

TEACHING: Mentoring program guides new hunters

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person. Maybe their father is not interested in hunting or too busy to teach them. Therefore, many young people grow up focusing on electronics, never having been taught about the outdoors. Fortunately, the state developed the Alabama Adult Mentored Hunting Program to teach people how to hunt.

“Most mentored programs are geared toward kids,” explained Chuck Sykes, the Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division director. “If their parents don’t have the time, desire or finances to help them continue to grow as outdoorsmen and women, it’s simply not going to happen. Therefore, we developed the AMH Program because many young adults want to learn how to hunt, but it’s a

little intimidating for them to do it alone.”

This hunting season, the state offers six one-day workshops at different wildlife management areas to teach people how to hunt various game. People who attend these workshops could potentially be randomly selected to participate in a mentored hunt.

Bow workshop

People interested in learning how to hunt deer with archery equipment can attend the “Learn to Bow-hunt Deer” workshop. This will be held Oct. 3 at Autauga WMA in Autauga County north of Prattville.

A “Hunting 101” workshop will be held Oct. 10 at Swan Creek WMA near Huntsville. This will focus primarily on teaching people how to hunt small game. An-

other “Hunting 101” workshop will be held Oct. 31 at the Upper Delta WMA near Stockton.

People can attend a basic deer hunting workshop focusing on teaching the fundamentals of deer hunting. One will be held Oct. 31 on the William R. Ireland-Cahaba River WMA in Shelby County near West Blocton. Another deer hunting workshop will be held Nov. 7 at Barbour WMA in Barbour County near Clayton.

In the spring, a “Learn to Hunt Turkey” workshop will be held Feb. 27, 2021, at the Cahaba River WMA. At this workshop, participants will learn the basics of how to hunt eastern wild turkeys.

Anyone at least 19 years old can attend one of the workshops regardless of their previous hunting experience. All workshops

will take place from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. At the conclusion of those events, participants will be encouraged to spend time on a WMA with an experienced hunting mentor.

One-days first

Participants must attend one of the one-day workshops to be considered for any of the three-day mentored hunts. People must pay a \$20 registration fee for every one-day workshop they attend and a \$100 fee if selected for a mentored hunt.

“During the 2019-2020 season, almost 100 people attended workshops around the state,” remarked Justin Grider, the state Regional Hunter Education Coordinator. “Of those, almost 70 were selected to participate in a mentored hunt later in the season. The average age of applicants was 42.”



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