

**The Wisconsin Hunter Education Instructor
Association (WHEIA) in joint partnership
with the
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources**



***Statewide Hunter Education
Instructor Recertification Workshop
And
2011 WHEIA Annual Meeting***

March 19th, 2011

***Midway Hotel and Conference Center
Brookfield, Wisconsin***

“What have we done today to further Hunter Education?”

If you are a member of WHEIA, what's in it for you?

- **Our organization (WHEIA) speaks with one voice to the DNR to communicate how changes they propose or implement affects the volunteer instructor.**
- **Our organization exists as a resource for the volunteer instructors.**
- **The WHEIA website is a resource for downloading instructor materials, best practices, training announcements, and to communicate information relating to hunter education.**
- **Promote uniformity in the policy and procedures of the hunter education program. How we teach and what we teach.**
- **Continue to grow membership to draw experience and ideas from.**

Conference Sponsors

Silver Level Sponsor

- **Lakeview Rod & Gun Club, S80 W14401 Schultz Lane, Muskego, WI 53150**

Gun Board

- **Milwaukee Casting Club, 785 South Parkway Drive, Brookfield Wisconsin, 53005. Gun Sponsor.**
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WHEIA would like to extend a warm thank you to the above sponsors for their support.

Welcome letter from the DNR Administrator

To All Attendees of the 2011 WHEIA Conference:

Welcome! Thank you for being here and for considering this conference worthy of your time. There are many things you could be doing instead of attending this event. Your dedication and commitment to the mission of Safe, Knowledgeable and Responsible hunting is noted. In 1967 when hunter education began in Wisconsin the goal was to reduce the number of shooting related incidents. Since that time the goal has become to eliminate them and your work towards that have paid off. There are less than 2 dozen volunteers out of the 5000 plus that serve in our program that have ever seen a fatality free gun deer season. These are history making days in the legacy left by all of you. Be proud of what you have helped accomplish and continue your efforts to train as many people that want to be certified. Sometime in the next 18 months our program will reach the one millionth certified graduate another history making moment.

For those that have attended the WHEIA conferences in the past get ready for something refreshing this year. Yes, it is a surprise but you will like it. Enjoy your time with fellow instructors, DNR staff and friends. Take time to celebrate the successes of our program. Learn more about how to be the best instructor you can be and how to better serve the communities where you live. For many it will be similar to recharging your batteries. Many good things are coming and while they include changing the changes will be good for everyone. One of the very reasons we have remained the leader in hunter education in America is our ability to stay on the forefront of changes.

Thanks again for sharing your time with all of us at this event.

Tim Lawhern – Hunter Education Administrator.

Welcome letter from the WHEIA Board of Directors.

Greetings from the WHEIA Board of Directors, last June the WHEIA Board set a 2010 -2011 goal, “Partnering with the DNR,” to promote the professionalism and quality of hunter education. This conference and the following outreach meeting in May are positive steps we are taking to meet that goal.

We sincerely hope that when you leave here today you can say to yourself “*I have done something today to further hunter education!*” WHEIA and our partners at the DNR have a lot to share and offer you. Working together can improve hunter education and will have a life lasting impact on our new hunters.

We welcome you to this conference, to join WHEIA, and to become an active member.

Sincerely, the WHEIA Board of Directors

Agenda

Friday

- 4:00 PM Conference Setup Begins
- 7:00 PM WHEIA Business Meeting
 - Nominating Committee Meets
- 8:00 PM Audit Committee followed by Board of Directors Briefing on Procedures

Saturday

- 8:00 AM Registration Opens
- 9:30 AM Conference Opens
 - Presidents Welcome, Introduction of Guests, and Conference Procedures
 - Nominating Committee Chairman announcements
- 9:45 AM Mr. Tim Lawhern, WisDNR Hunter Education Administrator Updates to the Strategic Plan
- 10:15 AM Joe Lacenski, WHEIA President. WHEIA 2010 – 2011 Goals and Vision
- 10:30 AM Stretch Break
- 10:45 AM Ms. Brenda Von Rueden, WisDNR Hunter Education Program Associate Class Administration
- 11:15 AM Mr. Tim Lawhern, WisDNR Hunter Education Administrator Hunter/Constituent Trends
- 11:30 AM Announce afternoon session procedures and lunch break – Buffet lunch included in registration fees
- 1:00 PM Recertification Workshops.
- 3:30 PM Vision Forward and Conference Evaluations
- 3:45 PM (Time block reserved for possible training aid distribution.)
- 4:30 PM WHEIA business meeting
- 6:00 PM Dinner and Recognition of Retired RSW's
- 8:00 PM Awards & Raffles
- 9:00 PM Close

Sunday

- 8:00 AM Other Items as necessary

To all conference attendees, instructors, and invited guests, thank you for attending.

We sincerely hope you have enjoyed the conference, learned something new, refreshed skills, met old friends and made some new.

As a volunteer organization we are dependant on having members actively participating in our events. There are programs and events we would like to pursue further but we need members willing to step forward with their time. We need your help! For more information, please contact a board member.

Have a safe trip home and we look forward to seeing you next year.

In 2012, our conference and outreach meetings will be held in the Southwest and Northwest corners of the state. We will be posting more information on the date and locations on our website. (<http://wihuntered.org>)

The WHEIA Board of Directors

For Those that Often Say, What's in it For Me?

My son had wanted to hunt for a couple of years now, but had really expressed interest during the fall/winter deer hunting season in 2009. He was very disappointed when his plans had fallen through for the deer season and as a single mother of a young son interested in hunting, I had vowed that I would somehow provide the opportunity. Not being a hunter myself, I wasn't sure how to go about this. Let alone that I don't even own a shotgun.

Thanks to Allan Hoover and the Missouri Hunting Heritage Federation, I was able to not only provide Zach a memorable hunt, but myself a memorable experience between mother and son that is more commonly something shared between father and son.

Not having any interest in hunting myself, I had no desire to sit through the hunter safety course, nor the live fire and youth turkey hunt as had been scheduled by the MHHF. We attended the safety classes diligently and I must admit Allan and the other instructors made it more interesting than I had anticipated. I felt there were things I learned that I can continue to remind Zach of, that I would not have known otherwise. And I know it meant something to Zach that I was right there beside him, studying and testing. I did not participate in the live fire on the shooting range, but I thought it was a valuable opportunity for someone like Zach who had very little experience shooting a shotgun. The MHHF not only provided the shotguns and the ammo, but a mentor and land for the hunt too.

On that Sunday morning, we proceeded to the farm about 5 a.m. to check in with the others from the class and meet up with our mentor, Phil Needham. Once checked in, we proceeded to the blind which had been set up the previous evening in anticipation for our hunt.

Phil set out a hen decoy and we settled in quietly. We could hear lots of birds and sounds in the woods and Phil was teaching us the different birds we were hearing. Within 15 minutes or so we could hear turkey 'mating' activity going on fairly close behind us. Phil started using his hen call, stroking and tapping the mechanism, making the sounds of a lone hen. We saw a couple of hens approach from the bluff on the far left and anxiously awaited a Tom. Before long, I spotted movement on my right, and there stood a beautiful creature, all puffed up with vibrant blue and red, a sight I'll never forget. The moment we had waited for had finally arrived. As Zach readied his gun, the Tom moved out of sight behind a nearby tree. Zach waited anxiously, breathing so rapidly, I was afraid he was going to hyperventilate. I leaned into him and whispered for him to take deep breathes and relax. Phil was cautioning him to be ready and watch for the Tom to appear on the other side of the tree. A few minutes went by and when the Tom finally appeared, it had walked straight out into the clearing about a hundred yards, shielded by the tree. We continued to watch hoping it would meander back to the tree line and check out the decoy.

All of a sudden there was a loud rush of flapping and wings and several hens landed in the same area the Tom had initially appeared. They quickly followed him out into the clearing and we wondered if we had missed the only opportunity. Zach was watching and waiting, still in position with his shotgun perched on the gun stand, when a lone Jake flew over us and landed in the same spot as the Tom had before. Zach, being in position to fire, took his shot. The beautiful bird flew up, obviously crippled. Zach squeezed off a second shot and the bird dropped some distance out in the clearing. Amazingly, the hens continued to circle in the area oblivious to the sounds from the shotgun as if they were normal, everyday sounds.

We waited and watched. Every now and then we could see the Jake pop his head up, but there was very little movement otherwise. After a short period of time, Phil and Zach left the blind and carefully walked up on the Jake, following the instructions learned in class about walking up on an injured bird or animal. It was a sight to behold; "my hunter" and the mentor that helped make it possible, shoulder to shoulder, making their way to the bird. I had not been able to take any photos previously, but now could shoot freely with my camera. I followed a short distance behind and as I reached them, the bird was dead. I told Zach I wanted a photo of him and his kill and he proudly squatted beside it giving me a 'thumbs up' sign. I could see from the look on his face that he could barely contain himself. I think Phil was as proud as I, that Zach had gotten his bird. I shot several more pictures there in the clearing, and then we packed up the blind and took our kill back to the meeting area. We had been out less than an hour.

Once back, after photographs and stories told, Phil and Allan showed us how to clean the bird. They even gave Zach a mini biology lesson on body parts. There were suggestions of recipes and how to cook the meat. The day was rounded off with a cookout provided by the MHHF. All the participants sat around and told their hunting stories and a good time was had by all.

But undoubtedly, I had the best time. My little boy was on his journey to becoming a man.

Brenda Williams --- April, 2010

Donation Levels and Recognitions

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\$2500.00 - Above WHEIA Gold Level Patrons

*(Thank you from WHEIA in the annual convention program and listed as a **WHEIA Gold Level Patron** in the WHEIA Newsletter plus a 1 year Associate Membership and four complimentary tickets to the WHEIA Annual Banquet. **WHEIA Patron Plaque** with gold insert for the year and recognition on the WHEIA Website.)*

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\$500.00 - \$2499.00 WHEIA Silver Level Patrons

*(Thank you from WHEIA in the annual convention program and listed as a **WHEIA Silver Level Patron** in the WHEIA Newsletter plus a 1 year Associate Membership, and two complimentary tickets to the WHEIA Annual Banquet. **WHEIA Patron Plaque** with silver insert for the year and recognition on the WHEIA Website.)*

- **Lakeview Rod & Gun Club**, S80 W14401 Schultz Lane, Muskego, WI 53150. Donation of three firearms.

\$100.00 - \$499.00 WHEIA Bronze Level Patrons

*(Thank you from WHEIA in the annual convention program and listed as a **WHEIA Bronze Level Patron** in the WHEIA Newsletter plus a 1 year Associate Membership*

*****New This Year*****

*\$300.00 Gun Sponsor- Donate \$300.00 and we will use it for one of the gun boards at the 26th annual banquet. Along with a thank you from WHEIA in the annual convention program you will be listed as a **WHEIA Bronze Level Patron** in the WHEIA Newsletter plus 1 year Associate Membership)*

We would like to extend a thank you to the following organization(s) for their generous donation and support of our organization.

- **Milwaukee Casting Club**, 785 South Parkway Drive, Brookfield Wisconsin, 53005. Gun Sponsor.

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\$1.00 - \$99.00 WHEIA Benefactors

(Thank you from WHEIA in the annual convention program)

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