We all know and share a sense of pride in reflecting on the achievement of delivering these programs for half a century which has been shouldered by many skilled, experienced and dedicated people. "

Thank You!

Congratulations!

Winners of the A.H.E.I.A. Fall South Raffle



First place winner Lance Wood of Calgary.



Second place winner Dorraine Neal.



Third place winner Allan Tosh of Millarville.

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www.aheia.com



Edmonton Report

“ ... we have started to institute a number of different workshops, seminars and sessions over this next year. ”

By Len Gransch



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

Things in the Edmonton office continue to be very busy. We are happy to welcome two new employees into the fold in the program delivery side of things. Mikkie Leiterman is back in the Edmonton office and will be providing her expertise and much needed help with program delivery. The new “kid” on the block is Chuck Strong who brings his passion for the outdoors as he joins the team here in Edmonton. Drop by for a coffee and say hello.

The 2014 Youth Hunter Education Camps remain very popular and this year will be sold out in record time, likely by mid-March. If you missed out or wish to be placed on the Advance Notification list for 2015, email your request to edmontoninfo@aheia.com.

To increase awareness of outdoor recreational opportunities, the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association (A.H.E.I.A.) is holding their 12th Annual Outdoor Youth Seminar for young outdoor enthusiasts (ages 7 and up) and their parents or guardians. The seminar is a two-day event filled with fun and learning activities. Numerous experts will be sharing information

and instruction in various outdoor pursuits. The seminar will run August 22-24. A registration/information package can be downloaded from our website or is available at any of our offices. Typically, we sell out early, so don't be disappointed. We have added some new sessions and special events for 2014.

The camps and seminar will be held at the Alford Lake Conservation Education Centre for Excellence. The Alford Lake Camp is located 24 km west of Caroline.

We continue to look for volunteers who may be able to assist at these events, camps, seminar, etc. If you have some spare time and would like to help at these or any of our other events, please contact me at len@aheia.com. Any assistance is always very welcome indeed as we are continually searching for help.

It has become apparent from our recent Member Relations meetings across the province that our instructors and volunteers are looking for more and varied upgrade seminars and workshops. You have told us that it is very important to you and your students that we supply the best and most up-to-date training and support possible. These seminars are open to all A.H.E.I.A. instructors and volunteers in good standing.

To address this issue, we have started to institute a number of different workshops, seminars and sessions over this next year. The first one was

held in our Edmonton office on February 12 in the form of a Big Game Calling Workshop concentrating on elk calling and techniques. It was well received by the attendees and was taught by our very own Matt Shaw.

We also have the following planned for the Edmonton office:

Fly Tying Seminar
Wednesday, March 19, 6:00-10:00 pm.
Contact Ken Cook for more information or to register.

Deer Antler Scoring Seminar
Wednesday, April 9, 6:00-10:00 pm.
Contact Mikkie Leitermann for more information or to register.

Firearms Maintenance Seminar
Monday, May 5, 6:00-10:00 pm.
Contact Chuck Strong for more information or to register.

Game Calling Seminar - Waterfowl
Wednesday, August 13, 6:00-10:00 pm.
Contact Len Gransch for more information or to register.

Go right now to your calendar, smart phone or computer and reserve this date – **June 7!** See you at the Spring Fling.

Also remember to have fun in the Great Outdoors and take a kid or two along with you.



Danatec Introduces Bear Essentials Online Training

Offering comprehensive education to labourers working in remote locations.

Danatec is pleased to announce their partnership with the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association to offer a variety of workplace safety courses focused on Bear and Wilderness Essentials.

This Bear Essentials Online Course offers a comprehensive education to labourers working in remote locations, where bear safety and information is of the utmost importance. Utilizing interactive audio, pictures, narrations, simulations, videos, quizzes and a final exam, the Bear Essentials will equip individuals with the knowledge of the types of bears, their habits and habitat, and how you can keep safe when venturing into bear country.

“We are very pleased with A.H.E.I.A.’s commitment to the quality of training they produce for industry. This Bear Essentials course is vital to anyone working in remote locations, which many of our customers do. I’m sure our customers will be extremely impressed with the quality of information presented, the ease of use and the take away of learnings their employees will receive in order to stay safe,” says Alina Martin, President. “This is just the first of many things Danatec and the A.H.E.I.A. can build together. We look forward to continuing to produce the industry’s best training materials and solutions, and this just furthers our commitment to that.”

The Association

The Alberta Conservation and Hunter Education Program is viewed as one of, if not the finest in North America. They, as an association, are working with instructors to provide material and information to perpetuate and enhance this excellent program. Through information exchange, equipment availability, and continued communication, they endeavour to meet individual instructor needs and enable the instructor to present the best quality education possible.

About Danatec

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Visit <http://www.danatec.com/product-category/bear-essentials-online-training/> for more information



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Firearms Education Report

"The letter from the Chief Firearms office has ... put everyone on the same page."

By Glenn McKay



Glenn McKay
Firearms Education
Coordinator
A.H.E.I.A.

Another year has come and gone. When the final numbers were tallied, Alberta realized another growth in the number of students taught and tested for the non-restricted, restricted or both firearms courses. This was because of you, the instructors at large. Due to the popularity of the firearms

programs, the instructors were often pushed to teach the students who were knocking at their respective doors.

It was due to the number of calls from students wanting information on instructors that caused a review of "who" was teaching or testing. It was found that over a third of the instructors had in fact been inactive for a long period of time. Although the right to teach or not belongs with the individual, it did cause a problem as it related to having students in a certain area not being able to take a course or a challenge. This was further compounded by an inability to teach more instructors when there was already someone in that area listed as instructor! A catch 22 was in effect for the students and the program.

In the latter part of the year, all instructors province wide were sent a letter by the Chief Firearms office and this letter was an attempt to see which instructors were still active. (At the time of this article, results were still being tabulated.) The results will then dictate where more instructors will be needed and this will be our focus for 2014.

The other important portion of the letter clearly outlined the role and responsibilities of the instructor. This is the cornerstone of the program. I know that we all have opinions about the course and what we feel would make a better course or process. While we have always encouraged keeping current with local and national events, it is not part of the course. Keeping your opinions to yourself can be a very hard thing to do. First and foremost, we teach the firearms course the correct way so the student goes into the process with the correct information.

The letter from the Chief Firearms office has (at least since I have been in the program) put everyone on the same page. By signing off on it, you have also agreed to teach the course in a non-biased, complete and most accurate way possible. Thanking all of you personally is nearly impossible, but I truly appreciate your efforts and professionalism!



Is This Someone You Know?

By Glenn McKay

At the same time you were deciding on your future as an instructor, a journalist in Manitoba took part in what was described as a course and/or a challenge depending upon who is to be believed. The end result was that this class and instructor were there in living colour for all to see. The picture was not pretty nor was the fallout. For those who wish to see the report, log onto a computer and watch

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/firearms-instructor-gives-certificates-after-helping-students-with-exam-1.2544002>

The questions that this type of course or challenge presents are significant. It does bring into question the instructor's abilities, his integrity and honesty, along with the validity of those this instructor has approved. Where this ends is unknown, but I do hope that this serves notice that there will be other classes and other journalists out there wanting to see if they can "take" your course. The course is simple and fun to teach, so don't take short cuts! Tests are there to test the student's overall knowledge and handling ability. If it is a course, teach the entire course; if it is a challenge, the student comes with the knowledge and ability for you to test. Please do not confuse the two.

For those who have renewed their instructor status, thank you. For those who have chosen to let it lapse, thank you for doing what you did to help the shooting community. Just remember, for those who are still in the program, you need to keep your A.H.E.I.A. membership current as well as your volunteer screening, which is required every three years.

If you have any questions or concerns, let me know. Enjoy the season!



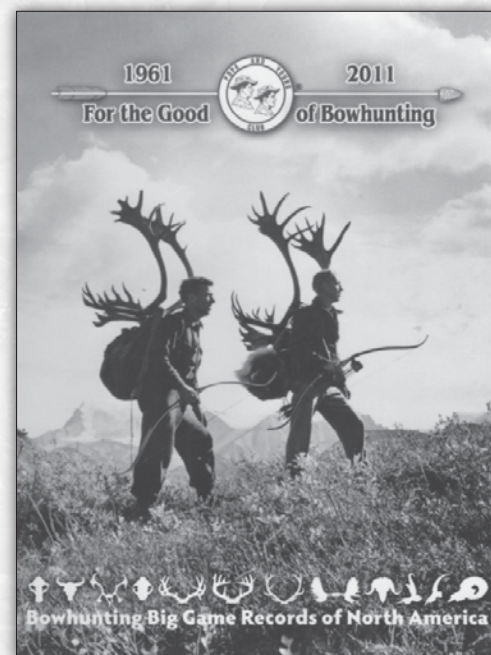
South Volunteer of the Year Award recipient
Wen Zou of Calgary.



A.H.E.I.A. Volunteers of the Year

Also:

North Volunteer of the Year
Award recipient
Brian Joubert of Edmonton
(photo unavailable).



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.

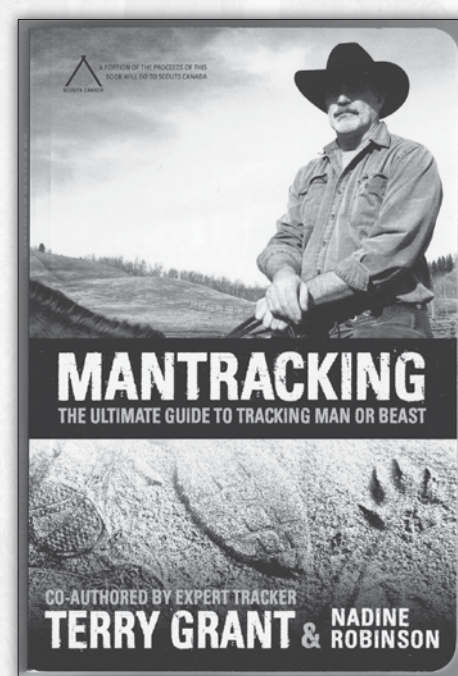
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Completed Career



Bill Hunter

Bill Hunter, long time member of A.H.E.I.A. and member at the Calgary Firearms Centre, passed away at the Southwood Hospice at the age of 82. Bill passed away on March 4, 2014 and will be remembered by all his friends, especially at the "gun club", for his jovial nature and his great sense of humor. He loved to journey to the line to toss lead at clay targets, then to sit, drink coffee and celebrate his exploits with his favourite shotgun — regardless of if he broke the perfect score or not. To Bill, camaraderie and good friends was always the order of the day. The ray of sunshine he brought into our clubhouse and our lives will not be forgotten. On behalf of A.H.E.I.A., we express our condolences to his family.

A.H.E.I.A. Offers Teachers' Workshop

July 25-28, 2014

"Each year, approximately 15,000 students complete the Conservation Education program and 6,500 students complete the Fishing Education program."

By Kelly Semple



Kelly Semple
Executive Director
Hunting for Tomorrow

In 1964, the Alberta Government, together with Alberta outdoorsmen, created a hunter safety program. This program later became the Alberta Conservation and Hunter Education program. Each year, approximately 15,000 students complete the Conservation Education program and 6,500 students complete the Fishing Education program. On October 15, 2006, the 1,000,000th student graduated from the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association's (A.H.E.I.A.'s) Conservation and Hunter Education program. In 2014, we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of Conservation Education in Alberta.

Since April 1, 2010, it is a legal requirement for all first-time hunters in the Province of Alberta to complete the Alberta Conservation and Hunter Education program or an equivalent hunter education course.

The Conservation and Hunter Education and Fishing Education programs are offered in Alberta schools through the Alberta Education curriculum, within the Careers and Technologies Studies option, Natural Resources (NAT) Program.

A.H.E.I.A. has developed a specific workshop for teachers related to the NAT cluster. Part of the A.H.E.I.A. Teachers' Workshop will offer the certification that teachers require in order to teach the Alberta Conservation and Hunter Education and Fishing Education courses (WLD 1070, WLD 2070, WLD 1080, WLD 2080). An additional session of the workshop will familiarize teachers with outdoor activities related to Outdoor Survival Skills (WLD 1130, WLD 2130), including hands-on participation in the Survival and Camping Program, the Shooting Program (shotgun, small bore and large bore rifle), the Compass Program, the Fishing Program, and the Archery Program. The Teachers' Workshop concludes at noon on July 27.

Those teachers who wish to become certified to offer Bowhunting Education (WLD 1075) can stay for the International Bowhunter Education Instructors' program. It commences at the conclusion of the Teachers' Workshop on July 27 and will end at 1:00 pm on July 28. The cost for this certification is an additional \$50.00 to cover cost of meals.

A.H.E.I.A. is hosting the Teachers' Workshop from July 25-28, 2014. The workshop takes place at the Alford Lake Conservation Education Centre for Excellence, located 24 kilometres west of Caroline, Alberta.

The Teachers' Workshop registration fee is \$175.00 per person, and \$50.00 for the optional IBEP course, plus GST. This fee in-

cludes all accommodations, meals, resource materials, instructor certificates, the use of all equipment for practical sessions and an A.H.E.I.A. membership.

For more information, teachers interested in the workshop should contact A.H.E.I.A. at either the Edmonton Conservation Education Centre for Excellence at edmontoninfo@aheia.com, 780-466-6682 or 1-866-282-4342, or Dave Paplawski at dave@aheia.com, 403-319-2277 or 1-866-852-4342. See www.aheia.com or www.huntingfortomorrow.com to download and complete the registration form. Registration is limited and must be submitted by July 18, 2014.

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A.H.E.I.A. Spring Fling

June 7, 2014

By Len Gransch



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

Mark your calendars for the A.H.E.I.A. Spring Fling fundraising banquet to be held in Edmonton on June 7, 2014 (see page 33 for details). This new event will be replacing the previously held A.H.E.I.A. Fall Festival.

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

Our banquet team has begun working hard to assemble a variety of quality merchandise for our silent auction, bucket raffles, specialty items and live auction. If you would like to be part of the team, please contact me at your convenience.

Tickets are available now and can be ordered by either completing the order form (at right), emailing me directly (Len@aheia.com), by calling our Edmonton office toll free at 1-866-282-4342, or tickets can be purchased at our Edmonton and Calgary offices.

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.

Thanks for your consideration and I hope to see you there.



Quad Raffle Winner



Mr. Colton Baughman of Blackfalds, Alberta receives his prize from A.H.E.I.A., Raffle License #374280, 2014 Polaris Sport 570 ATV, drawn at the Edmonton Sportsman Show on March 16, 2014. Thank you to all ticket purchasers for supporting the cause of Conservation Education and congratulations to Colton. All proceeds from this raffle will be faithfully applied to A.H.E.I.A.'s Conservation Education program delivery in Alberta.



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A.H.E.I.A. Spring Fling Ticket Order Form

Tickets are \$70.00 per person or \$630.00 for a table of ten.

I would like to order the following:

Tickets at \$70.00 each	Amount \$ _____
Tables at \$630.00 per table	Amount \$ _____
Total	\$ _____

Method of payment:

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ Cheque ☐ Other

Name on Credit Card: _____

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City: _____ Province: _____ PC: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Please return ticket order form to:

Len Gransch, Banquet Coordinator
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Cell. 780-920-9362
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Mentored Hunting Experience

“Thanks to everyone who helped make this a very memorable experience for all.”

By Len Gransch



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

For the past nine years I have had the pleasure of being involved with the Antlerless Mule Deer hunts co-ordinated by the Big Country Rod and Gun Club and A.H.E.I.A. The Big Country Rod and Gun Club was also the recipient of a W.I.S.E. Award this year (highlighted in the W.I.S.E. report in this issue).

Every year, approximately 12 individuals are selected to participate in this remarkable mentored hunt that takes place in the Oyen area. Typically, four participants come from the Calgary area, four from the Oyen area and four from the Edmonton area.

It is my responsibility to co-ordinate the participants who are chosen from the Edmonton area. This past fall I was joined on the Oyen trip by Collette Benbow, Crystal Saffel, Alex de Jong and his brother Nathan de Jong. The trip to Oyen was really pleasant, everyone told stories and you could feel the excitement in the air.

When we arrived at Oyen, we met all the other participants and some of the mentors for lunch. After lunch, everyone headed over to the club range where all the mentees were able shoot the firearms they would be using on the hunt. This builds confidence in the shooters and also allows the mentors to assess the participants' skills and limitations.

After the sight-in process, the participants were able to do some actual in-the-field exercises to further hone their skills. They shot from different positions with different terrain and distances. Everyone did very well. I should also mention that all the firearms and ammunition are provided by the mentors.

After the range exercises, we headed off to camp to get set up for the stay, have supper and receive an orientation from Big Country Rod and Gun Club, A.H.E.I.A., and District Fish and Wildlife Officer Kelly Wilson. Everyone “hit the sack” with great anticipation for the morning hunt.

Thanks to everyone who helped make this a very memorable experience for all. Alex and Nathan de Jong have provided the following stories on their mentored hunt experience.



“Every year, approximately 12 individuals are selected to participate in this remarkable mentored hunt that takes place in the Oyen area. Typically, four participants come from the Calgary area, four from the Oyen area and four from the Edmonton area.”



“It was a Great Adventure”

By Alex de Jong

When I went on the mentored hunting trip with A.H.E.I.A. in November of 2013, it was awesome. We left on a Thursday morning, bright and early, and began the six-hour drive from Edmonton, Alberta to Oyen, Alberta. It was a long trip, but worth it. Len drove me and my brother and two other people in his truck. When we arrived at the camp it was in the middle of nowhere, and I saw three cabins. One for the females, one for the males and one for eating in. Later that day we went to the shooting range, met our mentors and shot guns for about three hours; it was so much fun. We practiced different shooting positions and learned about safety. We had chili for dinner and set up our bunks.

Friday morning we woke up and had a good breakfast and headed out for our first day of hunting. This was the first time I ever hunted so I was pretty pumped. We drove and parked the vehicle and went on what felt like a three-mile hike. It probably wasn't, but I was tired by the end of the day. I didn't end up shooting anything on Friday, but we did see some mule deer. We had a great supper Saturday night and I enjoyed hanging out with everyone.

Saturday was similar to Friday. It started with a good breakfast and we spent the day hunting. I nearly hit a deer this time but missed. My brother, however, got two deer. Saturday afternoon we packed up and started our trip back home. It was a great adventure and I am glad that Len and A.H.E.I.A. allowed me this opportunity. My dad is not a hunter, so I was grateful to learn from the mentor hunters in this program.

Hunting Trip 101

By Nathan de Jong

This was my very first hunting trip ever, and one of the best days of my life! I can't thank Len enough for allowing me to take part in the Mentored Hunting Program. It was an amazing trip. I had a very good guide/mentor hunter who made the whole experience possible. The trip started in Edmonton at the A.H.E.I.A. office early in the morning. My mom dropped my 12-year-old brother and myself off; I'm 15 years old. Once the others arrived, we headed out in Len's truck for the six-hour drive to Oyen, Alberta. When we got to camp, we met up with the other first-time hunters: boys, girls, women and men. We ate lunch and went to the shooting range with our mentor hunters to do some target practicing. Then we went back to camp, got our bunks set up and enjoyed a great meal. I could barely sleep because I was so excited!

Friday morning I was up at 6:00 am and had breakfast with my guide. We ate quickly and headed out. I could feel the excitement in the air. We got into the truck and headed about 15 minutes down the road and drove onto a farmer's field. We got out and walked around until we saw some Mule Deer that I had tags for. When the time was right, I took aim at one of the deer, but it ran off, so I decided not to shoot. We continued walking for quite some time, until we saw a spot that looked good. We walked over the hill and I saw a Mule Deer. I sat down immediately, and once I had a clear shot, I took aim, pulled the trigger, and sure enough the deer dropped about 20 yards away. I went over with my mentor, we tagged it, and began gutting the deer. I couldn't believe how I felt. My heart was racing as I recorded a video on my I-phone.

I still had one more tag and was eager to get another deer. It wasn't long before we saw another opportunity. We got out of the truck. I ran to the top of the hill, aimed and shot my second deer which was about 150 yards away. It was a perfect shot. I ran over to the deer and did an inspection. I gutted it and we put it in the truck and headed back to the camp for an awesome supper! I eventually fell asleep, but had memories of the day running through my head.

It was a great experience, one that I might not have ever had an opportunity to have without A.H.E.I.A. They provided me with everything that I needed for the trip; there was no cost to me. It was awesome. I would like to thank all the people who made this possible!



To register as a mentor or mentorship participant, please visit the Hunting for Tomorrow website at

www.huntingfortomorrow.com

for more information.





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Hunting for Tomorrow

Closed Until Further Notice!

“... we live in a province with so many outdoor activities to participate in year round.”

By Kelly Semple



Kelly Semple
Executive Director
Hunting for Tomorrow

CLOSED until further notice — or at least until the hunting season opens again. And ... then depression sets in!

But wait, there is a cure. Here are some seasonal tips to help keep that depression at bay! Take advantage of some of these ideas to extend your hunting season. Even better, this

is a chance to continue to introduce new people to the outdoors and help them understand and appreciate some of the reasons why you enjoy hunting so much. Quality time with friends and family in the great outdoors — just what the Doctor ordered!

Winter

- Shed hunting for antlers keeps you outdoors and helps to better understand where those big bucks spend their time after they elude you in the fall. Depending on the conditions and amount of snow, you can start right after Christmas and “shed hunt” until May. Most avid shed hunters like to get out early and have their best success in March and April. Look under spruce trees or willow patches and walk the trails. It is a very rewarding and relaxing thing to do!
- Stump shooting with your bow and arrow. This helps you practice judging distance and picking a target.
- Trail clearing, maintaining trails and shooting lanes. Definitely easier to do in the winter!
- Check trails and build brush walls to funnel animal movements, hopefully to coincide with your tree stand location.
- Take photographs or video. This provides great entertainment and allows you to learn more about the wildlife and habitat.
- Consider creating new nesting blinds for waterfowl. Organizations such as Ducks Unlimited, Delta Waterfowl and the Alberta Conservation Association are good sources to contact if you'd like to get involved in this.
- Coyote calling. Practice predator calling and become adept at calling coyotes.

Spring

- Go scouting for new country. Why not set out well before hunting season and look for new hunting areas?
- Start asking for permission for new hunting ground. Sometimes it can take considerable time to cultivate the necessary respect and approval from landowners who are willing to allow you access for hunting. Start early!
- Get maps and start to do research on your hunting areas. There is an old expression about “time spent in reconnaissance is seldom wasted.” This is very true in regards to learning more about your hunting area. Early research also helps to identify if your area is targeted for any kind of industrial, oilfield or forestry work. It's not a pleasant surprise to head into your

hunting area in the fall, only to find that the landscape has changed substantially.

- Varmint/gopher shooting. Believe it or not, there are places that offer this type of hunting excursion. Most farmers are glad to have some help controlling the gopher population. This is a great hunting experience for first time hunters, as it provides lots of shooting practice!
- Spend time at the range perfecting your rifle or archery aim. The majority of us just simply do not spend enough time practicing. I believe completely in the expression, “Most people are over-gunned and under-shot!” Spend time making sure that your shooting skills are in top shape.

Summer

- Tree stand maintenance and practice setting up stands. Check your stands to make sure they are in good condition and make any necessary repairs. Practice setting stands, which will make you more efficient when you want to quietly set a stand in a new hot spot.
- Bird watching and feeding program. Many people find it very rewarding to feed and observe birds at feeders. Various organizations offer programs that involve you as a formal “Feeder Watcher”. Generally, you are recording the number of each species on a specific date, keeping track of the amount of time that the feeder was watched and recording the number of people who watched the feeder.
- Participate in the various shooting competitions, whether it is skeet, trap, bench rest competitions or 3D archery.

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 — just what the Doctor ordered! to get you through until the next hunting season!

“
Even better,
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Let's Talk About Optics

Improve Your "Outlook" and Your Success in the Field

By Bob Gruszecki



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

Believe it or not, this is a great time of the year to do your shopping and your homework on the type of optics that best suits your need. If you spend some time in reconnaissance now, you will have plenty of time to get your new binoculars or scope and be familiar with them and confident with them in time for when you hit the field.

So many advancements have occurred in the optics realm over the past few decades and the quality of modern optics has really changed. There are numerous choices, some of them good and some of them not so good. In a series over the next two issues, I will try and provide you with an Optics Primer to assist you as you navigate the plethora of choices and options that each salesman you talk to will tell you is "the perfect choice for your needs!"

The Human Eye

To help you better understand how a set of binoculars work and what they do for you, we need to spend a few minutes and review how the human eye works. If you think binoculars are complicated ... hold onto your hat because the complicated creation of the human eye makes binoculars look like grade two science. For you to understand what you need from a set of binoculars, you need to understand what your eye does with the information and light that gets transferred to it.

First of all, there is a shaft of light that leaves the lens on your binoculars which then comes to your eye. So then what does your eye do with it? It travels across the cornea and through your pupil before it strikes the surface of the lens on your eye. This internal lens in your eye then focuses the light on your retina, or more specifically, on a spot called the fovea. The fovea is where the rods and cones call home and is the part of the eye that is responsible for sharp vision. The rods are important in that they are better at detecting motion and they see in shades of dark and light, but not colour. The cone cells of the eye are what give us the ability to see colour.

The eye focuses light onto a light sensitive membrane called the retina. When light strikes either the rods (sensitive to intensity of light) or cones

(sensitive to colour) of the retina, it gets converted into a signal that is relayed to the brain via the optic nerve. The brain then translates these signals into the images we see.

For now, I want you to understand that your pupil is the part of the eye that dilates and constricts based on the availability of light in a given circumstance. Too much light, the pupil gets small. Too little light, the pupil opens up. Seems simple enough, right? Keep this function and how the eye processes light in mind as we discuss the important key concepts of your optics.

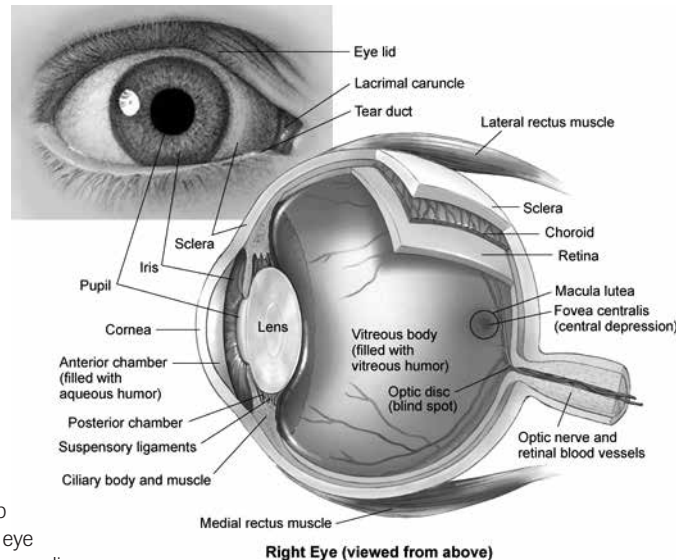
A set of binoculars is a very complicated piece of equipment with tubes, gases (in some cases), prisms, lenses and a multitude of coatings that need to work in concert with each other to provide these tremendous images we all expect. The more we pay, the more tremendous our expectations. While, generally speaking, the old adage that you get what you pay for is true, there are some exceptions, and good to excellent binoculars can be purchased at reasonable prices. You get to determine what is reasonable for you, but binoculars can easily set a hunter or bird watcher back a couple thousand dollars.

Most of us want to see farther and better, and so our fascination with this pursuit has driven manufacturers to provide quality optics for a range of price allowing a shopper to buy quality binoculars for hundreds of dollars now versus thousands. Whether you spend hundreds or thousands on your optics, you need to understand some basic terms to help you on your quest for seeing farther and better.

Binocular Basics

Objective Lens

This is the big lens in the front of the binoculars as you hold them to your face. The lens furthest away from you is the objective lens. Its size is expressed in millimeters and it is the second number used in the description, for example 10x42. The 42 is the objective lens and is 42 mm in diameter. The bigger the diameter the more light that can be gathered.



Ocular Lens

This is the lens that is generally smaller and is the one you place your eye against.

Magnification

This is the power of your binoculars. Power is always the first number in the numerical description of the binocular. If it's a 10x42, then your binoculars have a power of 10. For example, if you are looking at a world record white-tailed deer standing at 500 yards, the 10x magnification would make it appear 10 times closer. Or expressed another way, through a 10x42 binocular, a deer standing at 500 yards would appear to be standing at 50 yards.

Exit Pupil

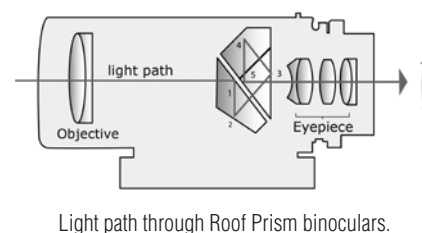
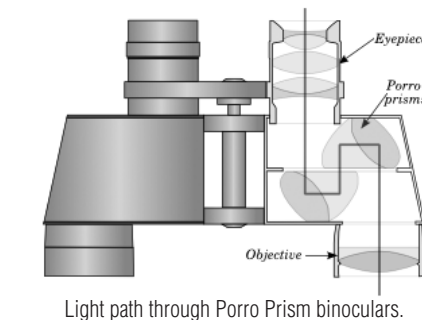
This is defined as the width of the beam of light that is leaving the eyepiece. We measure it in millimeters. The larger the exit pupil of your binoculars, under low light conditions, the brighter the image. Remember earlier in the article when we discussed your pupil? The number describing the exit pupil on your binoculars should correspond with the amount of dilation of your eye's pupil after it is fully adjusted to the dark or light conditions. Nine (9) mm of dilation is probably the maximum for the human eye and it tends to decrease with age. By age 50, the exit pupil may be down closer to 5 mm. So, an exit pupil on your binoculars that is larger than the dilation on your eye just wastes light from the objective lens, since the outside of the light beam just falls on your iris and doesn't actually go into your eye.

To calculate the exit pupil, simply divide the objective lens by the magnification. For example, a 10x40 set of binoculars will have an exit pupil of 4.

Keep in mind that most days, with regular light, your eye will be dilated to about a pupil size of 4 mm. So, in this example, a binocular with an exit pupil of 5 (as in a 10x50 optics) will not offer you a light gathering advantage. But as the daylight fades and the pupil dilates or opens even further, then the 10x50 (exit pupil of 5) may very well have a light gathering advantage.

Porro or Roof Prism

These are the two major types of prisms used in binoculars. Binoculars rely on prisms to put the image in each of the tube assemblies (each half of your binocular). Doubled roof prisms are small and lighter, allowing a pair of binoculars to be designed around them having shorter, straighter and usually lighter weight tubes. As a result, they are usually compact and are the choice of outdoorsmen who prefer lighter weights and sizes. Porro are the other type of prisms and are generally larger and bulkier and, when paired in a binocular, they result in a tube that is offset or bends out at a side angle. Porro prism binoculars are the classic bulged design tubes and are almost always larger than roof prism binoculars of equal magnification.



Field of View

When you look through your binoculars, the widest dimension you can see is known as the field of view. It is measured in feet at 1000 yards. For example, if you are looking at a skyline from 1000 yards away, only a portion of the skyline is visible through your optics. That portion, measured in feet, is the linear field of view. A wider field of view isn't always better. In fact, the wider the field of view, the less depth of field you will be able to perceive. So you need to balance field of view with your intended purpose of the optics. Wider fields of view are handy and appreciated when the subjects you are viewing are moving. A wide field of view might be great when you are watching a football game from a distance, but



A selection of the author's favourite binoculars. Different sizes, shapes and quality optics serve different purposes. A purchaser doing appropriate homework may be able to settle on one set that does many things. However, often times as the need varies and if the budget will allow, one person may have several sets to suit several uses. One time, when asking a sage old friend and trap shooter, Viktor Nill, why he needed another shotgun, I got a good laugh out of hearing his reply: "Hold it - hold it - hold it! What's need got to do with it!" I'm not suggesting you buy 10 sets of binoculars, but I am suggesting you use the list of criteria in this article to help you narrow the choices.

they may not be very helpful when you are trying to count points on an elk antler at 500 yards.

Coatings

Binoculars can have as many as 18 glass surfaces working together to deliver the image to your eye. Coatings reduce the amount of light loss and they give a more even distribution of the light to the eye, resulting in a sharper image and better contrast. Coated optics have a less shiny appearance when you look into the tube and sometimes even a dark appearance or a green, brown or bluish tinge to them. If the manufacturer claims their optics to be coated, that means that at least one of the major surfaces has at least one coating. Fully-coated means that all surfaces have a coating. Multi-coated optics are ones where at least one of the major elements

of the optics have a multi-coated surface. Fully multi-coated means that ALL the glass surfaces have multiple coatings and is the best kind, resulting in light transmissions of as much as 90-95% for bright, sharp and high contrast images. Some of the roof prism binoculars come with phase coatings. Because the light traveling through these binoculars takes a slightly different path, by applying a special coating that compensates for this shift, the contrast loss is eliminated. This gives those optics a brighter and more vivid image.

This is one place where your binoculars can really get expensive. Quality coatings are very expensive to apply, but don't underestimate the importance of this component of your selection.

Continued ➤



Samples depicting Porro Prism binoculars on the left and Roof Prism binoculars on the right.

The difference in price and performance between \$250 10x42’s and \$2500 10x42’s is often determined right here with the quality and type of lens coatings.

Okay — I’ve tried to keep this uncomplicated, but as you can see, there are lots of factors in your choices. We’ll discuss Twilight Factor, Light Transmission and Chromatic Aberration among other things in a future article. Now let’s go shopping! Some key thoughts before you make your purchase and some key questions to ask your salesman:

First of all: Take your time. The time it took for you to read this article isn’t enough time to spend with a salesman and a set of binoculars to determine if they are right for you. In the end ,if you are being pushed to make a decision, the best decision is “No Thanks!” Take into account everything you have read here and all the advice you have received from your pals, as well as what you believe is your end use for these optics. In the end, the decision is yours and your gut feelings will play a big role in the enjoyment and reward you get from the final decision.

Secondly: Go somewhere where you can look at several models, shapes, sizes, magnification, etc. If you find a store that really wants to push one brand over another, keep shopping. If you do your research well and experiment properly with

“ ... your work is cut out for you, but time spent in reconnaissance is seldom wasted. Keep your mind open, evaluate the options and make the right selection for your needs. ”

lots of examples, you will live with your choice much longer.

When you are testing the optics in a store, focus on a very small image at a distance. Hopefully there will be lines or writing at a distance that will allow you to do a comparison of sharpness and clarity between several models. Some stores have a clarity chart set out at a distance. Try lots of different models. Narrow the choices down; if possible try them outside in different lighting than what the fluorescent lights of the store offer. Keep trying them all until you can eliminate the weakest or most obviously lesser quality optics.

Now you need to determine magnification. Most sportsmen I meet believe that more magnification is better. I don’t always agree, and as I get older I notice that I have a harder time holding higher magnification binoculars steady. Movement with your binoculars renders them nearly

useless as the image clarity suffers. So don’t spend more than what your body says you can handle. I feel comfortable holding 10 power binoculars now as I enter my 50s, but when I was in my 30s I was comfortable holding 12 power. It will be different for you, but your job is to determine what you can hold steady unaided by a tripod.

Ask lots of questions. Check the warranty and the replacement conditions from the supplier. Do you need to send them to a foreign country for service or is repair possible locally? Do the optics “fit”? When you put them up to your face do your hands feel natural as they hold them or do you have to move your index finger to an unnatural position to find the focus wheel? Are they heavy? If you wear them around your neck all day, are you going to be hunched over like Quasimodo? Does it have a good protective case, lens covers, comfortable strap, tripod mount, etc?

OK — your work is cut out for you, but time spent in reconnaissance is seldom wasted. Keep your mind open, evaluate the options and make the right selection for your needs. I hope you find your time in the field rewarding and safe. The right decision with your optics purchase can go a long way to making that happen.

Cheers!



A Hunting We Will Go!

By Kelly Semple



Kelly Semple
Executive Director
Hunting for Tomorrow



2013 has proven to be another very busy year for Alberta hunting activity, as hunter numbers continue to show steady increases over the past number of years. Here are a few of the highlights:

Number of Hunters

2013 – 129,000	2007 – 110,000
2012 – 120,900	2006 – 105,000
2011 – 115,443	2005 – 100,000
2010 – 114,503	2004 – 100,000
2009 – 113,000	2003 – 95,000
2008 – 113,000	

Of this number, approximately 92% were resident hunters, 3% were non-resident Canadians and 5% were non-resident aliens.

2013 All Hunters	—	Resident 118,689 Non-Resident 4,072 Non-Resident Alien 6,446 Total 129,207
2012 All Hunters	—	Resident 110,851 Non-Resident 3,762 Non-Resident Alien 6,301 Total 118,604
2013 New Hunters	—	Resident 14,190 Non-Resident 1,396 Non-Resident Alien 3,018 Total 18,604
2012 New Hunters	—	Resident 12,269 Non-Resident 1,304 Non-Resident Alien 3,186 Total 16,659

Anglers/Hunters and WiN Card Activity

Anglers:	2013 – 266,535 2012 – 266,000 2011 – 257,000 2010 – 256,000	2009 – 274,000 2008 – 253,000 2007 – 243,000
Hunters:	2013 – 129,048 2012 – 121,121 2011 – 115,403 2010 – 114,503	2009 – 113,000 2008 – 113,000 2007 – 110,000
Hunting Products:	2013 – 467,000 2012 – 443,000 2011 – 423,089 2010 – 428,000 2009 – 416,000 2008 – 419,000 2007 – 404,000	2009 – 274,000 2008 – 253,000 2007 – 243,000
New WiN Cards:	2013 – 74,299 2012 – 72,950 2011 – 68,747 2010 – 62,000 2009 – 77,000 2008 – 74,000 2007 – 72,000	

WiN Renewals:	2013 – Not available 2012 – 38,847 2011 – 40,489 2010 – 40,000	2009 – 59,000 2008 – 82,000 2007 – 24,000
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Male/Female Hunter Numbers

2013 – Adult Female 9,882 Youth Female 1,430 Total Female 11,312	Adult Male 111,848 Youth Male 7,047 Total Male 117,895
2012 – Adult Female 8,612 Youth Female 1,194 Total Female 9,806	Adult Male 104,549 Youth Male 6,607 Total Male 111,156
2011 – Adult Female 7,590 Youth Female 1,030 Total Female 8,620	Adult Male 99,708 Youth Male 6,352 Total Male 106,060
2010 – Adult Female 7,469 Youth Female 946 Total Female 8,415	Adult Male 100,736 Youth Male 6,352 Total Male 107,088
2009 – Adult Female 6,934 Youth Female 821 Total Female 7,755	Adult Male 99,003 Youth Male 6,046 Total Male 105,049
2008 – Adult Female 6,686 Youth Female 722 Total Female 7,408	Adult Male 99,240 Youth Male 5,913 Total Male 105,153
2007 – Adult Female 6,213 Youth Female 622 Total Female 6,835	Adult Male 97,734 Youth Male 5,475 Total Male 103,209
2006 – Adult Female 5,601 Youth Female 511 Total Female 6,112	Adult Male 93,582 Youth Male 5,156 Total Male 98,738

Number of Hunting Licences Sold

There were 467,000 hunting related licences sold in 2013, and the following is a comparison over the past 11 years:

2013 – 467,000	2007 – 404,000
2012 – 443,000	2006 – 381,000
2011 – 420,000	2005 – 361,000
2010 – 423,089	2004 – 361,000
2009 – 416,000	2003 – 344,000
2008 – 419,000	

Draw Applications and Sales

Total Draw applicants increased again, following the same upward trend:

2013 – 311,000	2007 – 221,000
2012 – 300,000	2006 – 213,000
2011 – 298,000	2005 – 205,000
2010 – 278,000	2004 – 196,000
2009 – 263,000	2003 – 187,000
2008 – 238,000	2002 – 179,000

Almost 74% of all hunting draw application sales were done on the web.

Bowhunting Permits

Bowhunting permits increased by 513:

2013 – Resident 19,083 Total 20,487	Non-Resident 325 Non-Resident Alien 1,079
2012 – Resident 18,590 Total 19,974	Non-Resident 300 Non-Resident Alien 1,084

2011 – Resident 16,716 Total 17,984	Non-Resident 248 Non-Resident Alien 1,020
2010 – Resident 16,634 Total 17,971	Non-Resident 252 Non-Resident Alien 1,085
2009 – Resident 15,406 Total 16,764	Non-Resident 248 Non-Resident Alien 1,110
2008 – Resident 14,947 Total 16,523	Non-Resident 230 Non-Resident Alien 1,346
2007 – Resident 13,266 Total 14,859	Non-Resident 185 Non-Resident Alien 1,408

Game Bird, Waterfowl and Pheasant Licence Numbers

2013 – Pheasants Resident 6,169 Pheasants Non-Resident 324 Pheasants Non-Resident Alien 58 Pheasants Total 6,551 Game Bird/Waterfowl Resident 47,573 Game Bird/Waterfowl Non-Resident 1,375 Game Bird/Waterfowl Non-Resident 3 Day 83 Game Bird/Waterfowl Non-Resident Alien 6 Day 2,792 Upland Game Bird Non-Resident Alien 295 Gamebird/Waterfowl Total 52,118	2012 – Pheasants Resident 5,738 Pheasants Non-Resident 313 Pheasants Non-Resident Alien 46 Pheasants Total 6,097 Game Bird/Waterfowl Resident 40,782 Game Bird/Waterfowl Non-Resident 1,133 Game Bird/Waterfowl Non-Resident 3 Day 122 Game Bird/Waterfowl Non-Resident Alien 6 Day 2,585 Upland Game Bird Non-Resident Alien 230 Gamebird/Waterfowl Total 44,852
2011 – Pheasants Resident 5,317 Pheasants Non-Resident 315 Pheasants Non-Resident Alien 59 Pheasants Total 5,691 Game Bird/Waterfowl Resident 38,813 Game Bird/Waterfowl Non-Resident 1,093 Game Bird/Waterfowl Non-Resident 3 Day 128 Game Bird/Waterfowl Non-Resident Alien 6 Day 2,608 Upland Game Bird Non-Resident Alien 247 Gamebird/Waterfowl Total 42,889	2010 – Pheasants Resident 5,344 Pheasants Non-Resident 319 Pheasants Non-Resident Alien 57 Pheasants Total 5,720 Game Bird/Waterfowl Resident 40,165 Game Bird/Waterfowl Non-Resident 1,027 Game Bird/Waterfowl Non-Resident 3 Day 123 Game Bird/Waterfowl Non-Resident Alien 6 Day 2,630 Upland Game Bird Non-Resident Alien 284 Game Bird/Waterfowl Total 44,229
2009 – Pheasants Resident 6,070 Pheasants Non-Resident 415 Pheasants Non-Resident Alien 77 Pheasants Total 6,562	

Continued ➤



Pheasants Forever Calgary Chapter

Box 1659, Okotoks, Alberta T1S 1B5
Phone 403-995-9960 Fax 403-995-9920 Toll Free 888-602-3777
www.pheasantsforevercalgary.com

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone #: _____

Cheque Enclosed ☐

Membership: \$35.00/year

Charge my: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Amex

Card #: _____ Expiry Date: M _____ Y _____

Signature: _____

A Hunting We Will Go! *cont.*

Game Bird/Waterfowl Resident 39,355
Game Bird/Waterfowl Non-Resident 1,169
Game Bird/Waterfowl Non-Resident 3 Day 138
Game Bird/Waterfowl Non-Resident Alien
6 Day 2,779
Upland Game Bird Non-Resident Alien 371
Game Bird/Waterfowl Total 43,812

2008 – Pheasants Resident 6,501
Pheasants Non-Resident 441
Pheasants Non-Resident Alien 134
Pheasants Total 7,076
Game Bird/Waterfowl Resident 42,094
Game Bird/Waterfowl Non-Resident 1,230
Game Bird/Waterfowl Non-Resident 3 Day 128
Game Bird/Waterfowl Non-Resident Alien
6 Day 3,301
Upland Game Bird Non-Resident Alien 520
Game Bird/Waterfowl Total 47,273

2007 – Pheasants Resident 6,229
Pheasants Non-Resident 454
Pheasants Non-Resident Alien 146
Pheasants Total 6,829
Game Bird/Waterfowl Resident 41,289
Game Bird/Waterfowl Non-Resident 1,309
Game Bird/Waterfowl Non-Resident 3 Day 126
Game Bird/Waterfowl Non-Resident Alien
6 Day 3,979
Upland Game Bird Non-Resident Alien 608
Game Bird/Waterfowl Total 47,311

Web Sales Update

Web Sale volumes continued to increase in 2013. Over 30% of all sales were done on the web.

2013 Transactions – New WiN 17,675
WiN Renewal 22,454
Under Subscribed 5,640
WiN Replacement 1,550
Fishing 38,074
Draw Applications 231,184
Hunting 31,542
Total 348,119

2012 Transactions – New WiN 15,169
WiN Renewal 6,966
Under Subscribed 4,507
WiN Replacement 1,309
Fishing 33,712
Draw Applications 215,243
Hunting 35,779
Total 312,685

The current licensing contract between the Government of Alberta and IBM expired on March 15, 2014. A new service provider, Active Network, has been selected to deliver the recreational licensing services to the public.

We are indeed fortunate to live in a province where wildlife populations are healthy and this provides for abundant hunting opportunities. For more information about hunting numbers, contact Licensing and Revenue Services, Alberta Fish and Wildlife Division, 780-427-5185. All data provided in this document is courtesy of Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development – Fish and Wildlife Division.

If you are interested in more information about hunting programs and what various organizations are doing to promote hunting opportunities in Alberta, please contact Hunting For Tomorrow. Your involvement and support in our programs is most welcome.

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

Great Meals from the Harvest

with Louise Lampard and Len Gransch



Louise Lampard
Social Media Coordinator/
Administrative Assistant
A.H.E.I.A. Calgary

Easy Venison Tacos

This is my go-to dinner whenever I can't decide what to cook.

Four Tortillas:

3 cups flour 1/3 cup vegetable oil
1 teaspoon salt 1 cup warm water

Combine all ingredients to form a smooth dough. Roll into a big ball. Take off 1 to 2 inch pieces. Pat the pieces flat with your hands or use a rolling pin to make thin circles. Put the dough circles into a dry frying pan (medium high heat), one at a time. When you see bubbles, flip and cook the other side (about 30 seconds each side).

Salsa:

1 beefsteak tomato
1 red onion
1 jalapeno chili
1 tablespoon lime juice
Fresh coriander (optional)

Deseed the tomato and the chili, and then finely chop. Finely chop the onion and, if using, the coriander. Combine all ingredients, adding lime juice.

Serve with shredded lettuce ... and beer!

Filling:

Ground venison
Taco seasoning
1 tablespoon oil

Use any cut of venison and grind; don't add any fat. Heat oil in a large frying pan on medium heat. Add the seasoning and venison, and fry, keeping ingredients moving to avoid sticking.

Corned Wild Game

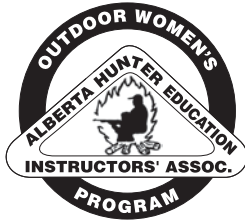
5 lb. boneless shoulder roast Morton Tender Quick or similar
2 cups water 6 tablespoons curing mixture
1/2 cup brown sugar 4 1/2 teaspoons pickling spice
6 cups ice cold water 1 tablespoon garlic powder

Bring the 2 cups of water to a boil in a sauce pan over high heat. Stir in the curing mixture, brown sugar, pickling spice and garlic powder. Stir until dissolved, then remove from heat. Next, pour the 6 cups of ice cold water into a 2 gallon container. Stir the spice mixture into the container of ice cold water.

Place the roast into the brine, cover and place in refrigerator. Allow to brine in the refrigerator for 5 days, making sure to rotate the meat two times per day.

For cooking, remove the meat from the brine and rinse very well with cold water. Place meat in a large pot and cover with cold water. Bring to a boil then reduce to medium-low, cover and simmer for 4 hours. Remove the meat from the pot, tent with aluminum foil and let rest for about 30 minutes prior to slicing.

Serve with boiled potatoes, carrots and cabbage for a full meal deal. Hot mustard and some pumpernickel bread will make your tummy smile.



21st Annual Outdoor Women's Program August 6-10, 2014

By Kelly Semple



Kelly Semple
Executive Director
Hunting for Tomorrow

Join hundreds of other women for up to five days of learning, camaraderie and fun and begin to master the outdoors. Women of all ages are encouraged to explore, experience and develop an understanding of the natural world through over 33 different hands-on programs.

The event is held at the Alford Lake Conservation Education Centre for Excellence. The first session was held in 1993 and has grown in popularity ever since. Women participate at their own speed and level of interest. They are welcome to try their hand at everything from fly fishing, shooting, backing up a trailer, and trapping, to overnight survival sessions. Classes run about three hours and cover a host of topics, as listed below.

Patient and knowledgeable instructors encourage each woman towards her own level of confidence and competence with each new skill.

Not sure if this weekend is for you? Ask yourself these questions:

- Is there an outdoor activity that you have never tried, like shooting a shotgun, that you would like to learn in a safe and controlled environment?
- Are you a beginner who is looking to improve her outdoor skills?
- Are you already active in the outdoors, but would like to add to your skills?
- Are you seeking the camaraderie of other like-minded individuals?
- Are you seeking a brand new adventure totally apart from your day-to-day life?

If you answered "Yes" to any of these questions, then please join us for an unforgettable weekend of adventure. Our highly qualified instructors are looking forward to meeting you. We take pride in initiating new people into the enjoyment of the great outdoors.

Bring your own camping gear, share a cabin, or stay in your own trailer or RV. Modern showers and bathrooms are available and meals are included. There is a wide range of program sessions to choose from and participants may attend for two, three or five days.



For more information contact:
Kelly Semple
A.H.E.I.A. - Outdoor Women's Program
#88, 4003 - 98th Street, Edmonton, Alberta T6E 6M8
Phone: 780-466-6682 • Toll Free: 1-866-282-4342
Email: ksemple@huntingfortomorrow.com
www.aheia.com • www.huntingfortomorrow.com

Program Sessions

- Advanced Hunting: Big Game Animals (PM)
- Advanced Hunting: Upland Game Birds and Waterfowl (AM)
- Building a Survival Bracelet and Learning How to Use It
- Archery (AM)
- Canadian Firearms Program Challenge
- Canoeing: Advanced (PM)
- Canoeing: Basic (AM)
- Chainsaw Basics
- Crossbows: Getting Started
- Field Techniques: Preparing Your Animal for the Taxidermist
- Firearms Basics: Guns, Guns, Guns
- Fly Fishing (AM)
- Get Out Alive! Basic Outdoor Survival
- Geocaching (PM)
- Handguns (PM)
- Introduction to ATVing
- 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)
- Let's Go Bowhunting (PM)
- Making Leather Moccasins (counts as two sessions)
- Predator Awareness: Preventing Conflicts with Carnivores
- The Science of Fishing
- Trailering
- Walk on the Wild Side
- Where Am I? Where Should I Be? (AM)
- Wildlife Identification
- Wilderness Cuisine
- Wilderness First Aid
- Wilderness Survival (Basic): Part 1 and 2

Evening/Morning Sessions

- Advanced Fly Fishing
- Alford Lake Olympics
- Bow Tuning and Maintenance
- Campfire Evenings
- Cleanin' My Gun
- Feature LIVE Auction on Saturday Night
- Fly Tying
- Game Calling 101
- How do You Like Us Now?: Learn about A.H.E.I.A. programs and how you can be more involved!
- Knife and Axe Sharpening
- Learning to Photograph Your Harvest
- Nature Power Walk
- Rope Making

Early Bird Registration Costs

Wednesday to Friday \$150.00 plus GST
Thursday & Friday \$140.00 plus GST
Saturday & Sunday \$145.00 plus GST
Wednesday to Sunday \$250.00 plus GST

Registration includes accommodations, food and all materials and equipment, as well as a FREE t-shirt!

Register soon as space fills up quickly!

To register, simply contact the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association at **1-780-466-6682 • 1-866-282-4342 • e-mail edmontoninfo@ahcia.com**

Deadline for early bird registration is June 27, 2014.
For a complete registration package, you may also visit the AHEIA web-site at **www.aheia.com or www.huntingfortomorrow.com**

Ice Fishing Safety Tips

"Ice fishing is a great opportunity to spend time with family and friends ... plenty of time for good discussion and the telling of fishing adventures and tall tales."

By Ken Cook

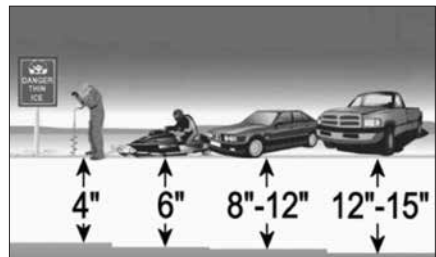


Ken Cook
Program Assistant
A.H.E.I.A.
Edmonton

Ice fishing is a great opportunity to spend time with family and friends. It is often more of a passive fishing effort than regular fishing, leaving plenty of time for good discussion and the telling of fishing adventures and tall tales. For those who have not tried it yet, go do it this winter!

The Rule of Thumb for Ice:

- 2 inches or less - STAY OFF
- 4 inches of good ice for a walking individual
- 6 inches of good ice for a snowmobile or ATV
- 8-12 inches of good ice for a car or small pickup
- 12-15 inches of good ice for a medium pickup truck



Other Considerations for a Safe Trip Include:

- The use of crampons, or cleats, for walking on ice is a good idea. With powdery snow and wind, there is often no snow cover on ice. Blowing wind and snow actually polish ice to a glassy, slippery surface.
- Attaching a long cord to sleds should make them easier to pull, and if someone falls through the ice, anglers can push their sled to them while holding onto the line.

Information courtesy of Colorado Parks and Wildlife



Conservation Education Points of Contact

Calgary
Conservation Education Centre For Excellence
911 Sylvester Cr. SW
Calgary, AB T2W 0R8
Phone: 403-252-8474
Toll Free: 1-866-852-4342
Fax: 403-252-3770
E-mail: info@aheia.com

Edmonton
Conservation Education Centre For Excellence
#88, 4003 - 98 Street
Edmonton, AB T6E 6M8
Phone: 780-466-6682
Toll Free: 1-866-282-4342
Fax: 780-431-2871
E-mail: edmontoninfo@aheia.com

Alford Lake
Conservation Education Centre For Excellence
Box 369
Caroline, AB T0M 0M0
Phone: 403-722-2423
Fax: 403-722-2445
E-mail: alfordlake@xplornet.com

A.H.E.I.A.
Calgary Firearms Centre
242 Avenue & 32 Street SW
DeWinton, AB T0L 0X0
Phone: 403-256-0665

Web Site: www.aheia.com

Conservation Education Programs

Alberta Conservation & Hunter Education
Alberta Fishing Education
First Time Hunter Program
Home Study Program
Canadian Firearms Safety Course
Outdoor Camp Programs
Outdoor Women's Seminar
Outdoor Youth Seminar
Wildlife Seminars
Fishing Seminars



Remington Model 1894.

The "Father of Modern Firearms": John Moses Browning

By Mikkie Leiterman

Can you imagine your 13-year-old learning how to design and build firearms? In today's world it would be very strange, but that is exactly what John Moses Browning, the man who has often been called the "father of modern firearms", was doing in his father Jonathan Browning's gun shop. John Browning began his career working for his father and by the age of 13, he built his first gun which he made for his brother Matt.

After their father's death in 1879, John and his brother opened their own shop and began using the first steam powered tools to machine their guns. Prior to that, foot powered tools were in common use. In 1883, a salesman from the Winchester Repeating Arms Company happened to see one of John's single shot rifles (the Breach Loading Single Shot rifle) and presented it to Winchester's headquarters. The president and general manager of Winchester loved the design and decided to pay Browning \$8000

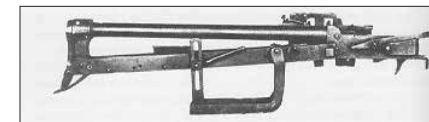
" John Browning began his career working for his father and, by the age of 13, he built his first gun ... "



Colt Model 1895 Peacemaker.



Single Shot Model 1885, the first of the Winchester guns.



Original model of John M. Browning operated machine gun (circa 1890-91). Browning made this hammer-dented, heated-blackened model solely for experimental use, setting the rate of fire at 600 rounds per minute, not anticipating the remarkable testing it would soon undergo, first before Colt officials and later U.S. Naval personnel.



Remington Model 11.

for the rights to his design. By the age of 24, John received his first patent for a Single Shot Model 1885 manufactured by Winchester. This was an excellent deal for both Browning, who could now focus on design rather than production, and for Winchester, who could add a new model to their product line and turn a competitor into a benefactor.

While working for Winchester, Browning designed a number of guns, some used, some not, but at the same time he began designing his truly ingenious idea: the automatic shotgun. It is said that he got the idea while watching his friend Will Wright shoot his rifle. As he was

shooting, a clump of weeds in front of the firing line bent from the blast and John surmised that the expanding gases from the blast were the cause. This gave John the idea that the gases could be used for cocking the gun. From this he designed a test gun to test his ideas.

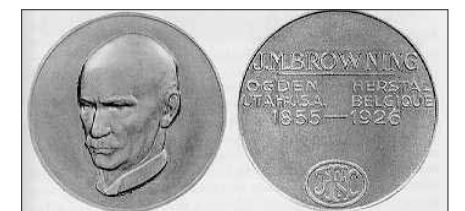
He tested his theory on three guns: two machine guns and one repeating shotgun which were later sold to Colt and the U.S. Government.

Browning broke his relationship with Winchester when they denied production of his repeating shotgun. He took his gun to a company called Fabrique National de Belgique (FN) who were eager to produce something new. His automatic gun revolutionized the hunting market. Later his Model 11 was produced by Remington, and many variants thereafter by manufacturers including Savage, Franchi and Breda.

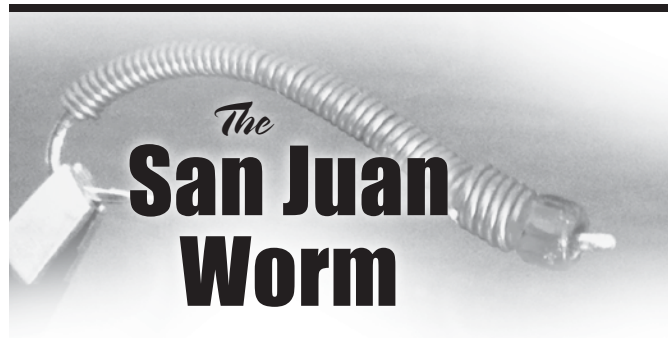
John passed away in Liege, Belgium, November 26, 1926, but his genius lives on in all of his inventions. He is credited with the invention of more firearms than anyone else in history and his Browning machine guns are still used by armies around the world today.



" He is credited with the invention of more firearms than anyone else in history ... "



This medallion was produced by FN to honour the great gunmaker.



The San Juan Worm

By Martin Lampard



Martin Lampard
Manager
Calgary Firearms Centre

For many of us Albertans, this has already been a long hard winter and we are waiting, with baited breath (pardon the pun), for the ice to melt so that we can once again head for the many beautiful rivers and lakes to indulge in our favourite pastime of fly fishing!

Note: Always check local regulations!

Being a relatively new, but extremely enthusiastic, fly fisherman, I am always excited and blown away when I enter my local fishing store and stare in wonderment at the beautiful array of equipment, apparel and, of course, flies! Indeed, my wife will attest (much to her delight) that during the winter months I regularly drag

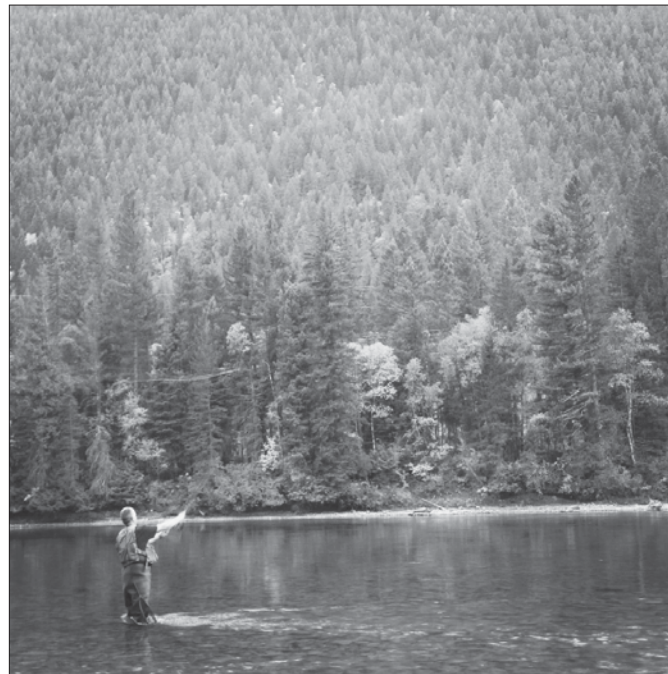
her along for a well-deserved hour or three of browsing at stuff that I don't need and have no idea of what to do with!

Now, I'm not aware of the views of other fisher folk, but amongst the beauty of the numerous flies on offer, I'm strangely drawn to the simplicity of the humble San Juan worm. I think this could be because I'm sure like many of my peers; this was included amongst my first little collection of "must have flies".

I am quite sure that some fly fishing purists would consider that using this little fellow pretty much equates to nothing more than bait fishing!!!! But I humbly realize that not having a lifetime of experience, I should, however, use everything and anything within my arsenal.

As much as I understand the intensity and reward of fishing with dry flies, and would love to be able to commit to this aspect of the sport only, I'm realistic in admitting that the skills required are as of yet lacking.

It is therefore with the knowledge that biologists have suggested that pretty much all water bodies have some kind of aquatic worm as a food source that I will continue to use this delightful little chap and be grateful with the success that he has already afforded me!



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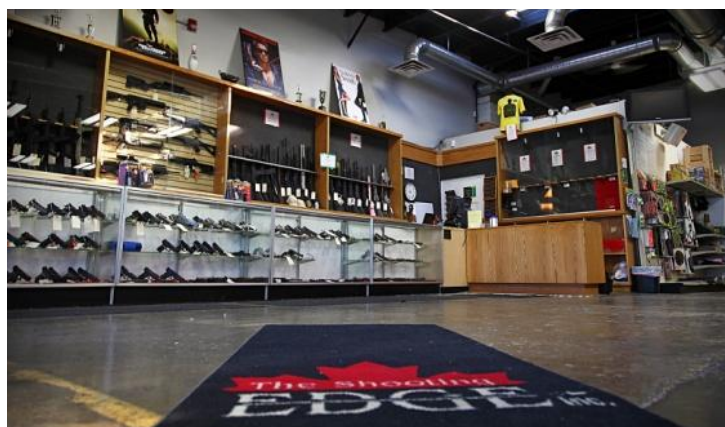
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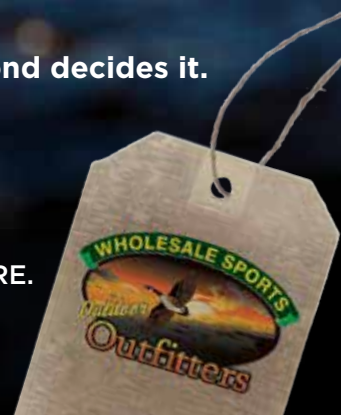


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