

HAWAII HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM NEWS AND VIEWS

THE COCONUT WIRELESS

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Hawaii Conservation and Wilderness Education Project 2013

On July 11, 2013, twelve Hunter Education graduates between the ages of ten and thirteen traveled to Pu'u Wa'awa'a Forest Reserve to attend the Hunter Education Program's annual Hawaii Conservation and Wilderness Education Project (HCWEP). Students are selected by lottery to attend the four day camp held on Hawaii Island.

Planning for each year's HCWEP begins right after a camp finishes when the campsite for the following year is reserved. Camp coordination takes place a year out from the camp but begins in earnest the two months before the actual camp. Nevertheless, a successful HCWEP is a team effort.

This year, sixteen Hunter Education volunteers, three program staff, and five Safari Club International, Hawaii Chapter, members participated in the camp. The closure of Keanakolu Ranger Station, which serves as the usually HCWEP venue, presented an added challenge for administrators and volunteers. However, the more central location of Pu'u Wa'awa'a between Kona and Waimea as well as the impressive numbers of both introduced and native wildlife made for an especially memorable camp.

Upon arriving, the students participated in an icebreaker which helps in remembering each other's names. Ground rules are also laid out immediately. After 'housekeeping', the students attended an outdoor classroom session with Elliot Parsons, the biologist who oversees Pu'u Wa'awa'a Forest Reserve. Students and instructors learned first-hand about the unique and delicate state of Hawaii's dryland forests. Following the short talk, students participated in conservation work to help restore native plants to the area by watering the recent plantings.



2013 HCWEP participants with
Hunter Education Instructors and SCI
members

Upcoming Events:

**NATIONAL HUNTING
AND FISHING DAY 2013**

**Koko Head Public
Shooting Complex**

SEPTEMBER 21-22, 2013

The first day's activities concluded with an 'ono dinner provided by the Safari Club members, and Bob Okawa, Master Instructor (West Hawaii), helped to further orient students to the area with a map exercise using GPS coordinates from Pu'u Wa'awa'a later that evening. *(Continued Page 4)*

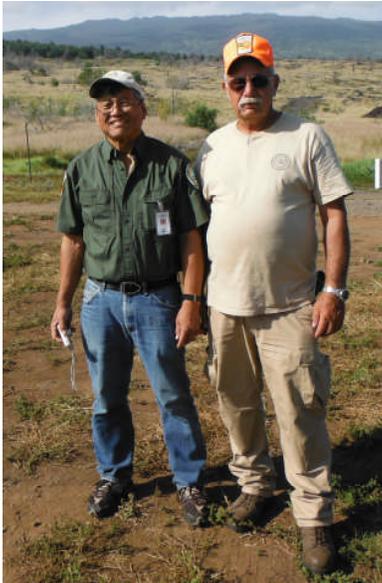
We'd like to hear from you! Please share any interesting thoughts, news, upcoming events, dis 'n dat, any kine, you know--whatever with *The Coconut Wireless* via:
hunter.ed.news.and.views@gmail.com

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.



Hunter Education Program—2013 DLNR Team of the Year Award

By Orlando "Ox" Oxiles, Hunter Education Program Coordinator



Congratulations! The Hawaii Hunter Education Program volunteers have been selected as the Department of Land and Natural Resources Team of the Year for 2013. A ceremony on July 26, 2013 at the Department of Land and Natural Resources Kalanimoku Building's Board Room acknowledged the recognition. The DLNR Pride in Public Service Day celebration on July 29, 2013 also recognized the program's volunteers as the 2013 DLNR Team of the Year. This honor does not end soon. The program volunteer team will represent the Department of Land and Natural Resources and vie for the Governor's Award for State Team of the Year in early October 2013.

Such attention humbles and gives pause for thought and thanksgiving for the special abilities to serve those in Hawaii and elsewhere. Three elements are striking in the Hawaii Hunter Education Program volunteer team:

First the program has certified 58,233 students since 1979 and in the process has prevented hunting and outdoor accidents and fatalities while enriching the outdoor experience that includes not only safety but also wildlife conservation and sportsmen ethics.

Secondly, the program volunteer hours are more than sufficient to match over \$400,000.00 in federal funds with an in-kind value of volunteer hours exceeding well over \$136,000.00 each year.

Lastly, all the other states, Canadian provinces, foreign countries such as South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and other nations both within and outside of the International Hunter Education Association (IHEA) accept the Hawaii hunter education certification in order to hunt in their jurisdictions.

This award is a testament and honors all volunteers who have selflessly and unconditionally contributed to the program's mission of safety, conservation awareness and responsibility from the beginning of Hawaii Hunter Education in 1979 and continues today and in the future by seeing a need and filling it.

Again, you each deserve the sincerest of congratulations and mahalos for serving Hawaii by continuing a dynamic and important mission and legacy.

~Ox



Our Students Speak

Make it a one day course. Provide some of the information on legal topics in writing and shorten that section. Update and shorten videos.

-Male/Maui/July

Subject matter is good for this level course...Instructors were knowledgeable and good instructors. Examples brought in were very useful. Instructors appeared passionate about subject matter. Appreciate them volunteering their time.

-Male/43/Kauai/June

Akutagawa is an excellent instructor: patient, educated, and witty. Thanks for holding this class.

-Male/25/Molokai/May

Lots of dated videos—make more relevant to what is HERE: what casualties/accidents do we have? What are our hunting problems vs. elsewhere? Give statistics why hunting matters in Hawaii! Daily registration/sign in process could be done faster. Schedule 5-minute break every 75-80 minutes. Stop the background talk when a speaker has the floor!

-Female/30s/Hilo/June



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Reflections of a Recently Minted Master Instructor

By Phillip Kam, Master Instructor (Oahu)

As I reflect back to the past classes of my new experience as a Hunter Education Master Instructor, I am thankful and grateful for lucking out on having such an enthusiastic, hard working cadre of instructors and staff to help. The experience has been positive indeed.

However, I do get anxious over one issue, and that is trying to stay on time during one's lesson. This harks back to my days as a naval engineer. I understand that many times the students pull the instructors over into areas that are out of the scope of the lesson. I also understand, from experience, that some students like to impress the instructors with their own knowledge of the subject. Also, some answers are best clarified by recounting our own experiences on the subject—war stories.

Running overtime jeopardizes the whole class. Students want their questions answered but do not appreciate staying overtime. I got written up for holding up one class for 5 minutes to wait for late students. Also, we need to respect the instructor who follows our segment by not cutting into his/her time. I am fortunate in that, because I do some of the lessons myself, I can try to catch up. But, by forcing me to catch up, the problem arises that I am short changing the students during my lesson.

As a solution to this, I instruct my team that whenever an instructor receives a question that is off the subject at hand, or cannot be answered in a few words or a “yes” or “no”, that the instructor direct the student to *write* the question down for discussion during *breaks* or *after class*. That way, the student can get his/her question answered without causing lessons to run overtime. Other students can leave the class on time and the instructor can elaborate as he/she sees fit. If the student is not willing to discuss the question after the class, he/she must be made to realize the class has to remain on time for the benefit of all attendees. He/she can schedule another time to discuss the question. In addition, when discussing questions during breaks or after class, more than one instructor can lend their expertise to the subject. Enough said.

Eyes on the Prize

By Andrew Choy, Hunter Education Program Assistant Coordinator



The closure of Keanakolu Ranger Station (usual venue for Hunter Education youth camps) a month before the start of the 2013 camp left us scrambling for a new site. Thanks to the quick thinking of Bob Okawa, Master Instructor-West Hawaii, we were able to secure the lake house and meeting house at Pu'u Wa'awa'a Forest Reserve to host this year's camp.

With the change in venue came logistic and administrative challenges in ensuring a solid camp for the youth. There is no doubt in my mind that our outstanding team of instructors along with support from the Safari Club International, Hawaii Chapter, made it possible for our program to ‘pull off’ another successful camp.

Administrative tasks aside, an important lesson I learned through this camp is the importance of the value of the students'—young sportsmen and sportswomen—learning experience at camp. It's much more than icebreakers, lectures, and shooting activities; it's indoctrination. Ushering youth (and beginners) into the sportsman/ sportswoman process *is* the prize.

And we really ought to remind ourselves of this every time we step in front of the class. If you've lost sight of this in your years of volunteering with the program, I urge you—as I am—to recharge and reassess. Review is good.

I have no doubt that some instructors are very good at maintaining focus on the prize. I am not. Either way, let's be sure not to forget that this prize is process driven; it's cyclical, and it does not end with the conclusion of a class or camp. I realized this while sitting at my desk the Monday directly after the camp.

While reflecting—or getting lost—on my post-camp thoughts about the things that should have happened or things we could have done better, a call came into the office. Lila said it was for me, gave me the caller's name, and said she was going to forward the call to my line. I couldn't immediately place the name but took the call.

I expect that anytime I take a call, an adult will be on the other end. This time, it was a teenager. He introduced himself and asked, “Do you remember me from last year's camp?”. I quickly remembered that this was one of the outstanding students from last year's camp whom I had personally written his parents to tell them how impressed we were with their son.

Long story-short, he said that he had run into one of our instructors at the Shooting Sports Fair and that the instructor suggested that he give me a call. His mother consented, and here we were catching up on the phone—his timing was coincidental. Without hesitation, he quickly cut to the chase: “can you take me hunting?”. I'm usually hesitant to ask others to take me hunting, since I neither want to impose nor be turned down. But what an honor—and humbling experience—it is to sincerely be asked. Our more seasoned hunters/instructors understand this, but this is a new feeling for me. More importantly, I was proud and impressed that a year later (to the date) a student would have the courage and persistence to call me directly.

We made tentative plans. I'm not sure where they'll lead, but I realized after getting off the phone with this student, that the important lesson of this year's camp was not any of the individual or circumstantial-type lessons that come through planning and wrestling with camp agendas, logistics, and personalities; the real, bigger picture lesson came after the camp in the form of a timely phone call from a very admirable teenager who simply asked to go hunting. I was fortunate to have been reminded to press on to the goal for the prize.

Hawaii Conservation and Wilderness Education Project 2013

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Day two kicked off with a full breakfast and a field excursion. Students were given GPS units and with their teams were sent off to explore the area around the camp. The premise: a practice hunt and wildlife observation exercise. Taking advantage of the rich wildlife in the area, instructors worked hard to create real-life orienteering, hunting, and stalking scenarios for their teams of students. During the exercise, many students had the opportunity to stalk within twenty yards of game animals; they were also able to see more of the area's native wildlife—and most importantly, navigate to and from the campsite safely!

A first for HCWEP, Kevin Kong, Master Instructor (Oahu) and retired Hunter Education Program Administrator coordinated a visit with officers from the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE). Officers Jose Vera Cruz and Shane Muramaru shared their experiences with the students and encouraged them to partner with DOCARE officers from around the state to join in conservation efforts and stop poaching. As part of their visit, the students also had a chance to participate in a hands-on field dressing exercise, which served as an extension of the game care segment of the basic Hunter Education Course.



The remainder of the second day was spent preparing the students for the live fire exercises on the last full day of the camp. In preparation for the range day, students attended hands-on sessions on first aid and survival, firearms and archery safety, and general marksmanship skills.

It wasn't hard getting the students up the next morning since they were all excited about the live fire exercises, which were held at the quarry area in Pu'u Wa'awa'a. Before getting started, students attended a mandatory safety briefing by Sgt. Reynold Kahalewai, Instructor and designated Range Safety Officer for the day. Activity stations included: archery with static and aerial targets, shotgun, muzzleloading, and .22 long rifle. Students were broken up into groups of three and rotated among the stations, spending almost thirty minutes at each venue.



From all reports, the students had an excellent range day! All students were safe on the range and had fun learning experiences—mission accomplished! The students at this year's camp were definitely natural shooters, and on the whole, the students were more mature, which made for a more conducive learning environment overall.

On the final night, the students gathered around the table for one last exercise: positive speaking. Each student took his or her turn on the hot seat while the other students went around the circle and said what they admired about him or her. This underscored an important fact of true sportsmanship: sportsmen and sportswomen care about our natural and human resources.



Thank you to the following organizations for making this year's camp a success: Watson T. Yoshimoto Charitable Trust, Safari Club International, Hawaii Chapter, the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement, and the Division of Forestry and Wildlife. With your support, the Hawaii Conservation and Wilderness Education Project helped usher in another generation of sportsmen and sportswomen.

E Komo Mai, New Instructors!

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

Gary Zukeran (Molokai)

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!

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