

Fall 2018



Alberta Hunter Education
Instructors' Association

Conservation Education Magazine

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Conservation Education
in Alberta



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President's Message

“ Determining the requirements to hunt legally in the province can be a bit overwhelming ... ”

By Bob Gruszecki



Bob Gruszecki
President - AHEIA

There are several things that can be guaranteed when fall arrives in Alberta: cool nights and temperate days, the occasional snow storm (this year's fall storm in Calgary was record-breaking!), and the kickoff of hunting season.

At this time of year, the staff at our offices receive many phone calls with regards to draws and licences, hunting requirements and regulations. Determining the requirements to hunt legally in the province can be a bit overwhelming, especially for beginner and inexperienced hunters. For those of you considering hunting or are endeavouring to venture out this fall, below are answers to the most common questions we are asked, which will hopefully help start you on your path of becoming a responsible hunter.

Do I need to take a course to hunt in Alberta?

Yes. Since 2010 it is mandatory that to hunt in our province you must complete The Conservation and Hunter Education Training Program. The only exception to this would be for those who have hunted prior to 2010, proven through having a WIN card (Wildlife Identification Number) and having been issued licences, or have taken a course in another province. The Hunter Education Program is available online through our website, www.aheia.com, in-class at our Calgary and Edmonton offices, or through a certified Hunter Education Program Instructor in your area. Instructor listings can also be found on our website.

What, where and when can I hunt?

Take the time to become familiar with the Alberta Hunting Regulations Guide, available either online or in magazine format. It is a tremendous and essential resource if you are planning on hunting in Alberta. The guide covers in detail every hunting regulation and requirement in Alberta, along

with licensing, draws, non-resident restrictions, maps and much more. The regulations list the archery and general hunting seasons for various species based on Wildlife Management Units (WMU), which are the geographical areas of the province. By referring to the guide, you can determine what species you can hunt, in which areas of the province, and the dates hunting is permitted based on that criteria.

What is the importance of hunting tags and why do I need to fill out the information on the tags prior to going hunting?

If you have ventured into the wilderness with the intention of harvesting a game animal, you must have a hunting licence. In order to get a hunting licence, you will first need a hunting tag as they are numbered, and the number on the hunting tag will be entered onto your hunting licence application. Once your licence is issued, the following information must be entered onto the tag: the species you are licensed to hunt, your WIN Card number, and your name.

Continued ➤



The importance of this is to identify the harvest to the hunter. The hunting tag belongs to the person indicated on the tag, nobody else. It is illegal to shoot a big game animal or game bird on someone else's tag or licence. There is one exception and that is the Partner Licence. This is a licence issued to an eligible hunter that allows him or her to hunt a specific species in a specified WMU and season under the direct authority of a SPECIAL LICENCE held by another hunter successful in a draw. For specific details refer to the regulations, pages 14 and 17. You can pick up hunting tags for free at AHEIA offices as well as at participating stores such as Canadian Tire and Cabela's. A list of licence issuers also appears on www.albertarelm.com or contact the help desk, toll free at 1-888-944-5954. Also, remember to have your Wildlife Certificate tags and licences on your person whenever you are hunting. Remember: It is unlawful to carry or use another person's tag or allow another person to use your licence or tag.

When do I require permission to hunt?

Permission is not required to hunt on crown land, but a landowner's permission must be obtained before hunting on private or leased land. Prior to hunting, take time to contact the landowner by phone or in person for permission, and ideally written permission from the landowner is best. This will help alleviate any confusion from a family member not aware that you have been permitted to enter onto their land.

Do I have to submit harvested deer heads for testing?

Chronic Wasting Disease, or CWD, is a fatal disease of the brain of the deer family such as white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk and moose. In some areas of Alberta, CWD testing can be either mandatory or voluntary. Please refer to page 3 of the Hunting Regulations Guide which lists the mandatory areas from which deer heads must be submitted. Once tested, results will be emailed to you from Alberta Fish and Wildlife. If the test is positive, you are not required to use the meat from the harvested animal and it can be disposed. Please note, there is no scientific evidence that CWD can affect humans, however, it is your prerogative to dispose of the meat should the tests prove positive. If the test is negative, there is no allowance for meat to be wasted and it must be consumed.

Can I hunt in other provinces?

Every province has their own set of regulations for hunting. Please contact that province's Fish and Wildlife office equivalent for those requirements. Most recently, Alberta residents wanting to hunt in BC can become frustrated with BC's strict requirements. Almost daily we receive calls from people who are not permitted to hunt in BC because they cannot provide proof of taking a Hunter Education Course or the fact that they have hunted many years in Alberta. Regardless of age, experience or wildlife certification, you must be able to prove you have taken and passed a Hunter Education course in order to hunt in BC. If you have passed the Alberta Hunter Education Program as far back as the year 2000, but have lost your certification number, contact our Edmonton office at 780-466-6682 and they will provide you with your number.

Hunting rules and regulations have been established in order to harvest surplus species in our province. By understanding and respecting

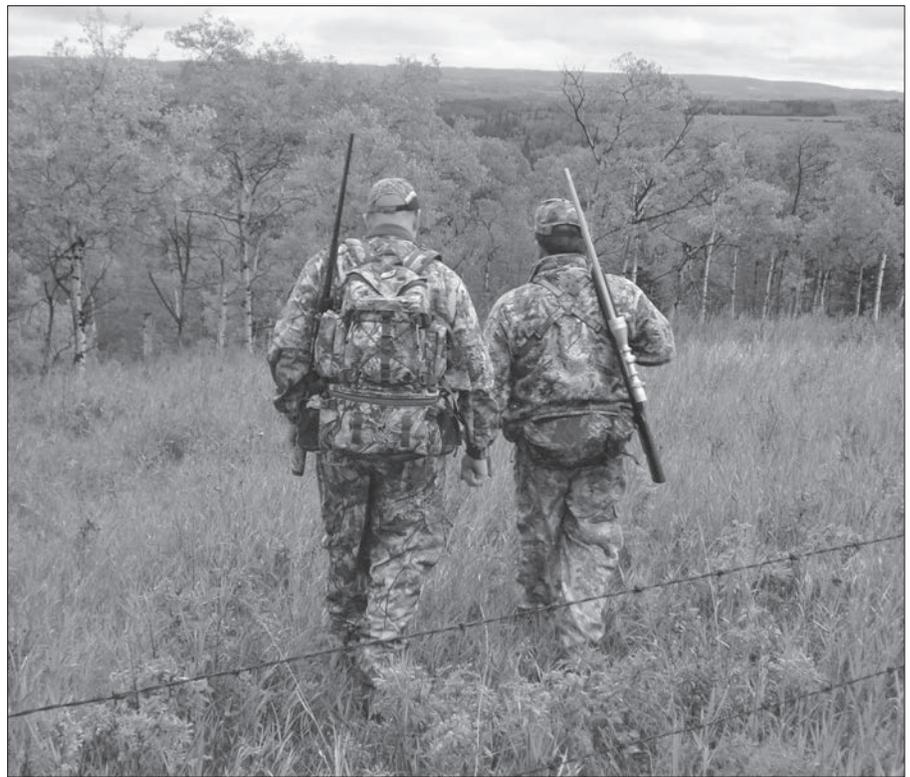
these rules, you will not only be a respectful and law-abiding hunter, but you will also be contributing to the conservation of our resources and helping to manage wildlife. If you cannot find an answer to your questions in the Hunting Regulations Guide, call Alberta Fish and Wildlife or one of our offices and we will endeavour to help.

This is also a fitting place to extend to each of you on behalf of our entire family, all the very best for a happy and restful Christmas! May the new year bring each of you much fun, safe trails and many rewards! I look forward to seeing you at one of the upcoming AHEIA open houses, our upcoming AGM, or in the new year at the 17th Annual W.I.S.E. Awards.

Cheers!



Robert A. Gruszecki, President, AHEIA



This Issue's Feature Articles:

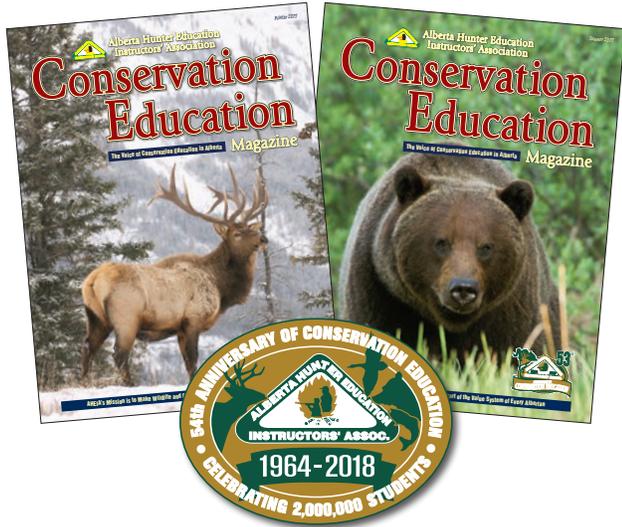
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Front Cover Photo:

Courtesy Don Kesler Nature Photography



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

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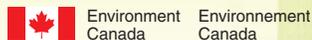
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Without habitat ... there is no wildlife. It's that simple!

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

Save this date:

FEBRUARY 9, 2019



For the 17th Annual

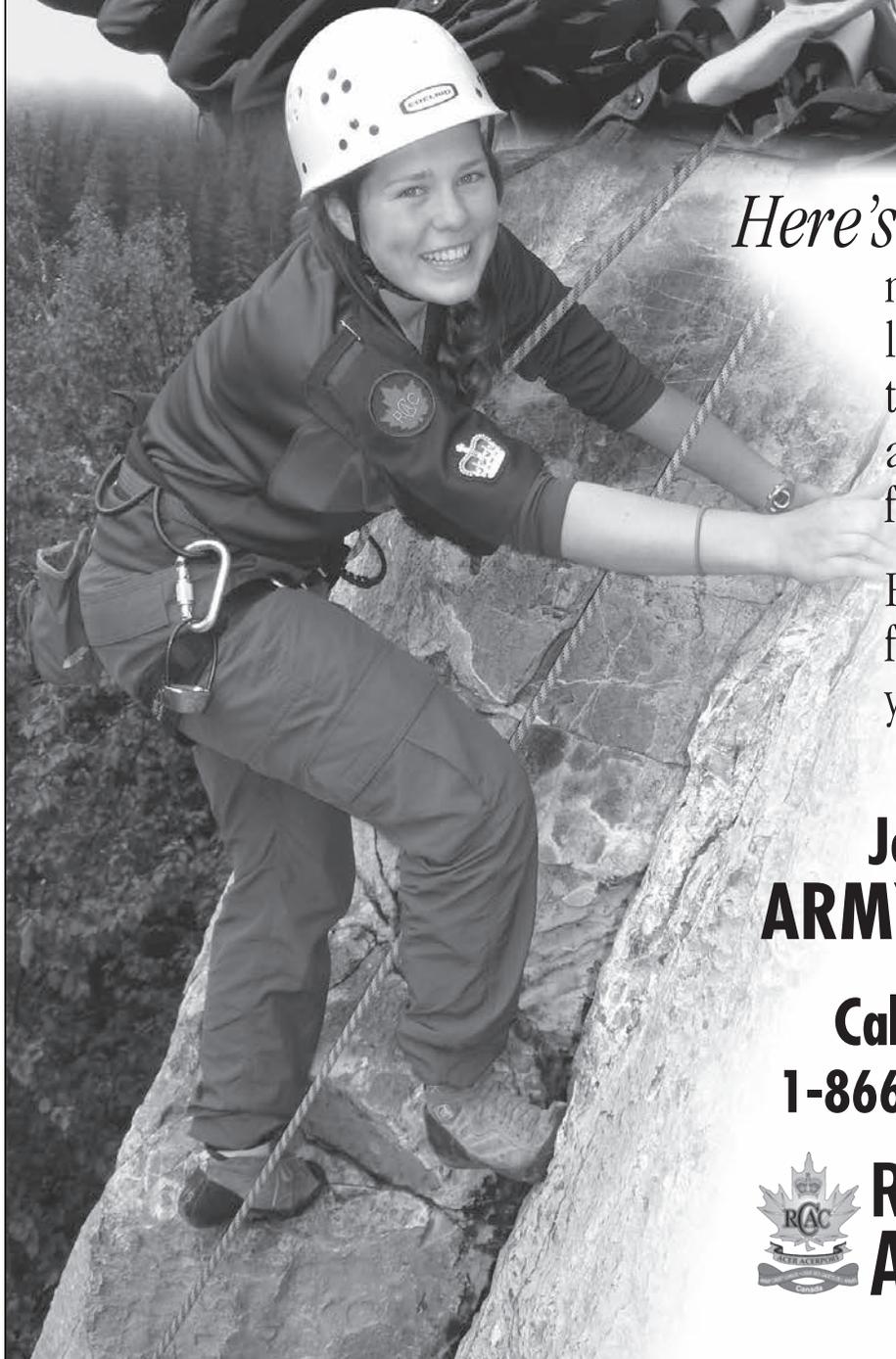
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Edmonton Report

“ We will be providing special workshops for new and existing volunteers to expand their knowledge ... ”

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 Centre for Excellence and required a vast number of volunteers to make everything happen. Without these remarkable

people we would be hard pressed to deliver the quality programming we have become known for. The search for volunteer assistance is an ongoing process. We never cease to need help at our numerous camps and other events, such as sports shows and various 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 we do.

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 implementation, the Alberta Chief Firearms Office heard from AHEIA and a number of our Firearms Safety Course instruc-

tors that the new agreements eliminated the use of non-designated assistants for the administrative positions in the classroom. This 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, or to apply, simply contact me directly and I will guide you through the process. For those instructors 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 our next issue.

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



Mark Your Calendar!

Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association Annual General Meeting

Sunday, January 20, 2019 • 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!





Firearms Education Report

“ With fall and winter approaching, I'm confident we will see an increase in students prior to year end. ”

By John Morrissey



John Morrissey
Firearms Education
Coordinator
AHEIA

As some of you know, Glenn McKay has taken a well-deserved retirement as the Firearms Education Coordinator. The staff and volunteers at AHEIA wish Glenn all the best, and I'm sure we will see him at events in a volunteer capacity.

As for the Canadian Firearms Program, the number of students for 2018 is down slightly from this time last fall. As of August 31, 2018, we have certified 19,489 students. With fall and winter approaching, I'm confident we will see an increase in students prior to year end. With respect to our instructors, the Proctor program has helped in reducing the number of course reports with errors. However, please review your paperwork prior to sending it in, as

it cannot be processed if errors are found. This creates further delays in the student's application process. I would also ask that instructors please add their name and contact info to the online instructor list. This will assist students to source a local instructor. Also, as an instructor, if you feel it is time to "hang up your guns", so to speak, please let AHEIA, as well as the CFO's office, know of your intentions.

With Parliament due to reconvene for the fall session, we may see updates on *Bill C71, An Act to Amend Certain Acts and Regulations in Relation to Firearms*. In reviewing the Bill in relation to the Canadian Firearms Program, there appears to be little to no changes to the program. For those of you who are unfamiliar with Bill C71, some of the key points, or proposed measures, are:

- Anyone selling or giving a non-restricted firearm, including private sellers, will be required to verify the validity of the firearms licence of the recipient with the Canadian Firearms Program (CFP).

- In determining whether a person is eligible for a firearms licence, authorities will be required to consider specific information from the person's life history, whereas the current requirement to report is the past five years.
- The only automatic authorization for restricted or prohibited firearms would be for the two most common transport purposes: to an owner's home following a purchase, and to approved shooting clubs or ranges within the province of residence.
- Granting the RCMP legislated authority to classify firearms.

In closing, many thanks to all the firearms instructors and proctors. Should you have questions or concerns, please contact me at

john@ahiea.com



Important Notice to Instructors:

Shipping of Firearm Training Kits

By Glenn McKay



Glenn McKay
Past
Firearms Education
Coordinator
AHEIA

On July 9, 2018, Greyhound (Canada) Ltd. announced that they were shutting down operations in the Prairie provinces, including Alberta.

What does this mean to AHEIA firearms instructors? Since 2002, when the administration of the firearms program was undertaken by AHEIA, we have had the ability to ship firearm training kits to various locations within the province. The pricing was borne by the instructors and, ultimately, by the students. Although this was an efficient method, it paled in comparison to having the instructor with their own set of firearms to use.

Based on Greyhound's decision, other methods of shipping will have to be investigated which may end up costing more for the students. At this point in the search, it has not been determined which shipping method for the firearm kits is best, as some areas do not have a company that will ship to "your town". It may be the time to invest in your own firearms training kit(s). The reason is simple: they're your's, so you get to know them, and shipping time is non-existent.

In preparation for the end of Greyhound's operations on October 31, see who will deliver firearms to you, the associated costs, and the time it will take to have the kits delivered. Once you have that information, and you call to order your supplies, let the AHEIA staff know the shipping method to be used that will work best for you and your students.



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Firearms Questions?

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W.I.S.E. Award Nominations

Recognize Conservation Excellence

Nominations for the 2019 W.I.S.E. Awards are now being accepted.

Initiated 16 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 9, 2019, 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:

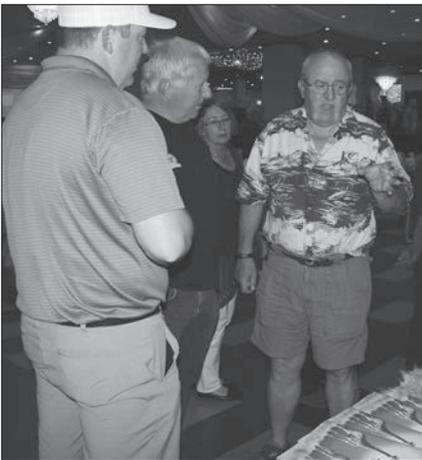
To Make Wildlife and Fish Part of the Value System of Every Albertan.

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.

“... it was wonderful to see old and new colleagues getting together to celebrate Conservation Education.”

2018 Spring Fling Fundraising Banquet



By Len Gransch



Len Gransch
Program Coordinator
AHEIA
Red Deer - North

June 7, 2018 marked our 5th Annual Spring Fling fundraising banquet. The event was very well attended and it was wonderful to see old and new colleagues 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 attend next year. Our 6th Annual 2019 Spring Fling will be held on Thursday, June 6, 2019 at the Palace Banquet and Wedding Facility in Edmonton. More details will be available soon.

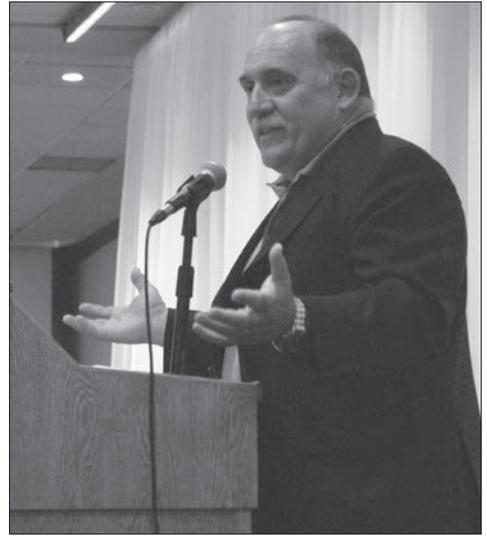
Those attending this year had a vast selection of items available to tempt them including a live auction, specialty packages, bucket raffles, silent auction items, the Cabela's backyard grilling and smoking package, and the beer for a year raffle. The live auction featured a custom metal sign, two African safaris, our popular elimina-

tion auction with the winner choosing a fire-arm, deluxe float tube with fly rod and reel set, three day marksmanship rifle course with Rob Furlong, special wild game dinner for six from Normand's restaurant, Wild Sheep Foundation package, Franchi DU commemorative shotgun, Benelli Ethos shotgun, waterfowl hunt courtesy of Claude Boiteau, 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 smiling faces and happy people enjoying themselves during the event.

This year's door prize of a Keurig coffee system and a selection of beverages was won by Heaven Makois. Graham Construction was the winner of the early bird draw. They received a Savage 64 FXP .22 calibre semi-automatic rifle complete with a 3-9x40 scope, accessories and a hard case. Congratulation to both winners and thanks for the support. Next year's winner could be you!

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 commitment is very much appreciated indeed.





This year's Volunteer Award was presented to Terry James. Terry is a Canadian Firearms Program and Conservation and Hunter Education certified instructor. He is very active in the outdoor community and is currently the president of the Leduc Fish and Game Association. Terry frequently volunteers at our numerous events and camps, as well as our in-house courses. When Terry is scheduled to assist with our firearms courses he comes to the office in the morning and spends the day cleaning and maintaining our firearms. These firearms have never been in better condition. Thanks and congratulations to Mr. James.

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 award recipient is randomly picked from this database of volunteer names. The more frequently you volunteer, the higher the chance you have to receive the award. Thanks to Marvin Kleinbert for anchoring the live auction as our auctioneer. Thanks also goes out to our MC, Eric Moland, who helped make everything run smoothly and managed to tell a good joke or two. Recognition also goes out to all the staff and volunteers who helped make this event a big success. We could not do it without you.

Special thanks once again to the Taliani family, who run the Palace Banquet and Wedding Facility. They have hosted our event since its inception. Their friendly family attitude and dedication to detail really make this event a huge success. The plentiful variety of fresh and delicious tasting food is always a welcome treat. If you are considering holding an event in Edmonton, whether it is a wedding, reunion or banquet, give them a call at 780-468-6006. You will not be disappointed. See you next year!



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The Grengine won the 2018 **Defense Innovation Award** at the US Defense Techconnect and is used to power the Canadian Special Forces division.



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Discounts expire December 15, 2018.

AHEIA Recipient of Two Cabela's Canada Outdoor Fund Grants

Cabela's Canada has recognized AHEIA's conservation education programming by awarding AHEIA two Cabela's Canada Outdoor Fund grants in June. Stephen Gagne, General Manager, and Sean Smallwood, Retail Events Coordinator, of Calgary's Cabela's location were on hand to present the grants to AHEIA. One grant is earmarked to support AHEIA's 25th Annual Outdoor Women's Program, with the other grant being used to purchase 10 fly tying kits to be used in our various educational programs and for loan to groups with students in outdoor programming.

AHEIA is very appreciative of Cabela's relationship with us and encourage AHEIA members to support our partners in conservation education.



Sean Smallwood, Retail Events Coordinator, Cabela's Calgary (left) presenting grant cheque to Dave Paplowski, Vice President and Provincial Program Coordinator, AHEIA (right) at this year's Outdoor Women's Program.



Stephen Gagne, General Manager, Cabela's Calgary (left) and Sean Smallwood, Retail Events Coordinator, Cabela's Calgary (right) presenting grant cheque to David Dolph, Executive Director, AHEIA.

The Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association
invites you to our

2018 Christmas Open Houses

Thursday, December 6, 2018
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

Tuesday December 11, 2018
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

*We hope
to see
you there!*

Please kindly RSVP





Outdoor Women's Program

By Dave Paplawski



Dave Paplawski
Vice President &
Provincial Program
Coordinator
A.H.E.I.A.

From August 9-12, at the Alford Lake Conservation Education Centre for Excellence, 148 women and 50 volunteer instructors celebrated the 25th Anniversary of AHEIA's Outdoor Women's Program. Since its inception in 1994, just under 3,000 women have attended the four-day event, learning and connecting with Alberta's wonderful outdoors. The Outdoor Women's Program (OWP) encourages women to enjoy the great outdoors by providing opportunity 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, quadding to walking stick making, firearms basics to field dressing. OWP has something for every woman to learn and enjoy.

This year the ladies braved everything from +39°C temperatures on Friday to +9°C and rain on Sunday morning. As always though, the rain, snow, heat or cold temperatures did not slow the ladies down from any of their sessions.



**Next year's Outdoor Women's Program
will be held August 7-11, 2019
at the Alford Lake Conservation Education
Centre for Excellence**

If you are interested in attending or helping to instruct, contact:

AHEIA Calgary

info@acheia.com • 403-252-8474

Dave Paplawski

Conservation Education Coordinator

dave@acheia.com • 403-319-2277

“ Thank you for the camp! I had the time of my life!
It was an unforgettable experience and
I look forward to going back next year! ”

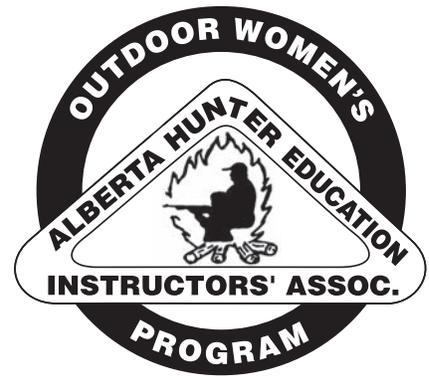
“ It was an absolutely amazing experience.
I would highly recommend this camp to any ladies
interested in outdoor programs or even ladies who know
nothing about hunting and fishing,
but have boyfriends or husbands who enjoy the outdoors! ”

“ I really enjoyed the activities I got to participate in.
Fly tying, fly fishing, photography, wood carving,
walking stick making, survival walk and all the extra options.
Love hanging with old friends and meeting new people. Great time! ”

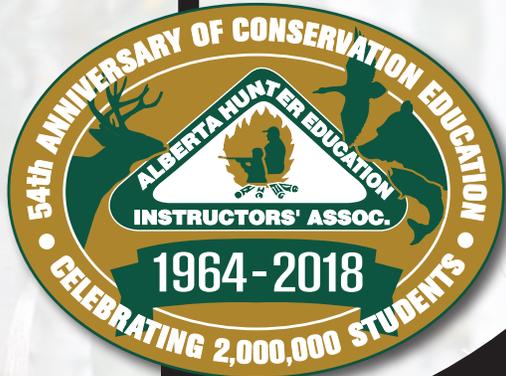
“ My favourite class was the Guns, Guns, Guns lesson.
The optional classes were really cool as well. I loved painting the arrow.
The camp was amazing and the 3D Archery course was really cool! ”

“ The volunteers/teachers were unreal.
I was a little trigger happy at first and didn't follow the skeet properly,
but I finally hit one! I can't wait to attend next year! ”

“ The AHEIA Outdoor Women's Program was an amazing experience.
The instructors and volunteers were very experienced and patient
while teaching the participants.
I saw many women, who have never touched a gun in their lives,
go home with the intention of buying a firearm!
I would highly recommend the AHEIA camp to any women
that want to learn more about the outdoors, firearms and hunting! ”



SURVIVAL IS IN OUR CROSSHAIRS



CON CAPIT

DID YOU KNOW:

- that it takes an annual operating budget of approximately \$4.3 million to deliver all facets of Conservation Education to approximately 100,000 Albertans annually?
- 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!

PLEASE CONSIDER

CONSERVATION EDUCATION FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

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!

In 2018 our programs will reach over 100,000 men, women, and children
of all ages and our projections for 2019 are to reach an even larger audience.

Our fundraising efforts are being supplemented with a new
fundraising campaign to appeal to those we serve.

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will receive an
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A FULLY TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO OUR CAUSE.

“Interest in the outdoors and hunting-associated activities continues to be of importance to our young people.”

2018 Youth Hunter Education Camps

By Len Gransch



Len Gransch
Program Coordinator
AHEIA
Red Deer - North

Our Youth Hunter Education Camp continues to be one of AHEIA's most popular programs. Interest in the outdoors and hunting-associated activities continues to be of importance to our young people. I personally find this very refreshing, considering this modern era of social media and other electronic distractions.

I am very pleased to report that we have another enthusiastic group of new youngsters who will be joining the hunting/outdoor community. Welcome aboard! The latest batch to pass through our Alford Lake Conservation Education Centre of Excellence 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 entail. The camp is a five-day event of fun-filled learning activities. Experts share their knowledge and provide instruction in the Alberta Conservation and Hunter Education Program, the Canadian Firearms Safety Course and much more!



The cost for the 2018 Youth Hunter Education Camp was a great value at \$395.00 per person plus GST. This fee included lodging, breakfast, lunch and supper Monday through Thursday, and breakfast on Friday. Also included were all instruction, course handbooks and testing for the various certifications as well as an AHEIA 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 Minor's Possession Licence for firearms.

If you missed out on our 2018 camps and wish to be placed on our 2019 Notification List, please email us at edmontoninfo@aheia.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 2019 Youth Hunter Education Camps will run:

June 30 - July 5

July 7-12

July 14-19

July 21-26





“ ... we have another enthusiastic group of new youngsters who will be joining the hunting/outdoor community. Welcome aboard! ”



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.



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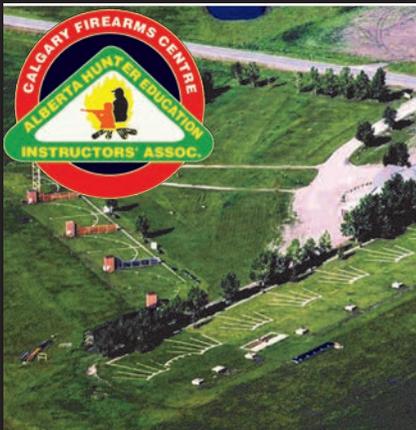
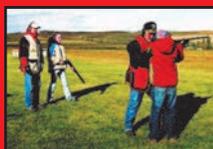
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AHEIA Receives Alberta Provincial Government Grant



Honourable Brandy Payne, our MLA for the Calgary Centre, presenting grant to Bob Gruszecki, President, AHEIA.

The Alberta Provincial Government has granted AHEIA funding based on our work being done in the community from the Calgary office and the need for some mechanical upgrades in the building itself. A matching grant from their Alberta Culture and Tourism Ministry will aid our work in fostering healthy and vibrant communities across Alberta.

This grant is to be utilized in building upgrades in our aging centre and we are very pleased to receive these much needed funds. The Province has been most helpful to our program and Minister of AEP, Shannon Phillips, as well as Associate Minister of Health, Brandy Payne have been strong advocates of our program and our cause. We are fortunate to have a very solid working relationship with this Government!



NEW DISCOUNT FOR AHEIA MEMBERS



CTOMS (Canadian Tactical & Operational Medical Solutions) has created a custom course discount for all AHEIA members interested in completing the online

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Upon completion of the course, a certificate will be generated that members can print off.

“It was the whole package which we imparted to them ... walking 10 minutes into the forest, working as a team, enjoying the beautiful outdoors around us.”

Learning With AHEIA

By Hayley Rothenburg

It was four years ago when I was searching online for a hunting course. I didn't know what I was looking for, but I was clear I wanted to hunt for food. I knew nothing about AHEIA and I didn't know anyone who could show me how to hunt. I was a first-class GREEN girl from the streets of London who wanted to hunt. I'd never picked up a rifle, a bow or knew any of the jargon that went with the hunting world. It was a lot of work to sort through all the hunting information to figure out my first steps.

I Googled "Hunting Alberta" and within a few clicks the "AHEIA Outdoor Women's Program" came up on the search engine. I was so thrilled, jumping from word to word, with a few key words standing out to me, "Firearms", "Survival Night", "Archery", "Big Game Hunting" and "Skinning Techniques". I thought to myself, "There must be a catch? This sounds too good to be true!" Everything I wanted to do in five days and all this for

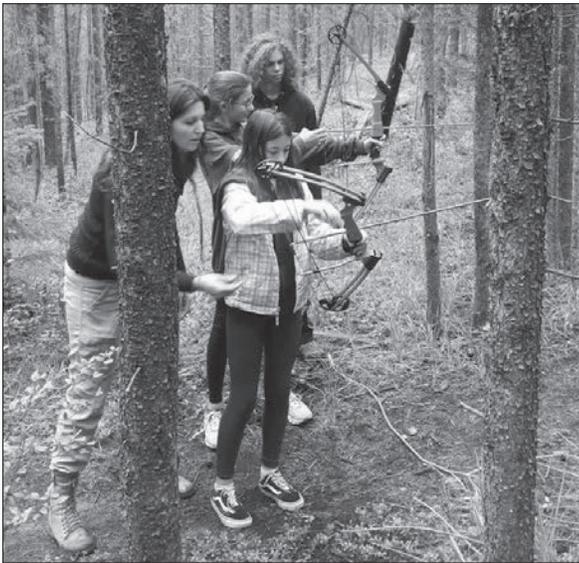


only a few dollars, with food included! Must be something wrong here, so I kept it quiet and only told my long-time friend Diana.

We both signed up immediately, took the same classes and jumped into the deep end. We signed up for the survival night and the firearms course. I am not even sure how we both got a place because the Outdoor Women's Program usually is filled up in less than 24 hours, but there was this magical flow happening for us, and we were not saying no!

The moment we entered Alford Lake we were on fire and we couldn't get enough! It was love at first sight and we felt very much at home! When we were not in sessions we were on the 3D archery range every night with Ken or at the gun range. We were inexhaustible! We drove everyone nuts with our questions, our complete green enthusiasm, and we hassled every instructor for as much information as we could learn. We ambushed Dave the moment we heard mentored hunts start in three months time!

I also bought my first recurve bow the same year we discovered the Outdoor Women's Program, and I began shooting arrows whenever I got the chance, but there was nothing like the 3D Archery at Alford Lake. I so wanted to learn bowhunting, but I



couldn't see the bigger picture yet of "how" because I was still assimilating the very, very basics. Bowhunting did not even seem an option to me, but everything changed this year with a few encouraging forward steps through the support of AHEIA.

This summer I also took a group of 10 kids on an archery workshop in Nordegg with the help of my friend, Debbie, and her son, Jonah, borrowing equipment, targets, bows and arrows from AHEIA. I learned the safety requirements and all the kids had to watch a safety video before attending the workshop. They also had to answer a number of questions correctly before even being able to pick up a bow and shoot.

We wanted them to have a full experience, so the kids carried all the gear, the targets, bows and the arrows to our safe spot on a hill amongst the trees. They even got to decide where on the hill the targets would go. We spent nearly two hours together in the forest and it was beautiful. Later many more kids wanted to try, and we had a waiting list, including parents!

In one way, what I discovered when hunting carries through to teaching archery to kids. The year I took my first deer I discovered what type of hunter I wanted to be. It was not about the kill or getting a deer. It was about the whole experience, the scouting, the walking, different terrains, the connections, the friendships and being warm! I felt the same thing when I was teaching archery to the kids. It was the whole

package which we imparted to them ... walking 10 minutes into the forest, working as a team and enjoying the beautiful outdoors around us.

Through AHEIA's support, and what they offer, I've been able to take these new steps into a bigger arena. AHEIA is not just a Hunter Education Instructors' Association, rather they are an "Association of the Heart" and they instruct goodness into each one of us. They make things happen and they make it easy and safe for us to learn and grow. They have touched so many of us and helped us realize we can do anything we want if we believe we can, and they will stand by our side while we discover we can.

This year my horizon expanded from deer hunting to waterfowl education to finding a mentor who will show me the ropes of bowhunting. From buying my first compound bow to mentoring kids as they learn archery. I LOVE AHEIA and look forward to the day that I will be proudly wearing an AHEIA instructor's T-shirt at a youth or women's camp or becoming a woman mentor for AHEIA. I will do it with my "Heart on my T-shirt" just like these guys do.

Thank you, AHEIA!





Great Meals from the Harvest

with Len Gransch

Slow Cooker Saucy Moose Chops

- 4 bone-in moose chops (approximately 8 ounces each)
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 tablespoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon fresh ground black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon sweet paprika
- 1/2 teaspoon dried ginger
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 2 cups of your favourite ketchup
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 cup packed medium brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon liquid smoke

Sprinkle both sides of the moose chops with garlic powder, salt, pepper, paprika and ginger. In a large skillet, brown the chops on both sides in the vegetable oil. Drain and set aside.

In a small bowl combine ketchup, Worcestershire sauce, brown sugar and liquid smoke. Add the pan drippings for extra flavour. Pour half the sauce into your slow cooker and spread around. Top with moose chops and remaining sauce.

Cover and cook on low for 4-5 hours, or until the meat is tender.

Serve with your favourite starch and vegetable.

Add some rustic bread or rolls and a nice glass of red wine and you are good to go.

Enjoy!

Elk Pasta Pizza Bake

- 1 pound ground elk (or any wild game)
- 8 ounces uncooked elbow macaroni
- 2 tablespoons canola oil
- 1/2 tablespoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon fresh cracked black pepper
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne powder
- 1 - 16 ounce can pizza sauce
- 1 cup shredded medium cheddar cheese
- 2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1 - 284 ml can mushroom stems and pieces (drained)

Cook the macaroni according to the manufacturer's directions.

In a large skillet, add the canola oil and cook the elk, salt, pepper, garlic powder and cayenne powder over medium heat until the meat is cooked through.

Drain the macaroni and place half in a greased, 2-quart baking dish. Top with half the pizza sauce, mushrooms and cheeses. Repeat, making another layer with the rest of the macaroni, mushrooms, pizza sauce and cheese.

Cover and bake at 350°F for 15 minutes. Uncover and bake for a further 10 minutes, or until it is heated through and the cheese is melted.

Adding a Caesar salad and a Sleeman Cream Ale will make this just what the doctor ordered!



Len Gransch
Program Coordinator
AHEIA Red Deer - North

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“Awareness and knowledge of the areas you are hiking, fishing, or hunting will enhance your ability to observe these incredible animals in their natural habitat ...”

Bear Awareness

By Glen Pickering



Glen Pickering
Assistant Conservation
Education Coordinator
AHEIA Red Deer - South

As fall approaches, outdoor enthusiasts need to be more aware of, and plan for, potential bear encounters. At this time of the year the bears spend more time feeding out in the open, and move down into lower locations to find berries, trying to put on that essential layer of fat. Roadsides, hiking trails, creeks, and campgrounds which have been cleared of heavy trees, are perfect areas where these berries can be found and, as a result, bear/human encounters increase in these areas at this time of year. Good examples are the campgrounds and bike trails in Peter Lougheed Provincial Park where you will find an abundance of buffalo berries. The bears forego their fear of humans and concentrate in these areas until the food source is depleted, and will aggressively defend them if need be. Avoiding these areas is ideal, or making sure you are making sufficient noise as you pass

by a berry patch will reduce bear encounters, but carrying some type of bear defense is essential.

In Provincial Parks you can't carry firearms unless they are unloaded and encased, and you are on a direct route through the park. In Wildland Parks, where hunting seasons exist, you can only carry a firearm during an open season, so be aware of all boundaries and park restrictions before you venture out. Therefore, your best line of defense is to carry bear spray. Carrying bear spray in your backpack is useless and it should be carried in your hand or in some type of harness where it can be quickly accessed.

Bear spray, like any other piece of equipment you carry, must work and you must know how to use it. The first thing you need to do with bear spray is cut off the protective tie strap and practice taking off the white tab, which prevents accidental discharge, in a safe area. You can also replace your tie strap when not in use to prevent accidental discharge. All cans have an expiry date, which doesn't mean the contents go bad, but that it could lose its charge pressure, reducing its range. Typically, the maximum effective range is around 9-10 metres, depending on wind speed and direction, so its use is intended for close encounters with a bear or other predator.





When your can of bear spray expires it is a good time to use it to practice discharging it in a safe area, wearing gloves and eye protection and keeping in mind the wind direction. Any residue spray which gets on your clothes or hands may remain there until washed, so be careful to not rub your eyes or facial area afterwards, as you will quickly find out how effective bear spray is!

Most bear encounters take place in foothill or mountain areas or near rivers and streams, so it is important to be able to identify bear activity when you use these areas. Look for tracks on the trail, scat, or areas that are dug up as bears feed on roots, berries and rodents. Do not wear headphones on the trail. Always be aware of your surroundings, and when you smell carrion realize that there will be predators close by, so avoid these areas if possible. Keep backcountry camps clean, and store food and garbage away from your camp. When fishing, use designated cleaning stations if available, or take sealed bags or containers to clean and store your fish in.

As the archery season gets underway, and hunters are using various calling techniques to bring big game animals into range, it is important to understand that you are also calling in predators that have locked on to a potential food source. Keep your bear spray ready at all times, as you may call in grizzly, wolves, cougars and black bears. Predators will generally circle in downwind so as not to be detected, so watch your back and don't hunt alone. When hunting bears, it is your responsibility to be able to identify the difference between a black bear and a grizzly and, if in doubt, simply don't shoot. More information on bear identification can be obtained by taking AHEIA's online *Bear Essentials* course.

Bear attacks are rarely predatory in nature, and usually are defensive attacks where bears are protecting their young, a food source or are surprised by a rapid approach, such as a mountain bike on a curvy trail. During a defensive attack where you cannot deploy your bear spray, your best strategy is to lie on your stomach, "play dead", and cover vital areas such as your head and neck. In a predatory attack, where you are seen as a food source, being aggressive and fighting back is your best course of action. Realize you are not going to out-run a bear and running away can increase a bear's predatory instincts. Simply back away slowly, keeping your bear spray pointed at the bear, ready to discharge if an attack takes place.

Awareness and knowledge of the areas you are hiking, fishing, or hunting will enhance your ability to observe these incredible animals in their natural habitat in a safe manner. Staying out of closed areas, using common sense, and being prepared are your best strategies to prevent close encounters.



**Check out AHEIA's
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Photo courtesy Gregory Smith

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“Crossbreeding of white-tailed and mule deer does exist, but it is quite rare ...”

Identifying Hybrid Deer

By Allan Orr



Allan Orr
Assistant Conservation
Education Coordinator
AHEIA Red Deer - South

One of the most popular topics in various hunting and/or wildlife groups revolves around the sighting of hybrid deer. Hybrid, in this case, means a mix of one mule deer parent and one white-tailed deer parent, producing an offspring. Every year we hear about many sightings of hybrid deer followed by lively discussions on the legalities

of shooting one. People describe antler formations, tail colour and shape, overall body colour and size, and any other peculiarity they observe. Well, I can tell you with a certain amount of expertise, that any of these characteristics don't necessarily mean that you have a hybrid. By far the most effective way to identify a hybrid deer is by looking at their metatarsal gland.

The metatarsal gland is a scent gland that deer have on the lower outside portion of their hind legs. This gland is used by the deer to identify each other, and it comes in pretty handy when we humans need to identify them by species.

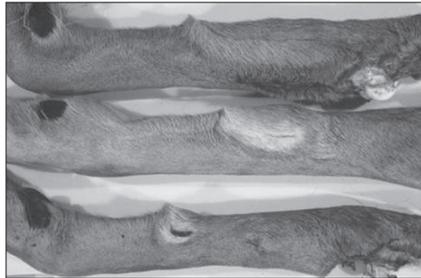
Take a look at the pictures of the two deer below. Note the colour, position and size of the gland on each. One is a mule deer and one is a white-tailed deer. On the mule deer, the gland is four to six inches (10-15 cm) in length, is a light brown colour and is located high on the leg. A white-tailed deer has a metatarsal gland that is approximately one inch (2.5 cm) in diameter, is located low on the leg and shows a noticeable white centre. See how easily discerned the white metatarsal is on the white-tailed deer? It is noticeable from quite a distance and easily recognized.

On the other hand, the metatarsal gland of a mule deer tends to blend in with the rest of the



Mule Deer metatarsal gland.

Photo courtesy Alberta Fish and Wildlife Forensics Lab



Top to bottom: Mule, Hybrid and White-tailed Deer metatarsal glands.

Photo courtesy Alberta Fish and Wildlife Forensics Lab

leg and is not so easily seen from a distance. If you cannot identify the metatarsal gland, and you have no other indications of species, then you are probably looking at a mule deer leg. Of course you would need to follow up on this basic identification method by looking at other indicators such as the ears and the rump/tail to be sure, but you will have a pretty good indication of the species with just the metatarsal gland.

But you may ask yourself, “What if my deer is a hybrid?”, and that’s a good question. White-tailed and mule deer will interbreed, and their offspring will produce characteristics of both species. One characteristic that seems consistent across hybrids is the metatarsal gland. This gland on a hybrid deer will be a blend of the parent animals. If you find a deer with a metatarsal that is about two inches (five cm) in length, is high on the leg and shows an impure (or no) white, then you most likely have a hybrid deer on your hands.

In all my time as a game warden, and as a college instructor, I have only seen one deer that I could positively identify as a hybrid. As you can see in



White-tailed Deer metatarsal gland.

Photo courtesy Martin Owen



Hybrid White-tailed/Mule Deer cross tail (above) and metatarsal gland (below).

Photos courtesy the author

the pictures above and at right, its tail is a blend of white-tailed and mule deer, and its metatarsal gland is neither mule deer nor white-tailed deer. Because it was a female, I could not examine the antlers, but it would have been very interesting to see what they would have looked like had she been a male. And, on that note, I have seen many, many white-tailed deer with an antler or two that looked very similar to a mule deer's and vice versa. Using the antlers alone to identify deer species is unreliable at best.

So, even though I noticed the tail looked “off” (as did the ears and facial colour), I wasn't comfortable calling it a hybrid until I examined the metatarsal gland.

Crossbreeding of white-tailed and mule deer does exist, but it is quite rare despite the many reports we hear each year. Antler shape is absolutely unreliable, and any one hybrid can take on most of the characteristics of either of the parents, so these alone cannot be used to determine hybridization. If you have a deer that looks “off” the only way to be sure of the species is to look at the metatarsal gland.

**Of course,
if you can't positively identify it,
don't shoot it!**

“ ... hunters who make an endeavour to remain scent-free tend to be more successful than those who do not.”

Scents and Being Scent-free

By Len Gransch



Len Gransch
Program Coordinator
AHEIA
Red Deer - North

How important is it to be scent-free while hunting? Many hunters make little effort to remain scent-free, while others make some type of an attempt to keep their scents to a minimum, and still others make being scent-free almost a religion.

When you consider the remarkable olfactory capabilities of your quarry, it is

no wonder that the hunters who make an endeavour to remain scent-free tend to be more successful than those who do not. The whitetail deer's sense of smell is so acute that it is surprising that any mature bucks are harvested outside of the rut. A biologist once told me that the whitetail deer's sense of smell is equal to that of a trained drug-sniffing dog. These dogs are capable of sniffing out drugs that have been concealed in containers of coffee, solvent, gas, etc. One would think that these strong blocking scents would virtually block out all drug scents, yet these dogs can still smell the drugs.

Once you decide that controlling your scent is important, you will need to decide how far you wish to go. Remember that we do "stink".

Clothing

Numerous manufacturers offer specialized clothing that feature some type of scent-eliminating properties. Early versions used charcoal or even baking soda to accomplish this. I remember having one of these early charcoal styles that bled a black, powdery residue on all my under-clothing. Now, science and technology has advanced a great deal, with many new offerings from Scent-Lock, Scent Blocker, Scent Shield, Tek-4 and others. Most new styles utilize some type of activated carbon liner and are available from Hunter's Specialties, Browning, Under Armour, as well as products from Cabela's, Bass Pro Shops and others. Some other considerations for clothing should be footwear, headgear, underwear, socks, gloves, etc. Many hunters prefer rubber footwear as it has less of a tendency to absorb and retain odors. The downside is that most boots of this kind offer little ankle support when doing a lot of walking. The use of non-powdered rubber gloves can also help. Once you decide on the specialized scent free

clothing route, you should go all the way from head-to-toe. Outerwear can range from about \$200 to well over \$1,000.

For those of you who do not wish to spend the extra money on new clothing, but simply want to utilize your own existing clothing, don't dismay as there are products out there for you as well. It all starts with doing your laundry. I recommend that you run a cycle through your washing machine using a box of plain old baking soda instead of laundry soap to help remove any residual scents, or phosphate residue, from the machine. Next, wash your clothes using the same old baking soda or any of the many specialty products available at your local sporting goods store. Make sure they are scent free and have no UV brighteners. Most household laundry detergents have a colour booster. This booster will make your clothes really stand out in the woods, making it easier for your quarry to pick you out.

There are two options for drying. Number one is hanging the clothing outdoors and the second is to use your clothes dryer. When using the clothes dryer, it is recommended that you only utilize dryer sheets that are made specifically for hunters. Once your clothes are dry I recommend storing them in a scent free garbage bag or plastic storage tub. I like to put a few pine boughs, or other natural materials that occur in my hunt area, in with my clothes prior to sealing it up. Now that they have no human scent, do not contaminate them with smoke, food smells, etc. Treat them as the clothes you will only use when you are hunting, and nothing else.

“ How important is it to be scent-free while hunting? Many hunters make little effort to remain scent-free, while others make some type of an attempt to keep their scents to a minimum, and still others make being scent-free almost a religion. ”

Body Odor

As I previously mentioned, we are a stinky species as far as your intended game is concerned. Whenever possible, always shower prior to the hunt and use some of the specialized products available from your favourite sports shop. You can find scent-free toothpaste, underarm deodorant, breath spray, body soap and foam, shampoo, conditioner, scent eliminator sprays, and more. One can even buy chewing gum that is supposed to keep your breath odorless, unless you opt for the pine version.

Types of Scents

Scents fall into four basic categories: Cover Scents, Food Scents, Sexual (mating) Scents, and Curiosity Scents.

Cover Scents

Not all scents are equal. You will find ones that are formulated to eliminate human odor and others that will try and mask it. Companies like Hunter's Specialties, Dead Down Wind, Tink's, Wildlife Research Center and many others offer a very good selection of products that help to eliminate scent. One product I use quite a bit is Wildlife Research Center's 99% Autumn Formula Scent Killer. It really does smell like moist dirt. They also make a similar product that is scent free with no added cover scent. Primos now offers their new Silver XP line of scent control products that contain the element of silver which has been used for many years in hospitals to help kill bacteria and aid in healing. This same bacterium, produced by the human body, has the side effect of producing an odor. Seems to make sense.

Many cover scents really do smell like the things they are attempting to imitate, but many do not. Some smell like a poor synthetic copy of the genuine article. One product I tested claimed it was a pine cover scent, but smelled more like the fake pine tree scent one would hang from the rear-view mirror of your vehicle, which is not a good thing. Manufacturers offer us numerous cover scents like red fox urine, raccoon, skunk, coyote, acorn, cedar and so on. When was the last time you encountered a raccoon when hunting in Alberta? Granted, they are starting to appear, but do you want to risk your hunt on it? One must use common sense when it comes to these cover scents. Will your game recognize it and feel comfortable, or will it act as an alarm scent, tipping off your presence? Be knowl-



edgeable about the environment you are hunting in and only utilize cover scents that you would find in this area. I am not too proud to rub cow manure, horse "road apples" or game droppings on my boots to help hide my odor.

Food Scents

One needs to be careful when using food scents and related products. The *2018 Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations* states under the Big Game heading (item 2) on page 28: "It is unlawful to: 2. Set out, use or employ any of the following items for the purpose of hunting big game: bait, except as permitted for hunting of black bears".

Many retailers have a vast array of products designed to get the game closer to the hunter. Many of these contain minerals and actual food items such as seeds and grains. They are basically designed for the US market, which has different regulations than we do in Alberta. Concentrated liquid, gel, blocks, granules or burn sticks are readily available in many food related scents such as apple, acorn, corn, grape, cedar and many others. Remember, if your food scent is not found in your hunt area, will it do any good? If you are not certain of which items you can legally use, I suggest you contact your local Fish and Wildlife office. A listing of office locations can be found on page 13 of the *2018 Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations*. Currently there is no law in Alberta to prevent vendors from selling, nor consumers purchasing, any type of lure or possible bait. It is fine for them to sell it and fine for you to purchase it, but it might be illegal for you to use it, so be certain. The proper use of scents can be beneficial in helping you maximize your results.

Sexual (Mating) Scents

Most every hunter at some point in time has tried using one or more of these types of scents and some of you still have the smell embossed on your hunting gear. That is why I always store scents in Ziploc bags. The scent variety over the last 10 years has really expanded. The varieties for whitetail deer include: mock scrape, doe in oestrous, doe urine, buck in rut, buck urine, tarsal gland, interdigital gland, preorbital gland and more. These scents are available in liquid, gel, burn sticks, wafers, paste, granules and more. The use of doe and buck urine can be more effective in the pre-rut, while the doe in oestrous is most effective during the rut. I like to use a deer decoy that I have anointed with doe in heat as another technique from my



“ Once you decide that controlling your scent is important, you will need to decide how far you wish to go. Remember that we do stink. ”

bag of tricks. This can provide a few extra seconds to make the shot. I also like to use a "drag rag" covered in scent to doctor up my trails to and from my blind or stand. Many manufacturers offer wicks or small containers that can be utilized for dispensing scent. Cotton balls, or makeup sponges housed in pill bottles, will also work well. The use of glandular scents is not a new concept, but there are now numerous items manufactured to tempt you. I still like to remove the tarsal glands from the deer I harvest and use them as a cover scent and attractant. Put them in an air tight bag and freeze them for later use. Setting up a mock scrape has also become more popular these days. Many manufacturers now make a mock scrape scent and even have "dripper" devices to make it easier. Hunting the active scrape lines can be very productive, but requires patience by the hunter.

Curiosity Scents

These are more effective in the post rut season. The idea is to try and entice the buck into range for that shot. The deer have now become more accustomed to the hunter's presence, as well as the many scent offerings. Frequently, a doe urine scent along with the proper food scent can swing the balance in your favor.

Other Considerations

Being scent-free and knowing how to use scents is only one part of the puzzle. Remember to always do your homework prior to the hunt. Pre-season scouting is a must for you to understand your quarry and where they live. If you have never tried it, shed antler hunting is both fun and informative. Once the snow is all but gone, you can search around feeding areas and game trails. Pay extra attention to the areas where the deer may be jumping fences. This sometimes helps the antlers pop off. This is also the time to get your area maps and start working on land owner permissions. The better prepared and knowledgeable about your hunting area you are, the more successful you will be.

Learn how to rattle and use grunt tubes and other calls. By combining all of these skills you cannot help but improve your chances of success and enjoyment of the hunt.

Over the last number of years, trail cameras have become extremely popular. They are a great tool for keeping track of wild game movements and they work 24 hours a day for you. You will be surprised what turns up on your cameras, including game species you did not even know were in the area. Cameras range greatly in price depending on what you want for "bells and whistles". Watch for them to go on sale.

Good Luck!



Staff Appointments



John Morrissey
Firearms Education
Coordinator

I am pleased to announce that effective August 1, 2018, John Morrissey will be taking on the role of Firearms Education Coordinator, assuming Glenn McKay's responsibilities upon his retirement.

Since 2013, John has worked full time at AHEIA as an Assistant Conservation Education Program Coordinator, delivering the Canadian Firearms Safety Courses and Conservation Education instruction. Along with his extensive knowledge of our programs, philosophy and goals, he is widely known by instructors throughout the province, which will help to ensure a smooth transition into his new role.

Please join me in congratulating John on his new position!



Brad Scheidle
Assistant Conservation
Education Coordinator
AHEIA Calgary

I am pleased to announce that effective July 16, 2018, Brad Scheidle will be working full-time at the Calgary office as an Assistant Conservation Education Program Coordinator. Brad spent his first 12 years in Kelowna, BC, then moved with his family to Airdrie. Following high school, he attended the Conservation Enforcement Program at Lethbridge College. Upon completing his degree, Brad worked for several years at Bass Pro Shops in Calgary, then moved into training Health and Safety at the Calgary Walmart Warehouse. After his daughter Ellie was born, Brad began driving school bus, which provided him the flexibility needed while staying at home to raise her.

Brad is no stranger to AHEIA, or many of our staff, as he was employed for two summers at our Alford Lake facility. He enjoys camping with Ellie and his wife Jessica, hunting, fishing and recreational hockey during the winter.

Brad can be reached directly at 403-319-2288 and via email at brad@aheia.com.

Please join me in welcoming Brad to the AHEIA family!



Sarah Robertson
Administrative Assistant/
Communication Director
AHEIA Calgary

It gives me great pleasure to announce that, effective July 16, 2018, Sarah Robertson will be employed in a full-time position with AHEIA as an Administrative Assistant/Communication Director in the Calgary office.

Sarah was raised in Arnprior, Ontario, a small town outside of Ottawa. Prior to studying Public Relations at Algonquin College, Sarah participated in a co-op placement on Parliament Hill and became the youngest Parliamentary Assistant to hold that position at age 17.

After college Sarah worked for various marketing agencies and a telecom company. She then took a year off to travel throughout Canada and at the same time was a freelance Public Relations Consultant. She travelled coast to coast, but fell in love with the Rocky Mountains and moved to Calgary with her pug, Mika.

Sarah loves the outdoors including hiking and exploring. When not outside, she paints as a hobby, currently exploring modern art, and enjoys graphic design. Sarah's areas of expertise are communications, marketing and public relations.

Please join me in welcoming Sarah to the AHEIA family!



Leia Calwell
Administrative Assistant
AHEIA Calgary

It is my pleasure to announce that, effective July 3, 2018, Leia Calwell has accepted a permanent, full-time position with AHEIA as an Administrative Assistant in the Calgary office.

Leia was raised in Qualicum Beach on Vancouver Island. She studied Criminal Justice at Camosun College in Victoria and worked for nine years in an enforcement program for the BC Government. While in Victoria she was a member of the Victoria Women's Shooting Club, held at the range of the Victoria Fish and Game Protective Association. She enjoyed shooting sports with this group including black powder, cowboy action, skeet and trap, as well as participated in archery and helped organize social events. In 2015 Leia moved to Alberta and worked as a showjumping groom in Springbank, followed by administrative work in a chiropractor's office. In 2017 Leia became a member of AHEIA and participates in the Women's League at the Calgary Firearms Centre.

Leia has ocean fished her entire life and is excited to learn about river and lake fishing. She enjoys horses and the outdoors, and looks forward to learning the skills to help her participate in more activities.

Leia can be reached directly at 403-319-2278 and via email at leia@aheia.com.

Please join me in welcoming Leia to the AHEIA family!



2018 AHEIA Upland/ Waterfowler Sporting Firearms Raffle Winner



One lucky winner won both a

**Benelli SBE11 12ga.
28" Semi Auto Shotgun**

and a

**Browning Cynergy
Over/Under 12ga. Shotgun**

Draw date was August 17, 2018
at the Calgary Conservation
Education Centre for Excellence.

Licence #475910.

Congratulations!

Justin V.

Red Deer, Alberta

*Thank you
to all who
purchased
tickets.*



Robert A. Gruszecki, President - AHEIA



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