

Not The Typical Way To Start A Training Class

By Tim Huff, Whatcom County Instructor
 MONDAY, MARCH 16TH was our first hunter education class for the year. I arrived at the Custer Gun Club at 5:30 to help fellow instructors get the classroom set up.

At 5:45 two students walked in the door and signed in. As soon as they walked through the door, I could not help but notice the overwhelming smell of marijuana permeating their clothing. I was more than a bit angry that two yahoos would show up stoned for our class! I talked it over with fellow instructors and we decided to call WDFW Sgt. Mullins. I talked to Russ and he told me that he and Officer Beauchene would respond.

When the two WDFW officers arrived I pointed out the truck the students had arrived in and the officers ran the plates. The registered owner had a warrant out for his arrest. Surprisingly, neither of the two stoned students were listed as the registered owner. But the owner was another student who was also registered in this very same class; the officers would deal with him later.

I discretely pulled the dopers out of class, one at a time so the officers could talk to them privately, out of sight and hearing from other students in our class. Doper #1 said he

hadn't used drugs for at least 24 hours, and a pat-down confirmed there were no drugs on his person. When asked how he and his friend got to class, he reported he was "dropped off by a friend."

Doper #2 had a different story, admitting that he and Doper #1 shared a joint just before class. He also informed officers he arrived at class "in my truck." Sgt. Mullins asked for and received permission to search the truck—which turned up (*SURPRISE!*) marijuana. Of course, Doper #2 had no idea how the marijuana got in his truck!

Officer Beauchene wrote #2 a criminal citation with a notice to appear in court while #1 received a written warning. Then both #1 and #2 asked whether this incident would affect their hunter education class!

Once #1 and #2 left—having learned they were no longer welcome in our class—I introduced to the WDFW officers the student listed as the truck's registered owner. Our wanted fugitive received matching silver bracelets from the I-o-n-g arm of the law and he received a government-sponsored ride to the Gray Bar Hotel.

It was a most eventful evening for the first night of hunter education class!

Get Free *PocketPaks* For Your Students

A GENEROUS DONATION from a local manufacturer means your students can each receive a free ammo holder as a gift!

PocketPak(TM) is a plastic ammo case that securely holds four or five cartridges and is designed to

slip into a shirt or pants pocket. Four different plastic case sizes accommodate just about all common cartridges.

The donated *PocketPak(TM)* come in mini-cases containing six packs each, allowing one mini-case to cover gifts for six students.

The *PocketPak(TM)* are now in stock so order them directly from John Wisner when you next submit a supply request order.

You can check out more details about the donated product lines on their web site at www.themagnumcrew.com.

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Dates To Remember

- April 18 – Moxee, Regional IST
- May 16 – Marysville, Regional IST
- May 30 – Spangle, Regional IST

Important Contacts

- Olympia: 1-800-215-1979
- Chuck Ray: 1-800-468-5006
- E-mail: huntered@dfw.wa.gov
- Blog: <http://hunter-education.blogspot.com>



Mistakes Happen....

MISTAKES HAPPEN. Something minor like leaving milk out of the refrigerator overnight doesn't have any long-range consequences and can easily be forgotten as insignificant or harmless. Something **major**—like a certified hunter education instructor committing a fish and wildlife violation and receiving a citation—can't be forgotten and should never be ignored.

During the past four months four (that's right, 4) hunter education instructors have been charged with wildlife violations in widely separated incidents. In each case, hunter education division staff were just about the last ones to find out about the violations. One of the instructors decided by himself that he could / should not continue to serve as a hunter education instructor, one instructor lost his hunter education certification and the other two hunter education instructors have been placed on administrative suspension pending the disposition of the charges filed in their cases.

There is a world of difference between an inadvertent mistake and an inadvertent mistake that is subsequently compounded by failing to notify hunter education staff **immediately**, by providing incomplete or misleading statements, or by failing to accept full personal responsibility for the offending act and the consequences thereof. After all, ethics isn't just a subject we teach; it's how we need to live.

Nobody is perfect and even monkeys fall out of trees every once in a while. Instructors involved in any criminal action should always remember to:

- ◆ Notify WDFW staff in writing immediately. A phone call can quickly alert us to an issue but we always need a written record of the underlying facts.
- ◆ Provide an unvarnished—not a flattering—version of what happened. We receive copies of case reports from investigating officers and we will quickly discover any discrepancies.
- ◆ Remember that everything we do reflects upon fellow instructors and WDFW as a whole.

WHEIA Corner May Expo / June Jamboree

THE THIRD annual Youth Expo will be held May 8 – 9 in Lacey (just outside Olympia). Hunter education instructors staff the ever-popular pellet gun shooting gallery and the Washington Hunter Education Instructors Association will need LOTS of help again this year. The first day (Friday) is limited exclusively to schools that sign up in advance while the second day (Saturday) is open to the public free-of-charge. Contact Harold Costa at (360) 425-9548 [home] and (360) 749-4409 [cell].

June 19 – 21 is the annual Washington Hunter Education Instructors Association annual Jamboree. The 2009 Jamboree will be at the Wenas campground. Remember that the Wenas campground is a dry camp and no fires are allowed.

On Saturday there will be a cowboy action shoot and other competitions. There will be prizes and lots of good grub! A special activity this year is a project with the Department of Natural Resources cleaning up the woods.

The Jamboree is open to ALL instructors and their families, so come on out even if you've never attended one before!

Send All Requests For Ammo Through Chuck Or Dan

PLEASE REMEMBER to send any requests for ammunition through Chuck Ray or Dan Boes. All ammo requests must be approved by Chuck or Dan in advance.

Generally speaking, WDFW will reserve ammo for either (1) New teaching teams, or, (2) Teaching teams that do not charge any fees or request any donations.

WDFW hunter education ammunition costs have increased substantially in the past year. While some teaching teams have been very successful in obtaining resources to provide for their ammunition needs, other teaching teams are less fortunate and sometimes rely on out-of-pocket expenses. Obviously, we don't want instructors to subsidize costs for student range activities.

Remember

Policy: Instructors charging a fee of more than \$5 per student are required to get approval in writing in advance! This policy applies to every instructor and every team.

Major changes in hunting equipment rules for 2009 include:

- Hunters using muzzleloaders or archery equipment will be allowed to carry a handgun for personal protection if they have a concealed pistol permit.
- Hunters may also use black powder pistols to hunt during muzzleloader seasons.

Specific details of the above regulations and other changes adopted by the Fish and Wildlife Commission at their April meeting are online at wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/

The West Sound Safety Fair, August 18-19, is a Kitsap County event designed to promote a variety of safety themes, including hunter education and firearm safety. If you are interested in joining fellow instructors to staff a booth at the safety fair, please contact Olympia hunter education division staff.

Ammunition is running low at the warehouse and we only have .22 LR and 20-gauge in stock. While we continue to strongly encourage live-firing, we don't yet know when or whether we will be able to restock our ammunition supplies.

Ammunition requests are limited to 3 rounds per student for 20-gauge and/or .223, and up to 10 rounds per student for .22 LR, subject to stock on hand.

In terms of priorities, ammunition is available first to new teaching teams and second to teams that do not charge or request donations.

Harold Costa, Cowlitz County, has

been very successful at recruiting new instructor candidates throughout southwestern Washington. We asked Harold for his secrets:

"You hear a lot of parents complain that there are not enough classes. Some people will tell me that they have been trying to get their child into a class for two or more years.

My response has always been that in Cowlitz County we offer between eight and eleven classes each year. I tell the individuals I speak to that they can make a difference in the area they live in by stepping up and becoming instructors themselves. Common responses I get are 'I work full time!' or 'I'm too busy to teach!' I can usually gain their interest when I let them know that they don't have to conduct an entire class by themselves and that they only need to teach in one class each year to retain their certification.

Once I get them certified, I let them decide how active they want to be as instructors!"

The '09 Yellow Pages are included with this issue of the newsletter. Please remember that the instructors directory is NOT intended for the general public and can never be used for soliciting or advertising. It's another tool to allow instructors to contact fellow instructors.

Please let us know if you identify any errors or omissions.

James Baumann, Pierce County, recently wrote and asked whether archers hunting upland birds with archery tackle are required to wear fluorescent hunter orange. The short answer is, "No."

WAC 232-12-055, Hunting — Hunter orange clothing requirements, notes in paragraph one:

"(1) Except as authorized in subsection (4) of this section, it is unlawful to hunt upland birds or rabbits during any upland game bird season unless the hunter is wearing fluorescent hunter orange cloth-

ing."

Subsection (4) provides a specific exemption for archers and muzzleloaders:

"(4) Persons who are hunting upland game birds during an upland game bird season with a muzzleloading firearm, bow and arrow or falconry are not required to wear fluorescent hunter orange clothing."

The International Hunter Education Instructors' Association invites instructors to send in teaching tips or techniques, attention-getting props for the classroom and other ideas for visual aids. They like articles averaging 750 words per page and pictures are welcome.

Don't worry about spelling or grammar—it's the message that counts. If you're interested, please contact Susie Kiefer, IHEA Journal via e-mail at: susiekiefer@msn.com

JAN's Corner

Processing the new postcard in lieu of the formerly free plastic orange certification card is much faster and is saving me LOTS of time (so I can work on other hunter education project activities, natch).

One thing I've noticed is that some students (or parents) still watch the mail and are expecting a letter with a plastic card. They've thrown away their postcard certification card!

Please remind your students to look for a postcard—that's all they need to buy their first license and that's all I am now sending them.

Of course, I still process requests for new orange plastic cards providing students complete the online application and send in their \$8 application fee!

Remember that I'm just an e-mail (ulijojlu@dfw.wa.gov) or a phone call (360-902-8112) away if you have any questions about your course records. I appreciate the attention to detail I've seen over the past year. Keep up the good work!

Instructors Permit Winners List

Congratulations are in order for the following randomly-drawn hunter education instructors! The first 25 instructors on the list below represent this year's assured permit winners. A total of 25 permit hunt selections are available and selections will be made in the order drawn (e.g., #1 chooses first, #2 second, etc.). Information on available hunt choices has already been sent to instructors via mail.

An additional ten names (totaling 35) have been selected because some instructors may choose to waive their permit option for 2009. If any unfilled permits remain after the 35th name on the list below, all qualifying instructors who submitted permit applications will have an opportunity to be selected.

Instructors make their selection **only** from the hunter education web log at <http://hunter-education.blogspot.com/>. **Instructors without Internet access need to speak directly with hunter education division staff in Olympia.**

Each individual has 48 hours to make a hunt selection from the remaining permit options on the blog. To avoid confusion and to insure accuracy, instructors must provide selection *in writing* via e-mail directly to: ulijojlu@dfw.wa.gov. If the first 25 instructors on the list all select a permit, no additional permits will be available.

Instructors who waive their permit selection for 2009 may resubmit an application next year. Instructors who accept a permit selection and participate in the hunt are ineligible for another special incentive permit for a 10-year period.

- 1 Bruce Trusty
- 2 Greg Koehn
- 3 Stephen Emery
- 4 Helen Trusley
- 5 Tommy G. Brown
- 6 Jim Benedict
- 7 Richard Vanderlip
- 8 Michael Moody
- 9 Mike Curry
- 10 Lyle Lewis
- 11 Mark Lippincott
- 12 Gary Emerson
- 13 Don Moyer
- 14 Tom Panosh
- 15 Scott Hageman
- 16 Larry Simoneaux
- 17 Sam Weatherford
- 18 Mike Kuttel, Jr
- 19 Valgene Power
- 20 Rueben Hernandez
- 21 George Lang
- 22 Gary Bjorson
- 23 Ron Pease
- 24 John Schaefer
- 25 David Garrison
- 26 David Vanderhoek
- 27 Don Hawkins
- 28 Neal Allen
- 29 Robert Margulies
- 30 Jeff Lich
- 31 Cody Lovelace
- 32 Cameron Field
- 33 Sean Isaac
- 34 Richard Mason
- 35 John Kokinda

Hunter Education Annual Calendar

BELOW IS THE ANNUAL CALENDAR for hunter education activities in the months ahead. In a typical year the hunter education division doesn't have many deadlines or due dates, but the ones listed below are very important so that we can complete necessary background work in a timely fashion.

1. Please check the newsletter calendar regularly for key dates.
2. If in doubt about scheduled activities or due dates, please check in advance with fellow instructors or WDFW hunter education division staff. **Application due dates are final and no extensions are granted.**
3. Check online for immediate access to current and previous issues of hunter education newsletters
4. Let WDFW hunter education division staff know if there are any key dates missing. We want this calendar tool to be helpful to you and fellow instructors.

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| January 31 | Applications due for incentive and multi-season permits |
| February 20 | Newsletter posted online |
| March 31 | Logo shirt orders due |
| April 20 | Newsletter posted online |
| May (date varies) | <i>Youth Expo</i> |
| June 20 | Newsletter posted online |
| July 1 | THMFSA application period is open |
| 31 | Logo shirt order due |
| August 20 | Newsletter posted online |
| September 1 | Initial request for class schedules for year |
| October 20 | Newsletter posted online |
| November 31 | THMFSA application period is closed |
| December 14 | Class schedule deadline |
| 20 | Newsletter posted online |
| 31 | C.I. Financial Reports due |

Exactly What Constitutes A Valid “Retest” For Students?

HUNTER EDUCATION POLICY (Pass / Fail Criteria, Hunter Education *Program Manual*) requires each student to be evaluated based on knowledge, attitude and gun handling skills. Current policy specifically allows hunter education instructors to retest students for the knowledge portion of the evaluation process if the instructors believe reading is a factor or if a student failure is only marginal. Remember that instructors have the *option* of offering a retest—there is no program requirement to do so.

Recently Chuck Ray and Dan Boes both informed Mik Mikitik that an increasingly common practice among instructors is to orally ask a few questions of the failed student before determining that the student has “passed” the written test. This article is designed to end such practices and insure that all students are correctly retested before receiving a passing grade.

Our written test is designed to evaluate **overall** student knowledge. By definition, overall knowledge cannot be partially evaluated. Thus, reviewing only questions that the student missed—or anything less than an entire 75-question test—is not a valid retest. Any instructors who do not administer a full 75-question retest—whether the student reads the test alone or an instructor reads the questions to assist in comprehension—are *incorrectly* passing students.

Here are some very simple procedures to follow in all hunter education classes.

- 1 Never pass any student who does not attain the minimum passing score on a full 75-question test.
- 2 Do not automatically offer to retest all students who have failed the written examination.
- 3 If your teaching team offers a retest option, allow retesting only for students who demonstrated safe gun handling skills and a positive attitude throughout class.
- 4 Do not offer a full 75-question retest on the same day the student failed the initial exam. Failure on a written exam is a very emotional event and it will very often affect the student’s performance on a second exam.
- 5 Set a retest date and time that is convenient for the instruction team; give students sufficient time to review and restudy the material at home with friends and family members to prepare for the retest.
- 6 Use a different version of the 75-question written exam for all retesting. Remember that the test is to determine the student’s overall knowledge—not simple rote memory.
- 7 Determine whether to read the test to the student or if the student is capable of reading and comprehending the written exam without assistance.
- 8 Fail the student if the retest score is less than 80%. There is no retest of a retest.

Only students who have successfully and correctly passed an entire 75-question test are eligible for certification as a hunter education graduate.

How To Tactfully Fail Students In Hunter Education Class

ALMOST ALL STUDENTS I HAVE FAILED wind up in tears. The sole exceptions have been for those few students that failed because of an attitude problem. There is no one “right” way to inform a student of failure, but the following suggestions can help a student deal with the bad news.

- Insure privacy.
- Avoid embarrassment.
- Provide specific reasons for the student’s failure.
- Invite the student back to demonstrate learning and success in a future hunter education class.

Because there is absolutely no way of knowing in advance who will bomb on an exam, I always conclude my hunter education classes with the written exam. As I am grading exams I insure that remaining test-takers are not disturbed and can concentrate on doing their best. Since poorer students tend to take much longer on the test, it’s always a good idea to have an activity that keeps the rest of the students productively focused on something hunter education-related. A supervised DVD or a supervised class assignment—say policing the grounds of the gun range as a “Thank You” gesture—can fill the bill. Once I determine a student has failed, I place the failed test(s) on the very bottom of what appears to be a random pile of tests.

When all test-takers are done I reconvene class and announce the written scores, and then have students individually depart from the classroom area. One-by-one I whittle down the remaining pile until only the student failure(s) is left. The room is then emptied of everybody but the instructor(s), the student and the student’s parent. If the student has earned an opportunity for a retest, I inform the student and discuss a mutually convenient time and location, encouraging better results. If not, I discuss the student’s test score and performance in class and on the range that prevent me from offering the student a retest.

Tears will continue to flow and anxiety and emotion always overcome rational thought for the failing students. If they know they have been treated courteously, fairly and honestly, they walk away knowing the truth: They *will* improve.

By Sgt. Eric Anderson

TO ALL HUNTER EDUCATION instructors, I hope this article finds you and you families in good health and happy spirits since..... these are the things that **truly** matter in life!

You may be wondering about the title for this article. Well, this is a follow-up to the class I gave at last year's in-service training in Yakima so the title will make more sense as you read through it. I am hoping that this will be an "introspective" article where you look back and remember what I talked about during the class and ask yourself, "Am I applying these concepts?" and become a better instructor.

First let's talk about **Who?** and **What?** "*Who*" are you teaching and "*What*" learning styles do they have. The average hunter education student is somewhere between 11 and 14 years old and they are each an "individual" when it come to learning. Remember that some students are "Visual Learners" i.e., they have to see and read things for it to sink in deep into the cerebellum and become knowledge. On the flip side, they can be distracted by things they see that are unrelated to the subject to be learned. Some students are "Auditory Learners" i.e., they have to hear it to learn it; likewise they can be distracted in a setting with lots of noise distractions taking place. And finally, you have the "Kinesthetic Learners" i.e., they have to actually do it "hands on" or it will not stick. Their pitfall is when you give them something to play with or do before you are done talking/explaining it. You might as well be on Mars because they are no longer be paying attention to you! So, are you taking these things into account? Are you making sure that your teaching hits these three learning styles..... **Or are you leaving some students behind?** (*Also, we will be revisiting "What?" in an entirely different context later on in this article*).

Ok, lets talk about **Where?, When? & How?** (we will get to 'why' In just a bit). "*Where*" are you holding your classes? I know that sometimes this is constrained by the available facilities and you may not be able to overcome that challenge, but have you assessed your classroom? Does it add to or detract from the learning experience? Is it clean? Well lit? Does it have all of the needed equipment (power, heat, projection screen, restroom, drinking fountain, etc.) for putting on the class? Is it quiet and calm? Or is it full of distractions? One key point that I hammered over and over was the need for a "Positive Learning Atmosphere!" Assess your classroom honestly. Is it the best that it can be? Is there anything you can do to make it better? Remember that where you hold your class can have a huge impact on the learning experience.

"*When*" are you holding your classes? And "*How*" are you handling yourself when you are teaching the class? With these questions I want you to dig a little deeper into your own personal schedules and psyches as to what you are "bringing" with you into the classroom.....Are you free from stressors that will influence your teachings? I know that you sometimes have to schedule classes several months out and "stuff" happens that you cannot control, but remember to try and keeps your classes to times that you can dedicate yourself to the teaching process. Do not try to schedule a class during little league, a family vacation, three major deadlines at work, a doctor appointment, and your 20th class reunion. In addition, if something big comes up (divorce, loss of job, sickness, a family tragedy, etc.) let the rest of the teaching team take over your part and get away; it does no good to trudge ahead if the impact on the class will be negative.....Remember, **Create a Positive Learning Atmosphere!**

Ok, let's really get introspective and talk about **Why?** "*Why*" teach basic hunter education.....or more precisely, ask yourself "*Why do I want to teach basic hunter education?*" This is a question that I cannot answer for you, as the reason you teach is a personal choice. Is it because you want all our new hunters to be safe? Do you want them to be ethical? Do you want them to have a deep appreciation for the outdoors and the wildlife we cherish? Do you want them to carry on our hunting heritage? Do you want them to go forth as shining examples of what ethical, safe, law abiding "Hunters" should be?

Or.....will your students become ammunition for those who would like to see hunting banned!

Here is where I will recall "**What?**" in a different context. I really want you to take a long, hard look at **yourself** as a hunter education "**Teacher**" and "what", exactly, are you teaching your students?

- ◆ Do you show up for class on time, prepared, clean, and neatly dressed (wearing your hunter orange vest and your name tag)?
- ◆ Are you teaching "ethical", "safe", and "lawful" ways?
- ◆ Are you teaching them respect for the environment and the natural resources?
- ◆ What are you teaching them about WDFW, the state agency that regulates hunting and which **YOU** are an official representative of?
- ◆ Do you make comments about hunting regulations being complex? Maybe, during a break and during a conversation with a student's parent you make a comment like "That regulations is BS, there is no reason for that area being forked horn or better!" Or maybe during a war story you recall using the truck door frame to get a "steadier" rest.....Again, "What" are you teaching your students?

Just some things for you to ponder, until next time, may the skies be clear, the game be plentiful, and may your aim be true!

From The Desk Of Lt. Crown: Meeting A Higher Standard

HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS aren't just "average" individuals. While it's true that as hunter education instructors we may work, recreate and worry like every other adult or parent, we immediately distinguish ourselves from "average" in a crowd as soon as we don our hunter orange vests and stand in front of a classroom.

We're not taller, smarter or more capable than "average" adults. We're not less busy or have more free time than "average" adults. Without question we *are* more dedicated, passionate and concerned about the future of hunting, firearm safety and our conservation heritage. We're willing to work harder for our beliefs.

We also must be willing to work harder to maintain the privilege of teaching tomorrow's hunters. Recently four certified hunter education instructors were linked to unlawful wildlife activities in our state (see page two). Sadly, only two of the four reported their issues to hunter education division staff—long after the citations were issued and too late to make any meaningful difference.

Our standards for applicants to the hunter education program now prohibit anyone who has been convicted of

a felony crime from consideration as an instructor. In addition, any applicant who has been convicted of any misdemeanor or gross misdemeanor within the previous 10-year period is also prohibited from consideration. We believe we have a suitable screening process in place to prevent past problems from entering the instructor corps.

But what about our *current* certified instructors? In the past we mistakenly made the assumption that anyone with a new blemish on their record would immediately report their violation to WDFW hunter education staff. We've learned time and again in the recent past that is simply not happening. At some point in the near future we will institute periodic background checks to insure that all of our certified hunter education instructors continue to be mature, ethical and responsible adults. For now, I encourage any of you that have been involved in any criminal action since July 1, 2006 to speak directly with hunter education staff.

Remember that we're not just "average" individuals—we're hunter education instructors and role models that are held to a much higher standard.

New Instructor Schedule For 2009

THE FORMER PRE-SERVICE TRAINING program has been discontinued. In its place Chuck Ray and Dan Boes now serve as lead evaluators for weekend classes that insure applicant candidates demonstrate their practical skills in a hunter education course.

All applicants are required to complete one of the six weekend programs below **prior** to certification:

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| April 24 – 25 | Douglas County |
| June 26 – 27 | Walla Walla |
| July 17 – 19 | Pierce County |
| August 29 – 30 | Pend Oreille Cty |
| September 11 – 13 | Clark Cty |

Applicants will receive mileage and per diem reimbursement to partici-

pate in these practical class.

As preparation for these weekend classes, new instructor candidates will be required to work with existing chief instructors to become familiar with the hunter education program and "learn the ropes." Whether it's registering students, grading tests or teaching different sections of the curriculum, we all know the way to build skill and confidence is by doing. The new certification process allows applicants to work with mentor instructors to learn and demonstrate skills as they prepare for the weekend evaluation programs.

Please note that Chuck Ray (eastern Washington) and Dan Boes (western Washington) assign all instructors to mentors. If you are a chief instructor and are interested, please contact Chuck or Dan

directly.

"Why change a good thing like the PST?" is a question we've already heard from some instructors. While the former PST process was enjoyable and informative, it was also very time intensive. More importantly, there was always a high rate of attrition, with only 90+ instructors attaining certification in an average year. High applicant interest didn't always translate into a successful new hunter education instructor, leading us to change to the current format for 2009.

One of the key components to success in this new approach is a close relationship between the new applicant and existing chief instructors. Contact Chuck or Dan to see how you can help.

Terry Hoffer Memorial Firearm Safety Award Winner

THIS YEAR'S Terry Hoffer Memorial Firearms Safety Award (THMFSA) recipient is Wayne Long, Benton County. Congratulations Wayne!

This prestigious award is named in honor of Fish and Wildlife Officer Terry Hoffer, who was killed while on duty in 1984 by a negligent hunter.

Again in 2009 the THMFSA winner was selected via an independent committee. The initial slate of nominees was chosen from names submitted by fellow instructors and/or by the staff. Then the hunter education staff had the task of selecting three finalists from the nearly one dozen nominees under consid-



eration.

A separate three-person committee—comprised of one member from the Game Warden's Association (GWA), one from the Washington Hunter Education Instructors' Association and one past recipient of the THMFSA—was charged with making the final selection. Each representative on the committee received a scoring matrix and a brief profile about the anony-

mous nominees.

Hunter education division staff were only present to answer questions about the anonymous nominees. After discussion and voting, Wayne emerged as the 2009 THMFSA recipient.

Wayne was invited to the April Fish and Wildlife Commission in Olympia, where he received a plaque from WDFW, the glass "traveling trophy" from WHEIA and a Weatherby rifle, paid for partly by WHEIA and partly by Wayne.

Wayne's wife, son, daughter and brothers attended the presentation to honor his selection.

The THMFSA nomination process opens again in July.

THE WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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Online learning now available at www.hunter-ed.com/wa/

Email: huntered@dfw.wa.gov
Blog: <http://hunter-education.blogspot.com>

"Safety First"

**We're on the Web at
wdfw.wa.gov**