

Winter 2013



Alberta Hunter Education
Instructors' Association

Conservation Education



The Voice of Conservation Education in Alberta

Magazine

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Merry Christmas

and all the very best for a
happy and healthy New Year

from the
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of A.H.E.I.A.**



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President's Message

“ This year, our total programming touched the lives of over 85,000 Albertans. ”

By Robert A. Gruszecki



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

As 2013 draws to a close, it is my pleasure to reflect with you on this past year in Conservation Education. 2013 marks the 49th year of Conservation Education in Alberta, and thanks to our dedicated team of volunteers and staff, A.H.E.I.A. is reaching more and more people with our mission: *“To make wildlife and fish part of the value system of every Albertan.”*

This year, our total programming touched the lives of over 85,000 Albertans. Men, women and children of all ages continue to be exposed to the important messages of Conservation Education. Province wide, close to 30,000 students participated in the Canadian Firearms Safety Courses in Alberta. This area of our delivery continues to grow and we are proud of our ongoing effort to make firearms education accessible to all Albertans. Our Conservation Education Centres for Excellence in Calgary and Edmonton offer courses in hunting, fishing, bow hunting, firearms education and a multitude of youth and women's programs. As such, our organization has become a “one stop shop” for anyone seeking to improve their outdoor awareness and receive any necessary certification. Both the Calgary and Edmonton centres were booked solid all year, with nearly all classes at maximum capacity.

2013 also saw continued acclaim and success of our “Bear Essentials” course, introduced in 2012 and continuing to gain more students every month, in addition to some international attention. It is my pleasure to announce that on April 25, 2013 at an awards ceremony in Indianapolis, USA, the “Bear Essentials” program won a very prestigious award. In fact, the award equates to the “Academy Award for this genre”. A.H.E.I.A.'s online training tool “Bear Essentials” was recognized for excellence! We received the Gold award — the highest of its kind — as the Winner of the prestigious international Horizon Interactive Awards. These awards recognize outstanding achievement in e-training and e-learning. We are pleased and gratified that our program has garnered this kind of recognition, a feat not possible without all the hard work of numerous A.H.E.I.A. staff and volunteers.

Building on this amazing success, next in the “Essentials” series is the much anticipated “Archery Essentials” Program, which will be launching very soon, along with our “Kid Wise Firearms Safety” program for children featuring the newest member of the A.H.E.I.A. family, Wisely the Owl. Exciting times online are ahead!



On-line Bear Essentials Program

AHEIA is proud to announce this first in a series of advanced on-line training programs. This instructive, easy-to-use program includes:

- Essentials of Bear Diversity
- Bear Fare
- Essentials of Bear Encounters
- Bear Biology
- Bear Ecology
- Bear Encounters: Coming Face to Face

Contact the Calgary office at 1-866-852-4342 or the Edmonton office at 1-866-282-4342 for more information.

Go to www.aheia.com and click on “on-line training” to launch the Bear Essentials program or watch the demo.

www.aheia.com

“ A.H.E.I.A.'s online training tool ‘Bear Essentials’ was recognized for excellence! We received the Gold award — the highest of its kind — as the Winner of the prestigious international Horizon Interactive Awards. These awards recognize outstanding achievement in e-training and e-learning. ”

The Alford Lake Conservation Education Centre for Excellence was visited by nearly 10,000 people from numerous grade schools, post-secondary institutions, cadet groups, youth scout/guide troops, Native groups, and special interest groups who enjoyed great outdoor activities. Alford Lake also hosted several instructor workshops and certification courses, teachers workshops, youth seminars, survival camps, specialty seminars for various government agencies and other wildlife seminars to numerous and varied interest groups. Bookings as far out as 2015 have already begun.

The Calgary Firearms Centre has upheld its reputation for being the busiest centre of its kind in all of North America. We hosted 12 competitive shoots, various corporate functions and private events. Provincial Hunting Day allowed us to help many novice shooters discover the excitement of the various shotgun sports. Additionally, we have continued to invite students from the Conservation Education Courses to the centre to enjoy a day of safe shooting instruction. We hosted the Alberta Western Zone Trap Championships this past summer and will host the Provincial Trap Championships in the summer of 2014.

In August, the 20th A.H.E.I.A.'s Outdoor Women's Program (OWP) was held at the Alford Lake Conservation Education Centre for Excellence with over 270 women and instructors in attendance. It was OWP's biggest year yet again! New sessions and evening activities were well received by both the returning attendees and those who were new to the great experience that this program provides. Planning for the 2014 program has already begun as we celebrate our 21st anniversary of this extremely popular program.

Planning is also underway for the 12th Annual W.I.S.E. Conservation Awards and Banquet which will be held at the BMO Centre at Stampede Park on Saturday, February 8, 2014. This year we will be honouring three dedicated Albertans for their contributions to conserve Alberta's wilderness resources. This event serves as an opportunity to profile Conservation excellence and sets the standard for performance of all who use the outdoors. Please consider the Conservation Education heroes in your community and nominate them for these awards. This special evening also serves as one of A.H.E.I.A.'s primary fundraising events and there is a Banquet Ticket Order Form later in this magazine for your convenience.

President's Message *cont.*

We are also very pleased to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Conservation Education in Alberta. 2014 marks a full half century of delivering these programs to Albertans. Wow! What an amazing achievement! For 50 years, Conservation Education has been helping make wildlife and fish part of the value system of every Albertan. Thousands of volunteers throughout the Province have joined in on this effort and have worked together to reach out to over 1.6 million Albertans of all ages and both sexes. It is because of the efforts of approximately 3200 volunteers that wildlife, fish and their habitats have been the beneficiaries of the increasingly high value Albertans have placed on them. For 50 years, the Conservation Education Program has been influencing Albertans from every walk of life on how to enjoy wildlife and fish in a safe and fun outdoor environment. We are very proud of this achievement and our sights are set high as we continue on our mission into the future!



To help mark this significant milestone, A.H.E.I.A. is inaugurating the Quarter Century Instructors' Club. We are celebrating Conservation Education Instructors who have been instructing for 25 years or MORE — a very significant commitment to our cause. Approximately 127 Instructors will form this Quarter Century Club and they have been dedicated to helping Albertans of all ages conserve and value Alberta's wilderness resources!

This year's Banquet and AGM is set to be one of the very best celebrations that A.H.E.I.A., W.I.S.E. and Conservation Education has ever had. Your support through attendance and participation at the W.I.S.E. Banquet is of utmost importance to our cause and we look forward to seeing you there. We encourage you to “Like” us on Facebook, sign up for “Tweets” on Twitter and go to www.aheia.com to get up-to-the-minute information on all our programs and events. Visit www.aheia.com for this and other news and contact information for all our centres.



through **your** organization in 2014. It continues to be both a pleasure and an honour to be part of this cause with you.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Gruszecki

*On behalf of A.H.E.I.A.,
I wish you and yours all the very best for a Merry Christmas
and a peaceful and rewarding New Year!*



Notice

**Please place a special mark on your calendar for
Saturday, February 8, 2014**

The Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association Annual General Meeting will be held in Calgary at the BMO Centre, Stampede Park that day starting at 12:00 noon and ending at 3:00 p.m.

The W.I.S.E. Awards Banquet/Auction and a general celebration of this great cause will follow starting with a silent auction and cocktails at 4:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m.

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

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Front Cover Photo by:

Don Kesler
Nature Photography



Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association

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

Saturday, February 8, 2014

BMO Centre, Palomino Room, Stampede Park

Get Your Tickets Early! Last Year's Event Was a SELL OUT!

Annual General Meeting 12:00 noon - 3:00 pm • Silent Auction & Cocktails 4:30 pm
Dinner 6:00-8:00 pm • Presentations 8:00-9:00 pm • Live Auction 9:00-10:30 pm

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Edmonton Report

“ With hunter numbers continuing to increase, the demand for Hunter Education training continues to grow. ”

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, as is also the case in the Red Deer and North area for which I am responsible. This is the time of year when we tend to see a spike in orders for the Hunter Education and Firearms Training student kits.

With hunter numbers continuing to increase, the demand for Hunter Education training continues to grow. Currently, it appears that our online Hunter Education course is definitely the option of choice. If you have not taken a look at this award-winning program, just visit our website and take the demo.

The number of individuals taking the Canadian Firearms Program by challenge or course has been increasing every year since A.H.E.I.A. started administering the program. This year appears to be following the previous year's trend. The consensus is that this year's increase is partially due to the abolishment of the non-restricted firearms registry and the influx of new residents to the province. Either way, this is a good thing. This increase also means that the office also gets busier handling and shipping orders. It is important that instructors ordering materials provide us with enough lead time in order for us to be able to process and ship these orders in a timely fashion.

Information/registration packages for the 2014 Youth Hunter Education Camps will be available in mid-January. They will be available for download at our website, at any of our facilities and at the upcoming 2014 Calgary Boat and Sportsmen's Show, Red Deer Sports Show and the 2014 Edmonton Boat and Sportsmen's Show.

“ Currently, it appears that our online Hunter Education course is definitely the option of choice. ”

The 2014 Youth Hunter Education Camps are a five-day event of fun-filled learning activities. Experts will be sharing their knowledge and providing instruction in the Alberta Conservation and Hunter Education Program, the Canadian Firearms Safety Course and much more. Upon successful completion of the appropriate exams, students will be certified in the Alberta Conservation and Hunter Education Program and the Canadian Firearms Program. They will then qualify to apply for their Wildlife Identification Number (WIN card) through any private license issuer and be able to apply for their Minor's Possession License for firearms.

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

These camps do fill up quickly, so don't miss out. Take advantage of our new "Express Notification" feature. Merely email edmontoninfo@ahcia.com and ask to be placed on the Youth Hunter Education Camp "Express Notification" list. As soon as the 2014 information/registration form is ready, it will be emailed directly to you.

The Edmonton Boat and Sportsmen's Show is just around the corner and will run March 13-16 at the Edmonton Expo Centre - Northlands. It seems like the number of volunteers we require to make this event work smoothly keeps increasing yearly. This year will be no exception. I will be distributing a schedule for this event shortly, but in the meantime, if you can help, please let me know.

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

We will also be reaching another A.H.E.I.A. milestone in 2014, namely our 50th anniversary providing Conservation Education programming. All volunteers, instructors and staff can be very proud of this accomplishment indeed. Please watch for special announcements in the coming year.

Take some time to "Smell the Roses", get outdoors and remember to take a youngster with you.



A Call For Your Membership

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Calgary Report



“ The knowledge and skills that all of the volunteers bring to the table is what makes us the envy of similar organizations... ”

By Rob Giles



Robert Giles
Assistant Conservation
Education Coordinator &
Youth Program Coordinator
A.H.E.I.A. Red Deer - South

Here we are in November. Where did the year go? It seems like only a week ago that the summer flowers were on the prairies in Southern Alberta. Winter is here and there is fresh snow throughout the province.

Thank you to all of our instructors and volunteers throughout the Province who fulfilled their “due diligence” and have completed their Volunteer Screening Process with the Vulnerable Sector. For those that have not yet submitted the necessary completed Volunteer Screening paperwork, you will be unable to order course materials and to teach A.H.E.I.A. courses.

If you wish to continue to be an A.H.E.I.A. Member/Instructor, we require your paperwork as soon as possible. Additionally, for those who completed their volunteer screening three years ago, you will be receiving a letter from our President, Robert Gruszecki, that this document requires renewal. It lapses after three years. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at the Calgary Centre as soon as possible.



A.H.E.I.A. hosted the 2013 Provincial National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) Competition during the Edmonton Sportsmen's Show. Dave Paplawski officiated.



Wilderness Survival presentation at Holy Spirit Academy for the Outdoor Education Program.



Laser Shot and Dart Simulators, Calgary Sportsmen's Show, February 2013.

Some of the courses, workshops and events that we have participated in to date this year include: one Alberta Fish Education course (due to the flooding in Southern Alberta); two International Bow Hunter Education courses; seven Alberta Conservation and Hunter Education courses; the Calgary, Red Deer and Edmonton Sportsmen's Shows; the Western Canada Firearms Show; the Christ the Redeemer Conservation Education Development Weekend Camp; all the summer programs at Alford Lake; and numerous school and specialty group talks and presentations. With December on the doorstep, there will be the Mentored Hunting Program, a Teachers' Hunter Education/Fishing Education Instructor Workshop, and the Calgary and Edmonton Christmas Open Houses. Additionally, Glenn McKay, John Morrissey and Mikkie Leiterman have been kept busy at the Calgary Centre offering over 30 CFSC Non-Restricted Courses, 14 CRFSC Restricted Courses, and some 24 days of challenges since 2013 started.

A further note and reminder is that the Conservation and Hunter Education On-Line Program, the Bear Essentials On-Line Program, the Kid Wise Firearms Safety Program (which will be available in the near future), and the Canadian Firearms Safety On-Line Practise Test Program are available for those students who are unable to come to the Calgary Centre to attend a course.

A very special “Thank You” goes out to all the instructors, volunteers and staff who have contributed in so many ways with courses, events, workshops, special presentations and school science fairs that we have held at the Calgary Conservation Education Centre for Excellence, the Calgary Firearms Conservation Education Centre for Excellence, the Alford Lake Conservation Education Centre for Excellence, and all other attended venues. The knowledge and skills that all of the volunteers bring to the table is what makes us the envy of similar organizations throughout North America. Thank you for your continued unselfish support, dedication and assistance.



For those looking for more information concerning upcoming courses, workshops, special events and instructor training opportunities, please visit our website at

www.aheia.com

or contact Rob Giles, Assistant Conservation Education Coordinator/Youth Program Coordinator, Calgary Conservation Education Centre for Excellence, telephone 403-252-8474 or email rob@aheia.com.

Calgary Report *cont.*



Science Fair Week at Notre Dame Collegiate. Rob Giles provided A.H.E.I.A. presentation on Predator Management.

“ A special ‘Thank You’ goes out to all the instructors, volunteers and staff who have contributed in so many ways... ”



Kelly Semple and Bob Gruszecki presiding at the A.H.E.I.A. 2012 Annual General Meeting.



The Danish-Canadian Society AGM. Rob Giles was a guest speaker for A.H.E.I.A. at the event.



CONSERVATION EDUCATION

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

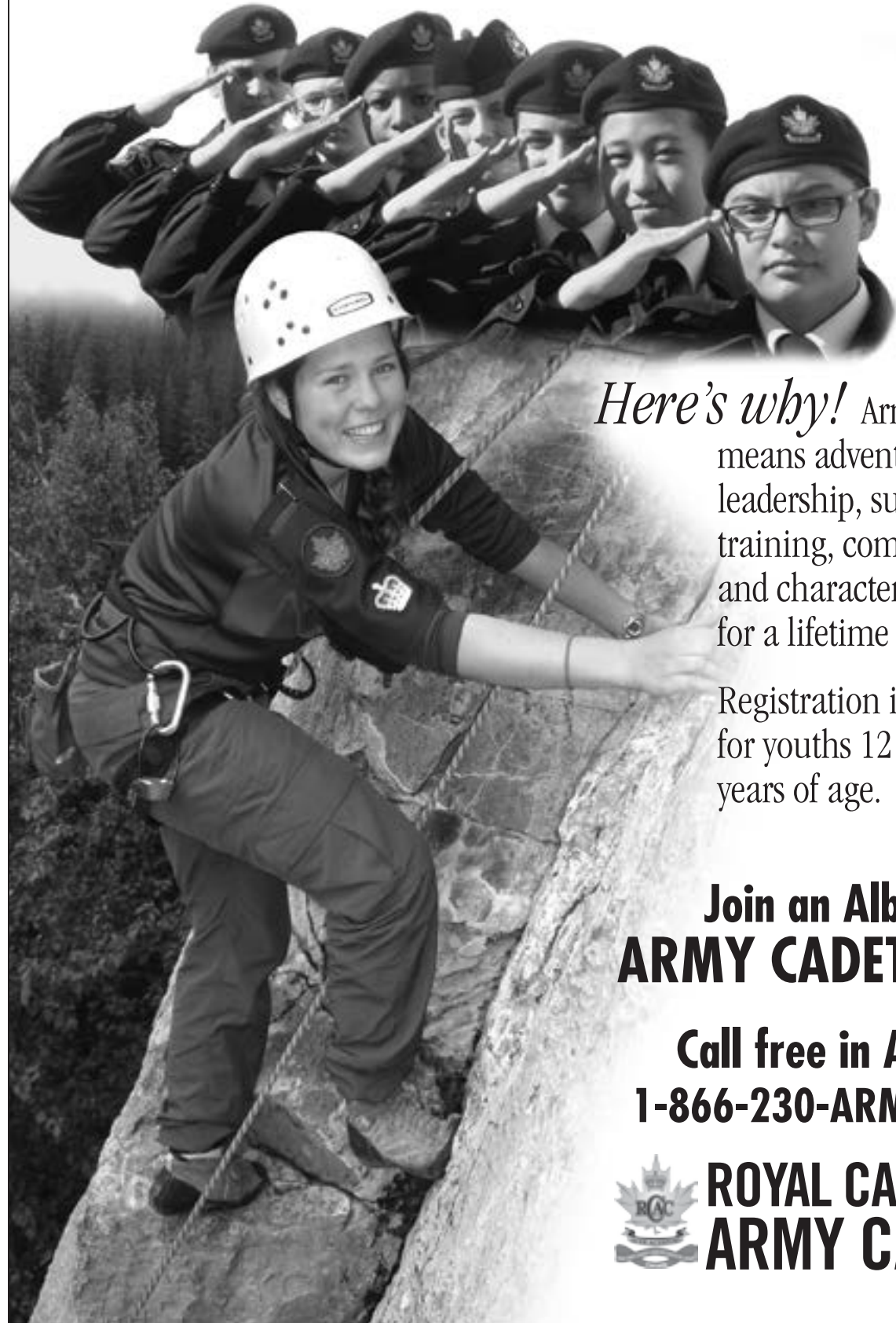


Happy **Golden** Anniversary!



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Firearms Education Report



“ Teach, then test, is the simplest way to ensure your student passes the tests. ”

By Glenn McKay



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

In the early 90s, a group of well-respected and motivated individuals were asked to put together a firearm safety course that could be taught to the masses. This course eventually became the Canadian Firearms Safety Course which is still being presented and taught today. At the time, the mandate was very clear:

make this a course which encompassed all aspects of what the average person would need to be safe with a firearm. Then this course was delivered to a number of instructors in the province who would then instruct those who wanted to apply for a firearms licence. To make the process even easier, an instructor was given the teaching tools to teach with. This was done to keep the training consistent from student to student and from area to area. It should not matter if you took a course in British Columbia or Nova Scotia, Edmonton or Montreal, the message should be the same. For the most part, this has been the case, but from time to time an instructor falls off the rails and gives the message/course in his or her own way, which gives a cause for concern. The reasons for this type of change are varied. Some reasons are quite simple, and other reasons are complex and unfortunately are known only to the instructor. But, in any case, as soon as an instructor strays from the course as it is written then questions must be asked. Under normal conditions, changes made to the program are

mandated by the organization that owns the program, so in the case of the CFSC/CRFSC it is the federal government. Changes are then given to instructors in the form of memo, letter or simply through a conversation with the Chief Firearms Office. In the case of Instructors in Alberta, you get the changes in what is hopefully a timely manner when you order your teaching materials, through the A.H.E.I.A. quarterly reports or via a phone call with one of the staff members. Can this be improved? Without doubt and I will look into a faster method, including mass email notifications and letters. But let's look into the reasons why changes are made and, for the purposes of this article, we will call it procedural drift.

This drift is easily defined as “a theory that seeks to explain the tendency for individuals to create policy that deviates from the original mandate”. An early example is telling a student at the front of the class a certain fact, then by word of mouth it is passed from student to student and, when it gets back to the instructor, the meaning is often skewed. So why do we do this? Most often, in the phone audits that are completed, I am finding that the most common reason appears to be “time”. Some students indicate that they cannot complete an eight hour course as they have too many things to do. We know that the non-restricted course is eight hours plus testing, so why do we try to do a course in four hours? The instructors I have talked to have indicated that a student “just needs a little help” to complete a challenge. As it was instructed when a candidate became an instructor, we do not teach a challenge, we simply test the knowledge of the student by performing the written and practical

examinations. If a student falls short of the pass mark, then they can take a course. So please let your student know that this is an eight hour course and if they cannot commit to the time it takes to complete the course, then they should consider why they need a licence. Another reason that an instructor might drift from the course outline is that they feel they have specific training which makes their course bigger or better, quicker or faster. That being the case, does their course gives the student all that is required to obtain a passing grade? In order to save time, I have found that some instructors test components of the practical exam during the teaching portion of the class. Simply not correct in method or application. Teach, then test, is the simplest way to ensure your student passes the tests.

One thing that all instructors have in common is the teaching manual that they have been given. It contains the lesson plans, it has the over heads and, in short, it contains the recipe you must use to teach the class. Then to test the knowledge and ability of the student, simply follow the practical examination as it is written. No more, no less.

A common thread that all active firearms owners that I have spoken with have is that there are enough firearm rules. As instructors it is incumbent that we teach the course as laid out in the manual. Failure to do that, by deviating or drifting away from the manual, can result in more rules or at least rule changes to be made. Please know, if this drift is caught by the audits, action will be taken to correct the problem.

If you have any questions or concerns, please give me a call or drop me a line!



Christ the Redeemer School District Conservation Camp

**“ This was a great opportunity
to influence the future adults
of Alberta and to put into play
A.H.E.I.A.'s Mission... ”**

By Rob Giles



Robert Giles
Assistant Conservation
Education Coordinator &
Youth Program Coordinator
A.H.E.I.A. Red Deer - South

In May, the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association was approached to participate in a Conservation Education Camp for the Roman Catholic Christ the Redeemer School District in southern Alberta. The event would take place at Camp Cadicasu in Kananaskis Country. After deciding to participate, several teachers, who were also A.H.E.I.A. instructors, met to discuss a variety of topics and events that could take place at the camp. Some of the topics discussed included: Map and Compass, Wilderness Survival, Archery, Clothing and Equipment, Wildlife Management and Tree Identification. The camp would not be all work — several educational games were discussed to ensure the kids had fun. The games were to have a conservation theme. The camp would consist of grade six and seven kids. Parents would also be on hand to help supervise.

This was a great opportunity to influence the future adults of Alberta and to put into play A.H.E.I.A.'s Mission: “To make Wildlife and Fish Part of the Value System of Every Albertan”. The Conservation Education Camp was a great success as a first-time event for the School District. The kids had a great time and the teachers vowed to make this event bigger and better the next time around.



W.I.S.E. Award Nominations Recognize Conservation Excellence

Nominations for the 2014 W.I.S.E. Awards are now being accepted.

Initiated 11 years ago, the W.I.S.E. Awards recognize outstanding achievement and commitment in the area of Conservation Education and Resource Management.

The Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association and the Conservation Education W.I.S.E. Foundation created the W.I.S.E. Awards. Both of these charitable foundations exist solely for the purpose of helping Albertans learn about Alberta's wildlife and the contribution that wildlife makes to the quality of our lives in Alberta. The goal is to make wildlife and fish part of the value system of all Albertans.

Three W.I.S.E. Award recipients will be chosen from the following four categories:

- W.I.S.E. Public Service Conservation Award
- W.I.S.E. Industry Conservation Award
- W.I.S.E. Volunteer Instructor Conservation Award
- W.I.S.E. Alva Bair Memorial Award

The awards will be presented at the A.H.E.I.A. banquet and fundraising auction held February 8, 2014, in the BMO Centre, Palomino Room, Stampede Park, Calgary, Alberta.

The deadline for the W.I.S.E. Award Nominations is December 1, 2013.

For more W.I.S.E. Conservation Awards information and nomination forms visit the A.H.E.I.A. website at www.aheia.com or call 1-866-852-4342.

Conservation Awards Nomination Form

- ☐ Public Service Conservation Award ☐ Industry Conservation Award
☐ Volunteer Instructor Conservation Award ☐ Alva Bair Memorial Award

Include with your nomination, details as to why your nominee should be selected, based on the general criteria listed for each award description.

Name of Nominee: _____

P.O. or Street Address: _____

Town or City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone Number: _____

Nominated By: _____ Signature: _____

Phone Number: _____ Date: _____

Please submit completed nomination form to:
Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association (A.H.E.I.A.)
911 Sylvester Crescent S.W., Calgary, AB T2W 0R8
(403) 252-8474 or 1-866-852-4342
E-mail: info@aheia.com

Submissions may be forwarded by mail or e-mail, or you may access this form electronically by visiting our website. Be sure to include all supporting materials.

Recognizing Conservation Excellence



The Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association

Our Mission:

"To Make Wildlife and Fish Part of the Value System of Every Albertan."

Working Principles & Elements of A.H.E.I.A.'s Conservation Education Programs:

- Wildlife is part of the value system of every Albertan.
- Wildlife contributes to the quality of the lives of Albertans.
- Human activity impacts wildlife.
- The behaviour of each person is important to the future of wildlife.
- Conservation Education is people helping other people to understand the needs and value of wildlife.
- Conservation Education is people enjoying wildlife and introducing other people to wildlife related activities.
- Conservation Education is people involved in wildlife education programs in formal and non-formal settings.
- Conservation Education is people advocating wildlife values to their communities.
- Conservation Education is people developing and sharing wildlife related skills.
- Conservation Education is people watching wildlife.



You and the Law

“ The Hunter Host cannot provide services for gain or reward, or accept remuneration, directly or indirectly ... ”

By Jeff Zimmer
Fish and Wildlife Officer
Alberta Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Branch
Justice and Solicitor General

Q. What are the requirements of becoming a Hunter Host?

A. A Hunter Host must be an adult Alberta resident who is eligible to hold a recreational hunting licence and currently hold a valid WIN (Wildlife Identification Number) and Hunter Host Licence.

The Hunter Host cannot provide services for gain or reward, or accept remuneration, directly or indirectly, for such services.

The Hunter Host may host a maximum of two hunters per year, either non-resident (Canadian), non-resident aliens or a combination of the two. If hosting two non-resident aliens, one must be a relative. Hosts can only host non-resident aliens if the host has not hosted one in the previous two years fiscal years (April 1 to March 31).

Hunter Hosts must report to a Fish and Wildlife office by December 31 in the year of harvest all

hunting activities by non-resident aliens hosted. A report must be completed even if nothing was harvested.

Hunter Hosts must accompany the hunter(s) named on his or her Hunter Host Licence while they are hunting big game under this authority.

Q. Is fishing with a barbed hook unlawful in Alberta?

A. At the present time, use of barbed hooks is unenforceable in Alberta. This was the result of the federal government inadvertently removing the provision prohibiting the use of barbed hooks which dates back to 2012. The intent is to restore the legislation at the earliest opportunity. Until this occurs, the public is encouraged

“ At the present time, use of barbed hooks is unenforceable in Alberta ... The intent is to restore the legislation at the earliest opportunity. ”

to continue to voluntarily comply with the use of barbless hooks, especially when practicing catch and release fishing.

Q. If I have a disability that inhibits me from hunting in a normal fashion, what are my options?

A. If you suffer from a disability, you may obtain a special permit or licence relating to off-highway vehicle (OHV) use, discharging a weapon from an OHV and use of a cross-bow during the archery only seasons. Contact your local Fish and Wildlife office to inquire about the process for obtaining one of these special permits or licences.

Did You Know?

Most licences for angling and hunting in Alberta can be purchased any time via the internet at www.albertarealm.com. Online editions of Alberta Fishing and Hunting guides and regulations can be accessed through www.mywildalberta.com and www.albertaregulation.ca.



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A.H.E.I.A. Fall Festival

"The goal was to provide an evening of great food and camaraderie with like-minded individuals while helping to raise funds for Conservation Education."

By Len Gransch



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

Over the years, many of you have asked why we do not hold a fundraising banquet in Edmonton. Many felt there would be great support for such an event. To that end, we are pleased to announce that our A.H.E.I.A. Fundraising Banquet, called the A.H.E.I.A. Fall Festival, took place in Edmonton on September 14, 2013.

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

I am happy to report the event was a big success and the decision has been made to make this an annual occurrence.

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 17 for details). This new event will be replacing the previously held A.H.E.I.A. Fall Festival.

Our banquet team will begin 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 on the following page, emailing me directly, calling our Edmonton office toll free at 1-866-282-4342, or tickets can be picked up at our Edmonton or 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.



A.H.E.I.A. Fall Festival *cont.*

"... the event was a big success and the decision has been made to make this an annual occurrence.."



 
**Edmonton Conservation Education
Centre for Excellence**
#88, 4003 - 98 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T6E 6M8
Phone 780-466-6682 • Fax 780-431-2871
Email edmontoninfo@aheia.com

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

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Credit card #: _____

Expiry date: _____ Validation Code #: _____

Name: _____

Company Name: _____

Address: _____

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Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Please return ticket order form to:
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#88, 4003 - 98 Street, Edmonton, AB T6E 6M8
Phone 780-466-6682 (office)
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Cell. 780-920-9362
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The Conservation Education W.I.S.E. Foundation and
Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association are pleased to announce the

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

Spring Fling

Saturday, June 7, 2014

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

Photo courtesy of Don Kesler Nature Photography.

When fun and research meet, great things happen.

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Be part of next year's adventure.

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Blairmore Fall Hunting Expo

By Rob Giles



Robert Giles
Assistant Conservation
Education Coordinator &
Youth Program Coordinator
A.H.E.I.A. Red Deer - South

In October, the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association was invited to participate in the first of what is hoped to be an annual event in the Crowsnest Pass. The Fall Hunting Exposition was held at the former High School in Bellevue, Alberta which now serves as a Community Centre.

Many groups participated in this year's event — all related to Outdoor Recreation. There was a area set aside for kids with colouring and bone necklace construction. Additionally, an archery range utilizing National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) equipment was set up outside for the kids to participate in coached archery. A representative from Wild TV was on hand and provided a talk on "Hunting and Game Meat Care".

In addition to providing an Information Booth, which was manned by Benjamin Giles, we handed out the A.H.E.I.A. antlers, which were a favourite of the some 2,500 visitors who attended the Hunting Exposition. Even the vendors came to get a pair of the prized antlers. I also provided a Wilderness Survival talk, with accompanying handouts and show-and-tell items.

For a first-time event, the exposition was a success and we hope it will grow and prosper.



The local Archery Club provided coached archery at a range outside the Community Centre.



Local businesses attended to show and demonstrate their product.



The local Hutterite colony was on hand with handmade leather goods.



Rob Giles provided a Wilderness Survival talk with handouts and show-and-tell pack items.



Benjamin Giles manned the A.H.E.I.A. booth and helped outfit the visitors with A.H.E.I.A. antlers.



A.H.E.I.A. booth at the Blairmore Hunting Exposition.



Conservation Education Points of Contact

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Great Meals from the Harvest

with Kayla Poirier and Len Gransch



Kayla Poirier
Administrative Assistant
A.H.E.I.A. Edmonton

Kayla's Special Deer Tenderloin

2 whole deer tenderloins (sliced against the grain into 3/4" strips)
1 large onion (diced)
12 medium button mushrooms (sliced)
1 stick garlic butter (1/4 pound)
1/2 cup parsley (finely chopped)
Salt and pepper to taste

Heat large skillet over medium-low heat.

Add garlic butter to pan and stir until melted and frothy. Add all other ingredients except the parsley and stir often to combine. Simmer slowly for 45-60 minutes until the tenderloin takes on a glazed look and is tender. Stir often.

Sprinkle the parsley on top just before serving. Serve with onion mashed potatoes and your favourite steamed vegetables.

You can easily substitute other wild game tenderloin.



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

"Meat on a Stick"

1 1/2 pounds wild game loin (cut into 2" cubes)
Assorted vegetables

Marinade:

1/2 cup soya sauce	1/2 cup good red wine
3-4 cloves garlic (minced)	1 tbsp. fresh ginger (peeled & minced)
1/4 tsp. paprika	3 tbsp. parsley (finely chopped)
1/4 tsp. cayenne pepper	1 tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
Salt and pepper to taste	

Place meat in a large Ziploc bag. In a bowl, whisk ingredients for marinade, making sure everything is well combined, then pour over meat. Combine well, seal and place in refrigerator for at least six hours.

In the meantime, prepare your veggies that will be added to the skewers. I like onion, mushrooms and green/red peppers, but feel free to use your favourites. All veggies should be cut into the same size as your meat cubes.

When marinating is completed, place meat and veggies alternately on the skewers. Remember, if you are using wooden skewers they should be soaked in water for about one hour prior to using. If not, they will catch fire.

Pre-heat your barbeque and place skewers on the cleaned and oiled grill. Baste with marinade several times while cooking and turning the skewers. Remove when meat is done to your liking.

Serve with coleslaw and your favourite rice recipe.

By Ken Cook



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

With the release of the second movie of the Hunger Games trilogy, *Catching Fire*, there is quite an exposure again to the sport of archery. Manufacturers and retailers reported a large increase in archery equipment sales after the first movie. This bodes well for A.H.E.I.A.'s National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP), which has seen an overwhelming interest from schools to get teachers trained so the program can be added to their curriculum. NASP was introduced in Alberta in 2009, with the initial training of Basic Archery Instructor Trainers (BAIT) and then our first teachers trained as Basic Archery Instructors (BAI). We had a goal that in five years we would have 100 schools and 200 teachers certified. This was achieved in just three and a half years. As of the end of October, we now have 325 teachers certified from 124 different schools. We are part of a much larger picture; statistics show that by the end 2012, NASP will have 9.5 million participants worldwide since its inception in Kentucky in 2002. Over 2,055,000 students participated in 2012 alone.

The first 12 schools that attended the pilot NASP workshop in Alberta in 2009 were given a complete archery training kit consisting of 12 bows, five dozen arrows, five backstops, an arrow curtain and a basic maintenance kit. There are still grants available to qualifying schools to help subsidize the purchase of NASP kits. The great thing about the NASP equipment is that it is standard no matter whether you are in Alberta or Kentucky, USA. The equipment is universal and fits grade four students or grade 12 students. This program is all inclusive and affords all students equal opportunity to compete.

"Opportunity". Well, this has certainly opened some doors and provided participants a chance to compete at different levels. First, all certified schools are able to compete at A.H.E.I.A.'s Provincial Championships held each year at the Edmonton Boat and Sportsmen's Show. Next, schools can participate in an on-line Canadian Championships in which participants shoot in their school gym and enter their scores online. Lastly, schools can compete in NASP's World Championships, held in Orlando in 2012 and this year in St. Louis. Two Alberta schools have gone on to compete: Castor in 2012 and Smoky Lake in 2013. Castor had a good showing, finishing 23rd out of 34. Smoky Lake would end up finishing 28th out of 58 in their category. This was a good showing for both of these schools, considering it being their first time under the big lights.

Once again, A.H.E.I.A.'s 2014 Provincial NASP tournament will be held at the Edmonton Boat and Sportsmen's Show at the Expo Centre Northlands. Competition dates are Thursday through Sunday, March 13-16, 2014.

Hope to see you there!!



NASP Update



Oops!

In the Fall 2013 issue of the Conservation Education Magazine, page 9, in the article titled "A.H.E.I.A.'s 2013 National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) Provincial Championships", we mistakenly reported that Landing Trail Intermediate School was located in Gibbons. It should have read Athabasca.

**"... the responsibility
of teaching
and preserving the
essence of conservation
starts right here
in our home
and in our own
back 40."**

Trout Creek Muley

By Alexander Sharif

My older son, Sergio, came to me last year and said, "Dad, when can I get my own deer?"

I was in jubilation, as he had gotten deeply into astronomy and astrophysics and I wasn't sure, nor did I want to push him towards hunting. Of course, by then he had tagged along with his brother Miguel on my last year's Pronghorn hunt and had an idea what a big game hunt is all about.

To prepare him for the hunt and to make sure he wouldn't develop a flinch, I cooked a low recoil load with my wife's 243W, pushing a 100 grain Spitzer at

a modest 2,550 fps. This load printed repeatable cloverleaves at the range, had the advantage of a very low felt recoil (7 ft-lbs) and would be perfectly adequate to take down a deer within a 200 yard circle. With this load at hand, Sergio practiced at our local range three or four times on a ¾ life-size deer target that I had made for him. He was in the zone, if you know what I mean.

On November 2, Sergio and his younger brother, Miguel, were up at 5:30 am with much anticipation. Our next stop was at Timmy's for their breakfast sandwich. These little "goodies" are what they will always remember as a child, out with Pa for a hunt. In addition, my trusted pal Hank came along to help and witness Sergio's first big game hunt.

Just as we were entering the foothills, the mighty sun shone her last rays before a cold Northern front was due to arrive. Since I wanted Sergio to learn all aspects of hunting, I asked him to walk in on his own and ask for permission from the landowner. In his own words: "My name is Sergio. I want to ask permission to hunt deer on your land. I will respect your property, watch for the cattle, never litter, play it safe and will stop by to tell you what happened after the hunt." Of course, he got the permission and was told he could come back anytime.

What a great time to be out with your youngsters, doing what you love the most, eh?

We had talked strategy prior to the hunt and were going to "hunt" and not "snipe" a deer. No shooting from a fence post nor at running game. I also made sure they understood the concept of "wind in your face" as we all walked along a shallow coulee. We saw deer tracks and the boys learned how to distinguish the direction of travel from the hoof

marks. As we proceeded, I spotted three mule deer does about 1,000 yards away.

With the wind in our faces, we dropped further down in the coulee, out of sight, and walked slowly. Miguel was as excited as Sergio and was absorbing every step like a sponge. After a 15 minute approach, I slowly poked out of the cou-

lee and ranged the does. They were 240 yards out; still too long for a sure shot for a beginner. This exercise taught the boys a great lesson: we are "hunting" our quarry and are not in combat, hence we have to close the distance if we can.

Their little hearts was beating fast with excitement and vigor.



**" Since I wanted Sergio
to learn all aspects
of hunting,
I asked him to
walk in on his own
and ask for permission
from the landowner ...
he got the permission
and was told
he could come
back anytime. "**



We finally rose above the coulee and ranged the does at 120 yards. Now we are talking! With Miguel and Hank out of sight, we went prone and lined up for the shot. Sergio waited for his quarry to go fully broadside and slowly squeezed the trigger when he felt comfortable. The familiar "thump" of the spitzer hitting the rib cage echoed back at us, and the boys clearly heard it as I had previously described it to them.

She took five steps and folded. Well done, Serge. You did good son!

She was a full grown doe with no fawns, perfect for the pot. And look at that shot placement; right through the rib cage for a humane harvest! What an awesome feeling for Sergio to have this moment shared with his brother, Pa and Hank.

The deer weighed more than the two of them combined and then some. After the field dressing session, which was an education on its own, and as a Blackfoot ritual, Sergio got his face painted with his first deer. The big smile in the picture tells it all. After Hank and I deboned the venison, I made sure each boy carried at least 15 lbs of meat in their packs back to the truck, so that they know how it is done the old fashioned way.

Slowly, but surely, we marched the one mile trail back to the truck. The cold front moved in just as we closed the truck's doors.

This had been a phenomenal day and we were all thankful to the good Lord for this blessing.

Hunt with (and not for) your kids and they will always remember it. Hopefully, they will pass it on to their youngsters so that our sport and pastime stays alive. True, Teddy Roosevelt, Aldo Leopold, et al started it all, but the responsibility of teaching and preserving the essence of conservation starts right here in our home and in our own back 40.

Amen.



**" Hunt with (and not for) your kids
and they will always remember it.
Hopefully, they will pass it on
to their youngsters ... "**

Oyen Bird Hunt

“ ... the only thing on my mind was how proud my Dad was going to be ... ”

By Billy Beresnak

The wind drifted through the cut wheat in the golden field. The beautiful sun beating down on our backs, what more could you ask for? The group marched through the fields, with Scooter, our sweep dog, following all of the orders the Dog Keeper gave him. Scooter ran into a slough, rustling the little willows near by. The tension was building, and building. It was enough to drive a man mad.

I started to grow tired of waiting, I grew lazy. “Muzzle, watch your muzzle”, I heard behind me from my mentor, Jack. Jack was a great guy to have as a mentor. He was smart, funny and would help me a lot to land my shots, and most of all, he told me that even if we didn’t get a kill out there, the only thing that mattered was if I had fun.

Jack shouts: “Birdie!” Scooter’s tail wags like crazy and he gets on its trail. You could hear lots of rustling from them both in the slough, weaving through the willows. All of the sudden, the ring-neck pheasant pops through the slough. I knew it was a dead bird to me.

I slide my half-cocked Remington 870’s pump forward and aim about a “two fingers’ length” in front of where it flew, one of the strategies Jack taught me, and blasted away. I jump into the air cheering, as I hear the other mentors in the group shouting: “Good shot, Billy!” Jack patted me on the back and told me: “Nice job.”

We headed back to the trucks and had lunch. I had packed a ham and mustard sandwich with a root beer and a chocolate bar. It was great out there. We all hung out and ate our delicious lunches, with sun on our backs. It was perfect, not too hot, not too cold. Both groups talked about how cool it was for me to have shot my first ring-neck pheasant. I asked in an anxious and impatient voice: “When are we going out again? I’m ready to catch my second!”



About fifteen minutes later, we headed back out. Our group devised a smart plan on which sloughs to go through first. “We’ll go to that one, then over there and then come to this one, and we’ll be done.” We marched down to the first slough.

Over the hill, we stood. Watching over most of the field was quite the treat. We eventually got to the slough, being side-tracked from the wonderful view. I’m what you could call a “city-slicker”, I didn’t see much of what Alberta had for us. “Birdie!” Jack shouts. I cock my shotgun again and aim directly on the pheasant. “BANG!” The pheasant flies away. I felt extremely disappointed, I was sure I was going to get it.

“Did you lead it?” Jack asks me.

“Yes,” I reply.

“How far ahead were you?” he asks.

I lie and come back with, “About three fingers. Why?”

He says, “Because your shot was right behind it.” “Oh.”

We trudge through the fields some more. My feet started to hurt, and that root beer wasn’t enough to keep me hydrated. As we make it to the next slough, one of the other mentors in our group takes his “prodigy” with him around the other side. Jack and I go around. Scooter dives into the willows. Jack says, “Birdie”, but nothing comes out. We wait, and wait. I felt very impatient.

Scooter comes back out and with nothing but the smell of the past bird. I was getting tired of walking and my boots were filling up with grass. I started to feel uncomfortable.

Jack says, “We’re not here to hassle you. If you’re getting tired of this, we can go back.”

Being the kid wanting to get the most birds, I reply with, “I’m fine, we can stay out.”

“Are you sure?”

“Positive.”

Again, we walked to the last slough. As we start to make up our plan on how we were going to cover the slough, Scooter dives in like never before. He scares out a pheasant and I think to myself, “Oh, this one is mine.” I pump forward, lead the bird, and fire “two-and-maybe-a-half” fingers in front of it.

A puff of black feathers explode and the bird falls. “THOMP”. I knew the bird was down for sure. I felt so proud of myself, jumping and screaming, “YES!”

We go over and Scooter brings me my bird. The group decides to go back to the trucks and head back. It was a long walk, and the only thing on my mind was how proud my Dad was going to be when he would see I got two birds the first day.

Back at the trucks, we waited for the other group. As we were talking about my great shots today, the other group emerges over a small hill. Once they got back and saw my two birds, they started calling me “Killer” and a “Game Thief”. They also threatened to tie me so I couldn’t go back out.

It was a great time. Everyone had lots of fun, and we headed back to camp to sleep and get ready for our next outing. I fluffed my tiny black pillow and slid into my blue sleeping bag. The heat from the cast iron furnace wasn’t enough to keep me warm though. It was a cold night.

We woke up at about six o’clock, maybe seven. There were no clocks, so it was just a guessing game. All pumped for the big hunt today, I changed from my red plaid pajama pants into some new jeans my dad had bought me especially for the trip. I tied on my boots and put my pants over the lips of them. I put on my white t-shirt and grey sweater. Before I went to go get breakfast and get ready, I tied my hunting knife on my belt and put it on. Grabbed my blaze orange vest and baseball cap and threw on my glasses and I was out the door.

I headed out to the “eating hall”, the cabin right to the left of the guys’ cabin. I took a seat in the corner of the room and listened to the mentors, who had already gotten up from bed, talking. The second door swings open and a tall man comes in with an iron pot that had rusted a bit. He lifts off the heavy metal lid with an old leather glove and breakfast sandwiches sat there calling my name. I grabbed one and an apple juice box and returned to my chair. I ate up fast and made my lunch fast.

It felt like a long time, I waited. The mentors chatted a lot; if they didn’t have a shotgun, bird or



camera in their hands, they were talking, non-stop. They waited outside. Well, I sat inside and enjoyed the peace and quiet. The door swings open and a man comes through.

Dave, the guy who takes care of A.H.E.I.A. in Calgary, comes in.

“We’re going to launch some clay pigeons to practice before we go out, want to come?”

“Do I? I’d love to!”

I dashed through the door and grabbed my shotgun. Once I picked it up, I chambered the action six or seven times, and then stuck my finger in the chamber, just to know for sure there was no remaining ammunition. Shotgun in hand, I walk over to the others, and watch the others practice before me.

Dave started throwing two pigeons with the machine he had; it looked hard to shoot both. The boy in front of me was shooting them and he shot them well. I ask Dave, once it’s my turn, “May I do the double pigeons?” He tells me, “Practice with one, for now.” And so I did, or should I say, I did it very well. Dave then put on the double pigeons.

“Pull!” I shout to let Dave know I’m ready to shoot.

“BAM, BAM!” The noise of my shotgun rings through the camp, as well as the noise of both broken pigeons falling.

“Nice one!” Dave compliments me.

After my turn was done, I sprinted back into the hall to grab some coffee before we head out. Dave comes in after me and talks to me privately.

He said a bunch of things that generally complimented my shooting skills. But what he said that stood out the most was this:

“You shoot very well. Your hand-eye co-ordination is perfect! The reason why you can land your shots better than the others is because you have something they don’t, you have determination. When you want that bird, you get it, and you don’t stop until you get it.”

I was very flattered. I then drank up my coffee quickly and headed out. Put my shotgun in its case and threw it into Jack’s old truck. We drove out to a different part of the field.

Like always, we devised a plan on what sloughs to take first. We marched out, shotguns in hand, to our first slough, with a different dog this time, Steve.

We made it to the slough and Steve was kind of slow to find anything. We came out the other end with nothing. All of a sudden, I hear rustling in the willows. A bird pops out; I lead it, ready for the shot.

“Can I shoot it? Can I shoot it?” I say quickly and anxiously.

“No, no,” Jack says. “Just a song-bird.”

We go to the next slough and find nothing, same with the next. So the group headed back to the trucks, with nothing but lost time. We decide to go to a different part of the field, divide the groups along a fence, and head in the same direction. We stride through the wheat and come to a slough to the right side of the fence. The dogs go in and scare up a bird.

I knew this was my shot. I cock my shotgun and blast away. A massive puff of feathers emerges from the dead bird. I was extremely uplifted with joy.

We split up, noticing multiple areas where there may be some birds. The dogs head into our area

and scare up another bird. I miss the shot, sadly. “There’s always next time,” I say to myself. “You can’t shoot them all.”

The group meets up at the trucks and we decide to go back to the camp and pack up to leave. While we drive back, the truck ahead pulls over into a ditch. We get out of the vehicles. The man driving the truck signals three birds, “over there”, signalling to the huge slough to the left.

We make it over to it. Like always, dogs head in and spook a bird, I cock and shoot. The bird drops. But, it wasn’t me, not my shot. My sister, to my left, just shot her first bird. I was disappointed, but proud. “You can’t shoot them all,” I remembered.

The drive back to Edmonton was quiet; it was nice. I was exhausted. I fell asleep many times, until we finally made it back, where my Dad awaited us. I was excited to show him the birds I shot. I think that was the best trip ever!



“ ... I can’t wait to go hunting again! ”

Emily’s Hunt

By Emily Beresnak

This camp was really fun. On Thursday we got to camp pretty late and we met some of the mentors. Then we went to bed in the nice, new warm cabins.

The next day we got up and had breakfast, and made our lunches to get ready for the day full of hunting. We met the dogs and played with them a bit. We even got to practice on clay targets before we went out. We then listened to instructions about the dogs and just general hunting rules. We suited up in our warm jackets and our blaze orange hats and vests and headed out.

We split up into two groups and headed out within arms reach of our mentors. I was with Brenda. She’s a cool person. She really helped me. In the first five minutes we got the dog sniffing around in one area as if a bird was there. Soon the pheasant shot into the air and we all shot, but we missed. We got about three more shots and we missed them. When it was almost time to go back for lunch, a pheasant shot into the air. We all shot and my brother got him. The other group was waiting for us at the top of the hill and they witnessed the shot. They cheered and we walked back with his pheasant on Brenda’s back. We ate our lunches and we were all so anxious to go back out. During lunch Ken was nagging at me to shoot one. We went back out and my brother shot another pheasant. This one was a ringneck pheasant (The pheasants were delicious.) We headed back to the cabins and we just fooled around at camp.

The next day, when we woke up, we were so anxious to go back out! Once again, Ken was nagging at me to get a bird. We made our lunches again. We practiced on some more clay targets and headed out to a different location. We began to hunt again. My brother got another bird and I missed again. But that was okay. Everyone started to call my brother Killer and Game Stealer and said they would lock him up at camp so he would stop stealing our birds. Haha. Later, after lunch, we went back out. We didn’t get anything, but Scooter, our hunting dog, chased a duck and caught him. He was injured, so we let him go. We went back to the trucks and Ken was nagging AGAIN. I didn’t get anything. But that was fine. Ken and Dave went back to find the duck so that the coyotes wouldn’t get him. When Ken and Dave were out, we saw three birds fly into a slough. We pulled over and searched for the birds. The bird shot into the air and we all shot at it. My brother was cheering like he shot it. But guess what? I got him! We went back to camp and Ken and Dave weren’t back yet, so I waited anxiously for Ken to arrive. He got back and I showed him. He was happy and so was I! After that we just fooled around and then ate dinner and drove back home. It was a great experience and I can’t wait to go hunting again!





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Maximum Permitted Cartridge Magazine Capacity

By John Morrissey



John Morrissey
Assistant Conservation
Education Program
Coordinator
A.H.E.I.A. - Calgary

The maximum capacity for a cartridge magazine was first set out in 1993. However, over the past several years, new cartridge magazines have been released which have introduced some novel and unusual situations as to the application and interpretation of the Regulations.

As a firearms instructor with the Canadian Firearms Safety Program, I routinely teach students the Regulations as set out in the Firearms Act. We all know that a semi automatic centre fire rifle or shotgun magazine should not contain, or accept, more than five cartridges; a pistol magazine or cylinder may not contain, or accept, more than 10 cartridges. On the surface, this appears to be very straightforward, and black and white: five rounds for the centre fire semi automatic rifle, 10 rounds for any handgun. However, this is not always the case, as we have shades of grey within interpretations of the Regulations. If we review "Special Bulletin for Business No. 72" issued by the Canadian Firearms Program, and updated September 5, 2013, we will discover some interesting and, admittedly, somewhat confusing interpretations of the Regulations.

As we know, generally magazines for rimfire rifles are not limited, however rimfire handgun magazines are limited to a 10 round capacity. Magazines designed or manufactured for the use in both rimfire rifles and handguns would be limited to the 10 round capacities. An example of these magazines would be the Smith & Wesson MP 22 rifle and 15-22P pistol which share the same magazine. More recently, the Ruger BX-25 magazine has been regulated to a 10 round capacity in Canada, as it may be used in the Ruger Charger pistol as well as in the popular Ruger 10/22 series of rifles.



What about a magazine that is designed to be used in a manual repeating centre fire rifle as well as a semi automatic centre fire rifle? In this case, the five round capacities apply. An example would be the Remington Model 7615 pump action rifle. As the magazine for the Model 7615 also fits the AR15 style semi automatic rifle, the capacity is limited to five rounds of ammunition.

My Marlin Model 45 Camp Carbine semi automatic rifle uses magazines designed for the Model 1911 pistol. Am I limited to five rounds? As the magazine was designed for the Model 1911 handgun, it is permissible to use the handgun magazines with a capacity of 10 rounds of ammunition. Other firearms with magazines designed for a handgun that may fit a semi auto-

matic rifle are the Rock River Arms (RRA) Model LAR-15 pistols that have a 10 round capacity.

What about a magazine which could contain more than 10 rounds of a different calibre? As we know, the capacity of a magazine is measured by the kind of cartridge it was **designed** to contain. In some cases, the magazine will be capable of containing more than 10 rounds of ammunition of a different calibre; however, that is not relevant in the determination of the maximum capacity permitted by Regulations. For example, the Heckler and Koch (H&K) P7 pistol is available in 9mm, as well as 40 S&W. The magazine designed for the 40 SW model would hold more than 10 rounds of 9mm ammunition, and may function in the 9MM H&K P7model. As the magazine is **designed** to hold 10 rounds of 40 S&W, this would be permissible (although there

may be some question as to the pistol's ability to function reliably).

As we can see, the maximum capacity for a cartridge magazine is not always black and white, and at times these shades of grey can be somewhat confusing. Should you have any questions concerning a particular magazine or firearm, contact the Chief Provincial

Firearms Officer at 1-800-731-4000. General Information is also available via the internet at the Canadian Firearms Program website <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/cfp-pcaf/index-eng.htm>.



RRA Model LAR Pistol magazine.



Heckler & Koch P7 pistol.

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Designing the AHEIA Conservation Education Magazine



Christopher Spencer: Inventor of the Lever Action Rifle

"Spencer made a mock-up of his lever action gun in 1857 ..."

By Mikkie Leiterman

In case you didn't know, a lever action gun is a firearm that uses a lever located around the trigger as well as the trigger guard itself. It is used to load cartridges into the chamber of a barrel when the lever is worked. This is in contrast to semi automatic or bolt action weapons.

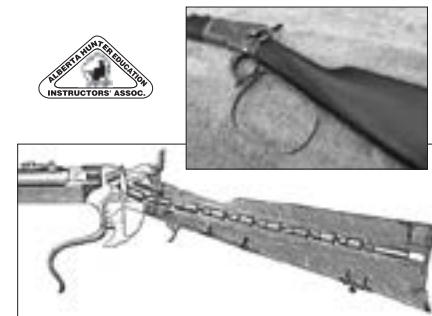
The first important lever action design was a magazine fed, lever, operated breech-loading rifle designed by Christopher Spencer in 1860. Born in Manchester, CT, Spencer worked as an apprentice for a local silk mill owned by two brothers, Charles and Rush Cheney. He worked for several years at the mill and developed a number of machines that showed his aptitude for maintaining and repairing machinery. He was not always employed by the Cheneys, but ventured out to several other companies including

one year with Colt in Hartford, CT. When he returned to the Cheneys, he came with some new and improved ideas on firearm design.

Spencer made a mock-up of his lever action gun in 1857 and spent the next three years working on improvements and marketing, which included many personal demonstrations to potential clients. One of those demonstrations was with then American president, Abraham Lincoln. When the Civil War broke out, the Cheneys bought the patent from Spencer for \$5000 and a royalty of \$1.00 per gun sold. The design was well suited for the military at the time, though by the late 1860s could not keep up with the newer and better guns like the Winchester 1866.

In 1866, Spencer patented a revolving action shot gun that proved to be too expensive for commercial success. In 1872, he developed a single action shot gun and in 1880 a pump ac-

tion shot gun. Ultimately his fortune was made by the invention of a screw sewing machine which gave him a name in the history of industrial development.



Cross-section of a Spencer 7-shot repeating rifle, carbine version.

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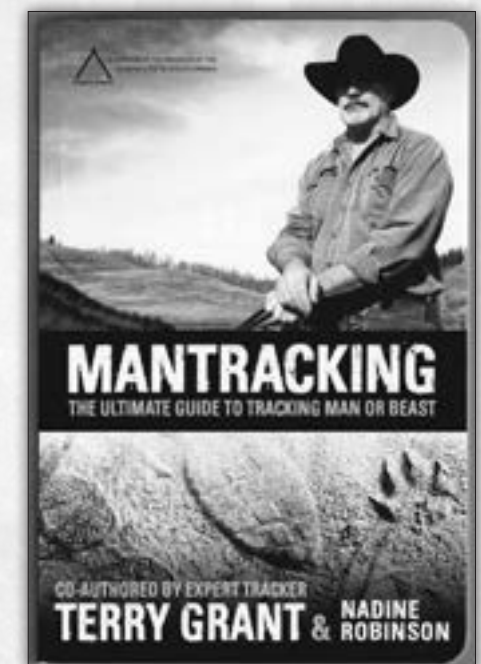
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Where the Buffalo Roam

“ Research has shown that the demise was extremely rapid. In the mid to late 1800s, the buffalo simply disappeared. ”

By Martin Lampard



Martin Lampard
Manager
Calgary Firearms Centre

It's widely considered that in the 1800s there were somewhere in the region of 60 million buffalo free roaming North America. What happened to these huge herds of majestic beasts? Obviously the hunter harvested them to near extinction. As much as many people would like to believe this to be true, this information is incorrect!

Indeed, hunters over the generations have wrongly apologized to the anti's for our ancestors' past actions on this subject.

The buffalo range covered unimaginable distances: Nebraska, Wyoming, North and South Dakota, Texas,

Oregon, Montana, Idaho, and north into Alberta and Saskatchewan, and were so huge that whilst surveys were being carried out to establish the Canadian/American borders, it is said that herds were viewed that were so big that the start and finish could not be determined, they simply covered the land for as far as the eye could see. We must remember that this was a time before roads or indeed motorized vehicles, so the buffalo hunter would be travelling on horseback if he were wealthy, or on foot if not! Already we start to see that in this bygone age it would be impossible to harvest this amount of animals before they could reproduce and indeed increase numbers. In addition to this, and in order to secure a living, the hunter would have to keep either the hide, tongue or both to sell for profit. We must therefore also consider the weight and distribution issues connected to these items during this time for the average hunter, and it is immediately apparent that another contributing factor must have existed!

The confusion lies with the following:

Yes, it was considered that the buffalo was integral to the Native American and provided meat, clothing and tipis from the hide, tools from the bones, the sinew for sewing and bowstring material, even glue from the hooves. Every single part of this animal had a use. So it was that the US army supplied free ammunition for the purpose of extermination of this beast. In addition, the railways considered the bison to be nothing more than a nuisance, encouraging passengers to blast away from moving trains. Some of the more successful hunters did indeed harvest 2, 3, 4000 animals, but with a population of 60 million, this barely made a dent. In fact, even if the inflated numbers reported were true, this barely totalled 10-20% of overall numbers to what has been described as "the single largest group of sizeable mammals to roam the earth". So what was responsible for the demise of the buffalo?

Research has shown that the demise was extremely rapid. In the mid to late 1880s, the buffalo simply disappeared. The buffalo hunters assumed that herds had inexplicably moved on, but would of course return the following season. It is now known that this did not happen. It appears that the buffalo simply "laid down and died". They showed no signs of wounds, bullet or otherwise, so what happened?

Disease!

Sadly, epidemics occurred where immigrants introduced domestic cattle. This, in addition to the attempted military cull, depleted the numbers to near extinction. It is, however, considered that ultimately human expansion would have resulted in the same eventual outcome without the intervention of conservation education, which once again endorses its incredible importance.

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