

Summer 2020

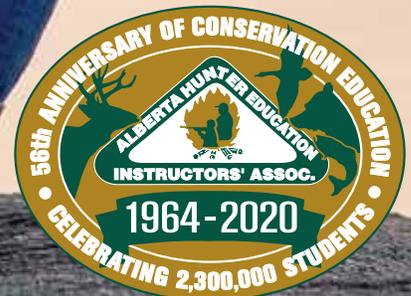


Alberta Hunter Education
Instructors' Association

Conservation Education

The Voice of Conservation Education in Alberta

Magazine



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President's Message

“Some lost all, some lost some, and most were set back on their heels.”

By Bob Gruszecki



Bob Gruszecki
President - AHEIA

The last few months have certainly been a challenge for all of us. The Coronavirus health emergency has altered our day-to-day lives and our operations at AHEIA, and has resulted in many changes as we adapted to do our part to flatten the curve. One thing that became abundantly clear to me was

that we are in the “same storm together—perhaps in different boats, but the weather was the same for all of us!” Some lost all, some lost some, and most were set back on their heels. AHEIA and our cause was and is certainly no exception.

We took steps early on to ensure we did our part to ensure our primary concern for safety of our volunteers, customers and staff. We hope that you have stayed healthy and safe, and we send our well wishes to those who have been impacted by the virus.

Although we closed our public facilities and had to postpone or cancel some events, we have been able to keep our staff employed, with most working remotely, while skeleton crews work at our Calgary and Edmonton offices, as well as the Calgary Firearms Centre and our Alford Lake facility. Even with our socially distanced staff, we have been busy staying connected with the AHEIA community, offering online programs and developing new educational resources for the public.



Our newest initiative is a series of free online workbooks and videos which provide education and fun activities on a number of topics, including building your own survival kit, fly tying, tick awareness and safety, and a wildlife workbook for children, to highlight a few. The O.W.L. (Outdoor Wildlife Learning) Series has been wildly popular, providing options for parents, teachers and outdoor enthusiasts interested in learning new skills while facing the challenges of staying home and social distancing.



The Hunter Education program, a cornerstone of our online programming options, has also been in demand these past months, due to the stay-at-home directives. The course provides training on safe hunting practices as well as conservation of our natural resources, resulting in certification to those who successfully complete the program which is a Provincial requirement for all first-time hunters in Alberta. This program is often offered in schools and this year teachers have utilized it in their virtual classrooms, with much success.

Earlier this spring we decided to assist with things to do for those shut in due to the pandemic, by offering our Alberta Fishing Education Program free of charge for a limited time. Literally thousands of people have taken advantage of this offering to learn about angling in the pristine lakes and streams of Alberta. The program is still free and available to you through our website, aheia.com. Many thanks to the many people who have sent us appreciative comments for providing this option during your quarantines. It is a perfect time to discover and learn about this enjoyable activity while the Alberta wilderness is slowly opened for recreational use.

As the government begins to loosen restrictions and begin their re-launch strategy, we are cautiously moving forward with the reopening of our facilities. The first to open is the Calgary Firearms Centre, which is available to members only at this time and who must call ahead to be booked onto a field. As you can imagine, the social distancing, cleaning and sanitizing procedures necessary in operating a safe facility are overwhelming, and through opening in a limited capacity we are doing our part to help reduce the spread of the pandemic. We appreciate your compliance and understanding, and are hopeful that we can accommodate public bookings sooner rather than later.

Although the Calgary and Edmonton offices are still closed to public access, our staff are available to receive telephone calls and emails to answer any questions

Continued ➤





you may have with regards to our programs and plans. We operate both centres and offer curbside service for materials and course training aids. The Alford Lake Conservation Centre for Excellence also remains closed to the public and bookings are not available at this time. Understandably, social distancing at a camp with shared cabins and facilities would be an extremely difficult endeavour, however, when restrictions are lessened and we can safely offer events and workshops, we will inform the public through our social media resources.

AHEIA Instructors are now being allowed to offer the Canadian Firearms Safety Course (CFSC) and the Canadian Restricted Firearms Safety Course (CRFSC) to a limited number of students in each class. We have asked our instructors to adhere to the restrictions implemented by the public health authorities, and although AHEIA is not offering classes at our facilities at this time, there are instructors throughout the province who are available to teach them. A list of qualified instructors and their contact information is available on our website, or call our Calgary or Edmonton offices to be placed on a wait list and you will be contacted when AHEIA once again can offer the courses at our locations.

As we continue to cope with the implications of the Coronavirus pandemic, our purpose remains unchanging. We will continue to be stewards of Alberta's fish and wildlife while providing educational programming, training the next generation of conservationists to be both responsible and ethical. If you care to show your support of our efforts, please consider purchasing tickets for any of our fundraising raffles or making a cash donation to our organization. We have all been financially affected by the downturn in our economy, and as a non-profit we depend upon grants and donations to keep our doors open, so to speak. Let's continue to move forward cautiously and come through this crisis stronger, together.

As the changes to the restrictions imposed by the health authorities change on a regular basis,

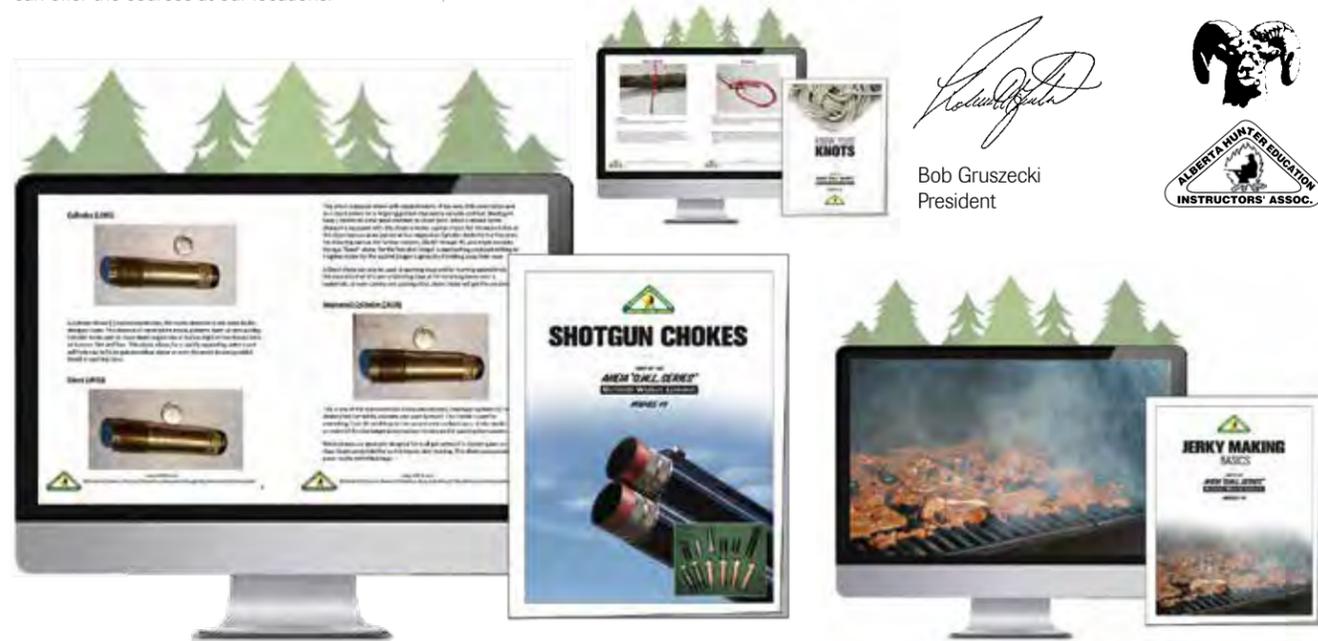


please stay in touch with us through any of our social media channels or call our centres. We are happy to hear your voices and we look forward to seeing all of you again very soon as Alberta moves forward on the re-launch of regular activities.

In the meantime, please stay vigilant, take care of yourselves and each other.

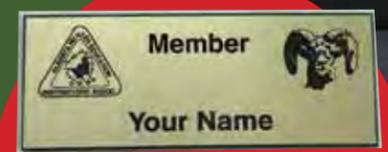
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 Bob Gruszecki
 President

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Update Regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic

In light of the Global COVID-19 Pandemic, AHEIA may be forced to postpone or change the dates of our programs and events. Please check with us to confirm any of the program or seminar details you see in this magazine.

Alberta Hunter Education
Instructors' Association

Conservation Education Magazine

This Issue's Feature Articles:

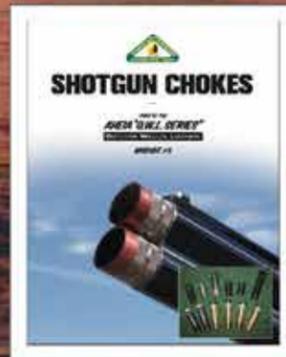
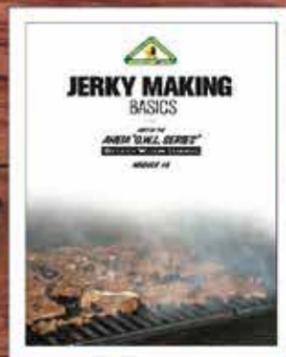
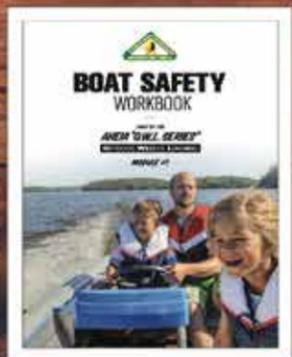
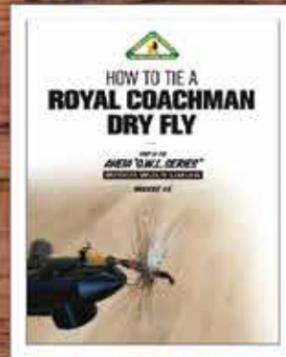
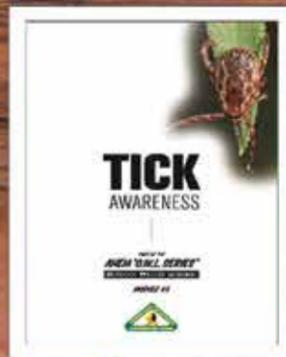
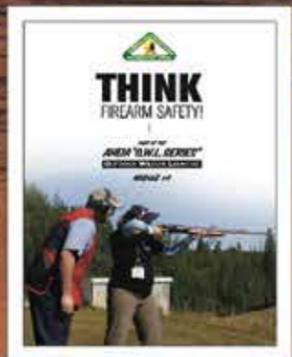
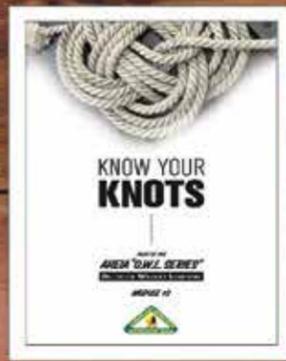
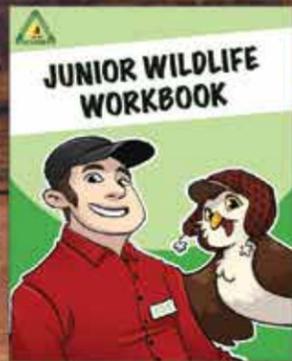
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Front Cover Photo courtesy Shutterstock

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Firearms Education Report

“By the time this report is published, we should be back on track with the program, at least on a limited basis ...”

By John Morrissey



John Morrissey
Firearms Education
Coordinator
AHEIA

It has been an interesting spring within the firearms education community and AHEIA. With the COVID-19 protocols it was recommended the CFSC/CRFSC be put on hold until the “curve” flattened. The Canadian Firearms Program also postponed reviewing new applications for Possession and Acquisition Licences during this time of self-isolation. This, admittedly, did cause some hardship to instructors as well as potential students of the CFSC/CRFSC program. By the time this report is published, we should be back on track with the program, at least on a limited basis, with smaller class sizes, social distancing and sanitation protocols of the deactivated training firearms. As instructors of the CFSC/CRFSC we have been through a real-life example of what “Social Responsibilities” (Module 10 Canadian Firearms Safety Course) looks like. Given the number of phone calls and emails I have received regarding courses, I expect the summer and fall training period will be a busy one.

On a more controversial topic, on May 1 of this year, the Government of Canada, by Order in Council, amended the Firearms Act to add prohibitions of a number of firearms and devices.

These include:

- M16, AR-10, AR-15 rifles and M-4 carbine;
- Ruger Min-14 rifle;
- M14 rifle;
- Vz 58 rifle;
- Robinson Arms XCR rifle;
- CZ Scorpion EVO 3 carbine and rifle;
- Beretta CX4 Strom carbine;
- SIG Sauer SIG MCX and SIG Sauer SIG MPX carbine and rifle;
- Swiss Arms Classic Green and Four Seasons series carbines and rifles (as specified in former Bill C-71).

As well, firearms with the following characteristics are prohibited:

- Capable of discharging a projectile with a muzzle energy greater than 10,000 joules;
- A bore of 20 mm or greater.

Upper receivers of the M16, AR-15 and M4 pattern firearms are also now prohibited devices.

Although this is effective as of May 1, 2020, owners have an amnesty period of two years to deal with their firearms or devices.

For a more detailed account of the new regulations please see:

<https://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/firearms/need-know-the-government-canadas-new-prohibition-certain-firearms-and-devices>

The full text of the amendment may be found in the Canada Gazette:

<http://canadagazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p2/2020/2020-05-01-x3/pdf/g2-154x3.pdf>

As instructors of the CFSC/CRFSC, and as firearms owners in general, please read the new regulations to familiarize yourself with them as there will be multiple questions from your students.

In closing, remember in the busy times to slow down and stop and smell the roses. Have a good summer, and should you have a question of concern, please contact our Calgary or Edmonton office.



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Edmonton Report



“ Hopefully things will start to return to some semblance of normality with what we used to enjoy and take for granted. ”

By Len Gransch



Len Gransch
Program Coordinator
AHEIA
Red Deer - North

All those who are tired of the COVID-19 virus raise your hand!

It seems like things are starting to improve and that the Alberta Government is doing its best at safely opening up. Hopefully things will start to return to some semblance of normality with what we used to enjoy and take for granted. We will still need to remain vigilante and take precautions.

It was a very difficult decision we had to make when we recently cancelled our 2020 Youth Hunter Education Camps. The ultimate goal was to make certain that our participants, volunteers and staff remain safe. During my phone conversations with the parents it was very evident that, even though they did not like having the camps cancelled, they agreed with the decision.

We hope to have the 2021 Youth Hunter Education Camp registration forms available in the near future. Look for it on our new and improved website www.aheia.com or email us at edmontoninfo@aeia.com and we will place you on our notification list. The 2021 camps will run July 4-9, July 11-16, July 18-23 and July 25-30. Our camps still remain very popular, so I always encourage anyone who is interested to register as soon as possible to avoid any disappointment.

Due to the ever-present COVID-19 threat we were forced to cancel our Seventh Annual Spring Fling fundraising banquet. Please mark June 3, 2021 on your calendars. We will be holding our next Spring Fling Banquet in Edmonton at the Silvermoon Banquets on that day. Same location as in previous years. For more information please contact me directly at len@aeia.com.

On May 6, 2020 AHEIA President Robert Gruszecki released a memorandum regarding the re-start of teaching the CFSC and CRFSC once again. The memorandum also indicated that AHEIA will not be booking out Deactivated Firearms kits at this time due to the high risk of virus transmission on metal surfaces. I have received numerous calls regarding this and would just like to remind you that you are able to utilize your own personal firearms for your courses. The only stipulation is that they MUST be disabled. The minimum standard is the complete removal of the firing pin to render them inoperable. Please remember that "live" firearms can NOT be used during any firearms courses, handling or testing.

“ ...we continue to look for volunteer support for all our courses, camps, events, etc., as well as with our day-to-day office workings. ”

There also seems to be some confusion as to what the role of a Proctor really is. Below is an excerpt from the 2017 Safety Course Standards each instructor had to sign to utilize Proctors:

2.5.1. Only designated instructors shall be involved in the delivery and administration of the CFSC and CRFSC except under these circumstances:

2.5.2. Prior to an instructor utilizing the proctors' assistance, an instructor will submit a proctor application to the CFO for review and approval.

2.5.3. Prior to an instructor utilizing the proctors' assistance, the potential proctor will undergo a Vulnerable Sector check and a Criminal Records check and provide them to the CFO or Delivery Agent.

2.5.4. An instructor is authorized to utilize the assistance of a proctor to assist in the set-up of a room for a course or test, administering the course report and test paperwork, supervising a test room to ensure fairness during the written CFSC/CRFSC test and scoring written tests.

2.5.5. A proctor is not authorized to answer any student questions related to the written tests before, during or after the test, or assist, monitor, supervise, or answer any student question related to a practical firearm test.

2.5.6. A proctor assisting an instructor in the set-up of firearms for instruction or a practical test must possess a valid non-restricted PAL for the CFSC and a valid restricted PAL for the CRFSC.

2.5.7. An instructor is responsible for the conduct and actions of a proctor during a CFSC/CRFSC or test. A violation of this agreement by a proctor must be reported within five business days to the CFO or Delivery Agent by the instructor employing the proctor.

2.5.8. No compensation for the proctor will be incorporated in to the CFSC/CRFSC course costs.

Should you have any questions on the Proctor program please contact John Morrissey at john@aeia.com or myself at len@aeia.com for assistance. Utilizing a Proctor can be a very valuable asset.

With the pandemic lockdown it has become excessively difficult for new volunteers to start getting involved. Nonetheless, we continue to look for volunteer support for all of our courses, camps, events, etc., as well as with our day-to-day office workings. Please consider becoming part of something greater and, if interested, please let me know.

Take care and enjoy the Great Outdoors.



An events publication of Conservation Education



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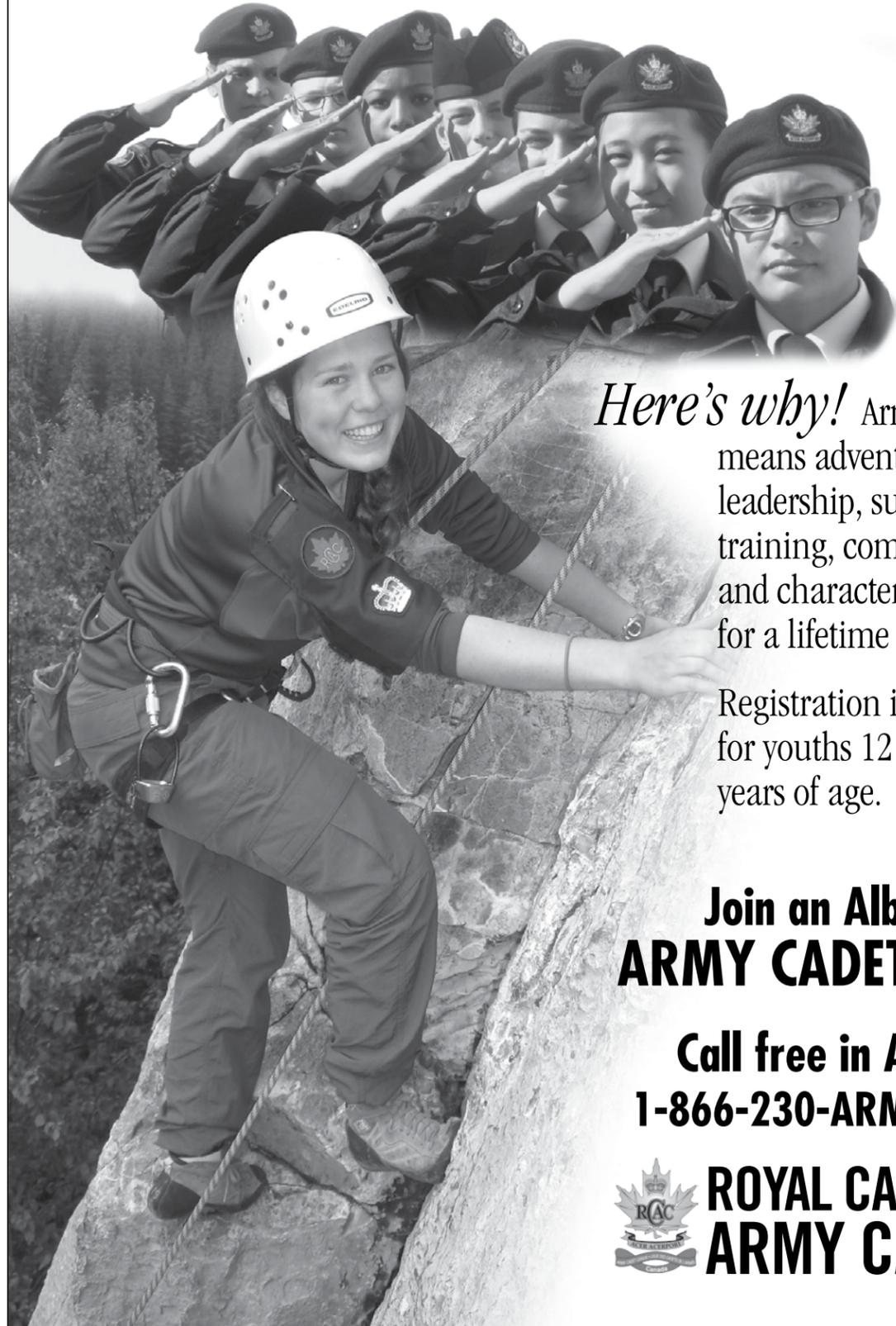
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“It is always a treat to get a picture of something new or that you had no idea was in the area.”

Trail Cameras for Beginners

By Brad Scheidl



Brad Scheidl
Assistant Conservation
Education Coordinator
AHEIA Red Deer - South

Scouting for big game can be done for many different reasons. It can be a hobby, a means to a better hunting season, a recreational activity, an obsession, or any combination of these. Scouting can look different to everyone, from having boots on the ground to using technology. I am a big fan of trail cameras, and find it interesting

and exciting to check them on a regular basis to see what animals happen to pass. Trail cameras can be a fun hobby on their own or a means to enhance our hunting experience, plus it is an excuse to be out of the house and in the field.

Motion sensor activated cameras have been around for a few years now and before that there were devices to count animals on a trail. As camera and computer technology advances, so does the technology of trail cameras. With better quality cameras, sensors, memory cards, and lighting technology comes smaller, easier to use, faster reaction time cameras providing high quality images of whatever happens to walk by. Trail cameras are a great resource to use while scouting for big game as they are active 24/7, where as when we go scouting we are only there for a short time. In addition we can have multiple cameras setup over a large area.

The Camera

Digital cameras are measured in megapixels, which generally equates into the quality of the picture. High megapixel cameras will have higher quality pictures, but the pictures will also be

a larger file size on the memory card once they have been taken. With a standard digital camera this is not an issue as, if the memory card is full, we can swap out the card immediately. With a trail camera it will typically be sitting out in the field, which is not as easily accessible and checked as often, and a full card could mean missed pictures of animals.

Trail cameras will vary in price based on the quality of the camera as well as the options available. Some options to consider are video capability, maximum SD card size, sensor detection distance and width, and flash type. Many of the new cameras can take videos as well as pictures. The videos will typically be adjustable in length or around 30 seconds long if not adjustable. Videos can be a great way to see the behaviour of the animals as they pass by the camera. Maximum SD, or memory card size, will vary from camera

“ Some options to consider are video capability, maximum SD card size, sensor detection distance and width, and flash type. ”



“ ...consider areas where the wildlife will congregate, such as mineral licks, scrapes, or trail crossings. ”

to camera. It is a good thing to check for when looking for a new camera as, if it can only handle small SD cards, then that will limit the number of pictures captured. Sensor distance and width is relevant when setting up the camera as to how far the sensor will pick up movement to trigger the camera to activate.

Flash type can help when the camera is activated at night. There are three common flash types: bulb flash, infrared flash or blacked out infrared flash. With a bulb flash, it will flash like a regular camera flash. At night it may startle animals, but will also provide a colour image at night. Infrared flash will take a black and white photo at night and it will not have the bright flash, but rather it will glow red. Blacked out infrared flash will have a filter covering the infrared lights and at night it will take a black and white image with no externally visible light. If you are planning on putting trail cameras out on public land, then infrared or blacked out infrared would be a good idea.

Components

There are very few components needed to get started and put out a trail camera. There is a SD card, a device to read the SD cards, batteries, and a strap to attach the camera to the tree. The size of SD card will be determined by the maximum size that will work in the camera. For a 16MP camera with a 32GB SD card you will be able to store approximately 2,000 images, whereas an 8MP camera taking lower quality pictures can put approximately 8,000-10,000 pictures on the same card. It is a balancing act between having enough room for the pictures and wanting the highest quality images. There are also cameras out there capable of sending the photos to your phone or email as they are taken, and they will need to be registered onto a network to have access to send the photos.

Batteries will be specifically sized to the camera you have. There are a variety of types used, from AA to C or D cell batteries. Another thing to consider when looking at cameras is where they will be placed. If you are hiking any distance into an area you might want a trail camera that takes AA batteries, as they are lighter to carry. Consider using Nimh rechargeable batteries, as they will save you money in the long run. Having two sets for the camera means you can charge one set while the camera is in the field taking pictures using the other set.

Camera Set Up

Some trail cameras will have different options with regards to the settings for pictures. Experiment with different settings to see what they do before you put the camera out in the field. Options that may be available are burst mode where the camera may take multiple photos at a time, and

photo delay or video delay where it will determine the time the camera will wait until it is ready to activate next. Some cameras will also have a time lapse mode where you can set the time interval and the camera will take a picture at those times continually. This is a good mode if you want to watch wildlife movement in a large field.

Placement

Placing the trail camera in a high movement area will result in the most photos. Also, consider areas where the wildlife will congregate, such as mineral licks, scrapes, or trail crossings. You may get more pictures having the camera on a well used trail going to a feeding area, rather than trying to cover the entire feeding area with camera coverage.

The camera should be placed at about waist to chest height and angled down just a slight bit. Once you have the position set, you will need to attach it to a tree or post and most cameras will come with attaching straps. If setting the camera on public land, I would highly advise locking the camera to the tree with a cable lock or with a locking housing. Once the camera is attached to the tree, remove any vegetation that is directly in front of the camera, which will stop getting thousands of pictures of a blade of grass or twig blowing in the wind! Now check the camera detection range. Most cameras will show a light in set-up mode so you can tell if the camera is detecting movement where you are standing.

Reviewing the Photos

Once the camera has sat out in the field for a period, it is time to go check the SD card and see if there are any photos of wildlife! Reviewing the pictures can be done on any device that can read a SD card. There are adaptors that attach to tablets, cell phones, or a small, light laptop that fits into a backpack. Look through the photos that are on the camera and decide if there was enough movement in the area given the amount of time that the camera was out. I will typically leave a camera in the field for two to four weeks, depending on the area and time needed to get to the camera. Once you review the photos, then you will be able to make the decision to put the camera back out or to move locations, angles, remove a twig or grass, or anything that will make your camera more productive for you.

It is always a treat to get a picture of something new or that you had no idea was in the area. Sometimes it can be surprising seeing what animals are moving around. Seeing a bear on your camera minutes after it you set it up and left the area can be a hair-raising experience. Experiment and gain a new perspective on the wildlife in your area.



Stay safe and have fun!



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Fog Free Lens Cleaning Kit
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Total Value: \$2800.00

Tickets
\$2
each

Draw Date: Saturday, September 12, 2020
Alford Lake Conservation Centre for Excellence

License #550094 • 6000 Tickets Printed

SPECIALTY SHOTGUN



Benelli 828U
12ga. Over/Under Shotgun
c/w Nickel finish receiver, 28" barrels, 5 chokes, AA Grade satin walnut stock, fibre optic front sight, custom fitted hard case, 3" chamber.

Retail Value:
\$4089.50

Tickets
\$5
each

Draw Date: Friday, August 14, 2020
Calgary Conservation Education Centre for Excellence

License #549766 • 3000 Tickets Printed

UPLAND/WATERFOWLER/ SPORTING FIREARM



Browning Cynergy
Wicked Wing 12ga. Over/Under Shotgun
Bronze Cerakote barrels/receiver, 3.5", 28" barrels, 3 extended chokes, adjustable comb, fully chromed bores, front ivory bead.

Retail Value:
\$2900.00

Tickets
\$20
each



Benelli M2
12ga. Semi Automatic Shotgun
Black Synthetic Comfortech stock, 21" barrel, 5 choke tubes, fitted hard case.

Retail Value:
\$1900.00

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Draw Date: Sunday, September 13, 2020
Calgary Firearms Centre

License #549819 • 1000 Tickets Printed

CLAY TARGET SHOTGUN



Browning Classic Trap 12ga.
Unsingle Combo Break Action Shotgun
Double and unsingle barrels, grey laminated Monte Carlo stock, c/w right hand palm swell, adjustable comb, 4 extended choke tubes, triple trigger system with 3 trigger shoes. Ventilated trap recoil pad, modified semi-beavertail forearm with finger grooves. Barrel length 30"/34", 2 3/4" chamber, adjustable trigger LOP c/w hard canvas and leather fitted case.

Retail Value: \$8720.00

Tickets
\$5
each

Draw Date: Saturday, July 18, 2020
Calgary Firearms Centre

License #550079 • 3000 Tickets Printed

VARMINT/TARGET RIFLE



Tikka T3 Compact Lite .22-250 Rifle
22" barrel, synthetic stock, low-angled grip, improved recoil pad to reduce felt recoil, c/w Burris Droptine 3x-9x-40mm Ballistic Plex matte black scope with rings & bases.

Retail Value:
\$1250.00

Tickets
\$2
each



Browning .22 Lever Action Rifle
BL 22 Model, Grade 1 satin nickel receiver, 20" barrel, 15 L.R. magazine capacity, walnut stock.

Retail Value:
\$1010.00

Draw Date: Saturday, September 12, 2020
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License #550255 • 5000 Tickets Printed

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Keeping You and Your Boat Safe

Get Ready to Go Boating

By Allan Orr



Allan Orr
Assistant Conservation
Education Coordinator
A.H.E.I.A. Red Deer - South

With the summer season almost here, many of us will want to get out on the water to enjoy our favourite activities like boating, water-skiing, tubing, or fishing, among others. Previous articles have looked at safety equipment required by law and common sense for the boat and the people in it.

This time we will look at what you should do to get ready to head out on the water the first time of the season and each time. AHEIA is all about safety and this article will be based on having a safe experience in, on and around the water.

Planning and Preparation

There is a lot to think about and to do before you take your boat out for the first time. Is it in good working order? Do you have all the necessary safety equipment for the boat and for the people in it? Are there any new boating restrictions or other legal requirements that you need to brush up on?

Mechanical Check

- Your boat must be structurally sound and watertight. It is up to you as the owner and/or the driver to ensure that your boat is seaworthy. Even if you are driving someone else's boat you are responsible for making sure that it is safe to operate. Doing a cursory check around the outside of the boat while it's on the trailer may uncover a crack in the hull or transom, either of which could be serious enough to keep it off the water. Check the propeller for cracks or dings or even missing pieces. If you find any of these or other problems, be sure to have them fixed by a licenced marine mechanic prior to putting it in the water.
- You will also want to check to ensure your engine works properly. Some people put the leg into a large barrel full of water or wait until it is

in the lake to test the motor. This is unnecessary if you have a set of flushers which supply water from a garden hose to the engine. The water acts as a coolant and, even more importantly, a lubricant for some parts of the engine. Starting your engine without a source of water (especially for the first time of the year) can damage the small, rather delicate impeller fins which pump water through the engine and the leg. This is the stream of water you see shooting out the back of the motor when it is running. Starting the motor when dry can rip these fins off, necessitating an expensive repair.

There are many other items which can be checked at the beginning of the year. Consult your owners' manual to ensure you are covering everything the manufacturer recommends.

Safety Equipment

Before each trip be sure that your boat is properly equipped with the required safety equipment and that it is easily accessible. If anything is missing or damaged, replace it before you head out on the water.

- Flotation Devices
 - Federal legislation requires each boat to have on board enough flotation devices (lifejackets or PFDs) for each person on board. These must be of the proper size (i.e. must fit) and in good condition (i.e. must work). To check these factors, have each passenger put on a device and make sure it fits properly and will not pull up over their head if they end up in the water.
 - You can test the fit by walking into chest-deep water and bring your knees to your chest, thereby forcing the flotation device to keep you afloat. If it slips over your shoulders and does not keep your head above water, it is likely too big. Also check the jacket for rips and tears and that all fasteners (zippers, clips, etc.) are working.
- Vessel Safety Equipment

A variety of safety equipment must be on each vessel while it's on the water. This equipment

varies according to the size, the use, and the method of propulsion of that vessel. Basic safety equipment consists of:

- A sound-making device (a whistle works for most boats in Alberta—attach one to each life jacket). A pealess whistle is strongly recommended, as it will work under most weather conditions.
- A light that shines or can shine in all directions. If your boat does not have an all-round white light, a flashlight will work in most cases. You must have a working light in low-light conditions such as fog or at dusk, dark, or dawn.
- A bailing pail will help you get water out of your boat should it spring a leak, or you hit a series of big waves.
- A buoyant heaving line can save someone else's life. It is your responsibility to do everything you can to help someone who is in distress on the water. Having a buoyant heaving line could do that.



- A fire extinguisher is a must on any vessel with an internal combustion engine or a gas (propane, etc.) stove onboard. Be sure the fire extinguisher is rated for chemical and electrical fires. Look for an ABC rating on a five- or 10-pound extinguisher and learn how to use it.

There is more safety equipment available and required for different vessels, but those are the five basics.

Before You Go

As with most things, planning and preparation for an adventure on the water can help ensure a safe and enjoyable time. Here are a few suggestions to consider as you plan your trip.

File a Trip Plan

A trip plan can save you if you have trouble on the water. It is merely a written account of where you plan to go, what you are driving and who you are with. You can find several templates online, but at the least they should contain:

- Owner/Driver name and cellphone number.
- Vessel number and physical description including size, colour, type of engine, and any distinguishing features.
- Number, type, and colour of lifejackets/PFDs.
- Date and time of departure.
- Destination, any planned stops, expected time of arrival, and expected time of return.
- Number and names of others on board and their cellphone numbers.

Be sure to leave the trip plan with a responsible person and to close the trip plan by contacting them when you return. Failure to do so could cause them to contact authorities who may initiate an unnecessary search and rescue mission.

Check Weather and Water Conditions

- In Alberta, as in most provinces, weather can change quickly. A storm can suddenly show up on an otherwise warm and sunny day. In fact, one should expect daytime heating to bring some sort of cloud and potential rain activity later in the day. Be sure to know what kind of weather to expect and, above all, keep an eye on the conditions. If you see changing weather conditions such as a build up of clouds, or a sudden increase in wind speed, you should consider heading to shore.
- Water levels do not change as much as weather, but a boater needs to be aware that changes may occur. Rivers will swell with spring run off, particularly those nearer the mountains, and this will occur at different times of the spring depending on where you are. Be sure you know what the water levels are prior to leaving home. Too high or too low of levels may mean that your boating experience will have to wait for better conditions.
- Changing water levels can expose or hide potential hazards. A rock that you may have boated over many times could suddenly be close enough to the surface to damage your engine if the water level lowers enough. Excessively high water can bring debris from shore into the water and cause hazards par-

ticularly in forested areas where downed trees can be brought into the water. Also rocks that may have been visible at one time may now be hidden and can become dangerous.

Fuel Your Boat Safely

There are a couple of considerations when fueling your boat. Firstly, are you adding fuel in a safe and legal manner, and secondly are you taking enough fuel with you for the trip.

- Fueling Your Boat
 - Fueling a boat with a fixed fuel tank can be hazardous. Be sure to turn off the ignition and all electrical components. Close all doors and windows (if so equipped) and extinguish any open flames, including pilot lights. Only the people necessary for refueling should be on the boat at that time. If possible, load your boat on its trailer and refuel it on shore. If you have an inboard engine, be sure to run the engine compartment blower for at least four minutes between refueling and starting the engine. This will ensure that no flammable fumes are ignited.
 - Fueling a boat with removable tanks is easier on one hand and more difficult on the other. By Federal law, removable tanks must be removed from the boat and refilled onshore. This does not mean on a dock or any other structure on or over the water. The tanks must be completely on shore to avoid spilling fuel into the water. The upside is that there is no need to turn off all electrical equipment nor extinguish any pilot lights, etc. Just bring your empty tanks on shore, fill them, and have your teenage son carry them back to the boat. Hey—it worked for me!
- Fuel Rule of Thirds
 - You should always have considerably more fuel on board than you think you will need. You could get lost, a sudden storm could come up or you could run into mechanical trouble and drift away from your destination, or you could get lost, all meaning that you could use more fuel than you had originally planned on.



- Estimate how much fuel you will need to get to your destination, then double that to determine your minimum fuel needs. Take that number and divide it in half to give you a reasonable safety margin. You will find that you have allotted one third of your fuel supply for the trip out, one third for the trip back, and you have one third left in reserve. If you are not sure of how much you will use, estimate high!

On the Water

Even with all the planning and preparation you have done, it is still important to consider a few things once on the water, or just prior to being on the water.

Load Your Boat Safely

Every boat should have a compliance plate (sometimes called a capacity plate) attached to it. Be sure to understand how to read it. It will tell you the manufacturer's recommended maximum loads of people and of cargo, including fuel and other equipment. Exceeding these recommendations is dangerous and could put you and your passengers in jeopardy. Distribute the weight of passengers and of cargo as evenly and as low in the boat as possible. An overloaded or unbalanced boat can more easily take on water which could cause it to sink, or at least become submerged. Waves that would not normally affect the boat could swamp one that is overloaded.

Conduct a Passenger Briefing

- All passengers should be briefed on life-jacket/PFD use and location. AHEIA recommends that everyone in a boat wear some sort of life-saving device at all times.
- Tell and/or show your passengers where the emergency equipment (first aid kit, fire extinguisher, etc.) is and how to access it.
- Advise them that they are not to move around, but if necessary, to stay low on the centerline and to keep their arms, legs, and any other appendages inside the boat at all times.
- Passengers should be aware of what is going on around them and be advised of the possible effects of sun, wind, alcohol, and the boat's motion. They should also be advised to be on the look-out for hazards in the water or changes in weather.

Alcohol and Boating

The consumption of alcohol on a boat is considered to be the same as in a vehicle. The driver could be charged for driving under the influence and anyone with open alcohol could be charged. Stay safe and enjoy your boat, but leave the alcohol on shore.



For more information on safe boating, check out
AHEIA's Pleasure Craft Operator Training
online training program at
www.aheia.com

Prussian Carp

CARASSIUS GIBELIO



3X Females can spawn up to three times in one year, making them prolific invaders.

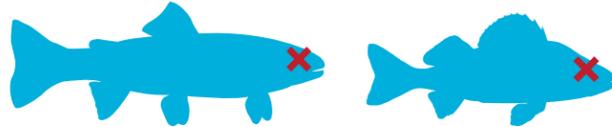
Once established, they can be **very difficult** to get rid of.

24 HOURS
The amount of time prussian carp can survive out of the water.

DON'T LET IT LOOSE If you catch a Prussian carp, **keep it and kill it. Do not release it.** Then call the Hotline 1-855-336-BOAT. Never release fish from your aquarium or pond.



Alberta was the first jurisdiction in North America to have an invasive Prussian carp and can be found around the main stem and tributaries of the **Bow, Rosebud, Red Deer and South Saskatchewan Rivers.**



Prussian carp impact native fish populations by out-competing them for food and habitat, as well as spreading disease and pathogens.



It is not known what caused the invasion of "wild goldfish", however it is suspected to have been **intentionally released.**



Intentional release of invasive species is illegal and could lead to jail time and/or substantial fines.

Alberta



Great Meals

from the Harvest

with Len Gransch



Len Gransch
Program Coordinator
AHEIA Red Deer - North

Pepper Moose Stir-Fry

1 pound moose tenderloin, cut in 2" strips	1/4 cup cornstarch
3 tablespoons peanut or canola oil	6 tablespoons soy sauce
1/2 tablespoon white pepper	1/4 cup white vinegar
1 medium green pepper, julienned	2 tablespoons sugar
1 medium sweet red pepper, julienned	2 cloves garlic, minced
1 tablespoon fresh ginger, minced	1 medium onion, sliced fine
1 green onion, sliced	

In a small bowl combine cornstarch, sugar, soy sauce, vinegar, white pepper, ginger, garlic and green onion. Pour half of the mixture into a large Ziploc bag; add moose. Seal bag and turn and massage to coat. Refrigerate for 2 hours.

Cover remaining marinade and refrigerate.

Drain and discard marinade from the moose. Heat oil in a large skillet or wok to medium high. Stir-fry moose, peppers and onions for 4-6 minutes or until the moose meat is no longer pink.

Stir reserved marinade prior to adding it to the skillet or wok. Bring to a boil and cook and stir for 1-2 minutes until well coated and thickened.

Serve with rice.

This recipe also works well with other wild game meat.

Snow Goose in Sweet Chili Sauce

1 skinless, boneless goose breast (8 ounces), cut in 1/8" slices	1 small Vidalia or other sweet onion, diced
1/4 cup olive oil	Salt and pepper to taste
2 teaspoons garlic, minced	1/4 cup parsley, chopped
1/4 cup sweet Thai chili sauce	
1 teaspoon dry ginger	

Season goose breast with salt and pepper and set aside.

Heat olive oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add onion and garlic and cook and stir for 2 minutes. Add seasoned goose breast and cook for 2 minutes. Flip and continue cooking until the meat is evenly browned, about 2 minutes more.

Pour chili sauce over the goose, add ginger, stir and reduce heat to medium low. Stir well.

Cook at a simmer until the chili sauce thickens in about 3 minutes.

Top with parsley and serve immediately over cooked white rice.

Enjoy!



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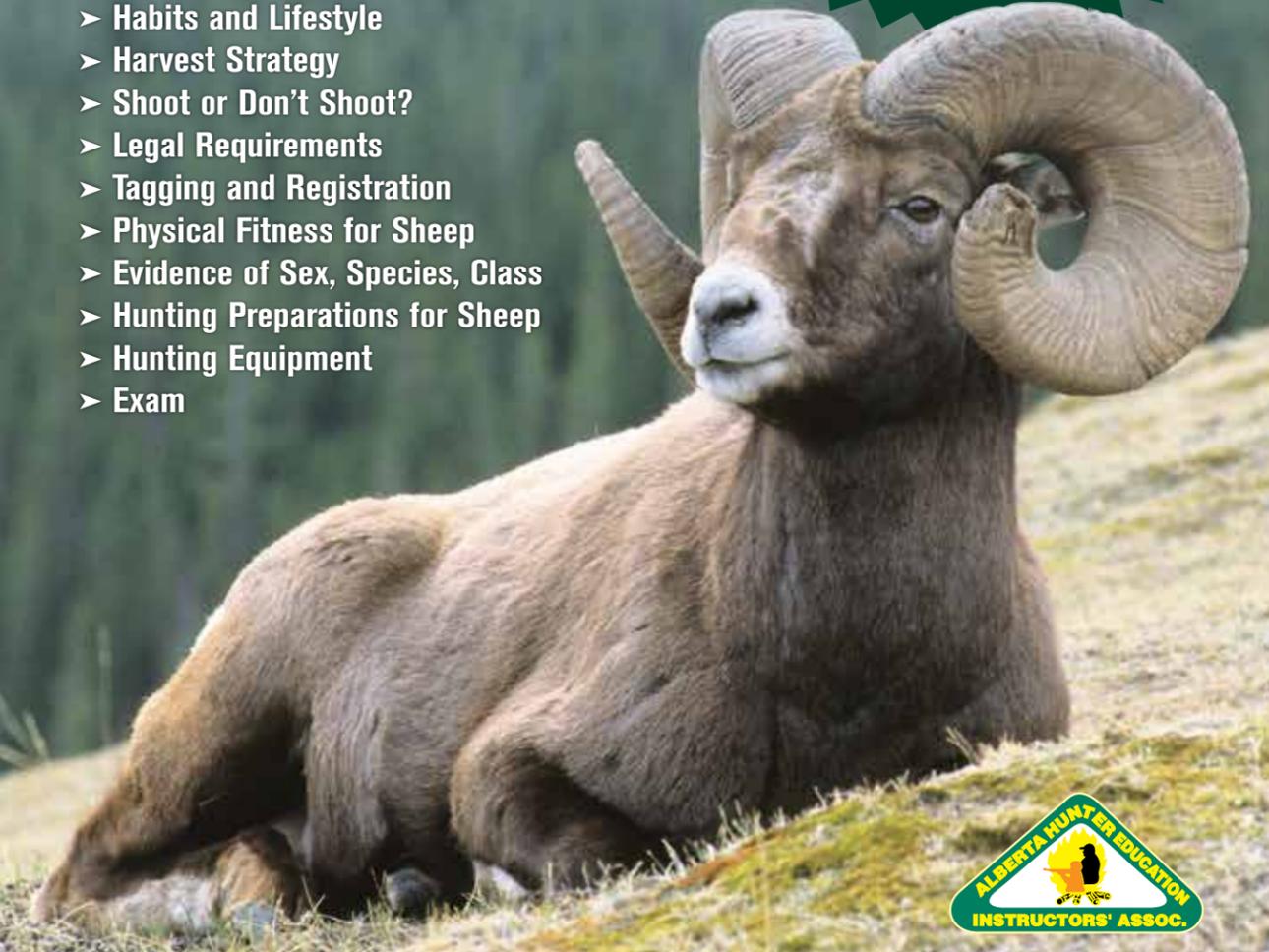
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Photo courtesy of Don Kesler Nature Photography

“As a knife dulls, it becomes an unsafe and ineffective tool.”

Field Care of Your Knife: Sharpening

By Chuck Strong



Chuck Strong
Assistant
Program Coordinator
AHEIA - Edmonton

Simply put, field care of your knife is maintaining the edge on your knife so that it doesn't become dull to the point that it is no longer effective for the task at hand and you need to actually take the time to fully sharpen the knife.

Sharp knives are actually safer to use than dull ones. Dull knives force you to apply

more pressure to achieve the cut you want, and pressing down harder can cause the knife to slip. So, not only do you cut yourself, but you cut yourself worse because you were applying more force to the knife. A sharp knife is also less tiring to use than a dull knife and makes cleaner, more accurate cuts. As a knife dulls, it becomes an unsafe and ineffective tool.

As a blade dulls, the harder it will be to re-sharpen to a fine edge. The reason that a knife dulls is that the thin metal or wire on the cutting edge bends and begins to roll. Keep using the knife as it dulls, and small bits of metal actually begin to break off and chip away. The more this happens, the more work it will require to get the blade back to a sharp edge. Dressing out your deer, filleting your fish or doing camp chores with a knife that's getting dull is not only labour intensive it is also unsafe. The good news is that it's really easy to maintain your knife in the field. All that is required is taking a minute or two and applying some very simple techniques while employing the use of any number of the in-field sharpeners that are available today.

I typically like to carry three lightweight and easy to use sharpeners in my day pack or tackle box.

The first is a very small handheld device that uses carbide and ceramic notches to sharpen and hone the blade. Their strength is their small size and simplicity. You can keep it in your day-pack or a pocket. You then simply pull the blade through each notch a few times, starting with the carbide notch and progressing to the ceramic notch to touch up the edge. The only issue with these is that they have a set angle to the carbide or ceramic inserts, so if your blade was not originally sharpened at those angles they will not work well and may change the angle of your edge, making your knife difficult to resharpen.



Next on my list of must haves that I use a lot is a diamond round steel (EZE Lap, or Lansky) that I carry with me every time I go out. It is collapsible and fits easily into your daypack or pocket. It is very easy to use and is quite similar to the steel you used back home when you sharpened your knives before you left on your trip. Use just as you would your kitchen steel, a few swipes in each direction will bring back the edge quickly. I may use the diamond steel two to four times during the course of dressing out a deer. The

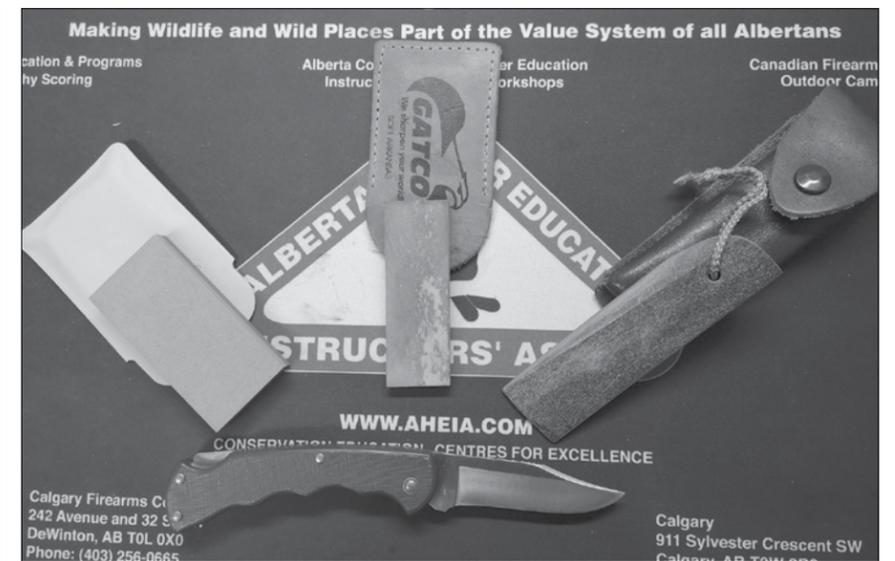
idea is to keep an edge so that you can complete your task safely and with minimal effort.

The other sharpener that is always in my day pack is a very versatile tool and will not only help you keep an edge as you work, but you can also use it to sharpen your knives if they start getting dull from nicks and chips on the edge that can happen when hitting bone or hard objects during strenuous use. The Work Sharp Field Sharpener. Again, this sharpener is easy to use and will fit nicely in your daypack. You can use it to keep an edge by giving your blade a few strokes on the fine sharpening plate followed by a few strokes on the ceramic rod. If you maintain a 20° edge on your knives, this tool also has built

in 20° guides for those of us that have a hard time holding a consistent angle when sharpening knives. If the need arises, you can do a full sharpen of your knife by starting off with the coarse diamond plate, followed by the fine plate, then the ceramic rod. You can also use this field sharpener to touch up your fish hooks or broad-head arrows.

Last, but not least, if I have neglected the edge on my knife to the point that I have to restore the edge, I will carry a pocket-sized, two-sided stone or a small Arkansas stone. You should not have to use a stone if you maintain the edge on your knife as you use it. I only carry these to use in an emergency. Use the pocket stones if you need to and have the time to use them properly. Use them as you would your larger, conventional style stones that you have at home.

On a final note, whichever field sharpening tool you happen to pick, make sure that it does not remove noticeable flakes of steel. These style sharpeners will ruin your blade. I would advise that you practice with your new sharpeners on a cheap blade so that you become comfortable with their use before using them on your good knives.



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Skunk Smell Removal Potion

AHEIA's Alford Lake Conservation Education Centre for Excellence camp manager, Al Bernhard, heard from the Alberta Trappers Association of an effective "potion" that can be used to remove the smell of skunk if your pet should get sprayed by one. Supposedly it has been tried with great success so here is the recipe:

- 1/4 cup baking soda
- 1 tablespoon of dish soap (*Dawn brand works well*)
- 1 litre of 3% hydrogen peroxide (available at any pharmacy)

Steps:

- Do not mix ingredients in advance. Mix only when needed.
- Gently rub the mixture in your pet's fur, avoiding eyes, ears and mouth.
- Do not leave mixture on the fur for too long as peroxide can bleach fur.
- Rinse pet thoroughly.
- Wash your pet with a regular pet shampoo and the smell should now be gone.



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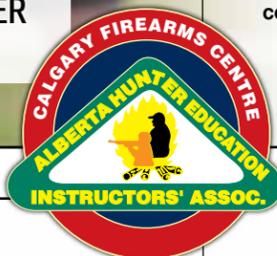
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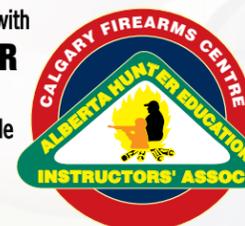
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