

Spring 2019



Alberta Hunter Education
Instructors' Association

Conservation Education



The Voice of Conservation Education in Alberta

Magazine



*Honouring
Outstanding Albertans*

2019 W.I.S.E. AWARDS

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Honouring Outstanding Albertans

17th Annual W.I.S.E. Awards

February 9, 2019

By Robert Gruszecki



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

On February 9, 2019 the 17th Annual Conservation Education W.I.S.E. Foundation Awards and Banquet was held at the BMO Centre in Calgary, where over 400 people helped us honour two outstanding Albertans who were inducted into the W.I.S.E. Awards Hall of Fame.

Despite the frigid temperatures outside, it was a wonderful evening of camaraderie and celebration in the name of Conservation Education.

Among those in attendance were Brandy Payne, Associate Minister of Health and MLA for Calgary-Acadia, and Mr. Eric Rosendahl, MLA for West Yellowhead. Mr. Rosendahl spoke about the positive impact Conservation Education has on the people of the province and his belief that our sustainable natural resources will be available and enjoyed for generations, with our help. In addition to our guests, we received letters from the Minister of Environment and Parks, Shannon Phillips, Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi and the Honourable Rachel Notley, Premier of Alberta. Premier Notley wrote that she "can think of no other organization in the province that has done more to promote an ethical and sustainable approach to wildlife conservation than the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association". She acknowledged the overwhelming success of our programs and thanked us for teaching hundreds of thousands of students with genuine regard for their impact on the environment.

As mentioned, this year at the W.I.S.E. Awards we recognized two deserving people for their contributions to the cause of conservation education. The following is an excerpt of the presentations made to honour these individuals.

W.I.S.E. Public Service Conservation Award Chris Watson

The W.I.S.E. Public Service Conservation Award recognizes achievements in public relations, conservation ethics and community leadership by federal, provincial or municipal employees who devote time to educate Albertans in the area of fish and wildlife resource use.

This year we were pleased to recognize Mr. Chris Watson of Drayton Valley, Alberta.

Continued ➤



Left to right: Eric Rosendahl, MLA West Yellowhead; Chris Watson; Brandy Payne, MLA Calgary-Acadia; and Robert Gruszecki, President AHEIA.



“ Chris believes that, from the perspective of the Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Branch, which is responsible for monitoring and regulating hunting activities, the Government understands the value of conservation education and must trust these efforts. ”

From an early age, Chris’ love of the outdoors was encouraged by his mother and father. His family home in Winnipeg was on the very outskirts of the city next to a protected area of tall grasses and bush. He often explored this area and in the summers spent time at his parents’ farm enjoying the countryside and outdoors. When Chris was 12 years old, he had a paper route and one day when delivering papers, he found a deer antler. It was then that his true interest in fauna began.

By the age of 16 Chris began hunting waterfowl with his father and it was also then that Chris was introduced to archery at his school. His class went to a camp where he tried the sport and soon afterwards went to the local archery range to purchase a bow and became hooked on the sport. He was granted permission to hunt deer just outside of the city and has loved bow-hunting ever since.

Chris’ childhood experiences led him to pursue studies in Conservation Enforcement. In the summers he worked as a Park Patrol Officer in Manitoba, twice at Whiteshell Provincial Park, and also at George Lake. After college he was successful in securing a position with Alberta Fish and Wildlife. During his employment as an officer with the government agency, he has worked in the communities of Fairview, Oyen, Calgary, Barrhead and Hinton, where he currently lives and has worked for the past 15 years.

While living and working in Hinton, Chris has been a great influence in the community outside of his role as a Fish and Wildlife Officer. He has been very involved with the Yellowhead Arrow



Launchers Association and the Hinton Fish and Game Association. Through helping to secure provincial and municipal grants and stakeholder funding support, he and the dedicated volunteers involved have facilitated an investment of close to \$1,000,000 into the Hinton Fish and Game facilities in the last decade.

The Range houses an outdoor recreational archery complex which is recognized as one of the best in Alberta, offering 3D targets year-round, and newer 3D targets used for competitive shooting events. Working alongside club president Kevin Guimond, the funding Chris secured helped to build an indoor range, allowing for increased opportunity for youth archery and other programs throughout the year.

With the development of these facilities, the club wanted an accepted archery program and followed AHEIA’s lead with the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP). Chris believes in the philosophy of NASP, recognizing and encouraging all students, athletic or not, through

positive reinforcement. As their program evolves under the direction of senior instructors, they have developed a mentorship program for junior instructors who assist the youngest participants, starting as early as five years of age. To see these young instructors develop in their public speaking, coaching and mentoring abilities has been every bit as rewarding to Chris as seeing the smiles on the participants faces when they hit their first bullseye.

When the program was introduced, Chris was bombarded with youth wanting to participate. He helped raise funds through raffles to purchase bows, arrows and targets for both the Catholic and Public high schools in Hinton. The high schools now have archery incorporated into their physical education curriculum. The younger students in the community are trained at the indoor range through the Yellowhead Arrow Launchers, where Chris can often be found every week teaching skill development.

Chris is also involved with the Wild Sheep Foundation who recently granted \$10,000 towards development of a youth trap shooting program at the Hinton Fish and Game ranges. With these funds, firearms, shells and targets were purchased, which will allow the youth league participants to shoot all summer long for free other than a small fee for insurance. He has also submitted grant applications for improvements to the clubhouse and hopefully they will be awarded soon so renovations can begin this year.

Chris participates in the annual Fish and Game Winter Magic Festival, a fishing fun day at Gregg Lake where, in uniform, he speaks to people about fishing and conservation, and gives pointers to the anglers.

Although it’s unsure where he finds time, Chris is also an executive member of the local Trappers Association, member of the Wild Sheep Foundation, provides countless presentations at schools and community events, and teaches AHEIA’s Hunter Education Certification Courses.

In his role as a Fish and Wildlife Officer, Chris spends many hours in a public relations capacity with respect to sheep hunting in the Cadomin Mine area. This area is a haven for Bighorn Sheep who feed on the lush grasses of the reclaimed mine property and surrounding region. A very limited number of tags are issued each year and Chris spends many hours patrolling the

area, marking the hunting area perimeter and getting to know the sheep hunters, ensuring that rules are followed in a fair and ethical way during sheep season.

Chris believes that, from the perspective of the Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Branch, which is responsible for monitoring and regulating hunting activities, the Government understands the value of conservation education and must trust these efforts. He knows the damage that can be done to hunters and stakeholder groups connected with hunting, when significant numbers of offenders are found every year who have bypassed informative and educational teachings. He is very supportive of AHEIA’s online Hunter Training program, noting that this particular access to training is “more than a home run, it is a grand slam for AHEIA and a win-win for Albertans.” He also appreciates the inter-agency cooperation with AHEIA, helping to identify hunters taking short cuts in obtaining licenses.

Early in his career, Chris worked with Officer Lyle Lester in Oyen, who encouraged him to teach a Fly Fishing seminar for younger students. His enjoyment of that experience has led him to a lifetime of mentoring, teaching, working with youth and sharing his skills and passion with men, women and children of all ages. It is very apparent that he embraces conservation education and is dedicated to the many work related and volunteer roles he has in the community, in which its citizens have surely benefited.

W.I.S.E. Volunteer Instructor Conservation Award

Lucas Wun

The W.I.S.E. Volunteer Instructor Conservation Award is designed to acknowledge outstanding leaders who are engaging, willing to help others, enthusiastic, committed to conservation education and one who is determined to make a difference within his or her community.

It was our pleasure to award the W.I.S.E. Volunteer Instructor Conservation Award to Mr. Lucas Wun of Calgary, Alberta.

Lucas is an avid hunter and outdoor enthusiast, who is dedicated to sharing his expertise and experiences with all Albertans, but in particular, the Chinese community in Calgary.

Born in China, Lucas moved with his family to Hong Kong at the age of two years, leaving behind the recently ended civil war and new communist government. As a young man Lucas enjoyed many outdoor activities such as camping, mountain climbing, ocean fishing and hunting birds and wild boars, a very privileged activity on the island. Firearms are prohibited in Hong Kong, but after a lengthy and strict application process to even be considered as a firearm owner, Lucas was successful in being approved at the age of 21 and quickly developed a passion for hunting and shooting. He participated in competitive shooting sports including Palma Shooting, which involves hitting a 20" target from 1000 yards. He also attended rapid fire pistol competitions and smallbore rifle marksmanship competitions.

In 1982 hunting was banned in Hong Kong due to development. At that time in Guangdong, a

coastal Province of China which borders Hong Kong, 40% of the crops were being destroyed by wild boars. China invited a culling team of 10 people to help with the problem in which Lucas participated and volunteered regularly until 1992. In 1992 hunting was banned in China as well, however at that time the wild boar problem had grown in Hong Kong and measures had to be taken by the government. From 1992 to 1999 Lucas and his team were asked to assist with reducing the wild boar population to manageable numbers.

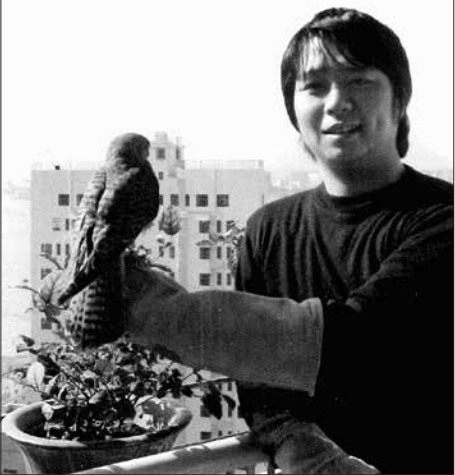
Following his retirement in 1999, Lucas emigrated to Calgary and shortly thereafter contacted Thomas Schwanke, a long time Canadian Firearms Safety Course Instructor with AHEIA. Lucas was taught the program which allowed

him to obtain his firearms licence and retrieve his personal firearms.

Over the next few years Lucas was often approached by people at his church who heard his stories and learned of his passion for the shooting sports and hunting in Alberta. They were interested in taking the Firearms Safety Course as well, so a course led by Jim Roberts, another long-time AHEIA Instructor, was held for approximately 30 people. Interested in introducing the Chinese community to his love of shooting and hunting, Lucas was enrolled in an AHEIA instructor class taught by President Bob Gruszecki, and became a Firearms Instructor in 2003.

Continued ➤

“ As a mentor, Lucas has worked with almost 1000 students ... Lucas has never charged money for his mentorship or training—his services are free. He only asks that his students pass on their experiences to others ... ”



Lucas Wun, family and friends.

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17th Annual W.I.S.E. Awards *cont.*

Since then Lucas has trained approximately 2000 Chinese students the Canadian Firearms Safety Course.

Lucas is also a Hunting Education facilitator and mentor in the Chinese community. He is always encouraging people who are interested in hunting to take the AHEIA home study Hunter Education Certification Course, but might be hesitant due to the language barrier. He spends dozens of hours interpreting and helping students understand the program and will then schedule a day at AHEIA's Calgary Conservation Centre for Excellence to interpret the course material and exam.

After successfully completing AHEIA's Canadian Firearms Safety Course, AHEIA's Hunter Educa-

tion Certification Course, and after receiving their firearms licences, Lucas will arrange for students to practice shooting at clay targets. Many have never had an opportunity to fire a gun and Lucas has found that these days of safety, mentorship, shooting and practicing help people gain confidence and develop more of an interest in the shooting sports and hunting. He provides the training and firearms and helps people become comfortable with handling a firearm. For those interested, he takes them on a waterfowl hunt and in September you can often see him mentoring students at his favourite locations. In October and November interested students can also join him hunting big game.

Bringing the training full circle, for the last 10 years after hunting season has ended, Lucas and his wife have hosted about 120 students, their families and friends to a wild game dinner. If any of his students have had a successful harvest, he asks that they provide some for the event. When the food is served, he acknowledges the students so that everyone can offer their thanks. Any of the meat that Lucas has harvested himself is kept for the banquet, where it is also served to his students and their guests. It is important to Lucas that his students appreciate and are thankful for the gifts that their hunt provided.

As a mentor, Lucas has worked with almost 1000 students. He feels very privileged to be able to mentor the Chinese youth and young adults in Alberta to hunt. Children are traditionally introduced to hunting by their fathers or a family member, but because it wasn't allowed in China and Hong Kong, he fills that role and is rewarded with a thankful community. Lucas has never charged money for his mentorship or

training—his services are free. He only asks that his students pass on their experiences to others and after practice and confidence, become mentors as well.

Whether it is being available to home study students, training people to safely use firearms, assisting youth and adults with developing their shooting skills or passing on his passion of hunting, he wants to share with everyone his knowledge and experience to help them be successful with their outdoor pursuits. He will always bring others to his favourite hunting areas, offering a better chance of success, simply because he feels extremely fortunate to be able to pursue his passion, and in turn hopefully spark the same reaction in others.

Lucas believes he is very lucky to retire in such a beautiful part of the world, or as he calls it "paradise", and presently shows no sign of slowing down. This coming year he will not only be regularly teaching the AHEIA Canadian Firearms Safety Course and the Hunter Education Certification Program, executing his mentoring program, but will he also be assisting with the translation of a number of AHEIA's safety videos into Mandarin for the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association, providing an even greater opportunity for the Chinese people in our province to understand and appreciate our abundant natural resources.

Looking back at 2018, it was another record-breaking year for AHEIA, with over 110,000 students graduating from all facets of conservation education. Last year we introduced the nationwide, online Pleasure Craft Operator Training Course, added to our Essentials series with the online Bighorn Sheep Essentials program, modified the Fishing Education Program to be the best of its kind in North America, celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Outdoor Women's Program, and added new smartphone apps to an ever-increasing mobile learning environment. We also continued to deliver our in-class programs, leagues, camps and seminars assisted by thousands of hard working and dedicated volunteers throughout the province, who are committed to combining skilled instruction with safety, responsibility, ethics and respect. It is with their

tireless efforts that we are able to offer such a diverse and extensive slate of programs to deserving Albertans—and for this we are thankful.


2019 is anticipated to be even busier, with the development of new educational programs, special events such as the Provincial Trap Shooting Championships at the Calgary Firearms Centre, and the release of our highly anticipated online Fishing Education Program this spring. As always, we endeavour to provide the public with all of their outdoor educational needs. If there is a course or workshop you would like to see, please let us know!

Although the economy is starting to show signs of improvement, people are very watchful of their finances and yet, despite this, our programs continue to grow. Revenues from donations are down across the board for charities and we are no exception. We continue to be diligent at raising funds for our cause and gratefully accept any and all donations while faithfully applying them to our programs. Along with our many terrific raffles, this year we will be focussing on some new fundraising projects to help us deliver these highly valued programs. Keep an eye on future Conservation Education Magazines and our social media feeds for announcements of these exciting new initiatives. We also invite you to attend the 6th Annual Spring Fling Banquet in Edmonton, which is a lot of fun and also helps raise much needed programming funds. We look forward to your support as we endeavour to continue producing the quality programming and exciting events for which AHEIA is known.

With the cold weather finally behind us, we encourage you to get outside and enjoy the great outdoors. Perhaps join us at one of the scheduled events at the Calgary Firearms Centre, join a shooting league or attend one of the camps at Alford Lake this summer. With all of our offerings, we are sure to have something to attract your interest.

Have a wonderful spring and summer, and we hope to see you soon.

Cheers!



Robert A. Gruszecki
President, AHEIA





SCENES FROM THE 17th ANNUAL

W.I.S.E. Awards & Banquet





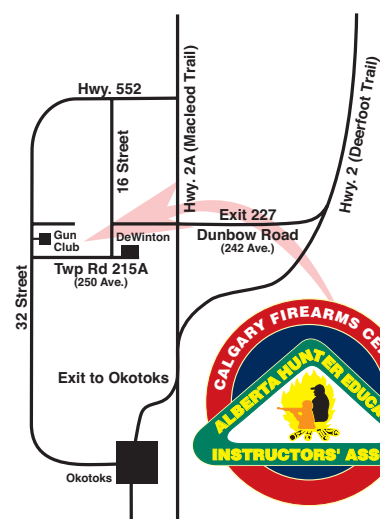
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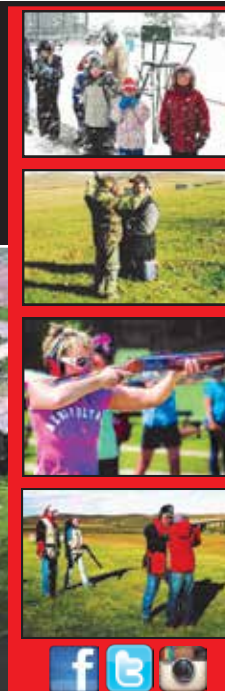
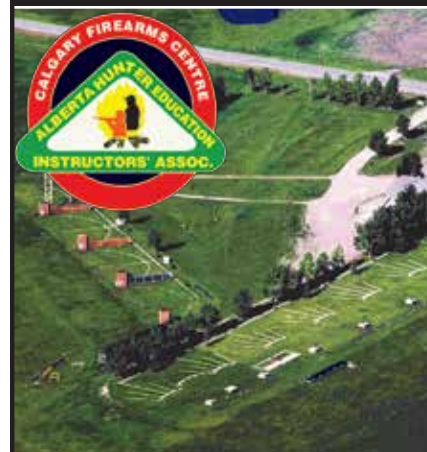


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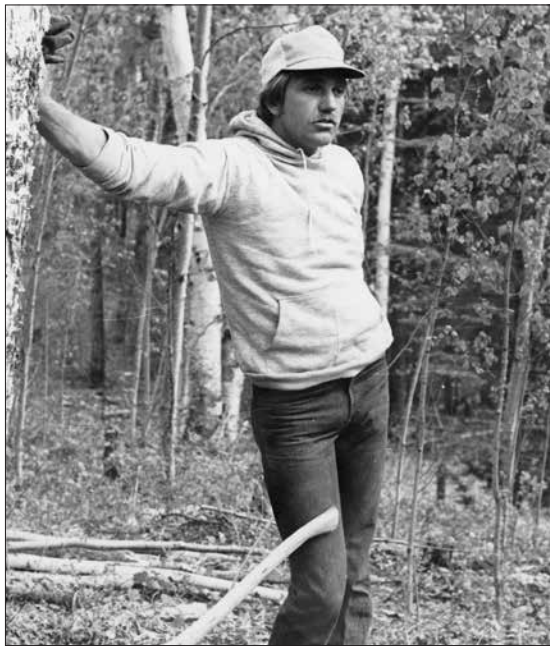
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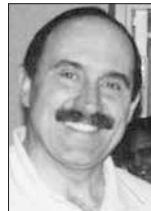
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“I can think of no single current contributor to our cause that we owe a greater debt of gratitude to.”

Thank You, Dave!

By Bob Gruszecki



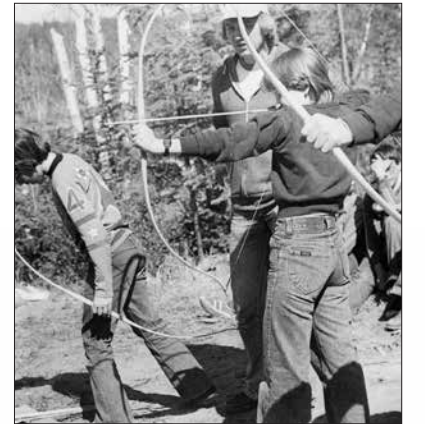
Bob Gruszecki
President - AHEIA

After a long and dedicated career, Dave Paplawski is announcing his pending retirement. Effective June 7, 2019 Dave will be leaving AHEIA to pursue some much earned rest and relaxation. It's hard to believe but Dave began his career in Conservation Education 43 years ago. Through the years, he has served with distinction and has earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues, students and industry professionals. His name has been associated with excellence since his arrival here in 1996 and he has had a hand in many AHEIA achievements. Not the least of which is the development of the AHEIA National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) and the development of the Calgary Firearms Centre and the Alford Lake Conservation Education Centre for Excellence.

I have often said that if one is to look up the definition of “Gentleman” in the dictionary ... Dave's picture would be there—no further definition required. His legacy and career has spanned the growth and development of most of the programs we now deliver. His mentoring and thoughtful dedication to the cause of Conservation Education has created thousands of committed and responsible hunters and anglers. He has had a hand in the building of the world class reputation that AHEIA enjoys. I can think of no single current contributor to our cause that we owe a greater debt of gratitude to.

Personally I have been blessed with his friendship for over 40 years and I will miss him very much. Who knows ... perhaps I can persuade him to stay involved in some ways on a go forward basis. Please pass on your thoughts to our friend Dave and wish him and Lucille the very best in their much deserved retirement years. Enjoy some of these pictures that show Dave doing what he loved and what we have come to appreciate as his legacy.

Thank you Dave!



“His mentoring and thoughtful dedication to the cause of Conservation Education has created thousands of committed and responsible hunters and anglers.”





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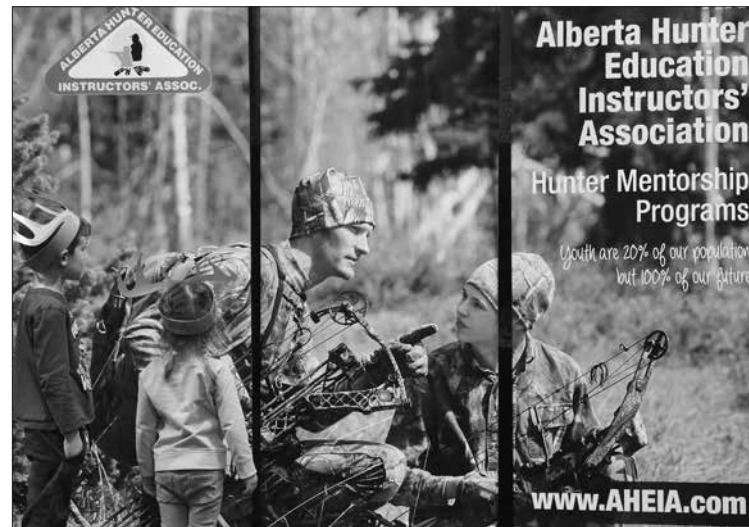
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Firearms Education Report

“ ... should Bill C-71 pass in its present format, or with amendments, there would be little to no effect on the CFSC. ”

By John Morrissey



John Morrissey
Firearms Education
Coordinator
AHEIA

The CFSC continues to roll along without any upcoming changes that we are aware of. At the time of this writing, Bill C-71 is still in review by the Senate. On February 15 the Senate Hearing Committee heard from some 21 witnesses, both for and against the Bill C-71 as it was presented.

By all appearances, should Bill C-71 pass in its present

format, or with amendments, there would be little to no effect on the CFSC. However, the application process for a Possession and Acquisition Licence, as well as the sale and purchase of firearms, would be affected.

Given the media attention over the past year revolving around Bill C-71 and the discussions on the proposed ban on handguns and assault rifles in Canada, as CFSC instructors or proctors you may be asked by your students about your views and opinions. Please remember, in the instructional setting we are only to present the program as it is laid out and not offer our

personal views on the program or any proposals that may profiled in the media. Outside of the instructional setting would be the appropriate time to have such discussions, as we all have our own unique views regarding firearms ownership in Canada.

In closing off my report for the spring of 2019, all the best for the upcoming summer and many thanks to our instructors, proctors and volun-

teers who make our programs possible. Have a good summer and, if you have the opportunity, introduce a newcomer to the outdoors, whether it be fishing, the shooting sports or any other wilderness activity, as the rewards for both you and the newcomer are endless.

As always, should you have any comments or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me at the Calgary office, or by email john@aheia.com.



On the Lighter Side, Please Don't Be This Guy:

BERLIN (AP) — A German court has ruled that a dog owner isn't fit to carry a firearms licence after his dog shot him with a rifle.

The Munich administrative court on Tuesday dismissed the man's appeal against an earlier decision by Bavarian authorities to withdraw his licence to own a rifle, as well as his hunting permit.

The decision followed a 2016 incident in which the man, a passionate hunter, was shot in the arm after his dog managed to release the trigger on a loaded rifle that was lying in his car.

The court ruled the hunter couldn't be relied upon "because it must be assumed that he will handle firearms and ammunition carelessly in future as well."

The man, whose name wasn't released, can appeal the verdict.

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

Photo of owl courtesy of Don Kesler Nature Photography.



Edmonton Report

“ If you are a Canadian Firearms Program instructor who still needs to teach courses to comply ... we can help. ”

By Len Gransch



Len Gransch
Program Coordinator
AHEIA
Red Deer - North

Our 2019 Youth Hunter Education Camps will run June 30 - July 5, July 7-12, July 14-19 and July 21-26. Registration forms are available for download on our website. Don't be disappointed as the camps traditionally sell out quickly. As I write this we are almost 70% sold out.

The 2019 Outdoor Youth Seminar is slated for August

23-25. I am still working on the logistics and will have them completed soon. To be placed on our Advance Notification List please email your request to edmontoninfo@aheia.com. Those on the list will receive registration information as soon as it is finalized.

Our Range Officer Workshop runs April 27, followed by our Shotgun Coaching Workshop on April 28. Both events will be held at our Alford Lake facility and registration forms are available for download at www.aheia.com. These workshops are open to all AHEIA instructors in good standing. For more information or to register please contact me directly at len@aheia.com. Space is limited and we are starting to fill up, so don't delay.

Please mark June 6, 2019 on your calendars. We will be holding our sixth annual Spring Fling Banquet in Edmonton at the Silvermoon Banquets on that day. Same great location as in previous years, only the name has changed. For more informa-

tion please contact me directly at len@aheia.com. We are already working diligently to make the 2019 event another great affair. Tickets are now available through our Edmonton office. Purchase your tickets no later than Wednesday, May 1 by noon and you will be entered into our Early Bird Draw. Up for grabs is a 597 Remington .22 calibre semi-automatic rifle with grey synthetic stock, detachable 10 round magazine and extra 30 round magazine. Also includes soft gun case, cleaning kit and 325 rounds of .22 LR ammunition. Retail value \$405. Hope to see you there!

Coming soon! Check our website regularly for the updated list of items that will be up for grabs at the Spring Fling Banquet. They will be added as we procure them.

We continue to look for volunteer support for all of our courses, camps, events, etc. If you, or any of our friends, wish to become part of something greater, please let me know. Giving back has great personal rewards. It really does make one feel great when they volunteer. At the end of the day, the more help we get the better for all involved.

If you are a Canadian Firearms Program instructor who still needs to teach courses to comply with your commitment with the CFO, we can help. If you are having difficulty teaching the required number of courses per year, simply contact the Edmonton or Calgary office and we will get you to assist with teaching one of our in-house courses. Perhaps you would like to attend one of our classes as a refresher. Either way we could use the help and it is a positive situation for everyone.

Well, Spring is almost here (fingers crossed) and my thoughts always turn to Spring black bear hunting. Baiting black bears tends to be a lot of work, but the effort and rewards make it well worthwhile. It is very enjoyable watching bears come into your site. I have learned a lot about their habits, which has made me a more successful hunter. I have written a few articles on the subject over the years. Check out our 2016 Spring Conservation Education Magazine for "Spring Black Bear Hunting" and our 2018 Spring edition for "Black Bear Tips". Back issues of our magazine can be located on our website. I hope you have as much fun chasing bears as I have over the last 40 years or so.

We have been experiencing a few issues with the firearms kits that instructors borrow. Each kit is inspected when it returns to ensure everything is in order and nothing is missing. Each kit also has an inventory list so that instructors can ensure that the correct items get returned. Frequently instructors will borrow multiple firearms kits. Often little attention to detail takes place and the kits are returned mixed up. This requires us to spend a fair amount of time re-sorting the kits. Also, kit dummy ammunition is missing, or other unapproved ammunition gets added. If there are issues with the firearms kit, we simply ask that you put a note in the gun case. Any questions please contact Chuck Strong or me at the Edmonton office.



*Take Care and
Enjoy the Great Outdoors!*

Spring Fling Early Bird Draw

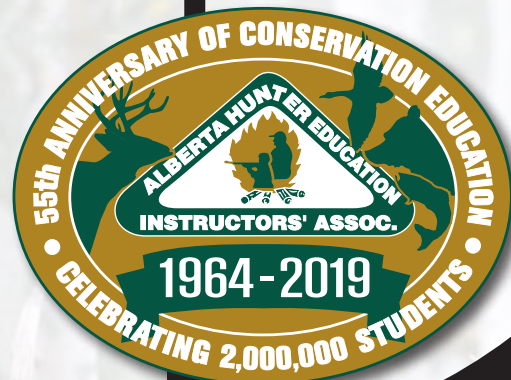


**Purchase your tickets for the 2019 Spring Fling
no later than Wednesday, May 1 at noon
and you will be entered into our Early Bird Draw!**

Up for grabs is a Remington 597 .22 calibre semi-automatic rifle with grey synthetic stock and 20" blued barrel and action. Also included are 10 and 30 round magazines, soft gun case, cleaning kit and 325 rounds of .22 long rifle ammunition. Retail value \$405.00.



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

FACT:

Our programs survive by donation.

FACT:

Economic woes affect us all, especially the charities.

FACT:

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

FACT:

Our goal is to continue excellent program delivery,
not to cut services or courses.

FACT: WE NEED YOUR HELP!

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“Whether it is angling, waterskiing or simply touring, our time on the water is made much more enjoyable and safer by observing safety and legal requirements.”

Personal Boating Safety

By Allan Orr



Allan Orr
Assistant Conservation
Education Coordinator
AHEIA, Red Deer - South

With spring approaching, our thoughts turn to things like open-water fun. Of course, pretty much every activity we undertake as outdoors enthusiasts involves some element of risk. One of the more enjoyable and higher risk activities in which we partake is boating. Whether it is angling, waterskiing (including kneeboarding, etc.) or simply touring, our time on the water is made much more enjoyable and safer by observing safety and legal requirements.

Since 2016, AHEIA has been providing Transport Canada accredited pleasure craft operator safety training. We are proud to report that since our course has been approved we have increased the annual number of in-class graduates in Alberta by over 500%. This is a testament to the dedication of our volunteer instructors in providing training for a safe and pleasurable outdoor experience in Alberta.

With this in mind, let's look at some of the more important aspects of personal boating safety that you should keep in mind while on the water.

Life Jackets and Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs)

By far the most important safety consideration a boater can make is to wear a flotation device (life jacket or PFD) at all times when on the water. Although Canadian law does not require people to wear them, AHEIA strongly recommends that each person wear a properly fitted flotation device while on the water. Up to 97% of drowning victims are found to be not wearing a flotation device¹, so it only makes sense to wear one at all times when on or around water.

There are a few things to keep in mind when purchasing, wearing and/or storing flotation devices.

First off, let's look at the differences between life jackets and PFDs.

Life Jackets

Life jackets, by design and definition, are meant to turn a person's head out of the water whether conscious or unconscious. This becomes critical when the victim is injured or is weakened by hypothermia or any other factor. There are several types of life jackets, but the most common and most familiar are the keyhole type that most of us remember from our childhood. These are also called "Standard Life Jackets" and come in two sizes: for people less than 40 kg (88 lbs) and for people over 40 kg.



Another type of life jacket, called a "Small Vessel Life Jacket", can be either a key-hole or a vest style. These will not turn you on your back as quickly as a standard life jacket but are a bit



more comfortable to wear. They come in three sizes: for people less than 18 kg (40 lbs), for people between 18 kg and 41 kg (40 lbs and 90 lbs) and for people over 41 kg (90 lbs).

Life jackets come in only three colours: red, yellow or orange.

“The best way to be legal and safe on the water is to learn more about pleasure craft operation by taking a Transport Canada accredited pleasure craft operators' course.”

PFDs

Much more popular than life jackets, PFDs are typically worn by people enjoying more rigorous on-water activities such as waterskiing, wakeboarding, etc., or canoeing/kayaking/stand-up paddleboarding. This is because PFDs are more comfortable to wear and come in any variety of styles and colours.

Be aware that even though these devices are more comfortable to wear, they will not turn you onto your back if you are not able to do so yourself. They typically are a solid vest-style jacket, but can also be inflatable. Inflatable PFDs must have an unpunctured and working inflation cartridge and an oral-inflation tube for use as a back-up.

Regularly check your PFDs for signs of wear by checking straps and buckles and looking for rips and tears in the material. If it's not up to standard for any reason, replace it. Repaired or modified PFDs are not approved for use.



Emergency Equipment

As well as the personal safety equipment discussed above, each vessel on the water must carry certain emergency equipment that may save the vessel occupants or others from distress in an emergency. The individual pieces of this equipment will vary according to the length and style of each vessel, but the following are basic pieces of equipment that you, as a responsible boater, must have on board:

1. Buoyant Heaving Line
2. Sound making device
3. Light emitting signaling device
4. Bailing device

These safety devices must be in working order (i.e. batteries in the flashlight) and can often be purchased in a kit such as those available through AHEIA or other boating equipment suppliers.

Other pieces of equipment such as re-boarding devices, life buoys, anchors, flood and firefighting equipment are required by different sizes of vessels and are a critical (and legal) part of any responsible vessel owner's on-board gear. The best way to be legal and safe on the water is to learn more about pleasure craft operation by taking a Transport Canada accredited pleasure craft operators' course.

AHEIA offers pleasure craft operator safety training in-class and online. Find out more about this training by contacting us at 1-866-852-4342 or online at AHEIA.com. Our online Pleasure Craft Operator Training (PCOT) course can be found at albertaboatsafety.com.



Marine Safety Kit

Each kit contains:

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¹ Lifesaving Society's 2018 Canadian Drowning Report, Drowning Prevention Research Centre Canada, pg 10.

2019 Edmonton Boat and Sportsmen's Show

By Len Gransch



Len Gransch
Program Coordinator
AHEIA
Red Deer - North

I am still surprised, when I talk to people about outdoor activities, that most have heard of the Edmonton Boat and Sportsmen's Show, but many have never attended. Wow, are they missing out on a remarkable event! Every March the Edmonton Expo Centre gets magically transformed into a special event that other cities are envious of.

Have you ever seen a waterskiing squirrel? I have. Twiggy was performing his waterskiing expertise daily to the delight of all observers young and old.

Other features included chainsaw carver Marina Cole who was demonstrating her talents. The West Coast Lumberjack Mountain Show team demonstrated their skills at everything lumberjack related. There were dog demos, reptile and bird displays, plus much more.

Numerous experts and manufacturers' pro staff were on hand for various instructional seminars. Something for everyone.

Not to be outdone, AHEIA had a large presence once again, featuring shooting and fishing simulators, a pellet gun shooting trailer, an archery shooting trailer, interactive displays, raffle ticket sales, the AHEIA store and more.

We also sponsored the AHEIA Alberta NASP Provincial Tournament. Please check out the report on this very successful event elsewhere in this magazine.

Make plans to attend next year's Edmonton Boat and Sportsmen's Show to be held March 12-15, 2020.

A special thanks to all the volunteers who assisted AHEIA with the 2019 Edmonton Boat and Sportsmen's Show. Your generosity and dedication once again helped make the event a big success. You all make my job easier, so thank you very much!



"I am still surprised, when I talk to people about outdoor activities, that most have heard of the Edmonton Boat and Sportsmen's Show, but many have never attended. Wow, are they missing out on a remarkable event! Every March the Edmonton Expo Centre gets magically transformed into a special event that other cities are envious of."



Mark your calendars
for next year's
**Edmonton Boat and
Sportsmen's Show**
March 12-15, 2020



26th Annual Outdoor Women's Program

August 7-11, 2019



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- Walk on the Wild Side
- Wildlife Identification
- Wilderness Cuisine
- Advanced Hunting - Big Game Animals
- Advanced Hunting - Waterfowl
- Building Your Own Survival Bracelet and Learning How to Use it
- Canoeing - Basic and Advanced
- Crossbows - Getting Started
- Field Techniques - Preparing Your Animal
- Firearms Basics - Guns, Guns, Guns
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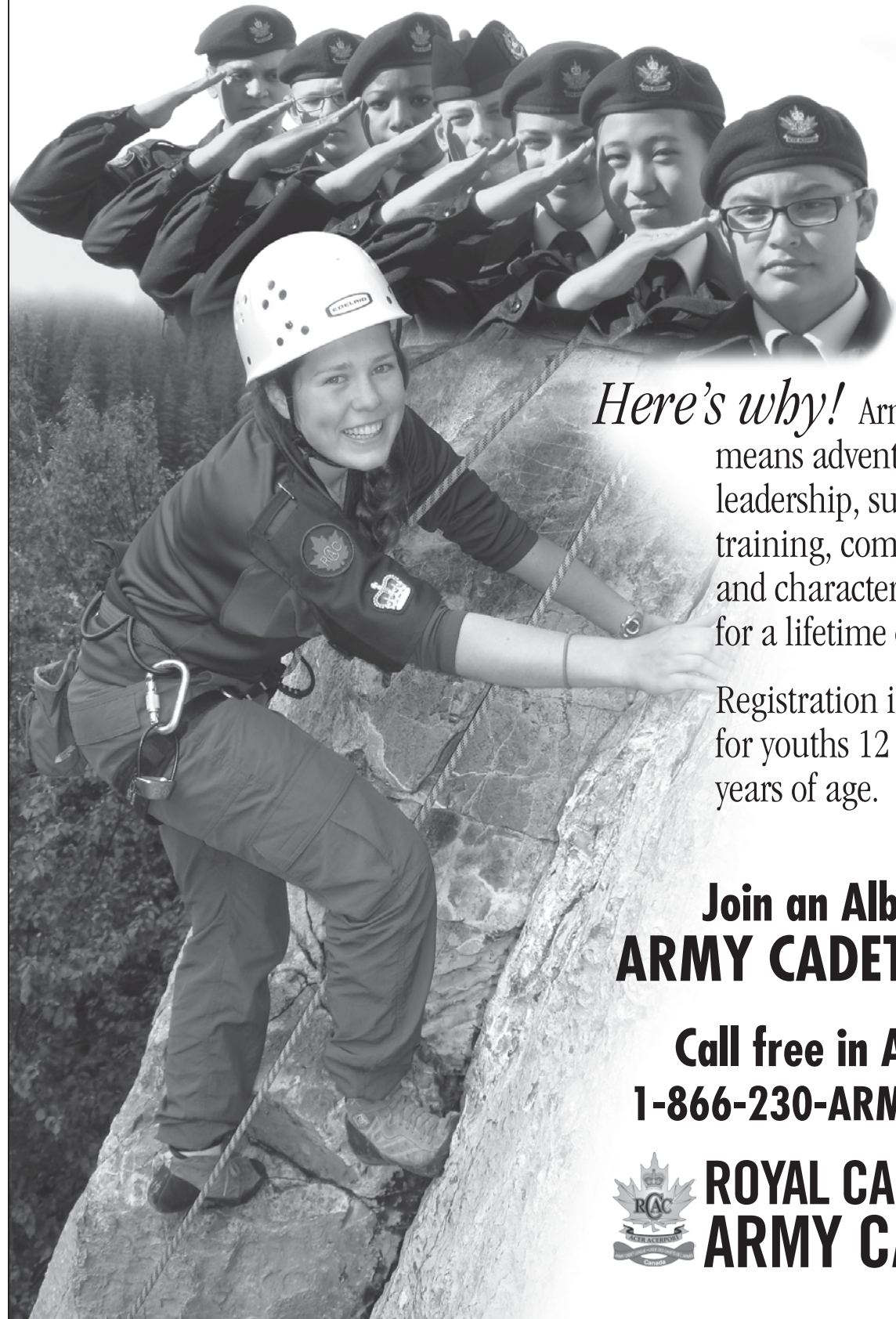
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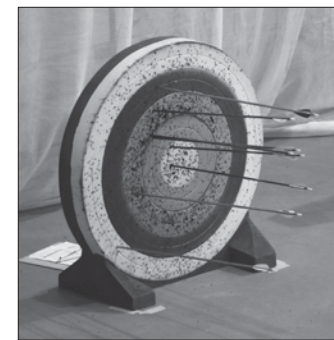
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AHEIA-NASP Provincial Archery Tournament

By Dave Paplawski



Dave Paplawski
Vice President &
Provincial Program
Coordinator
AHEIA.

The 2019 AHEIA-NASP Provincial Archery Tournament was held March 14-16 at the Edmonton Expo Centre during the Edmonton Boat and Sportsmen's Show.

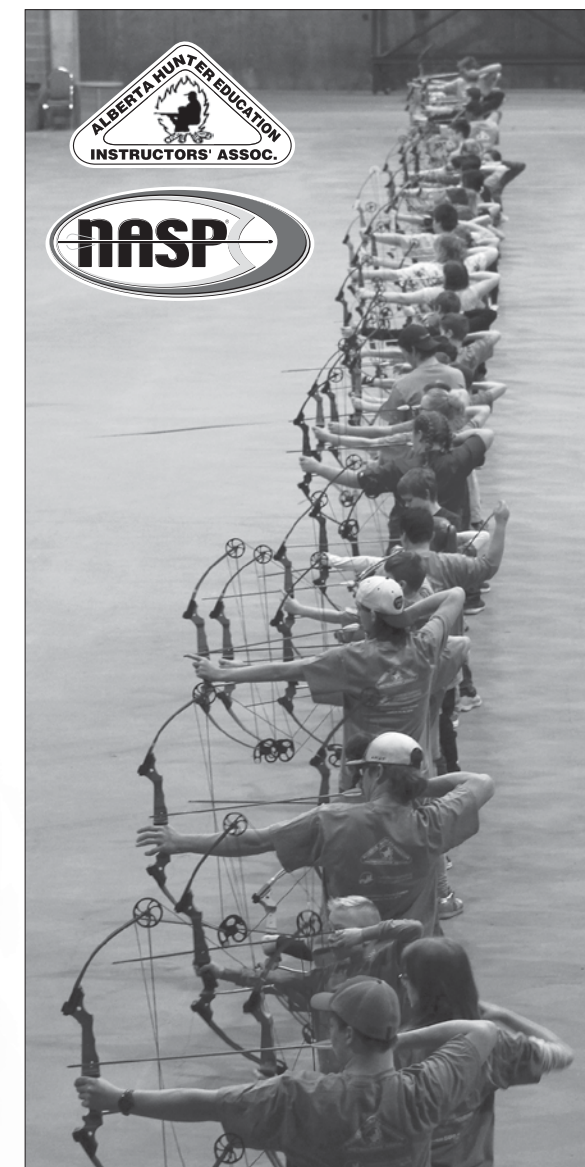
76 different schools attended, from Cardston to Grand Prairie. There were 1,751 boys and girls from grades 3-12 registered to compete and represent their school. The Junior High division had 677, Elementary division had 491, and High School division had just over 458 competitors attend and register a score. Over the three days of competition more than 70,000 arrows were shot, most of them hitting the targets. Along with the archers, over 300 coaches and 1,000 enthusiastic parents also attended.

The competition was intense with great scores, bullseye hits and many personal bests. At the conclusion of the tournament, the top female archer was Hailey Ashton from H.A. Kostash School in Smoky Lake with a score of 288/300, and top male archer, with 290/300, was Josh Litke from Gerard Redmond School in Hinton.

Congratulations to all the archers who attended and competed!

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

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



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May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, June 5

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**Draw Date: Friday, July 19, 2019
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**The Alberta Hunter Education
Instructors' Association**

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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.

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“Creating opportunities for those who may not normally have a chance to explore the outdoors and connect with wild places ...”

Mentored Hunts: The Next Step

By Glen Pickering



Glen Pickering

Taking the required Hunter Education Certification course, either in person or online, is the first step in becoming a hunter in Alberta, but a lot of pre-planning needs to take place before you can put into practice during an actual hunt what you have learned in class.

Getting started can be expensive for a first-time hunter, but there is a lot of good quality used gear that is available to help you out. The first difficult choice is trying to decide what type of firearm you are going to use. Whether you are archery or rifle hunting, it is important that your bow or rifle fits you and, more importantly, that you can shoot it accurately and consistently.

Picking a rifle with low recoil or adjusting the draw weight on your bow will help you establish your effective range, and this can only be accomplished through practice. Part of knowing your effective range is learning the flight path of your arrow or bullet and being able to judge distances in the field.

When practicing at a range it is important to practice different shooting positions once you have sighted in, so you are prepared to hold steady on game in the field. It is important to understand that getting the best possible rest with your rifle will help ensure a quick, clean kill. Also, first-time hunters often have trouble finding their game in a rifle scope, which is a skill that will become automatic by practicing proper stance/positioning and correctly mounting the gun to your shoulder.

As a first-time hunter your biggest challenge will be getting permission to access private land, something that often needs to be done well before the season begins. Find out what landowner access requirements are and if there will be any livestock present during the season. Pre-planning needs to take place in order to find out if a draw is required or if there is a general season for the species you are intending to hunt. Getting to know the area and learning the patterns of game are all part of the scouting that will help you prepare for the hunt.

Prepare for a successful hunt by always carrying your proper licence and tags for the WMU that you are hunting and know what the legal hunting times and season dates are for that area. Pre-planning for a successful hunt means knowing how to put your tag on, while retaining evidence of sex and species, plus skinning, gutting, cooling and packing your game out. Next you will need a plan to process your harvest by taking it to a butcher or learning how to do it yourself.

All this may seem a little overwhelming and that's where a mentor comes into play to help ensure a safe, quality experience. Each year, AHEIA provides and organizes many mentored hunts for first-time hunters to help with the transition from the classroom to the field. It provides the hunter with the opportunity to gain knowledge and experience by taking them through the process from purchasing a licence to processing their game.

Many questions are answered before the hunt regarding regulations, identification and shooting techniques. During the drive to the hunting location is a good time to make sure new hunters have their licence, know the legal shooting times and know what they are allowed to harvest with their antlerless tags or game bird licence. Generally, the hunter's main concern is to make a clean shot and not wound an animal.

This past year, two mentored hunters got within close range (under 60 yards) of a deer and felt they couldn't make a quality shot. They realized that trying to hold on target from the kneeling position or using a fence post is not as steady as resting on a shooting bench at the range. The right decision was made not to shoot. They took stock a second time to get them into position and this time a backpack was used as a rest in the prone position. In the excitement it is hard for new hunters to remember not to try and hold the gun up, but rest it on the pack. Time needs to be taken to make sure the deer does not have antlers, is at a good shooting angle to hit the vitals, and the shot itself is safe, as sometimes there is not a safe background to allow a shot.

All big game animals have a strong will to survive and even after a good shot you may have to track the animal to recover your harvest. Once the game is down the process of how to correctly tag the animal takes place and it's time to gain hands-on experience in field dressing. After the skinning stage most first time hunters have exceeded their learning capacities for the day and choose to take their harvest to a butcher. Pre-planning again comes into play in terms of finding out who butchers wild game in the area and what types of sausage you may like to get made. After a lot of questions, and help from a video, one hunter decided he wanted to cut and wrap his own deer and, seven hours later, he had done a great job at processing his first deer.

The mentored hunt program is designed to help first time hunters have a safe, legal and enjoyable experience, while building positive relationships with landowners. They will not have to hunt alone and will have someone to help them with the steps required to become an experienced and responsible hunter. Creating opportunities for those who may not normally have a chance to explore the outdoors and connect with wild places is rewarding for both the first time hunter and the mentor. Volunteers are always needed to help mentor the many new participants taking up the sport each year, so if you can find the time "Pay It Forward".



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.



Great Meals from the Harvest with Len Gransch



Len Gransch
Program Coordinator
AHEIA Red Deer - North

Moose Steak and Mushrooms

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 4, 4-ounce moose steaks, tenderized | 1/2 sweet onion, chopped |
| 4 tablespoons olive oil, divided | 2 bay leave, crushed |
| 1, 10.5-ounce can beef gravy | 1 cup all-purpose flour |
| 6 large fresh cremini mushrooms, sliced | Salt and pepper to taste |
| 1 tablespoon garlic, minced | 1/4 cup milk |
| 1/4 teaspoon Cayenne pepper | 1/2 cup parsley, minced |

Tenderize steaks with meat tenderizer until about 1/2 inch thick.

In a shallow pan combine flour, bay leaves, salt and pepper. Dredge steaks in flour until evenly coated and set aside.

In a large skillet heat 1 tablespoon olive oil over medium heat. Sauté onions until soft and translucent. Stir in mushrooms and garlic and cook until tender. Remove from skillet and set aside. Heat remaining oil and fry steaks for about 2 minutes on both sides or until golden brown. Return onion mixture to skillet. Stir in gravy and milk.

Reduce heat to low, cover and simmer for 30-40 minutes. Stir occasionally to prevent sticking.

Prior to serving top with parsley. Serve with creamy mashed potatoes and steamed carrots drizzled with honey.

This recipe also works well with elk or venison.

Venison Spinach Quiche

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 unbaked frozen pie shell, 9" | 1/2 pound ground venison meat |
| 1/2 pound fresh button mushrooms, sliced | 1/2 cup onions, chopped |
| 1/2 cup green pepper, chopped | 1, 4-ounce package feta cheese, crumbled |
| 6 large eggs | 3/4 cup half and half cream |
| 1/2 teaspoon salt | 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper |
| 1, 10-ounce package frozen chopped spinach (thaw and squeeze dry) | |

Line un-pricked pie shell with double thickness of heavy-duty aluminum foil. Bake at 450° F for 8 minutes. Remove foil and bake for another 5 minutes or until golden brown.

Meanwhile, in a large non-stick skillet cook the venison, mushrooms, onion and green peppers for 5-6 minutes or until meat is browned. Drain and spoon into crust.

Top with spinach and feta cheese.

In a bowl whisk the eggs, cream, salt and pepper. Pour evenly over feta and spinach.

Cover edges loosely with foil to prevent burning. Bake at 350 degrees for 45-50 minutes or until a knife inserted in the centre comes out clean. Let stand for 5-10 minutes prior to cutting.

For breakfast serve with some fresh fruit, or for a supper serve with a nice green salad.



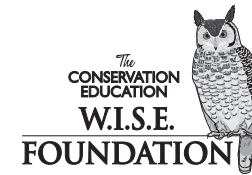
IN SUPPORT OF AHEIA

Over the weekend of March 30th and 31st, the Calgary Shooting Centre hosted their annual *Glock Days Charity Event* at which customers had the opportunity to try-out a variety of Glock handguns in the Calgary Shooting Centre's indoor range, enter several draws and receive special discounts on select merchandise. *Glock Days*, a yearly charity event through which the Calgary Shooting Centre donates proceeds to support charities, has generously supported AHEIA and our Conservation Education delivery programs over the past couple of years. The Calgary Shooting Centre also donated a beautiful Remington 870 WingMaster Shotgun to AHEIA and we are raffling this gun off, again to support our educational programming.

AHEIA would like to take this opportunity to thank the Calgary Shooting Centre for their continued support and for allowing AHEIA to participate in Glock Days in order to further spread our Conservation Education messaging to Albertans."



We encourage everyone to visit Glock Days next year!



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

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Service Conservation Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry Conservation Award |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer Instructor Conservation Award | <input type="checkbox"/> 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@ahcia.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.

AHEIA 2019 Ladies' Firearms Fundraiser

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For further details on any of these courses, contact:

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www.aheia.com

Staff Appointment



Jim Gratrix
Assistant
Program Coordinator
AHEIA - Calgary

I am pleased to announce that, effective March 25, 2019, Jim Gratrix has accepted a permanent, full-time position with AHEIA as an Assistant Conservation Education Program Coordinator in the Calgary office.

Jim was born in Ponoka and has lived and worked his entire life in Alberta. While at school for Renewal Resource Management and Conservation Enforcement, he worked in several areas including several weeks at the Conservation Centre for Excellence at Alford Lake. After 28 years in the Bylaw department at the City of Calgary, he returns

to AHEIA to offer his experience of being an active hunter and his wide knowledge of firearms and reloading. Jim is a board member with the Safari Club International Calgary Chapter, and is looking forward to being involved with our special events and programs such as the annual WISE Banquet and OWP.

Jim can be reached directly at 403-319-2289 and via email at jim@aheia.com.

Please join me in welcoming Jim to the AHEIA family!

Robert A. Gruszecki, President, AHEIA



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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!



2019 AHEIA Glock Days Raffle

Drawn March 31, 2019 at the Calgary Shooting Centre.



Ernst Kubitz

is the winner of 2 flats of AA Winchester Shotgun Ammo.

2019 AHEIA ATV Raffle

Drawn March 16, 2019 at the
Calgary Conservation Education Centre for Excellence.
Licence #519934.

Lorne Knudsen

is the winner of a 2018 Polaris Sportsman 450 H.O. EPS ATV.

2018 AHEIA Shotgun Raffle

Drawn February 15, 2019 at the
Calgary Conservation Education Centre for Excellence.
Licence #485437.

Tom Foss

is the winner of a matched pair of
Charles Boswell 20 gauge O/U shotguns.

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