

Fall 2019



Alberta Hunter Education
Instructors' Association

Conservation Education Magazine

The Voice of Conservation
Education in Alberta



AHEIA's Mission is to Make Wildlife and Fish Part of the Value System of Every Albertan

Your source
for the finest in

SHOTGUNS & ACCESSORIES

Plus:

- In-house Master Gunsmith offering repairs and shotgun fittings.
- Custom wood stocks and stock refinishing.

KRIEGHOFF

Remington®



Blaser

BROWNING®



Visit us in-store or online at:

www.theshootingcentre.com

Bay 4, 7130 Fisher Rd. SE, Calgary, AB T2H 0W3

403.451.1777

Open 9 am - 9 pm • 7 Days a Week

President's Message

"... it is necessary for me to announce a few important changes that will affect our instructors and students."

By Robert A. Gruszecki



Robert Gruszecki
President - AHEIA

Fall has arrived with a vengeance in Alberta, delivering not one but two record-breaking storms within as many weeks. However Albertans are a hardy lot, and we know that this time of year can also produce sunny, warm days that allow us to hang onto summer just a little bit longer. It is also the time when we review all the accomplishments of the year and begin our planning for next year. During this process we look at many factors that are involved in the success of AHEIA and Conservation Education. As a result of this extensive review, it is necessary for me to announce a few important changes that will affect our instructors and students.



Service Fee & Membership Price Increase Advisory

After a thorough and detailed review as well as discussion and advice received at last year's Annual General Meeting, we are making changes to some of our service and fees.

Please be advised that AHEIA will be increasing pricing on our memberships and some of our services effective January 1, 2020. This is due to the following:

- Membership prices have not increased for most services since 2002.
- We have increased our program delivery by 110% from 2002 to over 110,000 students annually today.
- Costs have risen substantially in the past 17 years, including materials, labour, power, insurance, printing, fuel and more.
- We have invested heavily in our programs and facilities including capital improvements at all of our centres, as well as enhanced services and an increased investment in our program quality.
- We have increased our insurance coverage for our members from \$5,000,000 to \$10,000,000.
- We have increased our staff 300% from 17 years ago, in order to deal with an expanding volun-

teer base of instructors and the number of programs we offer. This effectively expanded the reach of our service substantially since 2002.

- Donation revenue is down over 40% based on economic conditions.

This price increase is necessary so that we can continue to deliver the superior standard of programming that has made us a leader in Conservation Education in North America.

We appreciate your understanding and hope we can continue to count on your valued support. If you have any questions, please speak to an AHEIA staff member at any of our offices or contact me directly. Thank you for choosing to be part of our cause.

Robert Gruszecki
President, AHEIA

*New Service Fees and
Membership Pricing
listed on the
following page ➤*



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

This Issue's Feature Articles:

- 12 ■ 2019 Youth Hunter Education Camps
- 16 ■ 2019 Outdoor Women's Program
- 20 ■ AHEIA Delivery Team on a "Wild Goose Chase!"
- 25 ■ Buying Your First Hunting Rifle
- 28 ■ Preparing Your Rifle for Hunting Season
- 29 ■ Preparing Your Shotgun for Hunting Season
- 32 ■ Choosing the Perfect Big Game Hunting Knife
- 34 ■ 2019 Spring Fling Fundraising Banquet
- 36 ■ AHEIA's Annual Teacher Workshop

Our Regulars:

- 3 ■ President's Message
- 7 ■ Firearms Education Report
- 11 ■ Edmonton Report
- 27 ■ Great Meals from the Harvest
- 38 ■ AHEIA Staff Appointments
- 42 ■ AHEIA Raffle Winners

Front Cover Photo:

Courtesy Don Kesler Nature Photography

AHEIA Service Fee and Membership Price Increase Advisory

AHEIA Memberships

Membership Type	Current Pricing	Effective January 1, 2020
AHEIA 1 year Individual Membership	\$ 30.00	\$ 45.00
AHEIA 3 year Individual Membership	\$ 75.00	\$115.00
AHEIA Lifetime Individual Membership	\$500.00	\$600.00
AHEIA 1 year Family Membership	\$ 35.00	\$ 45.00
AHEIA 3 year Family Membership	\$ 85.00	\$115.00
AHEIA Lifetime Family Membership	\$575.00	\$675.00

AHEIA Calgary Firearms Centre Memberships

Membership Type	Current Pricing	Effective January 1, 2020
AHEIA CFC Membership	\$ 115.00	\$ 160.00
AHEIA CFC Renewal Membership	\$ 100.00	No Longer Available
AHEIA CFC Club Corporate Membership	\$1,500.00	\$1,600.00
Trap/Skeet/Sporting Clays Member Rates - 25 Targets	\$ 6.50	\$ 7.50
Trap/Skeet/Sporting Clays Non-Member Rates - 25 Targets	\$ 9.50	\$ 11.50

Products & Program Fees

Product	Current Pricing	Effective January 1, 2020
Deactivated Firearms Training Kits	–	\$50.00 refundable deposit upon safe return of the kit & it's components. \$15.00 rental fee
Instructor NASP Kit	\$ 55.00	\$ 75.00
Conservation & Hunter Education Student Kits	\$ 25.00	\$ 30.00
Conservation & Hunter Education Manuals	\$ 20.00	\$ 22.00
Fishing Education Manuals	\$ 10.00	\$ 12.00
IBEP Bowhunter Education Student Kit	\$ 15.00	\$ 20.00
IBEP Bowhunter Education Handbook	\$ 10.00	\$ 15.00
Teacher's Workshop	\$ 175.00	\$ 225.00


Alford Lake Conservation Education Centre

Fees	Current Pricing	Effective January 1, 2020
Booking Fee – <ul style="list-style-type: none">If the customer fails to attend this fee is forfeitedIf the customer calls to re-schedule prior to 30 days before the booking date, this fee is transferable to the new dateIf the customer attends, the booking fee is applied as a credit towards their daily fees	\$200.00 Booking Fee	\$225.00 Booking Fee New rates become effective immediately, however does not apply to bookings already made
Daily Rate: Member	\$25.00 for the 1 st day and \$10.00 every day after	\$30.00 for the 1 st day and \$15.00 every day after
Daily Rate: Non-Member	\$35.00 for the 1 st day and \$15.00 every day after	\$40.00 for the 1 st day and \$20.00 every day after



**Calgary Boat
& Outdoors Show**

FEBRUARY 6-9, 2020

 BMO Centre, Stampede Park

calgaryboatandoutdoorshow.ca



**Edmonton Boat
& Sportsmen's Show**

MARCH 12-15, 2020

 Edmonton Expo Centre

edmontonboatandsportshow.ca

Hunting	Outdoors	Marine	Fishing
Powersports and More		Shop, Try, Buy & Save	

* FREE ADMISSION FOR KIDS: 12 years and under when accompanied by an adult



Calgary Show Hours

Thursday & Friday - 1 P.M. to 9 P.M.
Saturday - 10 A.M. to 7 P.M.
Sunday - 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Edmonton Show Hours

Thursday & Friday - 12 P.M. to 9 P.M.
Saturday - 10 A.M. to 7 P.M.
Sunday - 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Photo credit: @outflyfishingoutfittersflyshop



AHEIA IS NOW SELLING **VORTEX OPTICS**



VORTEX OPTICS VIP WARRANTY **AN UNCONDITIONAL PROMISE TO YOU.**

Vortex will repair or replace the product.
Absolutely free—no matter the cause.

- **UNLIMITED**
- **UNCONDITIONAL**
- **LIFETIME WARRANTY**

*Note: The VIP Warranty does not cover loss, theft,
deliberate damage or cosmetic damage
that does not hinder the performance of the product.*



Contact us today for more information:

AHEIA CALGARY
1-866-852-4342

AHEIA EDMONTON
1-866-282-4342

www.aheia.com



Firearms Education Report

“ ... Bill C-71 has passed, although at this time the majority of the new regulations have yet to be enacted. ”

By John Morrissey



John Morrissey
Firearms Education
Coordinator
AHEIA

As we head into fall the CFSC program continues to move along without any program changes. Student numbers continue to rise with 16,042 students completing the program as of August 2019. Of note is the number of students taking the restricted firearms course, numbering 5,505—a marked increase from this time last year.

Course reports continue to be an issue, and a reminder to instructors that they cannot be processed if not filled in correctly. That would include test scores written and practical, course hours (Non-Restricted 8 hours, Restricted either 4 or 6 hours), and signatures of students and instructor. Also please ensure that all copies of the course report are legible. Several have been

sent in and the student section is blank. An incomplete course report will not be processed by Miramichi, and will delay a student's application for a PAL.

As we are all too aware, Bill C-71 has passed, although at this time the majority of the new regulations have yet to be enacted. In conversations with the CFO office we may not see these changes enacted until early 2020. Given that we also have a fall Federal Election pending, it is anyone's guess as to when, or if, the new regulations will be enacted.

Also of note, the Alberta CFO office is undergoing staffing changes which may cause some delays in the processing of PAL applications and renewals. Please be patient, and give their new team a chance to settle in.

In closing, have a good fall and whether you enjoy hunting or target sports, be safe and continue to mentor and encourage new people into the shooting sports.



On the Lighter Side:



High capacity banana clip.

- Spices
- Knives
- Slicers
- Smokers
- Wood Chips
- Freezer Paper
- Meat Grinders
- Sausage Spice Blends
- Sausage Stuffers
- Sausage Casings
- Recipe Books
- Meat Mixers
- Gluten Free Binders & Spices
- Vacuum Packagers & Bags



Available at

Calgary
4840 - 52 Street SE
403-444-2877
1-877-736-7287

CTR REFRIGERATION AND
FOOD STORE EQUIPMENT LTD.

Edmonton
10456 - 170 Street NW
780-444-0829
1-888-828-7336

Call for
Information on our
**Sausage Making
Classes!**

www.highcaliberproducts.com
info@ctrca.com



TASTE THE DIFFERENCE

AHEIA MEMBERS GET 5% OFF



Canada's Outdoor Food Headquarters



nutriSTORE



Located 5 minutes west of Calgary
102 - 127 Commercial Drive
1-888-817-5550
www.BridenSolutions.ca



Pleasure Craft Operator Training

BOATING SAFETY INSTRUCTION PRESENTED BY



Now Available Online at
www.albertaboatsafety.com

Are you interested in obtaining your
Pleasure Craft Operator Card?

AHEIA is proud to announce that it is now accredited by Transport Canada to provide this licence's required instruction.

Responsibilities • Equipment Requirements • Canadian Water Laws & Regulations
Safety Flags & Signals • General Boat Operations Tips

Contact us today for more information.

AHEIA Calgary
1-866-852-4342

AHEIA Edmonton
1-866-282-4342

www.aheia.com



CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAMS *for Albertans*

AHEIA works in cooperation with several Alberta Government departments to deliver these quality programs to you and your family:

ALBERTA CONSERVATION AND HUNTER EDUCATION
CANADIAN FIREARMS SAFETY COURSE
PLEASURE CRAFT OPERATOR TRAINING
ALBERTA FISHING EDUCATION PROGRAM
FIRST TIME HUNTER MENTOR PROGRAM
HOME STUDY PROGRAM
OUTDOOR CAMP PROGRAMS
OUTDOOR WOMEN'S PROGRAM
OUTDOOR YOUTH SEMINAR
WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES SEMINARS
NATIONAL ARCHERY IN THE SCHOOLS PROGRAM
KIDWISE FIREARM SAFETY PROGRAM
INTERNATIONAL BOWHUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM
BEAR ESSENTIALS ONLINE PROGRAM
BIGHORN SHEEP ESSENTIALS ONLINE PROGRAM
ARCHERY ESSENTIALS ONLINE PROGRAM
FIELD TECHNIQUES APP



For further details on any of these courses, contact:

CALGARY AHEIA OFFICE

911 Sylvester Cres. SW, Calgary, AB T2W 0R8
Telephone 403.252.8474 • Fax 403.252.3770
Toll Free 1.866.852.4342 • info@aheia.com

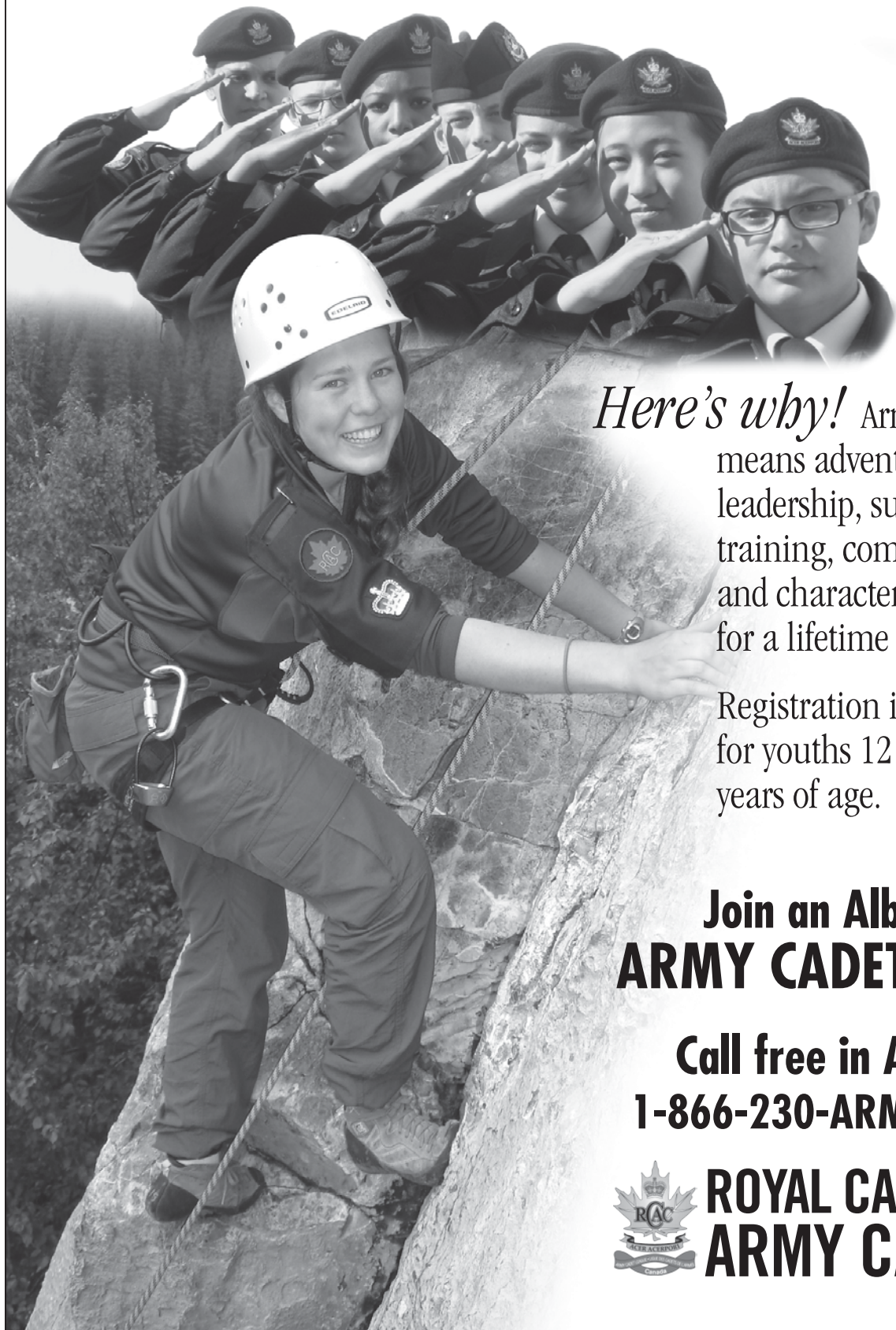
EDMONTON AHEIA OFFICE

#88, 4003 - 98 St., Edmonton, AB T6E 6M8
Telephone 780.466.6682 • Fax 780.431.2871
Toll Free 1.866.282.4342 • edmontoninfo@aheia.com

www.aheia.com



IT'S TIME YOU JOINED THE ARMY CADETS



Here's why! Army Cadets means adventure, leadership, survival training, comradeship, and character building for a lifetime of success.

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

**Join an Alberta
ARMY CADET CORPS**

**Call free in Alberta
1-866-230-ARMY (2769)**



**ROYAL CANADIAN
ARMY CADETS**

Edmonton Report

“ The search for volunteer assistance is always an ongoing process. We never cease to need help ... ”

By Len Gransch



Len Gransch
Program Coordinator
AHEIA
Red Deer - North

By the time you read this our Youth Hunter Education Camps, the Outdoor Youth Seminar and the Provincial Hunting Day events will be in the books. These events were held at our Alford Lake Conservation Education Center for Excellence and require a vast number of volunteers to make everything happen. Without these remarkable

people we would be hard pressed to deliver the quality programing we have become known for.

The search for volunteer assistance is always an ongoing process. We never cease to need help at our numerous camps and other events such as sports shows and other in-store promotions. We also continue to look for volunteer help at the office with our regular daily routines. If you or any of your friends have some spare time and wish to become part of something bigger, please let us know. Paying it forward has great personal rewards. Give me a call if you are able to assist and I will get you going.

Thanks to everyone who continues to help out by volunteering. Your continued commitment is very much appreciated. Volunteers are the lifeblood of everything AHEIA does.

With this in mind I will be making a special effort to recruit new volunteers. We will be providing special workshops for new and existing volunteers to expand their knowledge in various outdoor pursuits. The plan is to offer workshops in some of the areas we are traditionally short of assistance with. The more volunteers who have training in these disciplines the better it is for AHEIA and the volunteers as they go back into their communities. To begin with we will be offering basic sessions in black powder, crossbow, archery and shotgun coaching. These sessions will be held at our Alford Lake facility just west of Caroline. Future sessions could include rimfire, centerfire, fishing basics, etc. If you are interested, or have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly.

We are also looking to expand our firearms Proctors in the Edmonton area. Changes to the Canadian Firearms Safety Course materials and Instructor Agreements were implemented in July 2016. Following these implementations, the Alberta Chief Firearms Office heard from AHEIA and a number of our Firearms Safety Course

Instructors that the new changes, which eliminated the use of non-designated assistants for the administrative positions in the classroom, resulted in our instructors having to dedicate extra time to complete the necessary paperwork for the Firearms Safety Course. Following lengthy discussions, both locally and with the Canadian Firearms Program Headquarters, the Safety Course Standards Agreement was modified to allow for administrative assistance. The new assistant is referred to as a Proctor. Once designated, a Proctor can assist an Instructor in the set-up of a room for a course or test, administer the course report and test paperwork, supervise a test room to ensure fairness during the written CFSC/CRFSC test, and score written tests.

For more information on becoming a Proctor simply contact me directly and I will guide you through the process. For those instructors out there who wish to start utilizing Proctors, contact me and I will get you started.

Look for reports on our Outdoor Youth Seminar and Alford Lake Provincial Hunting Day events in the winter issue of the AHEIA Conservation Education magazine.

Until next time, take care and enjoy the Great Outdoors.



A Call For Your
Membership

**PHEASANTS
forever**

Pheasants Forever

Calgary Chapter

Box 5021, Station "A", Calgary, Alberta T2H 1X1
Phone 403-995-9600 Fax 403-995-9920 Toll Free 888-602-3777
www.pfcalgary.ca

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Province: _____ Postal Code: _____ Phone #: _____

Cheque Enclosed ☐

Charge my: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Amex Card #: _____

Expiry Date: M _____ Y _____ Signature: _____

Membership: \$35.00/year

“I am extremely pleased to report that we have another keen group of new youngsters who be joining the hunting/outdoor fraternity. Welcome aboard!”

2019 Youth Hunter Education Camps

By Len Gransch



Len Gransch
Program Coordinator
AHEIA
Red Deer - North

Our Youth Hunter Education camps continue to be a very popular AHEIA program. The interest in the outdoors and hunting associated activities continues to remain of interest to our young people. This is very encouraging considering this modern era of social media and other electronic distractions.

I am extremely pleased to report that we have another keen group of new youngsters who will be joining the hunting/outdoor fraternity. Welcome aboard! The latest group to pass through our Alford Lake facility showed a great deal of interest in the subject matter and were very anxious to do well so that they could pass the courses and make their parents and grandparents proud. They definitely accomplished that.

Some of you might not be aware of what our Youth Hunter Education camps comprise. The camp is a five-day event of fun-filled learning activities. Experts shared their knowledge and provided instruction in the Alberta Conservation and Hunter Education Program, the Canadian Firearms Safety Course and much more.

The cost for the 2019 Youth Hunter Education Camp was a great value at \$395.00 (+GST) per person. This fee included lodging, breakfast, lunch and supper Monday through Thursday and breakfast on Friday. Also included was all instruction, course handbooks and testing for the various certifications as well as an AHEIA camp t-shirt. Upon successful completion of the appropriate exams, students were certified in the Alberta Conservation and Hunter Education Program and the Canadian Firearms Program. They then qualified to apply for their Wildlife Identification Number (WIN Card) and were able to apply for their Minors Permit for firearms.



If you missed out on our 2019 camps and wish to be placed on our 2020 Notification List please email us at edmontoninfo@aeia.com and we will make sure you are included.

A special thanks to all the parents, grandparents and guardians who volunteered at our camps. Without their tireless dedication and effort these camps would not be possible.

I hope to see you at next year's camps.



AHEIA's 2020 Youth Hunter Education Camps will run:

- June 30 - July 5
- July 7-12
- July 14-19
- July 21-26



“ A special thanks to all the parents, grandparents and guardians who volunteered at our camps.

Without their tireless dedication and effort these camps would not be possible. ”



Cabela's 

ADVENTURES AWAIT OUT HERE



Calgary: 851 - 64th Ave. N.E. | Edmonton North: 15320 37 St. N.W. | Edmonton South: 6150 Currents Dr. N.W. | cabelas.ca



**Assistant
Conservation Education
Program Coordinator**
(Edmonton)



**Grounds and Facility
Assistant**
(Calgary Firearms Centre - DeWinton)



Are you looking for a career in Conservation Education?

For more information on any of these
employment opportunities visit

AHEIA.com
under Employment Opportunities



DRYSHOD®

WATERPROOF FOOTWEAR

Premium Features

- 100% Waterproof
- 5mm Densoprene Foam Insolated Bootie
- 4-Way Stretch Breathable Airmesh Lining
- Easy-On/Easy-Off
- Roll-Down Calf Pipe
- Genuine Natural-Rubber Overlays
- Superior Stability & Comfort
- Convient Back-Pull Tabs



www.dryshodcanada.ca



dryshod footwear



2019

Outdoor Women's Program

By David Dolph



David Dolph
Executive Director
AHEIA

AHEIA hosted the 26th Annual Outdoor Women's Program (OWP) at our Alford Lake Conservation Education Centre for Excellence from August 7-11, 2019 under cool and misty skies. Regardless of the weather, 145 enthusiastic women and 36 volunteer instructors shared in 32 different outdoor seminars and a variety of informal evening sessions. This year, 57% of the attendees were first-timers and an additional 37% had attend OWP less than four times in the past. Women from Alberta, BC, Manitoba, Ontario, Nunavut, California and even Germany were there. It was great to introduce our new attendees to the fantastic variety of outdoor activities on offer.

Since its inception in 1994, just over 3,000 women have attended AHEIA's annual four-day event, learning and connecting with Alberta's wonderful outdoors. The Outdoor Women's Program encourages women to enjoy the great outdoors by providing opportunities to gain confidence, increase competence, acquire experience and promote personal growth in skills pertaining to the outdoors. This program is not only educational but is an excellent way for women to come together and enjoy each other's company at AHEIA's beautiful Alford Lake facility. The days at OWP are jam packed with courses—from fly fishing to archery, canoeing to muzzle loading and crossbows to shotguns. This year, new sessions included sausage making, leather footwear making and skull cleaning. All big hits plus we have some additional new program ideas for next year! OWP has something for every woman to learn and enjoy.



**Next year's Outdoor Women's Program
will be held August 5-9, 2020
at the Alford Lake Conservation Education
Centre for Excellence**

If you are interested in attending the
27th Annual Outdoor Women's Program next year,
and wish to be placed on the email notification list,
please contact AHEIA Calgary at:

info@aheia.com • 403-252-8474

Sessions and Activities:

- Advanced Hunting - Big Game Animals
- Advanced Hunting - Migratory Birds
- Advanced Shotgun
- Alford Lake Olympics
- Archery
- Arrow Making
- Build Your Own Survival Bracelet
- Canadian Firearms Safety Course
- Canoeing Basics
- Chainsaw Basics
- Crossbow Basics
- Early Risers - Nature Power Walk
- Firearms Basics
- Fly Fishing
- Game Calling 101
- Gun Cleaning and Maintenance
- Handguns
- Knife and Axe Sharpening
- Knot Tying
- Leather Footwear Making
- Let's Go Bowhunting
- Longbow Building
- Muzzle Loading
- Photography Outdoors
- Pleasure Craft Operator Training
- Predator Awareness
- Rope Making
- Sausage Making
- Science of Fishing
- Silent Auction
- Skull Cleaning Techniques
- Survival Walk
- The Real Mantracker
- Trailing
- Understanding Hunting Regulations
- Wilderness Cuisine
- Wilderness Survival
- Wildlife ID
- Wood Carving



“ This was my first time participating and I found that everyone was super friendly and really wanted us ladies to succeed in whatever it was we were participating in. They were so kind, patient, and answered any questions or helped with any issues we may have had without ever making us feel like we were 'wrong' or 'bad' at something. ”



More OWP photos
on the following page ➤



“ All the instructors and staff have been helpful and absolutely wonderful both years I've attended. ”

•

“ Everyone was very patient and helpful, went out of their way to offer and give personal attention even though there were so many of us. ”

•

“ An amazing group of volunteers as per usual. Lots of laughs and good times. Always hard to leave and go back to reality. ”



“Outstanding!”

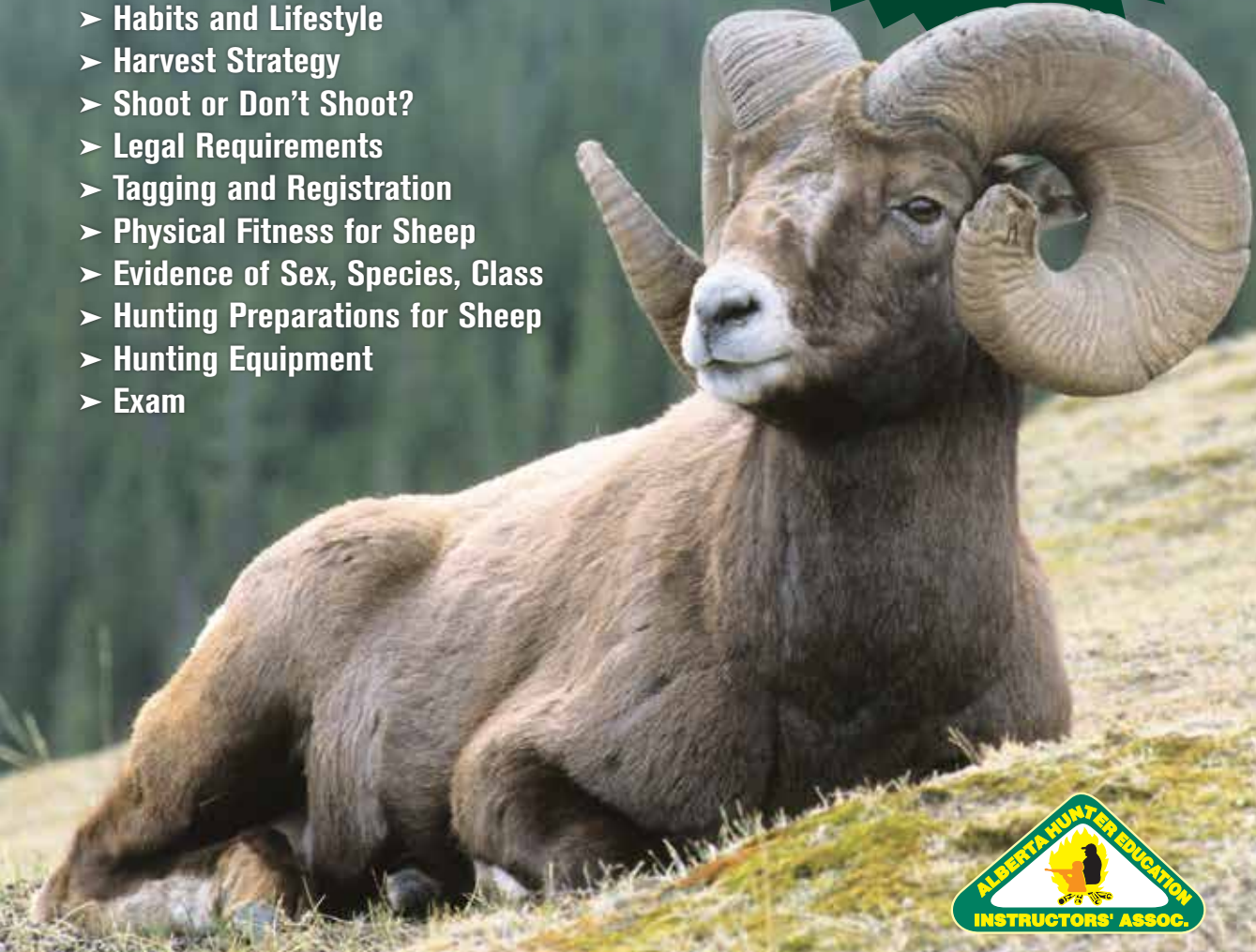
BIGHORN SHEEP ESSENTIALS



This comprehensive, easy-to-use online program covers important topics, including:

- Bighorn Sheep
- Dall's Sheep
- Stone Sheep
- Desert Sheep
- Bighorn Sheep Physiology (Head)
- Bighorn Sheep Physiology (Body)
- Habits and Lifestyle
- Harvest Strategy
- Shoot or Don't Shoot?
- Legal Requirements
- Tagging and Registration
- Physical Fitness for Sheep
- Evidence of Sex, Species, Class
- Hunting Preparations for Sheep
- Hunting Equipment
- Exam

**Take Your Course
and Final Exam Online!**
Now Available at
www.aheia.com
Only \$14.99!



AHEIA Calgary | AHEIA Edmonton
1-866-852-4342 | **1-866-282-4342**

“Bob and Norma open their home annually to travelling hunters who are treated as friends who come back year after year – and who can blame them ...”

AHEIA Delivery Team on a “Wild Goose Chase!”

By Bob Gruszecki



Robert Gruszecki
President - AHEIA

Seldom does the opportunity present itself where our hard working AHEIA staff can actually leave their daily duties and enjoy some of what we take so much pleasure in teaching. Earlier this month our delivery team gathered and accepted the kind invitation from our friends and hosts Bob and Norma Byers from Boss Guiding at Night Haven Lodge. For those of you who don't remember our hosts, let me tell you a bit about them:

Bob and Norma have two children, Dawn and Jason, and have two grandchildren. They have been living in the Stettler area for over 40 years. They own and operate Boss Guiding and have been at it for over 35 years! Bob is a past President of the Alberta Professional Outfitters Society, a taxidermist, a retired school teacher (32 years, 28 of which were as a school administrator). Bob is also the proud recipient of a WISE award in 2010 for his contributions to industry excellence and conservation education. Bob and Norma open their home annually to travelling hunters who are treated as friends who come back year after year – and who can blame them with the royal treatment they receive! Last, but not least, these two kind hearted souls are two very dear friends who have enriched my life with their friendship for over 20 years.

As mentioned we travelled to their lodge in the Stettler area where we enjoyed camaraderie immersed in the beautiful central Alberta wilderness. There we managed to have a few organizational meetings with our delivery staff and pursue waterfowl. Mostly our expedition was to share in our hosts' good cheer and amazing accommodation, all the while relaxing and enjoying a part of our Alberta heritage and culture surrounding waterfowl hunting for ducks and geese!

There is no doubt that we at AHEIA share the objective of making wildlife and fish part of the value systems of all Albertans with our hosts. Bob and Norma, always the teachers at heart, shared their solemn commitment to educating the public about hunting, outfitting and the outdoors as a responsibility with us and we were humbled by their opening their home and hearts to us.

Our group came away from this “retreat” rested and ready to take on the many challenges we face. It's always amazing to me that you can discover so much about what people are made of when you spend time with them afield. We are blessed with incredible talent and devotion from all our staff at AHEIA and to mix that with the dedicated and knowledgeable team that Bob and Norma had assembled was truly a blessing indeed. I was lucky to be a part of it.

Norma managed to treat us to gastronomical extravaganzas on a daily basis, and none of us returned lighter! Norma even shared one of her recipes for us to share with all of you. I include it here for your edification ... trust me ... you will love it!



Norma's Glorious Sweet and Sour Ribs

*Courtesy of Norma Byers
of Boss Guiding*

2 pounds pork side ribs
¾ cup brown sugar
½ cup ketchup
½ cup white vinegar
⅛ teaspoon chili powder
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
½ cup onions (diced)
1 teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons soya sauce
¾ cup water
Flour and butter for browning ribs



Roll ribs in flour.

Brown in a saucepan with the butter
over medium heat.

Place ribs in a tightly covered roaster or pan.
Combine the other ingredients in a mixing bowl
and pour evenly over the ribs.

Bake at 250°F for 2½ hours or until tender.

Serve with your favourite sides.

* Please note that I recommend you make a
double or triple batch of ribs.
You will need them.

Enjoy!



Our crew with some of the bounty from a short morning hunt
with Greg leading the way.



Our hosts, left to right:
Dan, Brodie, Wyatt, Norma, Jason, Bob and Greg.



Bob and Norma receiving the
Conservation Education WISE Award
in 2010.



Brad Scheidl, Allan Orr, John Morrissey,
Bob Gruszecki, Chuck Strong, Mike Mussolum
and Len Gransch on a wild goose chase
at Night Haven Lodge.



A couple of the early morning/evening views we were treated to from “the office” while on this excursion.



100 FOR \$100 RAFFLE

THANK YOU

IT'S BECAUSE OF GENEROUS SPONSORS LIKE THE ONES BELOW THAT WE ARE ABLE TO OFFER RAFFLES LIKE 100 FOR \$100 TO SUPPORT OUR IMPORTANT WORK.

PROUD SPONSORS



INDIVIDUAL SPONSORS

Bob & Carla Gruszecki - Scott Price - Tom Foss - Les Guzowski - David Scott - Eric Moland
Bruce Strand - Dale Johnson - Don Jensen - Ed Anderson Art - Bob Merkley
Golden Moments Giftware - Sandy Hrycyk - Harold Fukuda - Jack & Brenda Steenson
Mike Paplawski - John Moland - Glen Rumpel - TA Ferguson & Associates - Dave Powell

A **RAFFLE** THAT HELPS

EDUCATE
ALBERTANS
ON THE
IMPORTANCE
OF PROTECTING
THE PLACES &
WILDLIFE
WE ALL LOVE

PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS TODAY!
ONLINE 100for100.aheia.com

OR AT OUR CALGARY AND EDMONTON OFFICES:

Calgary Conservation Centre for Excellence
911 Sylvester Crescent SW, Calgary, Alberta T2W 0R8
PHONE 1.866.852.4342

Edmonton Conservation Centre for Excellence
#88, 4003 - 98 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T6E 6M8
PHONE 1.866.282.4342

TOGETHER,
WE COULD
ALL WIN BIG

100 PRIZES WORTH A COMBINED
MINIMUM OF \$100,000!

TICKETS ARE \$100 EACH,
AND ONLY 5,000 WILL BE PRINTED.

ALL WINNING TICKETS WILL
BE RETURNED TO THE DRAW
FOR A CHANCE TO
WIN REMAINING PRIZES!

TICKET DEADLINE AUGUST 28, 2020

EARLY BIRD DRAW JULY 17, 2020

FINAL DRAWS SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

Join us for refreshments and to celebrate the holiday season!

The Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association
invites you to our
2019 Christmas Open Houses

**Friday, December 6, 2019
3:00 pm - 6:00 pm**

**Calgary Conservation Education Centre for Excellence
911 Sylvester Crescent SW, Calgary, AB
Phone 403.252.8474 • 1.866.852.4342 • info@aheia.com**

**Friday, December 13, 2019
12:00 noon - 4:00 pm**

**Edmonton Conservation Education Centre for Excellence
#88, 4003 - 98 Street, Edmonton, AB
Phone 780.466.6682 • 1.866.282.4342 • edmontoninfo@aheia.com**

Please kindly RSVP



*We hope
to see
you there!*

“...it is typically the single most expensive piece of equipment to buy to start hunting.”

Buying Your First Hunting Rifle

By Brad Scheidl



Brad Scheidl
Assistant Conservation
Education Coordinator
AHEIA Red Deer - South

So, you've just completed your Canadian Firearms Safety Course, and possibly your Hunter Education Certification Course, and decided to get into the sport of hunting, or you're an experienced hunter looking to mentor a new hunter who has questions about the information they need to purchase their first big game

rifle. A big game rifle for a new hunter can be an overwhelming and expensive purchase to make; it is typically the single most expensive piece of equipment to buy to start hunting. Before you head to the local sporting goods store there is research you should do beforehand.

Cartridge Selection

The age-old debate of which cartridge to choose for a first hunting rifle, or any hunting rifle for that matter, has been ongoing and there is no right answer. If you asked 10 different hunters, you would probably end up with 10 different answers. Every person will have a personal preference, with their own experience to back up their opinion. Legal calibre in Alberta must be .23 or larger and, saying that, there are a wide variety of cartridges available between .23 and .50 that are commonly used. My suggestions for which to choose comes from a range of thoughts and what I've found talking to different sources. I'm not going to come out and say one cartridge or another based on personal bias, but rather give you some facts to consider when selecting the right cartridge for your own needs.

Ammunition availability depends on where you live and what stores are in the area. Go to those sporting goods stores and look at the ammunition choices they have. There is a big difference between the big box stores and local dedicated sporting goods stores. With any rifle you will want to practice shooting with your setup prior to hunting so you will learn where the firearm is shooting at different distances and get used to the firearms recoil and how it performs. While practicing you should test recoil of various cartridge choices. A lower recoiling cartridge would be the preferred cartridge for a first rifle as it is

less likely to develop a “flinch” in the shooter. Cartridge cost is another factor to take into consideration. A good example for what to look for is the .308 Winchester. This ammunition is readily available, it has lower recoil compared to other .30 calibre cartridges, it is quite capable of humanely killing any big game animal in Alberta at reasonable distances, there are a wide variety of rifles chambered in .308 WIN, plus it is widely available, for reasonable prices almost anywhere ammunition is sold.

Rifle Selection and Firearm Optics

As with cartridge selection, there is no right answer to this question either. A suggestion is to go out and attempt to try as many different combinations as you can before making a decision. When looking for a rifle you need to determine whether you want to look at new or used firearms. Another factor to consider is the optics, or sights, on your rifle to be added into the cost. A rifle can cost anywhere from \$200 to as much as you're willing to spend and, if purchasing separately, a telescopic sight can cost as much or more than the rifle itself.

The buyer's budget will effectively determine what options are available. If buying used firearms, it is not a bad idea to take them to a qualified gunsmith to determine if they're safe to use or if they have any wear that could be detrimental. Looking for new guns can be overwhelming when walking into a large sporting goods store with an entire wall dedicated to gun sales. If you haven't had a chance to shoot the rifles in your price range, then at the very least pick them up and work the action open and closed and get a good feeling for it. As well, put it up to your shoulder. It should feel comfortable and natural to place there and easily align your cheek with the stock and sights. The fit of the rifle, in combination with the weight and recoil of the cartridge you have selected, will all attribute into the recoil you will feel. With a comfortable fit and a cartridge with reasonable recoil the new hunter will be able to practice more, gain skills and prevent some bad habits such as flinching and fearing the recoil.

When buying a rifle, you will have the option to buy a combination package with a rifle and scope, or just the rifle itself and add the scope on afterwards. Some package rifles will come with a non-branded entry level scope. These scopes

are serviceable to start, but most likely will be replaced with higher quality optics as the first upgrade. Other rifle combinations come with a higher quality, name brand scope with its own warranty. These scopes will be a higher quality product and will last longer without feeling the need to upgrade immediately. Combination rifles will typically vary in price between \$450-\$1000 depending on manufacturer and scope quality.

Building your own setup is a very good option as well, as it lets you have more input into what components you have. A bare rifle can be fit into any budget from inexpensive to extravagant in cost and anywhere in between. Rifle scopes can also fit into that category with many people suggesting spending similar money on the rifle and the scope itself. The adage goes you cannot shoot what you cannot see, meaning that higher quality glass on the scope and better coatings will absorb more light and give you a better picture in low light situations such as in dense cover or close to dawn or dusk. Scope mounts are an additional cost to consider in your budget as they will typically cost \$50-\$100 on average.

Many modern rifles come with no sights on them and are drilled and tapped for scope mounts, meaning that they typically cannot be used until some sort of sights are added onto the rifle itself. Most commonly a variable magnification scope is mounted on top of the rifle and used to aim the rifle at the chosen target. The magnification of a scope can be fixed or variable. 3-9x40 or 4-12x40 are very common scope magnifications that fit well with most hunting situations. This means the magnification will vary by making objects appear three to nine times closer than the naked eye; the 40mm objective lens will allow enough light to be functional during hunting times. The price point of the scopes will vary by manufacturer as well as the quality of glass and the type of coating on the lenses. Typically, you get what you pay for and more expensive scopes will have better glass and will allow you to see better in low light situations.

Having good optics on the rifle can make or break a hunt. If you cannot see the animal through the scope you will not be shooting at it. Make a budget and stick to it, but if you have extra money to spend in the setup, then I would highly recommend spending it on the optics side of the package, as this is typically the first thing that hunters will replace on a packaged firearm.



Mark Your Calendar!

Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association
Annual General Meeting

**Sunday, January 19, 2020 • 3:00 pm
Calgary Conservation Education Centre for Excellence
911 Sylvester Crescent SW**

Beverages and light snacks will be available.

We hope to see you there!





Safety First!

No experience in the field is more important than the safety of the person you are mentoring, your safety and that of those around you.

You are creating life long memories and setting a standard for future performance.

Be Safe and accept nothing less!



Great Meals from the Harvest

with Len Gransch

Bacon-Wrapped Moose Tenderloin With Creamy Garlic Sauce

6 slices bacon (thick cut)
2 - 3/4 pound moose tenderloin roasts
2 teaspoons olive oil (divided)
1/4 teaspoon onion powder (divided)
Salt and pepper to taste
2 tablespoons butter
8 ounces Cremini mushrooms (sliced)
3 cloves of garlic (chopped)
2 tablespoons green onions (chopped)
1/2 cup whipping cream (more if you like)
1/2 teaspoon paprika
Dash of your favourite hot sauce

Preheat oven to 375°F.

Place bacon on a slotted baking pan. Bake until partially cooked and still pliable, about 6-8 minutes depending on your bacon's thickness.

Brush moose tenderloins with olive oil and season with onion powder, salt and pepper. Place tenderloins side by side and wrap them together in the strips of bacon. Place in a roasting pan.

Roast until bacon is browned and an instant-read thermometer inserted into the thickest part of the tenderloins reads at least 145°F. Takes about 1 hour, depending on the doneness you are shooting for.

Heat butter in a saucepan over medium heat. Cook and stir mushrooms and garlic until mushrooms are tender, about 8 minutes. Stir green onions into the mushrooms, pour in cream and sprinkle with the paprika and hot sauce. Cook, stirring often, until the sauce is heated through.

Slice tenderloins and serve with the mushroom-garlic cream sauce.

Roasted root vegetables make a nice accompaniment. A nice red wine and some good bread helps make this a winner.

Hunter's Deep-Dish Pie

1 1/2 pounds Yukon Gold potatoes (peeled/cubed)
3 cloves of garlic (minced)
1/4 cup milk
1 tablespoon butter
1/4 teaspoon dried rosemary (crushed)
Salt and pepper to taste

Filling:

1 cup fresh button mushrooms (sliced)	
1 cup carrots (sliced)	
1/2 cup yellow onion (chopped)	
1/4 cup green pepper (chopped)	1 tablespoon butter
2 cups cooked wild game meat (cubed)	1 1/2 cups beef broth
1/4 teaspoon dried thyme	3 tablespoons flour
1/8 teaspoon nutmeg (ground)	3 tablespoons cold water
1/3 cup cheddar cheese (shredded)	2 tablespoons parsley (minced)

Boil potatoes until tender. Drain and mash. Add garlic, milk, butter, rosemary, salt and pepper. Mix well and set aside.

In a large skillet sauté mushrooms, carrots, onion and green pepper in butter until tender. Add the wild game cubes, broth, thyme and nutmeg. Bring to a boil, reduce heat; cover and simmer for 25-30 minutes or until everything is tender.

Combine the flour and water until smooth. Stir into skillet. Bring to a boil and cook and stir for 2 minutes until thickened.

Transfer to a greased 2 quart baking dish. Spread mashed potatoes over the top. Bake uncovered at 350°F for 30-40 minutes or until it is bubbly.

Sprinkle with the cheese and bake for 5 minutes or until cheese is melted. Sprinkle with parsley.

Serve with a tossed salad, good bread and, of course, some wine.



Len Gransch
Program Coordinator
AHEIA Red Deer - North



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

www.huntingfortomorrow.ca
or www.aheia.com

for more information.



WIND SPIRIT GRAPHICS

CUSTOM PRINT DESIGN

Advertising ■ Brochures ■ Posters
Newsletters ■ Magazines
Catalogues ■ Price Lists
Directories
Manuals
Event Programmes
Trade Show Banners

403.651.1339

Email windspritegraphics@shaw.ca
Website www.windspritegraphics.com

Designing the AHEIA Conservation Education Magazine

“Our firearms preparation for next season should begin immediately after the close of the current hunting season.”

Preparing Your Rifle for Hunting Season

By Jim Gratrix



Jim Gratrix
Assistant Conservation
Education Coordinator
AHEIA Red Deer - South

If a person were to review online hunting forums in Alberta, a recurring theme is: “Where can I go to sight-in my rifle?” Good-hearted forum members will offer suggestions of various Alberta shooting ranges, but most are open only to members, or membership is capped for the year, but the biggest grumble by the original poster is: “The membership dues are too high. I only want to verify my zero.” At this point, they will be advised that they can always shoot in some parts of the forestry. It is surprising how often this issue is raised immediately before the opening of hunting season.

Folks, that is not how you should prepare for hunting season! To be ethical hunters, we need to have our firearms, optical mounts and optics in top shape. We also need to have been practicing with our firearm throughout the year.

I was once asked to take a hunter on an antelope hunting trip and, as I love hunting antelope, by that time had taken several. This hunter wanted a nice trophy for the wall. I assumed (my mistake) that this veteran hunter would have been prepared. As we were spotting for antelope, he proudly showed me his box of 270 Winchester shells. There were only six cartridges left in the box. That is all he had with him. He proudly proclaimed that he had taken 14 animals with 14 shots. I asked how he had checked his rifle and scopes zero. He hadn’t, as the rifle and scope combo “never changed zero”. Besides, he didn’t like shooting from a benchrest and wasn’t very good at it. He described himself as a “better field shot.” We split up and when I returned

to the truck, I learned from my brother that the aforementioned hunter had taken a nice buck. After congratulating him, I learned that he now needed a new box of shells as he had expended all six in harvesting the antelope. Fortunately, he was able to harvest it as many of the shots were not lethal. His cape was nearly useless. Later in the day I took a nice buck with a good cape and gave him the cape.

Don’t be that guy. Be better prepared!

Our firearms preparation for next season should begin immediately after the close of the current hunting season.

1. Take the time to thoroughly clean your firearm before you put it in your safe. In addition to a proper cleaning rod, cotton patches, jags and brushes, solvents and lubricants, old toothbrushes, dental picks and rags will round out the tools that will enable you to treat your firearm like you should. Remember to lightly lubricate your firearm. Too much lubricant can be as much of a problem as too little, especially in cold weather. (*See side bar:*)

When storing firearms, any old lubricant/preservative will do, but when going hunting in cold weather, choose lubricants that are formulated to retain their lubricity in the cold. That way your firearm will always be up to the task. I use Remington Dri Lube on my action in cold weather.

Cleaning Your Firearm

1. Ensure your firearm is unloaded, including the magazine. Check visually and tactilely!
2. Use a cleaning rod with a properly fitted jag to push a cotton patch soaked in a solvent through the bore. Where possible, always clean from the rear of the firearm using a bore guide. Allow time for the solvent to work. Switch the jag for a bore brush. Push the bore brush through the bore. Opinions vary as to how many times the brush should be pushed through the bore. The goal is to loosen and remove debris from the bore.
3. Switch back to the jag and push a cotton patch through the bore. Continue to push patches through the bore until the patch comes out clean.
4. Check your bore. It should be shiny clean. If you detect copper streaking, you will need to start over, but use a solvent designed to remove copper.
5. Clean your action. A product like Gun Scrubber can help. Use a rag, old toothbrush and dental pick to remove any debris in the action. When complete, lightly lube the action with a lubricant/preservative.
6. Use a lightly oiled rag, toothbrush and dental pick to carefully clean the exterior metal of your firearm. Ensure a light coat of oil covers the metal.

2. If your firearm or scope has any issues that require repair, immediately after the season closes is the time to get the repairs done. You have time to find a good gunsmith, the gunsmith has ample time to complete the repair and you have ample time to practice before next season, once the repairs are completed.

3. Find a local shooting range and become a member. If you are an avid golfer, you likely pay membership dues. Why do so many hunters and shooters not want to pay for a range membership? There is no free lunch! I think of it as a price of doing business.

At a formal range, there is likely a good solid bench. I take my pedestal stand and sandbags. These combine to be an adjustable and very supportive shooting position. With this setup, I have safely removed as much human element from the shooting equation. I can now, with great confidence, fine-tune my zero, and test various factory loads and/or my handloads for accuracy. There is nothing more confidence inspiring in KNOWING that your firearm is precisely sighted in with a very accurate factory load or a handload with a bullet that was selected to perform the job demanded of it. NOTHING!

Now that your firearm is sighted in and your load is selected, have fun and practice! (*See side bar:*)

4. Prior to hunting season, a final check of your zero is in order. You may want to wipe down your firearm to remove the lubricant/preservative and replace it with a product that is cold proof.



For a listing of approved shooting ranges in Alberta please refer to:

<http://www.abshooters.org/gun-ranges.html>

Practice Makes Perfect

Many people think that practice at the bench, where you can shoot little itty bitty groups, is all you need. Simple fact of the matter is that your practice regimen should include shooting from all of the field shooting positions: prone, sitting, kneeling and standing. Dry-firing your firearm (most firearms of modern manufacture are unharmed by dry-firing; check your owner’s manual) after ensuring that it is unloaded, is also good practice. Whether shooting from a field position, or dry firing, concentrate and imagine that you are squeezing off a shot at that big buck you have been trying to harvest for years. Realistic practice will make you a better hunter and shooter.

Joining a metallic silhouette league, PRC, or even partaking of the old prairie tradition of gopher shooting with rimfires or small calibre centerfire varmint rifles, will make you a better field shot.

Whether practicing or hunting, never fail to make use of any available rest. Whether you use a bipod, shooting sticks, backpack, nearby tree, rock or downfall, any rest is better than no rest, if you have the time to use it.

There is a simple moral to practicing with your firearm: Any trigger time is good trigger time!



“Preparing your shotgun for bird hunting is similar to preparing your rifle for big game season.”

Preparing Your Shotgun for Hunting Season

By Jim Gratrix



Jim Gratrix
Assistant Conservation
Education Coordinator
AHEIA Red Deer - South

Ammunition manufacturers must love bird hunters.

Ever watch one of those TV shows where a group of waterfowl hunters are lying in amongst dozens, if not hundreds of decoys? A flock of geese or ducks commits to landing in the decoys. The guide yells, “Take them!” The hunters sit up and the shotguns begin to bark. Ever count how many shots are heard and how few birds drop? I haven’t either, but the ratio of shots to kills seems to be very high. Five shots per bird? Eight shots per bird? Whatever the ratio is, it is not flattering to the hunters. I’ve seen the same in some pheasant and other upland bird hunting shows. It would seem that bird hunters could use a little more practice!

Preparing your shotgun for bird hunting is similar to preparing your rifle for big game season.

1. Immediately after the season, clean your shotgun. The techniques are very similar to cleaning your rifle. Please read the accompanying article “Preparing Your Rifle for Hunting Season”. Most shotguns allow for cleaning the barrel from the rear. Consult your owner’s manual to learn how to remove your barrel from the action.

2. If your shotgun requires repair, get it done ASAP. This will allow you to get your shotgun back from the gunsmith and still have time to practice.

3. If you’re trying some new loads, pattern them on a board. Learn what your effective range is with your chosen choke and that load. You don’t want a load that patterns with holes in it that a bird can fly through. If your factory chokes produce unsatisfactory patterns, try other loads or aftermarket chokes.

4. Find a coach. It never hurts to get a little quality instruction and coaching. Everybody has room for improvement.

5. Practice! Go to your local range and shoot some trap or skeet, maybe some sporting clay. If nothing else, buy a box of clays and a handthrower. With a buddy, find a place to throw birds and get some practice in. If you’re a waterfowler, it wouldn’t hurt to practice sitting up in your layout blind. Remember to clean up your shell casings and clay remnants.

Preparing for bird season will make you a more effective and ethical hunter. And it is just plain fun.





12 Days of Christmas SALE

at the

Calgary Firearms Centre

Spend \$100 and receive a free Tech mat!

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
15% Off All Gun Cleaning Supplies December 4	15% Off All Gun Cases December 5	15% Off All Shoot Bags December 6	15% Off Shooting Glasses (excluding RE Ranger) December 7	15% Off All Outerwear December 8
15% Off All Hats December 11	15% Off All Chokes December 12	15% Off All Knives December 13	15% Off Celestron Binoculars & Scopes December 14	15% Off All Hearing Protection December 15
15% Off 1 Shoot Card (12 Rounds) December 18	10% off Firearms December 19			

Have someone difficult to shop for?

Gift Certificates for the Calgary Firearms Centre make a great gift or stocking stuffer!

Calgary Firearms Centre
 242 Avenue & 32 Street SW
 DeWinton, AB T0L 0X0
 Phone: (403) 256-0665



AHEIA INSTRUCTORS

Exclusive





\$15 + GST



\$40 + GST

Contact us today!

AHEIA CALGARY 1.866.852.4342 • AHEIA EDMONTON 1.866.282.4342

AHEIA MEMBERS RECEIVE ONGOING DISCOUNTS

— at —











“...there is no one perfect big game hunting knife for all purposes.”

Choosing the Perfect Big Game Hunting Knife

By Jim Gratrix



Jim Gratrix
Assistant Conservation
Education Coordinator
AHEIA Red Deer - South

If you go to the big box stores or look at knife catalogues, you could develop the belief that a big game hunter requires a knife befitting Rambo. There are many knives for sale that have blades that are wide, thick and 5, 6 or 7 inches long. Their sheaths have attachment points that allow for mounting the knife on backpack straps and low mounted and strapped to your leg. It is my assertion that most of these knives may be decent “camp” knives or “survival” knives, but they would be very poor hunting knives.

So what makes a good big game hunting knife?

A big game hunting knife should have a blade 2.5-4” inches in length. The blade should be sturdy, but not overly thick. Remember, a hunting knife is used for cutting and needs to be razor sharp and should not be used for chopping or prying. If you need to chop, you should use hatchets and saws. The blade should have some “belly” (an up-swept blade) and a sharp point. Blades longer than 4” are unwieldy and can increase the odds the user cuts him/her self when reaching into the body cavity to loosen the heart, lungs, diaphragm and esophagus.

A big game hunting knife should have a comfortable handle that provides a secure grip, even when wet, for at least three fingers (and preferably four) and protects the forefinger from slipping forward and being cut by the blade. The extension of the blade, called the “tang”, should extend back through handle to make the knife sturdy.

There are two main types of hunting knives: folding knives and fixed blade knives. Each type is serviceable as a hunting knife and each type has their own strengths and weaknesses.

The Buck 110 Folding Hunter was developed in 1963 and was one of the first folding knives to be designed for hunters. It is of lock blade design, which is a very important safety feature as the blade cannot close on the user’s fingers. It has a 3.75” blade of the clip point design. It is a classic general purpose knife. As with all folders, the blade folds into the handle, reducing the length of the knife and ensuring that the blade can do no harm to the sheath or user



3" Buck Bucklite.



3.5" Coldsteel Ultimate Hunter.

while in transit. The main weakness of a folder is the increased effort required to clean the knife after use on a carcass. It can be difficult to clean blood and fat from the blade slot. An old toothbrush can certainly be of assistance in cleaning the blade slot. Today, there are many manufacturers that make countless numbers of suitable folding hunting knives.

A fixed blade knife may be the quintessential hunting knife. Rugged and easy to clean after use, a fixed blade knife is a great tool. There are so many variations that they can’t all be covered here. Instead, I will point out a family of knives that I have come to appreciate. The Cold Steel Pendleton Hunter and the Cold Steel Pendleton Mini Hunter are my two favourite knives. The blades are of the drop point design, with a good useful belly. They have checkered rubber handles that provide an excellent grip, even when wet. The Hunter has a deep 3.5” blade and the Mini Hunter has a shallower 3” blade.



3" Coldsteel Pendleton Mini Hunter.



3.5" Coldsteel Pendleton Hunter.

We were hunting mule deer in an area of rugged river breaks, when we drove to an overlook. Rifles were slung over our shoulders while we glassed the draw. Finding no deer, it was a short walk to the next draw and the next and the next ... until we were a long way from the truck. Finally we found some does that we could use our Antlerless Mule Deer tags on. It was only upon my brother and I dropping two does in the draw that I realized I had left the fanny pack containing my knife in the truck. Remember, we were just going to glass the first draw! Darkness was only about 45 minutes away and we had to get these deer gutted and up out of the draw before dark. No time to go back for my knife. I was contemplating using my 1.5” dull pocket knife, when my brother came over with his folding knife that rode on his belt. In exchange for him gutting my deer, I had to drag his deer out. We got out before dark, barely. The moral of this story is that the best knife in the world is worthless to you if you don’t have it with you!

It was shortly after this escapade that I found the Pendleton Mini Hunter. It is small enough that it fit in a pocket of my overalls as if it was made for it. At first viewed as a knife for emergencies like the previous story, or as a caping knife, I soon realized that it was much more useful than that. While it is small, it can be used as both a gutting knife and a skinning knife. I am no

longer ever without this knife while hunting. It even travels with me overseas where I am not allowed to process the animal. The outfitter’s staff does all the grunt work. It is just comforting to have this knife with me while hunting.

A word of caution about fixed blade knives. One of my college buddies was out hunting with his family. He was crossing a fence when he placed his right hand on top of the fence post. As he dropped to the ground, the point of his hunting knife, which was in a vertical leather sheath on his belt, caught on top of his hand which was on the fence post. The handle of the knife caught on his upper body and his body weight drove the sharp blade through the web of his hand, nearly severing his thumb from his hand. It is a lesson I have never forgotten. I am extremely hesitant to wear a fixed blade knife in a vertical belt sheath. Horizontal, yes. In a pocket or fanny pack, yes.

It is at this point in time that I will advise the reader that there is no one “perfect” big game hunting knife for all purposes. While I may like the Pendleton Mini Hunter for deer and antelope, I admit it is a little small for elk and moose. For elk and moose I would go up in size and use the Pendleton Hunter. If I lived in the Northern Territory of Australia and routinely hunted water buffalo, I would contemplate an even bigger model, the Cold Steel Master Hunter.



4" Kershaw 1030 Deer Hunter.

Is that all the knives that a big game hunter could use? No. If you routinely wish to cape out the heads for taxidermy, then a caping knife would be in order. For boning out the meat, a 5-7” fillet or slightly flexible boning knife works great. There are specialty knives that are used to open up the abdomen without puncturing the entrails. For those who like a sharp knife, but don’t care for sharpening, many manufacturers have emulated Havalon and now offer knives that have replaceable blades. These knives can always be kept sharp by just replacing the blade.

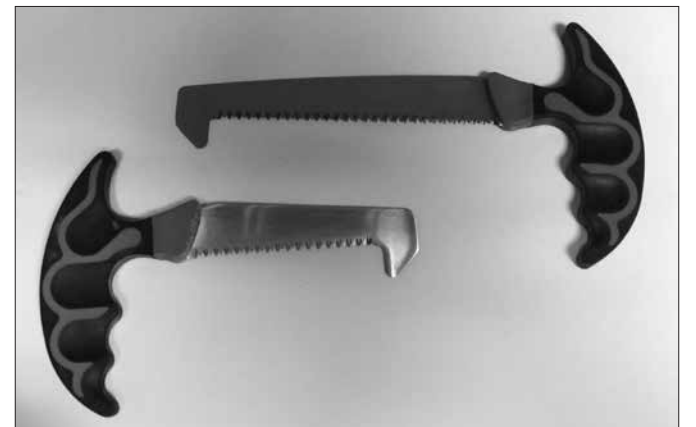
I have used the Outdoor Edge Razor Pro (<https://www.outdooredge.com/products/razor-pro>) and it works as advertised. The blades are easy to safely exchange.



3.5" Outdoor Edge Razor Pro (exchange blade) with secondary gutting blade.

To wrap up, a big game hunter can live with one knife. I would suggest that a 2.5-4” properly designed blade is all a big game hunter needs. It is their choice as to whether a folding knife or a fixed blade knife best suits them. With experience, some big game hunters are going to expand their cutlery collection to include various sized knives, a caping knife, a boning knife. The list is endless. The knife manufacturers are always bringing out new models to entice hunters to part with their money. Collecting knives can be quite addictive!

Whatever your knife choice is, be safe! Keep your blade sharp and always cut away from yourself.



Gerber 2.75" and 4.75" ultra light saws. These saws weigh next to nothing and are capable of splitting ribcages and pelvises. No need to dull your knife.



CALGARY FIREARMS CENTRE GIFT CERTIFICATES ARE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

Gift certificates can be used for:

- Rounds
- Coaching
- Ammunition
- Firearms Rental
- Merchandise
- Firearms Purchase

Please call our Calgary office as gift certificates are issued from our head office:

403.252.8474

Gift certificates can be picked up in Calgary, at the Calgary Firearms Centre, or mailed.



“A function like this would not be possible without the support of various businesses and organizations ... A huge heartfelt thanks to all who stepped up.”

2019 Spring Fling Fundraising Banquet



By Len Gransch



Len Gransch
Program Coordinator
AHEIA
Red Deer - North

June 6, 2019 marked our 6th Annual Spring Fling fundraising banquet. The event was very well attended and it was wonderful once again to see old and new contemporaries getting together to celebrate Conservation Education. It appears like this event is becoming more of a family gathering rather than the average fundraiser.

If you were not able to attend I would strongly encourage you to make the resolve to attend next year. Our 7th Annual 2020 Spring Fling will be held on Thursday, June 4 at the Silvermoon Banquets in Edmonton. More details will be forthcoming.

Those attending had a vast selection of items available to tempt them, including a live auction, specialty packages, gun raffles, bucket raffles, silent auction items, the Cabela's backyard smoker and a beer for a year raffle. The live auction featured his and hers mountain bikes, two African safaris, our popular elimination auction with the winner choosing a firearm,

two waterfowl hunts, three day marksmanship rifle course with Rob Furlong, special wild game dinner for six from Normand's restaurant, portable generator, entertainment package, Benelli Montefeltro shotgun, portable gas barbeque, laptop computer and a special range first aid kit with two police officer down online first aid courses courtesy of Blake Prince and CTOMS. There were lots of beaming faces and happy people enjoying themselves during the event.

A function like this would not be possible without the support of various businesses and organizations. In the current economic climate it is extremely difficult to obtain the donations required to make this event feasible. A huge heartfelt thanks to all who stepped up. Your continuous backing is very much appreciated indeed.

This year's Volunteer Award was presented to Mr. Bassem Salama. Bassem is a Canadian Firearms Program and a Conservation and Hunter Education certified instructor. He is very active in the outdoors community. Bassem, his wife Monica, and two youngsters are very involved with their local church. Bassem is currently working on getting church members involved in numerous outdoor activities including a session at our Alford Lake facility. Bassem frequently volunteers at our numerous events and camps as well as our in-house courses. Thanks and congratulations to Mr. Salama.



The procedure for selecting our annual volunteer award is straight forward. Every time someone volunteers their time at any of our events their name gets documented. The volunteer award recipient is randomly picked from the database of those who have volunteered during the year. The more frequently you volunteer the more opportunities you have to receive the award.

Thanks to Marvin Kleinbert for working his usual magic again this year as our auctioneer. Thanks also goes out to our MC, Eric Moland, who helped everything run smoothly and even managed a good joke or two. Acknowledgement also goes out to all the staff and volunteers who

helped make this event a big success. We could not do it without you.

The Taliani family, who have looked after our event for the past number of years, decided to sell their business. Of course when something like this happens there naturally is a lot of apprehension. After a meeting with one of the new co-owners, Monika, all trepidation was extinguished. The event went off without a hitch and we are looking forward to working with the "new guys" again next year. If you are considering holding an event in Edmonton, whether it is a wedding, reunion or banquet, give Monika a call at 780-468-6006. You will not be disappointed.



AHEIA's Annual Teacher Workshop



David Dolph
Executive Director
AHEIA

By David Dolph

AHEIA's annual Teacher Workshop Instructor Course was held July 18-21, 2019 at our Alford Lake Conservation Education Centre for Excellence. Eighteen teachers from across Alberta took part in the three-day program which includes a Hunter Education Instructor Certificate, Fishing Education Instructor Certificate and a Pleasure Craft Operator Certificate. The Sunday is an optional fourth day and includes the International Bowhunting Education Program to cap off the weekend.



Next year's Teacher Workshop Instructor Course will be held July 16-19, 2020 at the Alford Lake Conservation Education Centre for Excellence

For additional information about the workshop, please contact AHEIA Edmonton at:
edmontoninfo@aheia.com • 780-466-6682

EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNT FOR AHEIA MEMBERS



Available at **CTR** REFRIGERATION AND FOOD STORE EQUIPMENT LTD.
4840-52 ST. SE, CALGARY • 403.444.2877
10456-170 ST., EDMONTON • 780.444.0829
highcaliberproducts.com • info@ctrca.com

AHEIA Members will now receive a
15% DISCOUNT
ON REGULAR PRICED ITEMS

Not applicable to sale items or equipment priced as Net Price. Discount cannot be combined with other discounts or promotions.

IN-STORE PURCHASES ONLY AT EITHER THE CALGARY OR EDMONTON LOCATIONS

Program discount begins August 1, 2019.

KNIVES, CASING, PACKAGING, SPICES, SMOKERS, CLASSES AND MORE!

TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS DISCOUNT AHEIA MEMBERS SIMPLY NEED TO SHOW THEIR AHEIA MEMBERSHIP CARD.

DID YOU KNOW?

WE SELL SHOTGUNS AT THE CALGARY FIREARMS CENTRE

242 Avenue and 32 Street, DeWinton, Alberta

We have a wide variety of shotguns for all abilities and budgets!



Try it out on our range before you buy! Ask one of our staff for more information.

CUSTOM SHOTGUN FITTING AND ADJUSTMENTS
(Where possible)

WITH YOUR PURCHASE

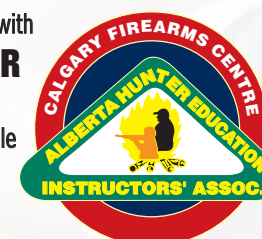
We will work with you and let you test your new shotgun to ensure it is right for you!

\$150
VALUED AT

Every new shotgun purchase comes with
1 BOX OF AA TRACKER AMMUNITION

to assist you with being comfortable with your new firearm.

A \$15 VALUE!





the fishin' hole

2019


FREE SHIPPING
on Canadian orders over \$99*

Get your 2019 Summer Fishing Catalogue FREE!

Visit us online at thefishinhole.com
or call 1.800.661.6954

100%  OWNED – SINCE 1975

 THEFISHINHOLECANADA  THEFISHINHOLECA



An events publication of
Conservation Education

The AHEIA BUGLE

Would you like to subscribe?
Email: info@aheia.com

The purpose of the Bugle is to inform you of our upcoming events, courses, and programs so you never miss out on what's going on here at AHEIA! Delivered monthly right to your inbox! Subscribe today!



We're Social | Follow Us

Staff Appointments



Blake Emery

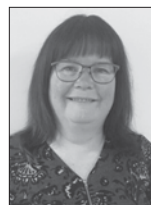
It gives me great pleasure to announce that, effective Tuesday, September 9, 2019, Blake Emery has accepted a contract position at AHEIA working in marketing and social media.

Blake was born and raised in Calgary and is currently in his second year at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology enrolled in Business Administration, majoring in Marketing.

Blake has worked for AHEIA at the Calgary Firearms Centre since 2015 and has become a valuable employee during the busy shooting season. When not working, Blake enjoys practicing the shooting sports at the CFC.

Blake can be reached through the Calgary office, by cell at 403-200-4440 and via email at blake@aheia.com.

Please join me as we welcome Blake to the administrative team.



Gena Boyce

It is my pleasure to announce that, effective Monday, September 9, 2019, Gena Boyce has accepted a contract position at AHEIA working with the Delivery Staff team.

Gena grew up in Kamloops, BC and moved to Alberta 30 years ago, settling in the Calgary area. For the past 15 years she was the Training Manager at Commissionaires in Calgary. She has also taught first aid for St. John's Ambulance for 27 years and will be upgrading our programs that involve first aid components. Gena is a Canadian Firearms Safety Course (CFSC) Instructor and Hunter Education Instructor, and will be delivering these programs at our Calgary office.

Gena regularly volunteers teaching first aid training to staff who care for developmentally delayed adults and often volunteers at AHEIA, assisting with the CFSC courses in the evening. When Gena's busy professional life offers some time, she enjoys bowling in a league.

Gena can be reached through the Calgary office, by cell at 403-862-7503 and via email at gena@aheia.com.

Please join me in welcoming Gena to the AHEIA family!



Gert Holmqvist

It is my pleasure to announce that effective Thursday, October 24, 2019, Gert Holmqvist has accepted a position at AHEIA as the Calgary Firearms Centre Manager.

Gert grew up on the west coast of Sweden and emigrated to Canada at the age of 40, settling in the Calgary area. Gert was a Board Member at the Calgary Firearms Centre from 1996 to 2002 before it was taken over by AHEIA. Aside from his Board Member duties, Gert maintained the Centre's facility and equipment. In 2003 he accepted the position of Manager at the Calgary Firearms Centre and worked there until 2008 when he moved to the oil and gas industry as a Global Acid Manager for a Calgary based company.

Gert was a competitive skeet shooter and from 1991 through 1997 was a coach on the Canadian Olympic Skeet Shooting team, accompanying them to the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. Gert still shoots recreationally and is also a bird and big game hunter.

Gert can be reached at the Calgary Firearms Centre at 403-256-0665 and via email at gert@aheia.com.

Please join me in welcoming Gert back to the AHEIA family!

Robert A. Gruszecki, President - AHEIA



Ready to conserve fish and wildlife and the habitats they call home? Start on the trail to a wild career in the Renewable Resource Management program at Lethbridge College.


lethbridgecollege.ca/rrm



The Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association

would like to thank

Wildlife Habitat Canada



The Outdoor Youth Camps & Seminar
The Outdoor Bound Mentorship Program
The Outdoor Women's Program

These projects are undertaken with the financial support of Wildlife Habitat Canada.

Wildlife Habitat Canada is a non-profit, conservation organization that conserves habitat, primarily by investing the funds from the sale of the Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp and Print program contributed by waterfowl hunters. Since 1985, we have provided over \$50 million in grants to more than 1,500 habitat conservation projects across Canada, which have helped safeguard important ecosystems and countless wild species. To learn more, please visit www.whc.org.

Without habitat ... there is no wildlife.

Making Wildlife and Fish Part of the Value System of all Albertans.

Save this date:

FEBRUARY 8, 2020



For the 18th Annual

WISE AWARDS & BANQUET

HELD AT THE BMO CENTRE, STAMPEDE PARK
1410 OLYMPIC WAY S.E., CALGARY, ALBERTA

4:00 PM • COCKTAILS & SILENT AUCTION
5:30 PM • DINNER, PRESENTATIONS & LIVE AUCTION

RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE IN CONSERVATION EDUCATION

We believe youth are the future of the shooting sports. We are doing our part to preserve our future.



CALGARY FIREARMS CENTRE
ALBERTA HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS' ASSOC.

Come to the **A.H.E.I.A. Calgary Firearms Centre** and receive expert instruction in the safe and responsible use of **SHOTGUNS**.

Book your training event at the
A.H.E.I.A. Calgary Firearms Centre
242 Avenue & 32 Street SW, DeWinton, AB
(403)256-0665 • WWW.AHEIA.COM

tforods.ca
PERFORMANCE + VALUE

TFO -not just rods & reels!

Visit our website to view

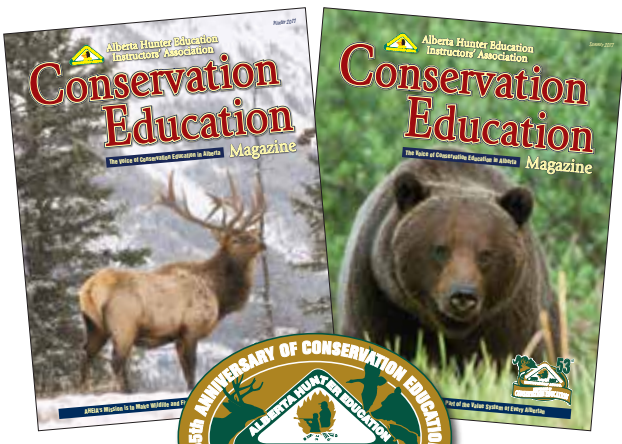
- New TFO Products
- Monthly Promotions
- Free Draws

See our online DEALER LOCATOR for an Alberta dealer near you. Sign-up for our monthly E-Newsletter.



new
PROFESSIONAL II Package
with TFO NV Reel, Line & Case

TFO PROFESSIONAL II Fly Rod - 4 Piece Packages
Available in: 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8 weight.



Conservation Education Magazine

55th ANNIVERSARY OF CONSERVATION EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS' ASSOC. 1964-2019
CELEBRATING 2,000,000 STUDENTS

All funds received from advertising in the AHEIA Conservation Education Magazine are used to promote the cause of Conservation in Alberta.

To advertise in our magazine contact David Dolph at
403.319.2287
Toll Free 1.866.852.4342
daviddolph@aheia.com


Firearms Questions?

Get your answers here!

www.albertafirearmfacts.com



ALBERTA FIREARM FACTS
PRESENTED BY AHEIA



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

Nominations for the 2020 W.I.S.E. Awards are now being accepted.

Initiated 17 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.

W.I.S.E. Award recipients can be chosen from one of 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 AHEIA banquet and fundraising auction held February 8, 2020, in the BMO Centre, Palomino Room, Stampede Park, Calgary, Alberta.

Please have your W.I.S.E. Award Nominations in as soon as possible for consideration.

For more W.I.S.E. Conservation Awards information and nomination forms visit the AHEIA 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 (AHEIA)
911 Sylvester Crescent S.W., Calgary, AB T2W 0R8
(403) 252-8474 or 1-866-852-4342
Email: info@aheia.com

Submissions may be forwarded by mail or email, 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 AHEIA'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.



2019 Fundraising Raffle Winners

Specialty Shotgun Raffle

Drawn July 19, 2019 at the Calgary Firearms Centre.
Licence #519824. 2000 tickets printed.

Ticket #475

is the winner of a Browning Classic Trap Unsingle Combo 12ga. Shotgun.



Ladies' Firearms Raffle

Drawn August 10, 2019 at the Alford Lake Conservation Education Centre for Excellence.
Licence #519818. 3500 tickets printed.



Ticket #1377

is the 1st Prize winner of a Winchester XPR Muddy Girl Compact 6.5 Creedmore Rifle.



Ticket #1269

is the 2nd Prize winner of a Winchester SXP Muddy Girl 12ga. Shotgun.

Specialty Engraved Rifle Raffle

Drawn September 18, 2019 at the Calgary Conservation Education Centre for Excellence.
Licence #520305. 2000 tickets printed.

Ticket #0772

is the winner of an Uberti 1866 Yellowboy Lever Action Rifle.



Limited Edition Collector's Raffle

Drawn August 30, 2019 at the Calgary Conservation Education Centre for Excellence.
Licence #525867. 4500 tickets printed.

Ticket #2504

is the winner of a Remington 870 Wingmaster Shotgun.



"Crossover" Shotgun Raffle

Drawn September 6, 2019 at the Calgary Firearms Centre.
Licence #519826. 2000 tickets printed.

Ticket #119

is the winner of a Browning Citori CXS 12/20ga. Combo Break Action Shotgun.

3 Gun Raffle II

Drawn September 20, 2019 at the Calgary Conservation Education Centre for Excellence.
Licence #519817. 5000 tickets printed.

Ticket #318

is the 1st Prize winner of a Winchester .30-06 SPRG Rifle.

Ticket #413

is the 2nd Prize winner of a Winchester SXP Hybrid Hunter Max 5 12ga. Shotgun.

Ticket #383

is the 3rd Prize winner of a Tradition Hawkins 50 cal Black Powder Flintlock Rifle.



XTREME PREPARATIONS XTREME CONDITIONS XTREME EXPECTATIONS

**INTRODUCING THE NEW A400 XTREME PLUS.
BUILT TO GO WHEREVER YOUR HUNT TAKES YOU.**

Designed to withstand the toughest waterfowl environments. Engineered to be the softest-shooting, most reliable 3.5" waterfowl shotgun out there. The A400 Xtreme Plus features Beretta's exclusive Steelium Plus barrels, a first for hunting shotguns providing the best patterning possible from all hunting loads, along with further felt recoil mitigation.

***Now Available in Left Hand**

 **BERETTA**
500 YEARS. ONE PASSION.



 @BERETTACANADA  @BERETTACA BERETTACANADA.CA

HUNT | HARVEST | COOK

harvestyourown.ca



Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to:

A.H.E.I.A.
911 Sylvester Crescent S.W.
Calgary, Alberta T2W 0R8
Email: info@ahcia.com

**Canadian Publication Mail
Agreement # 40043462**