

THE COCONUT WIRELESS

Fall/Winter 2013

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2013 National Hunting and Fishing Day

This year's National Hunting and Fishing Day was held on September 21-22, 2013 at the Koko Head Shooting Complex on Oahu. Although attendance was slightly slower than last year, we're happy to report that the event ran smoothly and donations to the Hawaii Food Bank remained high.

However, with shorter lines, participants were able to get more range time and hands-on training, and clubs were able to spend more time providing quality instruction to individuals. Many clubs reported that participants returned over and over to try the different shooting and fishing activities. It was reported that one family even returned to purchase an additional \$100.00 in activity coupons after exchanging their canned goods earlier in the day!

Attendance at the event was recorded at 522 compared with 719 from 2012. Cash donations hit a record high at \$3,996.00, compared with \$2,755.00 from 2012. Canned good donations were recorded at 1,527 lbs. compared with 2,451 lbs. in 2012.

National Hunting and Fishing Day would also not have been possible without the support of our Hunter Education Program volunteer instructors and staff! Thank you to the following volunteers for your hard work and support to make this event a success: Master Instructors: Mr. John Kobayashi, Mr. Phillip Kam, and Mr. Kevin Kong; Instructors: Mr. Emmanuel Alvarez, Mr. Jimmy Brooks, Mr. Jay Chrisman, Mr. Jon Chun, Ms. Carole Fujishima, Mr. Dan Goo, Ms. Judy Goo, Mr. Jerry Ilo, Jr., Mr. Russell Komoda, Mr. Cy Matsuoka, Mr. Darren Ogura, Ms. Arlene Ogura, Mr. David Oshiro, Mr. Chris Wong, Mr. Eric Wong; Staff: Ms. Corinne Gum, Mr. Jesus Lee, Ms. Sharleen Lee. 📷

Hunter Education Program Recognized at Governor's Award Ceremony as DLNR Team of the Year



The Hunter Education Program would like to congratulate all of our volunteers for being chosen as the Department of Land and Natural Resources', 2013 Team of the Year. DLNR Chairperson, William Aila, recognized the Hunter Education Program at the DLNR Board Meeting on July 26, 2013. Those in attendance were: Master and Distinguished Instructor, Mr. Henry Yamada; Master Instructors, Mr. John Kobayashi, Ms. Winifred Cummings (Lanai), Mr. Kevin Kong; Instructors, Mr. Eric Wong, Mr. David Oshiro, Mr. Ryan Hiraе, Mr. Chris Wong; and Administrative Staff, Mr. Orlando Oxiles, Coordinator, Mr. Andrew Choy, Ms. Jaynine Mertens, Ms. Mary Salamanca. and Ms. Olivera Opacic.

Each state department chose their own teams, and representatives of these teams were invited to the Governor's Recognition Ceremony at the State Capitol on October 4, 2013. Although the Hunter Education Program was recognized at the ceremony, the State of Hawaii 2013 Team of the Year award went to the Department of Health's, "Tropic Care Kauai 2012" for the medical care their team organized for the Kauai residents valued in excess of \$7 million. 📷

Upcoming Events:

**Annual Statewide
Hunter Education
Instructor and Staff
Meeting**

March 8-9, 2014
(more details to follow)

Find Us Online:

Hunter Ed Program:
dlnr.hawaii.gov/huntered

Hunter Ed Classes:
dlnr.hawaii.gov/huntered/classes

This program receives Federal assistance from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age of Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior and its bureaus prohibit discrimination on the bases of color, national origin, age, disability and sex (in education programs). If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, facility, please write to: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Civil Rights Branch, 4040 N. Fairfax Dr., Ste 300, Arlington, VA. , or Personnel Office, Department of Land & Natural Resources, 1151 Punchbowl St., Honolulu, HI. 96813.



Thankful for all the Years

By Orlando "Ox" Oxiles, Hunter Education Program Coordinator



As soon as our eyes met I yelled "Thank you for coming" trying to overcome the roar of the C-130 Hercules' four turbo prop jet engines. Bob responded with an affirming smile as we broke our brief but special contact as the aircraft door was about to be closed before heading to Bangkok, Thailand. Bob was Bob Hope, the entertainer. He and his corps of celebrities had just spent the day entertaining the U.S. troops at Nakon Phanom Air Base, Thailand in December of 1968.

Bob Hope brought along Ann Margaret (she has stunning green eyes), Rosie Grier (the L.A. Rams defensive lineman sang a mean hit rock song), Jerry Colona (was a very funny standup comedian), the Gold Diggers (was an all girl song and dance group) and Les Brown and his band of Renown. On that day I was the escort for one of the "Gold Diggers". My Gold Digger's last name was Lund and she sure was pretty. I cannot remember her first name. That is what time and age will do to you. Back then (45 years ago) my job was to perform the electrical maintenance/repairs on search and rescue helicopters and the Vietnam War was raging. And I may have been a young "punk" then.

I am no longer in the U.S. Air Force; I am no longer a federal employee; I am no longer young; and I hopefully am not a punk; and as of December 31, 2013 I will no longer be the Hawaii Hunter Education Program Manager. My status will be state retiree and program volunteer on January 1, 2014 helping with the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP). It is a comfort knowing that the program is in the competent and reliable hands of its volunteers and staff.

Words are inadequate to express the appreciation and aloha that I have for each of you for your work, contributions, efforts, courtesies and acts of selflessness. These are at the core and essence of the Hawaii Hunter Education Program that are the foundations for its successes and abilities to educate and service the public in the realms of safety, conservation and responsibility. Each of you brings a specialty to the program and together you are simply more than really impressive and astounding.

Please keep and retain your freshness, whether alone or as a team. Hunter education begins, happens and proliferates only with you, your ability and availability.

By the way - "Thank you for coming"!

Ox 



Our Students Speak

Class was oriented awesome; instructors very knowledgeable; hours are very convenient.

-Male/Oahu/October

Perhaps separate children; other class, or have parents accompany them at all times.

-Female/20/Kauai/October

All good. Willing to attend more classes about hunting and caring about wildlife and community too.

-Female/26/Lanai/October

Great Job. Thanks for all the knowledge and helping me be more open minded of the sport.

-Female/24/Kohala/October

I'm blessed and more aware. Thank you, guys, for your heart and time.

-Male/28/Molokai/November

To Register for a Hunter Education Class Call:

Registration Hotline:
1-800-353-4868

Island of Hawaii residents:
(808) 887-6050

Class schedule is available at:
dlnr.hawaii.gov/huntered/classes



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G.I.G.O

By Robert Okawa, Master Instructor (West Hawaii)



- A chance chat with Firearms Registration Clerk and another Hunter Education Graduate who happened to be there
- American Jungle
- YouTube
- PIO (Public Information Officer) at CDCP (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

These recent events caused me to again reflect on my role as an instructor.

GIGO, Garbage In Garbage Out, was a term we databasers used to guide us in developing, maintaining and most importantly, extracting information that was useful.

Data = information = knowledge.

The chance presence of another former student when I was registering a firearm led to discussions with the clerk who had been through one of my classes. Comments emphasized again those heard from others that there is so much information presented at our classes. And more importantly, information they found valuable even for these who do not hunt. We are “Analogue Information Transfer Devices”, irrespective of the terms like instructor, teacher, mentor, or guide that we consider ourselves.

We transfer information we have obtained and processed to other receptors. We are a link in a long chain. In my professional life, I have done well (in my opinion anyway) because of my varied educational background (Microbiology and Food Safety), experiences in Food Safety consulting, Disease Control, and Professional Presentations, Emergency Response Trainings, and by heeding the advice of the PIO at CDCP who indicated that his job was not creating information, but packaging information for specific audiences. He needs to know his audience to effectively accomplish this. He must “get the pulse” of his audiences in order to do it well.

Packaging meant he was the messenger, not the message; but for the message to be received properly and appropriately he must understand the current situations to gain the proper perspectives. That is, knowing a lot is not enough. Being an “otaku”, geek, or technocrat doesn’t mean you are able to communicate and effectively pass on information. Having knowledge doesn’t necessarily mean you can pass on any of the knowledge. You need other skills to do this.

To know his audience, the first thing he did every morning was to read several leading newspapers, but not for the news. He read “Letters to the Editor” and the “Opinion” sections. This is where you find what is on peoples’ minds. You will find the developing issues you will soon need to address. I followed this advice and was always open to public “complaints” which are peoples’ concerns that I may not have known existed and were opportunities to respond and mitigate. Preparing the message goes into many facets, and I will speak to one. First you need to know what is currently happening out there.

That brings us to American Jungle and YouTube. There are many things out there that I find offensive as a Hunter Education Instructor as well as a user of the environment and harvester of wildlife; as someone who at times kills my own food instead of letting others do the “dirty work”; whether vegetable or animal or rarely mineral (sea salt, for instance). If you were not aware of those activities, you may want to become more informed. There are illegal activities and in my opinion unethical postings on YouTube as well as TV that I am glad I know about although it bothers me.

Many incoming students also know about them. And more importantly, these are seen and probably relished by Anti-hunters, who have ready “ammunition” furnished by hunters themselves. For instance, do a search on YouTube for “Mauna Kea hunting”. It is delusional to think only their friends and other like minded wayward people are looking at these. Prior knowledge is preparedness.

As Hunter Education Instructors and links in information transfer it is important to be aware, be informed, be knowledgeable, and assess the legal and ethical ramifications of what is out there. You are seen as an authority. We need to be open and seek information that affect our activities and outcomes.

GI-GO also means Good Input-Good Output. We should not rely on what we “know” from the past to be the total guide of what we do or teach in the present. We must be open to input so we can adjust our output. Good Input to allow Good Output is a goal I think we all should seek. 📱

***Report All Game Law Violations. Conservation Hotline: 643-DLNR
Poachers Steal Natural Resources From Everyone.***

Before Taking Your Dog Out Back

By Andrew Choy, Hunter Education Program, Assistant Coordinator



Since March 2013, my life has revolved around my dog, Ruger. Even before that, I spent countless hours at the breeder's house choosing the right pup and bonding with him. Although I've grown up with dogs, none of them have been a real working dog—and, one that was all mine.

When I told John Kobayashi that I was getting a Brittany, he cautioned, "that's like having a kid; my wife would kill me if I got another one." But this was a *dog*—how could it be like having a kid? Having grown up with (pet) dogs, it was easy to shrug off. And, as much as I hate to admit it, John was right: Ruger is my kid. Someone recently said that having a dog is like having a perpetual four year old: training him has been a financial burden, emotionally frustrating, patience-testing, and physically exhausting—but I could never have imagined how satisfying it would turn out to be.

One of the first lessons was that I couldn't train my pup by myself. As much as I wanted to do it on my own, I simply do not have the know-how to get it done right. The basic, *sit, stay, come, no* commands I could handle. The rest: like a fish out of water. Books only helped so much. In reality, I needed to consult our 'Library of Hunter Education Instructors'. The collective knowledge of those instructors who raise and work bird dogs has proven invaluable. Some of the instructors who have, in many ways, been surrogate parents to Ruger are: Eric Wong, Phil Kam, Bob Okawa, Ken Saito, Alan Nakagawa, Wendell Kam, and Dan Goo. In fact, it does take a 'village' to do things right....so, *thank you* for your help.

These instructors have lent their expertise over countless help desk calls. And they've always been right. Two things prove this: (1) the pup's coming along just fine and (2) although these instructors may not always be able to agree on certain issues, their tack when it comes to training dogs has been nearly in complete agreement...a minor miracle, some would say.

The reality is that our instructor corps constitutes a wealth of knowledge. From recipes for smoke meat to reloading, gunsmithing to gun dogging, and hunting to fishing, we have experts in all these fields. But the strength of the program comes as we collectively tap into these resources. If I were left to my own devices with Ruger, I probably would have taken him out back a long time ago.



It's a good thing I didn't though. We had been waiting for opening weekend just as soon as the 2012-2013 season closed (while Ruger was still in the oven, his mother was out in the field pushing birds). Pre-season field training looked promising, and with a little more rain this year, an average bird season was expected.



On the Sunday of opening weekend, the pup and I made it out for an afternoon hunt. There were no other hunters in the area—perfect. We hit our usual honey holes, but nothing came out. With an hour or so left of hunting light, I steered Ruger into an area we worked a few hours ago. He locked on point in the middle of a grassy bowl. The bird could have been anywhere in this bowl. As I approached to Ruger's side, I brought the shotgun up to a port position. Just as quickly, Ruger ran a

couple yards in front of me and locked on point again. This played out for about fifteen minutes before the pup finally made a thirty yard cast and locked head on to me. At this point, I think I was just humoring him, so I let my shotgun down and walked in. What a rookie move. 'Flutter'...'crap!'—that's the sound two erkels make when they fly away and the sound a human makes when he doesn't get his shotgun up in time.

A second later, two more erkels flushed from the same spot. This was my chance at redemption and to Ruger and my own surprise picked up the double. This one outing made my season; everything else has been a bonus. But I cannot reiterate how much of this has been a *village* effort: the village set us up for success.

It's almost like watching the sprint finish of a road bicycle race. Sprints are not won by any single racer. The team *must* pull their sprinter along, most times from tens-of-miles out. The team drags the sprinter along while he conserves his energy drafting. Only within a few hundred meters of the finish line does the team, at 40 mph plus, start to tail off. One by one, the lead out train for the sprinter moves off to the side, each racer having pulled at the front, until, finally, the sprinter is launched within sight of the finish line. The sprinter closes the deal, but from beginning to end, it is a team effort. If you follow some the larger road bicycle races, you know that sprinters are made by their teams. Of course, the team rule is true of many organized sports, but the sprint finish of a road bicycle race is a visual representation of the efficacy of a great, average, or poor team.

All of us at the Hunter Education Program are privileged to have such a great corps of volunteers—and such an accessible wealth of knowledge and experience. Share it, and pass it on. You might save someone the trouble of *taking his dog out back*. 📷

E Komo Mai, New Instructors!

Please join us in welcoming these new instructors to our program.

None at this time

Eh, No Forget!

Please update us on your contact information such as phone, fax, email, etc. We try to update our database regularly, so this will help us to contact or locate you in a timely manner. Mahalo!

Hunter Education Program

1130 N. Nimitz Hwy.
Honolulu, HI. 96819
(808) 587-0200

Waimea Office
66-1220D Lalamilo Rd.
Kamuela, HI. 96743
(808) 887-6050