

THE BULLSEYE BULLETIN WISCONSIN HUNTER EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

#132 January 2016

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First Come First Served Registration:

What does this mean? For example, you open up registration at the Somewhere Hunt Club and only the first 30 people at the door get a spot in your class.

In the fall there can be a high demand for classes. These courses have the potential to bring people from around the entire state just to get into your class. With the First Come First Served type of registration, you may get more people than you can accommodate, ultimately turning students away.

Customer Service: Imagine being the student that was turned away. After driving several hours and standing in line, you find out that you are #31...How would you feel? Frustrated? Angry? Exhausted? Not to mention a myriad of other emotions leading to what could be a tricky position.

When a student is declined the option of attending a course, the end result can sometimes be a conversation with their local legislature, resulting in changes within the program. A way to avoid a difficult situation might be to try some other options:

1. **Online Registration:** This is now an option available to you. Talk to your RSW for more information.
2. **Email:** Create an email for your group to register with or communicate to, such as, SafehuntinginColoma@yahoo.com. This allows the group to also attach information that is important for the students to know and/or read before the first night. The same email could be sent to all students without repeating yourself 30-100 times.
3. **Phone calls:** Schedule a time that the students can call an instructor (does not need to be the lead) to register. Weeknights from 6-8pm work well. Remember to carry a pen and small notepad to take down student information.

Course Evaluation Program in High Gear:

It has finally come to pass that this program, which we had talked about for many years, is now in full swing.

To date, evaluators have conducted 20 evaluations in 13 counties since this past fall.

To catch most of you up as to what this is all about you first must be aware of a few things.

The goal of the program is to ensure that all required standards are being met as to the teaching and delivery of Hunter Education in the State of Wisconsin. What this means is evaluators/observer's will look at how a course is being run from start to finish, including how each individual instructor interacts with the students and also with their respective group of instructors.

We will also look to capture any innovative teaching ideas that may be in use that can benefit the rest of the instructor corps around the state.

Once an entire course is completed the evaluator shares his/her findings with the Regional Recreational Safety Warden. After reviewing these observations they then share these results with the instructors as to strengths and weaknesses of the class. Appropriate training or equipment needs are discussed, and a process of implementation, including a timeline to accomplish, is then agreed upon in order to improve their current delivery of the program.

You may be wondering why this is necessary. First off, and extremely important, is that as instructors, collectively as a group, we must be looking at ways to improve the courses we teach. The way courses were taught in the 70's is different than in the 80's, and the changes we have experienced in the overall program itself in the last 5 years are more abundant than in the previous 43 years. Secondly, and equally as important, is the mandate by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that courses be evaluated as a condition of receiving the grant money used for operation of our state program.

Up to now here's what the evaluator's have observed in all of the courses they have attended.

- Attitude of the instructors toward the students was excellent
- Vast knowledge of instructor corps is evident.
- All involved truly enjoyed giving back to the sport and community.
- All groups have accepted evaluation/evaluators coming into the class.
- All lead instructors were open to suggestions, by local RSW's as to how to improve.

In closing, thank you for the cooperation you have given us in this process. We too are learning as we go along and are making needed adjustments along the way. The greatest benefactor of doing this will be the public who will continue to have a first class program taught to them by a very dedicated and highly competent team of instructors who are continually striving to improve.

If you would like your class evaluated please contact your RSW or Jon King, Hunter Education Administrator and they will help you schedule an evaluator for your next course.

THANK YOU!

John Plenke - Hunter Education Program Specialist

GO WILD! Coming in March 2016

A New database will be launched and training will be provided in March 2016. There will be a separate mailing coming soon! Watch for it!

Volunteer Hours Report (Form Number 8500-172):

Let's face it...change is hard, but your all doing it and doing it well!

Here are a couple reminders and tips when filling out form 8500-172.

- More than one instructor may be listed on a form.
- Write the course id on the top right hand corner of form 8500-172
- Make sure your instructor number and name are on the report
- Don't forget your signature ☺
- ***Please continue to add your group of instructors to the roster when using the online interface so they obtain credit for the course and years of service***
- If you are mailing your roster and paperwork in please also continue to write them on the bottom of the roster so your instructor group obtains credit for the course and years of service.

Note: The instructors no longer need to sign the roster, but they **MUST** sign the volunteer hours report.

Firearms Inventory:

As stated in the previous newsletter we talked about firearms inventory. Because we are asked to annually verify inventory of our firearms by our department leaders and by the Office of Inspector General (OIG) we came up with the current solution on the **new** Volunteer Hours Report (Form 8500-172).

By adding any firearms that have been issued to you by the WI DNR, as well as the location in which they are being kept we can keep an accurate inventory.

We are asking groups to check their inventory for certain firearms that seem to be misplaced or not in the correct location stated.

Missing Firearm Action Sets:

Please check your firearms for action set numbers 44, 95, 103 and 104. Also IHEA Orange Action Set 153. If you have any of these action sets please contact your RSW or Jon King as soon as possible.

Lesson Plans:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/volunteer/instructorcorner/instructorlessons.html>

The lesson plans webpage has been revised and all current lesson plans are now available on this webpage for your convenience to view and or print for your hunter education classes. You will also see an electronic version of the mini manual.

The Three-Prong Approach:

By: Mark Little, RSW North Region

Over the years the hunter safety program has been met with changing policies, manuals, and methods. We understand that you want to have a successful course and that change often comes hard especially when we are used to doing something a certain way. However, in most cases the way you conduct your course really doesn't need to change at all. New instructors are often confused about presenting material and veteran instructors often seek ways to hold their courses more effectively and with efficiency. Let's take a look at one way to accomplish this and what I call the "Three Pronged Approach" to a successful course.

Prong #1- Assign chapter reading to the students and have them complete the chapter reviews at home. At the beginning of each class, make sure all students have this assignment done and go over the assigned chapter reviews as a group. We can expect that the student manual will one day only be available in an electronic format and this will this will prepare you for making that adaptation, will spare students from sitting and reading from their manual during your course, and will gear you up for the next prong.

Prong #2 – Do the lesson plans. Most lesson plans require students to be split into small groups to accomplish exercises laid out in the lesson plans (i.e. Action, Sights, Ammunition, and Loading or Fence and Obstacle Crossing) while other lesson plans are OK in a large group setting (TABK, 1st Aid, ATV and Snowmobile Laws for Hunters). Either way, get students out of their chairs and get them into as much hands -on activity as possible. When properly administered, lesson plans will take up the majority of your course time as they are built on the EDOC principle. Remember EDOC? Explain, Demonstrate, Observe, Congratulate. It works and you are probably doing it already without knowing it had a fancy name! Be sure to visit the Volunteer Instructor Corner off the DNR website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/volunteer/instructorcorner/> for the most current lesson plans.

Prong #3 – Teach the test objectives. When questioning yourself about the amount of time to spend on a particular subject, get a copy of the exams and ensure that you cover every item they contain. This doesn't mean you should give students all the answers to the test, but certainly make sure everything has been covered during your course. This also includes the Student Study Checklist that should be given out when you meet your students for the first time. You'll notice there are no questions about muzzleloaders or survival skills for example; this should tell you how much time you really need to spend on those topics. Certainly, there's a lot of "nice to know" information in the manual. Your goal is to give them a foundation and teach them what they really "need to know" to be a safe, responsible, and ethical hunter.

So here it is: Chapter Reviews + Lesson Plans + Test Objectives = Success!

Test Retakes:

By: Mark Little, RSW North Region

"Sorry (insert student name here), you didn't pass the hunter safety exam." This is a sentence you can expect to say every once in a while. It's not easy staring into a 12-year-old's eyes as tears are welling up in your own. It's OK, you did your job. Some students just aren't ready to be certified; some veteran hunters may not be either. The testing process should be taken quite seriously though and students can take the hunter education course as many times as they want or need to.

Administering the written test comes with options. You may elect to read the test to the whole class while the students select their answers. Students can also sit down and take the test barring any learning challenges you know about. Upon scoring the test, you discover that one or more students have failed the exam. I bet you already knew which one(s) they would be. Sometimes though, it's the student that was too embarrassed to say anything about their disability that didn't just fail the test, but failed it BADLY. This should be an indicator to you that reading ability or another factor was at work and something worth exploring. Take the student aside and ask about a potential learning disability or, perhaps, have him/her read the test back to you and then be the judge.

Remember to address this issue at your first class meeting by having students or parents discuss any problems with you. If this doesn't happen and you find out later, it is permissible to have the student re-take

the exam while you read it to him/her. This can't be done by anyone other than an active instructor and of course can't be done in a one-on-one setting. Always have a parent or another instructor present. Be careful not to coach answers and use the second test score as the final score for the test. Students only get one opportunity to retake the exam.

“Instructors are not obligated to pass a student who has not obtained the level of understanding required to become certified.” Hey, that’s right out of the Volunteer Instructor Policy and Procedure Manual! So, cut yourself some slack, don’t apologize, and put on a great course. Do your part and let your students take responsibility for theirs. They’ll have to when aiming at that 10-pointer standing in front of them.



Brenda Von Rueden
 Hunter Education Program Specialist
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 608-267-7509

The hunting season is here and gone and so are the holidays. I hope your season was joyful and filled with many memories.

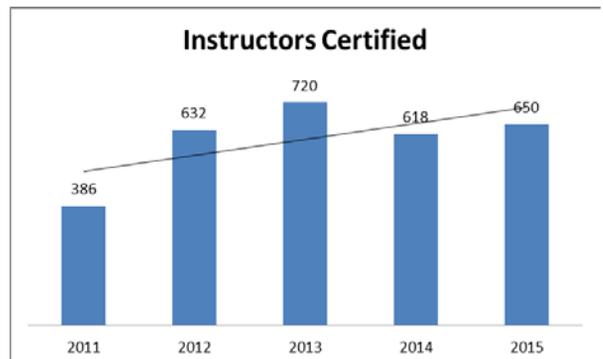
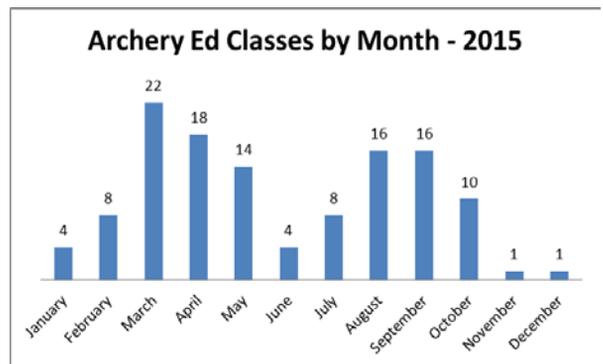
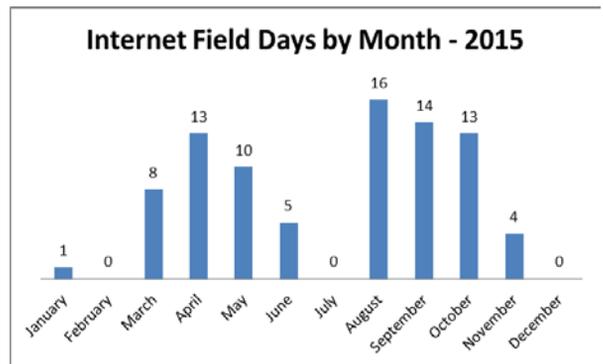
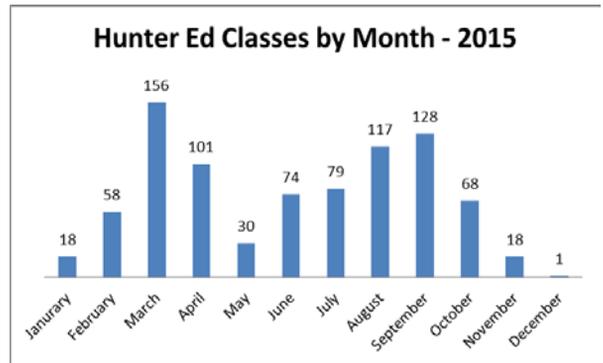
I look forward to working with you in the coming year and want to thank you for your continued dedication to Hunter Education!

Here’s a look back at 2015!

As of December 31st 2015, 19,585 students have been certified through attending a traditional hunter education course. 2,009 have been certified through taking an online course and attending the required internet field day and 1,974 adults were certified through the adult test out option. Additionally, 1,817 students were certified in the archery program.

You have helped recruit 650 education instructors into the programs this past year! 388 new Hunter Education Instructors, 69 Archery Instructors, and 193 Internet Field Day Instructors! This is up almost 5% from 2014. Thank you for your recruitment efforts.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year filled with good health, happiness and prosperity!



RSW Jeff Dauterman has retired.



Jeff wishes to extend his thanks to the many instructors who have put so much effort into the Hunter Safety programs.

There is no question that your efforts have helped keep hunting safe. Thanks also to the many instructors who supported the changing Hunter Safety programs as we have adapted to today's needs for instruction. Finally thanks to the many instructors whom I can call friend. I appreciate all of you.

Stay Safe and Thanks!.....Jeff

Healthy eating a 2016 goal? Plan your spring Learn to Hunt turkey event now

MADISON – Want to help those looking to improve health in the New Year and promote conservation at the same time? Plan your spring Learn to Hunt Turkey event now.

Keith Warnke, Department of Natural Resources hunting and shooting sports coordinator, says learn to hunt events show novice hunters how harvesting their own food from Wisconsin's country sides is what makes the state's hunting traditions a favorite among seasoned hunters. "Many adults who did not come from hunting families and are interested in hunting often have no idea how to start," Warnke said. "These Learn to Hunt events are a great way for them to learn in a controlled and safe environment with an experienced hunter. If you are interested in a new and rewarding experience, give me a call."

Warnke says winter's tightening grip is the perfect time to plan your Learn to Hunt turkey event.

Learn to Hunt events truly are for interested novices who would not otherwise have the chance to explore hunting which, Warnke adds, is key to successfully preserving our conservation heritage.

Recruiting and retaining new hunters along with reengaging hunters who haven't been out in a while is a priority for Wisconsin and the national hunting community as a whole. "Accountability and outcomes

are key to success," Warnke said. "By that I mean asking ourselves if the program really created a new hunter; someone who would not otherwise have hunted."

To do that DNR is recognizing an opportunity and providing a service to people interested in hunting, but lacking a pathway to begin. "The composition of Learn to Hunt events has continued to evolve, with increasing focus on food," Warnke said. "We have seen a big demand for our classes from young adults and I think it would be really easy for groups, clubs, and mentors to copy our blueprint of reaching out to adults and families."

Learn to Hunt events may be scheduled before, during or after the six spring turkey time periods. However, most are held in late March and early April. Interested individuals and clubs will want to get started now to complete the necessary steps.

The department has made it easy for sponsors to organize Learn to Hunt events with on-line applications, reimbursement opportunities, assistance in finding event insurance and event advertising on the DNR's website.

Sponsors will need to submit a completed application form to the local wildlife biologist for approval, and should make sure at least one of the event instructors is a certified Hunter Education Instructor. Mentors assisting in the event will need to submit an application to be a mentor. Following the event, sponsors must submit a report of event participants and may apply for a \$25 reimbursement per participant to assist with event costs. In addition, Warnke says the program will help advertise events by posting them on the DNR's Learn to Hunt web page and the Hunter's Network Facebook page.

More information on the Learn to Hunt program is available on the DNR website dnr.wi.gov, keyword "[LTH](#)."

For those of you interested in taking hunter education there are more courses being offered now than any other time of year, so go the dnr.wi.gov and type "[hunter safety](#)" into the keyword search box and search for upcoming classes near you.

FOR MORE INFORMATION about LTH, Contact: Keith Warnke, 608-576-5243 or Mike Watt, 608-266-8597

WISCONSIN HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR ASSOCIATION (WHEIA) NEWSLETTER

The VOLUNTEER

<http://www.wheia.com/>

SAVE THE DATE and plan on attending!

April 23rd 2016

Conference location:

Hotel Mead & Convention Center, 451 East Grand
Avenue Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Mead Inn at
the state rate.

For room reservations, please call: 1-800-843-6323
Ask for the Wisconsin Hunter Education Conference

Conference agenda:

In addition to the agenda below there will be elections
for open WHEIA positions, exciting evening guest
speakers on Hunter Education, Instructor and Instructor
Group of the Year Awards, Recognition of Instructors
and HE Staff, fund raising raffles and the awarding of
three free rifles.

In addition to WHEIA's firearm and bucket raffles, a
Savage Model 111 .243 Package donated by Savage
Firearms will be awarded to the 2015 Instructor of
the Year. WHEIA will be awarding a Henry Frontier
Model lever action .22 to a WHEIA member in
attendance. WHEIA will also be awarding a Ruger
American bolt action .22 to one lucky junior instructor
who attends the conference. All junior instructors will
go home with a gift. **So bring your junior
instructors!!!**

Agenda for the conference (*Subject to revision if
necessary*)

Introductions and Safety Message (WHEIA President)

- Nominations for WHEIA Positions of
President and Treasurer

DNR Safety Section Chief

Hunter Education Administrator

- Highlights of the past year
- Muzzle loading certification
- Update in policies
- Looking ahead
- Legislative issues, changes, and challenges
- 2015 Hunting Accidents and what can be
learned
- Q & A

Tree Stand Lesson Plan

- EDOC Video
- Updated lesson plan to include setup in the
lesson
- Tree stand classroom training aids,
demonstration. (Special note, the DNR may be
taking orders for those that do not have the
means to construct a portable indoor stand.)

Instructor Evaluations

- Good ideas and lessons to be shared

DNR Automation (WINN) Program for Instructors

- Demonstration

DNR Wingshooting Program, (AM portion at the Hotel
Mead)

- What can the instructor take from this
program and use, training

Lunch followed by concurrent programs

DNR Wingshooting Program, (PM portion at a local
range)

- Travel to a local range
- Instructor to bring their own shotgun, ammo
to be provided
- Live fire instruction
- Return to the Hotel Mead

Instructor roundtable discusses

- Small group discussions and reports
- Moderated by UWSP Student Law
Enforcement Association Members

Automation (WINN Program) Hands On Training

- Laptops will be available or bring your own

(Instructors at range return)

WHEIA Business Meeting

- By Law Changes
- Election of Officers

Evening Banquet

- Guest Speakers on the History of Hunter
Education Retired Former Hunter Education
Administrator John S. Plenke Sr. and Retired
Safety Warden John J. Plenke Jr.

Awards

- Instructor and Instructor Group of the Year
- 50th Year Awards and Length of Service
Awards
- Retirements
- Photos

Raffle and Hospitality