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# Conservation Education Newsletter



## Firearm Safety/Hunter Education Update

### Workshops 2006

2006 is the second year that we have organized Instructor Workshops by Region and standardized the content to create a professional development and recognition day. The intent is to give our instructors new tools and direction to assist them in the delivery of the Conservation Education Program. It would be prudent at this time to review your feelings concerning the format of the workshops.

Are you coming away with strategies to deal with course delivery to students both minor and adult? Has there been sufficient recognition of FS/HE instructors and the time that they put into the delivery of the course?

This year we organized 5 Firearm Safety/Hunter Education workshops in the Province, with our Regional coordinators pulling the personnel, catering and venues together with the help of Regional instructors. Region 2 held 2 workshops, one in Miramichi and the other in Dieppe because of the geographical length of the region. It was felt that 2 workshops better addressed the needs of the Region 2 instructors.

The agenda this year was designed to address a variety of instructor concerns and to provide strategies for information delivery that that would add to the repertoire of our Instructor group, both staff and volunteer.

The first topic was "No excuses and This is Why" which addressed the

negative impact which instructors can have on course delivery by initially setting themselves up for failure by making excuses to the class about course preparation or content. A positive, confident attitude will go a long way in stimulating student interest and maintaining interest, especially in border-line participants who may be attending the course to comply with regulation rather than on their own free will. Firearms Issues were addressed to dispel any misconceptions concerning changes to the Firearms Act and the delivery of the Canadian Non-restricted Firearms Course. This year we introduced the new Hunter Ed Part-B manual and distributed them to attendees with an update on the progress of the new instructor guide to accompany this manual. We are looking forward to providing this expanded guide in the near future to better compliment the new manual and assist in its use. Instructors receiving vests and pins for years of service were presented these by the Regional Coordinator immediately after lunch. The next agenda item was titled "Teaching Hunter Ethics-Another Way" and it utilized a small group format to explore ways of delivering course material on the vital theme of Hunter Ethics. As we are all aware, hunter behaviour can make or break hunting privileges and opportunities in the future. The next topic was "Teaching Laws and Regulations using the Hunt/Trap Summary Booklet", this was an interactive, hands on approach to Fish And Wildlife Act Regulations governing hunting. A group format was used to search the Summary for answers

to preset questions which covered the range of information provided by the Summary in a much more interesting manner than formal lecture style. The District was given an opportunity to input an agenda topic of local interest and the Workshop was adjourned at 4:00 p.m. Initial reaction was positive to the 2006 offering and your additional comments would be greatly appreciated. We are including the e-mail addresses of the Regional Coordinators on page 4 of this newsletter in order to give you another option to contact the Regional Coordinators with your opinions and suggestions concerning any aspect of the Conservation Education Program. Plans are being made for next year's Workshop agenda and your input is valuable.

The following table will illustrate the attendance figures for the Province for this year's Workshops. Current totals for active volunteers and staff are 258 volunteers and 203 staff instructors.

Location	Date	Vol.	DNR
Miramichi	06-02-18	13	27
Fredericton	06-03-18	60	39
Dieppe	06-03-25	20	15
Edmundston	06-03-25	15	15
Belledune	06-04-15	13	15
<b>Totals</b>		<b>121</b>	<b>111</b>

**Student's experience**

When courses are over and students have left, instructors sometimes wonder if it was worthwhile, have we imparted some knowledge, was my volunteered time wasted? Carlinda Daigle forwarded us this letter that she received from a recent graduate of a Firearms Safety / Hunter Education Course given by the Fredericton Area Hunter Safety Instructor Association. We have contacted the sender and have gained permission to include it in the newsletter verbatim. It is self explanatory.

*"It's all over, got home last night and framed my certificate....wow, what a feeling that was.....Funny how things happen with me...I really get nervous and react after all is over and done....I still have butterflies in my stomach today...."*

*I really enjoyed the course and can't get over how helpful everyone was.....We*

*were treated very special, Austin and Lyn went out of their ways to assist us.....we probably looked pathetic and decided to pity on us....I can't say how much I admire the volunteers....it's an intense course, we're tired, they're tired too, but their time is volunteered...."*

**Bow Hunter Update**

**Bow Hunter's Creed**

As one of the most important points covered during a bow hunter education course, the Bow hunter's Creed forms a basic set of ethical guidelines that we as instructors seek to firmly implant in the minds of all new bow hunters. Many times we have taught the basic points of this creed and had the students read and discuss each point as a means to instill its time honored traditions and values. Following my recent relocation to the Fredericton area, I had the good fortune to be a recipient of one of the Creed's good teachings: "I will assist all bow hunters in locating places to hunt..."

You see, as luck would have it, my relocation landed me next door to a fellow bow hunter.

Upon seeing my bow among the stream of items flowing from moving van to new house, my next door neighbor dropped by to make introductions and welcome me and my family to the neighborhood. I quickly learned that he had spent a great deal of time in the local area scouting for deer, bear and other game. Sadly, I also learned of his imminent departure for reassignment with the military to Goose Bay, Labrador. Undeterred by the need to pack and make moving arrangements, my neighbor offered to "show me the ropes" as it were, on all the good hunting locations he had discovered during his current 4 year posting. We spent the better half of a day trudging through the rain, mosquitoes, and humid under-growth as he showed me all the various game trails, stand locations, and feed sources that lay beyond that critical 200m limit. Now, armed with this wealth of knowledge, I have a great head start and ample supply of choice locations to hunt this fall. I can't help but think in some way that the Bow hunter's Creed has helped to make this possible and that the good spirit showed by my neighbor is alive and well out

there – particularly in Labrador where my now ex-neighbor seeks to arrow a trophy caribou this fall.

Submitted by Ben Forward, Bow instructor

The Bow Hunter Education Instructors Workshop was held in Fredericton this year on April 1, 2006 at the Hugh John Flemming Forestry Complex and attendance was 18 instructors and 6 presenters. Agenda topics included New Brunswick Bow Education Assoc. business and election of officers as well as updates on regulations and the new instructor and student manuals. Randy McCoy updated the group on the BONB and Bruce Hennessy, representing the NBEF, gave an update on their initiatives. The presentation "No More Excuses and Why" which was a well received part of the Firearms Safety/Hunter Education Workshops was presented by Tim Cameron, Client Service's Conservation Education Coordinator.

**Trapper Education Update**

On May 06 and 07, 2006, a trapper education course was held at the Dept. of Natural Resources District Office in Miramichi. N.B.



The students were introduced to a variety of topics, which included a wildlife management presentation by Fish and Wildlife technician Rodney MacEachern and a Trapping Regulations presentation by Regional Protection Ranger Mike Cain. Other subjects included equipment preparation, ethics and responsibilities, pre-season scouting, survival and trapping tactics. NB Trappers and Fur Harvesters Federation instructors Yvon Morais, Craig Smith and Kendall

Hubbard demonstrated field skills and pelt preparation techniques.



Thanks for article and photos to Craig Smith and J.C. Babineau-Region 2 Coordinator.

May 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> were also the dates for a Trapper Education course which was put on at the Schoales Dam ranger camp at Anderson Brook. 14 students attended and completed the course. Instructors were Bert McMillan, Marshall Christie, Trevis Kingston, Jack McKay and Gary Moore. One requirement of this course was that all students skin and pelt an animal which made the course extremely interesting. Thanks to Jack McKay, DNR Sussex for the information on this course.

So far in 2006 there have been 9 Trapper Education courses given with a total of 85 students in attendance.

The annual Trapper Education Instructor Development Day was held at the Maritime College of Forest Technology in Fredericton on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2006. The agenda was presented in both French and English simultaneously in separate rooms. The agenda covered new trap standards, an approach on teaching new trap standards, enforcement issues, instructor development, training aids, guest speaker, and the day ended with an open discussion, session evaluation and prizes. The guest speaker this year was Joe Power from the Maine State Trapping Organization and his topics were "The Importance of Avoiding Non-target Animals" and "Interaction with Animal Rights Groups." Attendance was 31 attendees with 7 presenters.

Thanks to all the instructors who sent in material for this newsletter

### Teaching Tip

Never loading pointed bullets in tubular magazines is one practice that we have been teaching ever since the tubular magazine came into common use in the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Technology has again trumped us with the introduction of the LEVERevolution ammunition from Hornady. This is a pointed spire point bullet with a soft nose which will allow it to be loaded in a tubular magazine but not detonate the primer ahead during recoil. The advantage is a marked improvement in energy and trajectory for the calibres being loaded. Currently these include 30-30 Win. 35 Remington, 444 Marlin, 45-70 Gov't, and 450 Marlin. Component bullets for handloaders will likely soon be available. Where the problem lies is in the seeming contradiction in our manual which states that in all cases, tubular magazines are to be loaded only with flat nosed bullets.



We always emphasize that students, if they are unfamiliar with a firearm or ammunition are to check the data stamp on a firearm and the headstamp on a cartridge and the information on the ammunition box, which may contain directions from the manufacturer for use. This is a case where ammunition would seem to contradict our manual but the manufacturer has clearly defined what types of firearms these cartridges may be used in and they do include tubular magazines. If in doubt, students should always read instruction material or ask a knowledgeable person for help.

Regional Coordinator	Region 1 Bathurst	Region 2 Miramichi	Region 3 Kingsclear	Region 4 Edmundston
FS/HE	Greg Schlosser 547-2075	J.C. Babineau 743-7300	Gail Duncan 444-4888	J.P. Thibodeau 735-2040
Bow Hunter Ed	Bernie LeBlanc 783-7958	Raymond Farrell 773-4395	Cathy Drew 357-6274	Steve Kovack 739-8627
Trapper Ed	Denis Guitard 547-2080	J.C. Babineau 743-7300	Jack McKay 432-2008 Allen Grant 453-2345	J.P. Thibodeau 735-2040

We would like to know how many instructors would like to have their newsletter delivered via e-mail to their computer rather than by residential mail. The instructor journal is also available in digital format from the IHEA. Please let us know you wish to have this service by emailing Peter Palmer, [peter.palmer@gnb.ca](mailto:peter.palmer@gnb.ca).

**!!! IMPORTANT !!!**  
**Do Not Forget To Let Us Know**  
**If Your Address Is Changing!**

<b>CHANGE OF ADDRESS</b>	
<b>Name:</b>	
<b>New Address:</b>	
<b>Postal Code:</b>	
<b>Telephone #:</b>	
<p><b>Send to: Department of Natural Resources</b>  <b>Fish and Wildlife Branch</b>  <b>Client Services Program</b>  <b>P.O. Box 6000</b>  <b>Fredericton, NB</b>  <b>E3B 5H1</b></p>	