



# Compliments of the Hunter Education Program

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Bow season is finished for now, and rifle season is right around the corner! Lots of our instructors are taking youth hunters out this weekend, and we wish them the best of luck! There is a lot of excitement around here, and lots of us are taking time off this month to be out in the woods. We hope you have a safe and successful hunting season.

If you have something you would like to add to our next issue, please e-mail us!

-Nicole Meier and the Vermont Hunter Education Program

## Insights from Peer Reviews

by John Pellegrini, Training Coordinator

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It's November, and most (if not all) of our Hunter Education Instructors are awaiting the annual Vermont deer season. Some Instructors have headed for Ontario, Ohio, Illinois, and other places for the pursuit of the whitetail deer. But before their hunts began, instructors all over the state certified close to 4,000 students between June and November.

This year a total of 22 Instructors from 16 classes were evaluated, and I would like to thank all involved for welcoming me into your classrooms, as I sometimes popped in unannounced to conduct a review. It was also the first year that Chief Instructors conducted Peer Reviews, which was very successful.

All in all, most of our instructors are doing a great job with their classes. However, in some cases the deficiencies become glaringly obvious. The one situation that comes up the most is reading directly from the Hunter Education Manual in a lecture style classroom. This was typically observed at Traditional Courses. So, this leads me to a question: Home Study or Traditional Hunter Education Course?

### **The Pitfalls of Lecturing**

If you have spent any time with me, you know that I lean toward a Home Study Course. My field day involves instruction of at least six disciplines, and the class is up on their feet virtually the whole day. The students have completed their workbook and manual, or the online course prior to the

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# *Insights from Peer Reviews*

## *by John Pellegrini, Training Coordinator*

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class. It is 8 hours, and students leave with their orange cards after just one day of instruction. Often Instructors hold the course on Sunday, and students involved in fall sports can attend.

The traditional course is held over the course of 4- 10 days. Students complete the workbook as homework assignments as the course progresses. A field day is usually held at the completion of the classroom. Parents often prefer this format, as that is the way they were instructed.

There is no right or wrong answer. Both courses have their place in Hunter Education. However, the principal teaching methods exist in each course. Remember, students learn when they can see, hear, say, and do exercises. Firearm handling can be made a fun exercise, when it is instructed in a hands-on method. Instead of demonstrating for the class the 5 action types, break your class into groups, and have them teach the action types to their classmates. This accomplishes both showing, telling, and doing types of instruction, while thoroughly covering firearms handling.

And when doing any classroom exercises of your course, facilitate a discussion, and initiate a conversation on whatever topic you are teaching. For any course taking place on a week day, students have already been in school, then to practice or an after-school activity, before coming to our course. The kids are wiped out from all that learning and activity, and it is easy for them to get bored if they aren't up and actively (rather than passively) learning.

Whatever type of class you choose, remember, make it interactive and fun. There are several ways to accomplish this, and we are here to make assist in making your class enjoyable. There are a few Traditional classes that do this very well. If you are interested in looking at an outstanding Traditional course, contact Chief Instructor Paul Conover. His course at the Milton Firehouse utilizes many instructors (so that students don't get bored of just one speaker/presenter), and a myriad of activities to get students out of their chairs and doing activities while actively learning.

### **Teaching Alone**

Another problem that was common in our Peer Reviews was Instructors teaching alone. We have a policy that requires Instructors to have an assistant for every 20 students present. This is for your benefit as well as your class. Remember when dealing with a student, always have an additional instructor with you.

We have initiated a background check for all non-certified Instructors that are assisting you. This is a requirement going into the New Year. It is a very simple process that requires only the person's name, DOB, and address. It takes only minutes to complete, and we have a form to fill out. We can provide the form electronically, and are available now.

Thank you to all Instructors on a very successful year. I wish you luck in your hunting endeavors.

# Hunters' Contribution to U.S. Wildlife Conservation



Responsive Management has produced a new article detailing hunters' contributions to wildlife conservation in the United States. The article provides an in-depth look at the sources of funding from hunters and how these funds are spent, from wildlife management and species recovery to the work of federal and state fish and wildlife agencies and nonprofit organizations.

The article discusses various sources of funding, including the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, the Federal Duck Stamp, licenses, tags, and permits purchased by hunters in each state, and membership dues and donations from nonprofit organizations largely supported by hunters.

The article then breaks down how the funding from hunters is spent, including Pittman-Robertson revenue apportionment, the many ways in which nonprofit organizations contribute to conservation in the U.S., and how hunters' contributions manifest in the work of fish and wildlife agencies.

The article provides a full discussion of the other ways in which hunter dollars are spent, including support for wildlife management areas, scientific conservation studies and biological research, other species recovery and wildlife management efforts, and habitat conservation. [Click here for the full article.](#)

The article also covers examples of wildlife species that have rebounded thanks to management efforts supported through funding from hunters:

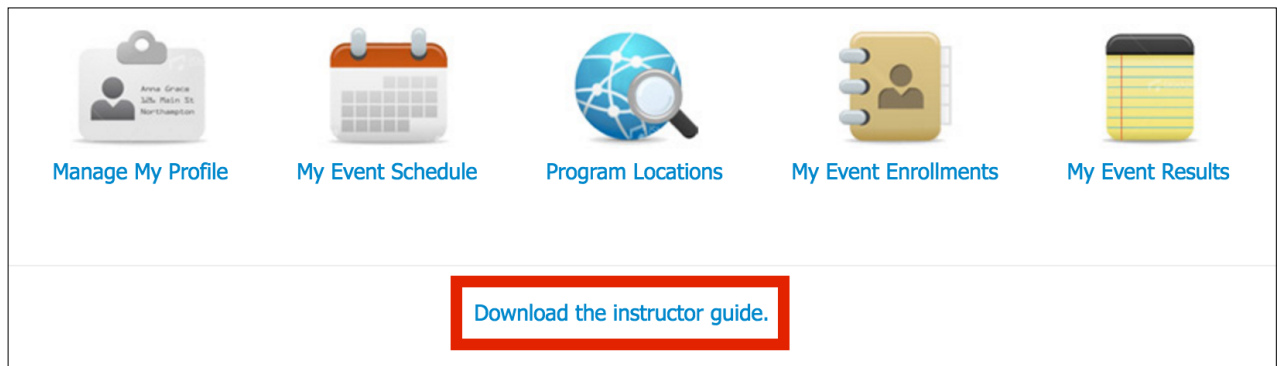
- **The whitetail deer** population in 1900: less than 500,000 Today: over 30 million
- **Wild turkey** in 1900: under 650,000 Today: over 7 million
- **The Rocky Mountain elk** in 1900: 40,000 Today: about 1 million
- **Pronghorn antelope** in 1900: 13,000 Today: about 1 million
- **Bighorn sheep** in 1950: 25,000 Today: 80,000

# Event Manager Updates: From Kalkomey

**We continue to get a ton of great feedback and ideas from you for Event Manager. Keep it up!** We love it when you tell us what works well in Event Manager and what you'd like to see change -- it directly affects how we spend our time improving things.

## Updated Instructor Guide:

When you and your instructors log into Event Manager, you probably see the Download the Instructor Guide link at the bottom of the page. We've recently updated this guide! The Table of Contents sections are clickable, the screenshots are up-to-date, and the wording is easier to understand. Check it out!



## Added Collapsible Sections When You View a Registration!

Many of you have longer registration forms so you can collect a lot of useful information from each student. We think you will appreciate the collapsible sections we added to the *View Registration* page.

## Other Instructor Improvements

For those of you who use the Daily Hours Report (instructors can download this when they are entering their hours), we can now add customizable instructions to this PDF. That way, you can convey any steps or policies about reporting hours to your instructors.

For the complete release notes, and video tutorials, click here: [Event Manager Release Notes](#)

**Do you have a question for Kalkomey? Something about Event Manager?  
A suggestion for an improvement? Contact Kalkomey's customer support team:**

**E-mail:** [info@kalkomey.com](mailto:info@kalkomey.com)

**Phone:** 1-800-830-2268

# Instructor Toolbox Available on IHEA-USA Site

by Megan Wisecup, IHEA-USA President

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The Instructor Toolbox is now live on the IHEA-USA website! [Check it out by clicking here!](#) The toolbox has been set up to follow the current IHEA-USA content standards so finding specific tools, ideas and resources by content topic should be much easier for instructors to find. If you have any new resources, tools or ideas you would like to see added please pass them on!

## Watch the Mail!

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Our end of the year holiday mailing will be going out soon, so watch your mailbox! If your mailing address has changed in the last year, or if you haven't been getting letters in the mail from us each year, please reach out to us at [HunterEducation@vermont.gov](mailto:HunterEducation@vermont.gov) and let us know!



## New Instructor Deals!

*Don't miss your shot at exclusive rewards for hunting experts!*

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IHEA-USA instructors now have access to Experticity, an exclusive community where you can get VIP discounts and special information on products from the hunting brands you know and love.

Score up to 70% off top hunting brands, plus the first 100 to join win a free Experticity beanie.

It's this simple:

- Go to [www.experticity.com/iheainstructors](http://www.experticity.com/iheainstructors)
- Enter your email address
- Complete your profile to lock in your access

As an added bonus, Experticity will donate \$5 to IHEA-USA for every instructor that becomes a new member.



# Looking for Vermont Hunting Stories

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Our Vermont instructors have some amazing hunting stories. Some of them are used as valuable teaching tools in our classes. They often captivate the audience of kids and adults alike, and can be used to demonstrate the importance of ethics and safety while hunting, while also showing the magic of the hunting seasons.

Kalkomey Enterprises (the same people that make the Today's Hunter and Bowhunter manuals as well as Event Manager) is looking for your stories to weave into the international conversations about hunting. These stories will be used as a teaching tool, and will be added to current educational content. See the message below from Kalkomey:

In order to reach more prospective hunters and continue to remind existing hunters to be safe in the field, Hunter Ed is now featuring stories submitted by real hunter education instructors on our blog and social media. We'd love to get some input from hunters all across the country. Is there an instructor or two who might be interested in sharing their stories with new hunters?

You can see an example of one of our popular posts here: <http://www.hunter-ed.com/blog/letter-landowner-elk-hunt/>

If you think your instructors might have a good story to share, please either forward them this message or send me their contact information and we'll take care of the rest.

Thank you,  
Megan Dyer  
Content Marketing Strategist  
Kalkomey, LLC

Send your stories to Megan at  
[mdyer@kalkomey.com](mailto:mdyer@kalkomey.com)



Photo courtesy of VT Fish & Wildlife

# New Lesson Plans Available: Hunting Related Shooting Incidents

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Warden Jenna Reed in the field.  
Photo courtesy of VT Fish & Wildlife

New lesson plans are available for ethics and wildlife laws. We love using this lesson plan when we can't get a warden to come to the class, or when we have extra time to explain fish and wildlife laws.

The HRSI activities are lesson plans where the students break off into groups and must take on the role of the Chief Game Warden in order to identify the cause of various hunting related shooting incidents. All of the incidents in the

activity are real incidents that have occurred in Vermont. The identifying details have been removed from the incidents, but they are a great teaching tool.

We currently have lesson plans based on hunting related shootings from 2013 and 2015. We will be updating this lesson plan each year, so look out for a new lesson plan in 2017.

If you are interested in using this lesson plan in your next class, please contact the Hunter Education Program Office at 802-828-1193 or e-mail us at [HunterEducation@vermont.gov](mailto:HunterEducation@vermont.gov)

## New Field Day Templates Available

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The Hunter Education Program has been working to create more cohesive and comprehensive field day templates for instructors to use during their classes. Instructors should use these field day templates as a guide for the in-person portion of their homestudy hunter education or bowhunter education classes. These templates will cover all required material, and have been successful in practice (the HE program staff have taught classes based on this template for the past few years!).

The lesson plans are based on hands-on activities with students, and minimize the amount of lecture time. In fact, none of the lesson plans involve any lecturing. The lesson plans are all hands-on activities, and even suggest equipment to request of HE staff in order to facilitate a successful class.

If you are interested in using these field day templates in your next class, please contact the Hunter Education Program Office at 802-828-1193 or e-mail us at [HunterEducation@vermont.gov](mailto:HunterEducation@vermont.gov)

# Yankee Classic: Coming Up Soon



Mark Scott demonstrates how to age a deer by looking at its teeth. Photo courtesy of VT Fish & Wildlife

Are you interested in helping out with the Yankee Classic? We are looking for volunteers to help staff the Hunter Education booth on the following days:

Date	AM Shift Time	PM Shift Time
Friday, January 20, 2017	12pm—4pm (1 volunteer)	3:30pm—7pm (2 volunteers)
Saturday, January 21, 2017	9am—2:30pm (2 volunteers)	1:30pm—7pm (2 volunteers)
Sunday, January 22, 2017	9am—1pm (2 volunteers)	1pm—5pm (2 volunteers)

Instructors will gain free entry to the show on the day that they help out! If you are interested, please contact Nicole at [Nicole.Meier@vermont.gov](mailto:Nicole.Meier@vermont.gov)

For more information about the Yankee, visit their website: <http://yankeeclassic.net/>



# Contact Us!

This is YOUR newsletter! Have a photo or story you'd like to share? E-mail us with your suggestions, stories, pictures or other input!



## All Hunter Education Staff

New!

**E-mail:** [HunterEducation@Vermont.gov](mailto:HunterEducation@Vermont.gov)

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