[](http://dnr.wi.gov/images/DNR150x104.png)

Learn to Hunt for Food Instructor Guidance

This document includes notes appended to our course outline. The notes and guidance are a summary of and reaction to comments that have been received from students in the past several years’ classes.

Overall the ratings of the course are extremely positive, but we’re always striving to improve. Please read these over and apply in the classroom and mentoring situation.

Feel free to adapt this document to best serve your individual needs. I have constructed it for a class size of 20…which greatly cramps the time scheduling.

Questions? Contact Keith Warnke, 608 576 5243 Keith.warnke@wi.gov

**Objectives**: Participants will experience moral, ethical, sustainable hunting and will have the opportunity to try it out themselves if they choose. Hunter safety certification is available to those who wish to be certified. Participants will have a broad understanding of hunting and conservation and will gain increased confidence in their knowledge of and skills needed to participate in hunting. Participants will feel comfortable and accepted in the hunting community and will thus support and appreciate hunting and hunters.

**Mentors**: If possible invite novice hunters to the property to be hunted as early as possible. Perhaps a week or two prior to the hunt to help set up blinds, plan the hunt and scout. Ideally, the mentor (or hunt organizer) and the apprentice will have made contact prior to the hunt weekend.

**Advice:**

Always remember: This group of novices considers venison as a source of food as a primary motivation for learning to hunt.

Minimize talk of trophies and trophy hunting.

Respect everyone’s 2nd amendment rights. Students want to learn about firearms, but most likely may be discouraged by discussion of the AR platform.

All weeks: have the guns out and ready to use. This is critical. More gun handling is frequently given as a comment. Skip the lever actions to save time.

Give the very basics of ballistics. Such as, “this is a bullet and you will use it to kill deer. It goes in the gun this way and comes out this end.”

**Working Course Outline**

Note: deer hunting tactics and techniques will be presented throughout all sessions.

Week 1: August 30 or 31 Location: Fitchburg

**Use *some* form of this as an Opening Statement:**

Detail the course and what it is and is not. It is a great opportunity to learn many skills and techniques to hunt. It is a chance to ask unlimited questions and explore hunting. You will come out of this more prepared to hunt. In all likelihood you will not exit this course as a fully trained, up to speed, ready to go hunter. It will take more experiences and hunting trials. We are willing to provide guidance if students stay in touch.

Obviously we’re here because we are deeply passionate about hunting, conservation and food. And we want to share that passion with you. But ultimately, this course is about you the students and what you want to learn about hunting. So, we have structured this to be much more hands on and discussion oriented than lecture driven. So we encourage you ask questions, share your passions and impart your guidance for us to provide what you need.

**And: Ask if someone in the class is interested in keeping a class blog, doing some live streaming, creating an online community to follow us.**

6:00 Give the opening statement.

* Distribute schedule/sign up sheet: range days and times, hunt Y/N
* Remind them to get their customer id and email it to you or me

Ask people to indicate on the sign up sheet if they’d like to be paired with someone specific and, if so, to identify that person.

Outline and Syllabus – distribution of materials

* Direct students to read the description of the hunt weekend at the end of the syllabus
* Instructor contact list
* Class list serve? Provide and maintain continuity. Ask a class volunteer to organize this for those who want to stay in touch (building community)
* History of Conservation and hunting – Outside reading assignment they should already have receive/read. Tell them to feel free to bring up questions/concerns from this reading during the introductions

6:15 Introductions – 45 min (20 people)

Sign up sheet goes around

What would you most like to take from this course?

Why hunt? Students share their motivations for attending

What is their biggest obstacle, fear, or concern?

Questions/concerns from conservation readings?

7:00 Gear basics – demonstration – 10 min

Blaze orange, gun, ammo, license, tag (and zip-lock bag), knife, and drag rope. Dress for the weather. DO NOT over-complicate this. Stress the simpleness. We can get into details later.

Deer – biology, habitat, habits, and populations - introduction– **Homework** - reading assignment for next week’s scouting Chapters 1&2 in Landers’ book

7:10 Laws and regulations primer – 15-30 min

**Where to get license – open a GoWild account – demonstrate**

Distribute regs – and link <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt/regulations.html>

Briefly discuss:

Seasons

Tagging

Registration

Zones- Farmland

Hunting hours – also Pocket Ranger app

\*Note to instructors: keep it at 30,000 feet with accompanying literature – regulation pamphlets

Q&A on regulations will be ongoing

**Homework:** Read through regs. Come next week with more questions

**7:30 Key -** Proper firearm handling **demonstration** and practice – One instructor remains to answer questions. Others split off and work with firearms.

Students will learn how to safely handle firearms and to operate the five common actions.

* Dummy ammo is essential

\*Students should come prepared to spend class outdoors next week – rain or shine.

Week 2: Sept 6 or 7 Location - Fitchburg

6:00 Proper firearm handling demonstration and practice –30 min. – One instructor remains to answer questions. Others split off and work with firearms.

Students will learn how to safely handle firearms and to operate the six common actions.

6:30 Scouting – 1.5 hour – outside. Whoever can is invited to sit til dark in small groups. 4 instructors each with 5 students.

Discuss deer behavior and sign

Pictoral examples

Habitat needs; the basics: food, cover, water. *How to use it to your advantage*

Public Land – Homework assignment

*H*ow to find it, how to use it

Use this link: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Lands/PAL/>

(Note the DNR website is in rampant violation of the “one click” rule…we’ll just have to be patient!)

DNR mapping pages

Types – Federal, state, county, tax programs, etc

Access to information

Scouting with the computer and books

Powerpoint with map of topography, cover, deer trails, etc.

Field Trip 1- Sunday Sept 11: Range visit – live fire – field trip. Rifles, shotguns, and crossbows. Note: Students must attend at least one range day to attend the hunt.

**Careful attention to the mechanics of shooting and training novices**

This year we will have students assigned to starting times to show up at the range rather than just saying, “the range will be open from 1-4, show up”. That has created back ups in the past and less than perfect instructional opportunity. Students will arrive and stop at station 1. for a 15 minute hands on instruction. Then proceed to station 2. for another 15-20 minutes. They can then move to station 3. Once comfortable with firearms and shooting, they can move to a supervised firing line where one instructor can assist/oversee several.

Three learning objectives covered at three stations and the supervised firing line:

1. Proper form and gun mounting. One instructor and a group
2. Hunting scenarios and positions. One instructor and a group. Using trainer guns to go through a mock hunt. Blinds, stools, shooting sticks, standing, kneeling leaning. Describe the hunt from when the deer is sighted until the shot and recovery. Have a deer decoy to aim at and talk vitals and angles to vitals.
3. Shooting from various positions. One on one with each student. Offer to start with a .22 and then take the progression at their pace…up to a deer hunting caliber.
4. Supervised firing line. One instructor and a group. Students can continue here as long as they like while not interfering with newly arriving students at station 1.

Week 3: September 13 or 14 Location Fitchburg

6:00 Hunter Ethics – 30 min

Shot placement

Trespass

Behavior, etc.

6:30 Public Land

*H*ow to find it, how to use it

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Powerpoint with map of topography, cover, deer trails, etc.

7:00 Field dressing discussion – Link to video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1PWe8TQULsU>

7:30 Proper firearm handling demonstration and practice

Lingering questions discussion

Field Trip 2- Sunday Sept 18: Range visit – live fire – field trip. Rifles, shotguns and crossbows. Note: Students must attend at least one range day to attend the hunt. Same stations as previous week.

Week 4: September 21 or 22 Fur Shed

How to butcher a deer – demonstration and participation (field dressing?)

Processing, cooking, and storing

Hunter education and firearm safety test out – Ongoing during class

Hunt Logistics and planning

Wrap up

Field Trip 3: A two-day Learn to Hunt event with an experienced mentor. A two-day, deer camp style hunt with a trainer in southern Wisconsin.

September 24 (afternoon and evening) and 25 (until at least mid-afternoon) and perhaps 26 (optional). The LTH permit will remain effective until October 2 if hunter-mentor would like to hunt more.

Schedule for the hunt:

Should try to keep people together with class mates rather than combining days.

Friday September 23 as early as mentor/apprentice can arrange to meet.

The hunting experience should be at least a two-day event.

Pre-hunt: Mentors will have scouted areas to hunt prior to the hunt experience and should have the blinds or stands picked out and ready to go. Pick out a location for the pre-hunt meeting. This should include the opportunity to shoot the evening before hunting.

Day one: Friday. An afternoon/evening target shooting event for more experience (if necessary), scouting, talk with apprentice about the why’s of hunting. If schedule works out, feel free to hunt Friday evening. Pot-luck and bon fire for mentors and novices to get to know one another. If possible an over-night stay in traditional deer hunting manner (camp) is a great bonding experience.

Day two: Mentors and novices meet at the agreed upon spot and time for the hunt. After the hunt, the entire group meets to share experiences and (hopefully) butcher deer.

The hunt weekend can continue to Saturday evening and Sunday if mentor and apprentice can fit. The LTH permit will allow hunting through October 2nd this year if there is another opportunity for mentor/apprentice to get together.

Mentors:

Mentors should be experienced but as importantly adept at relating to new adult hunters. This is much different than taking a kid from a hunting family hunting. Ideally they will have mentored other hunters in past or have gone through a comprehensive training course. Some hunters can be overzealous teaching other new hunters which can be unproductive for students or give the wrong picture of hunters. These mentors are serving as ambassadors to hunters as a whole.

Ideally, mentors are willing to commit to more than a single event or experience. Two critical factors in recruiting hunters are repeated contacts and continuing education. Very few people take up hunting as the result of a single experience. However, we are realists and it is better to have a good ambassador for a mentor who can only serve one day than someone who does a poor job of representing hunters and hunting.

**Here are some really good self-starter sites to review.**

[www.modern-hunters.com](http://www.modern-hunters.com)

[www.honest-food.net](http://www.honest-food.net)

[www.devinbrewer.com](http://www.devinbrewer.com)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XQjsnidkkLQ&list=PLLU64-fSXQryv8pz_RVBKf85k-BOAKIM7>

**Suggested reading list:**

* + Lily Raff McCaulou, Call of the Mild. Learning to hunt my own dinner. <http://www.lilyrm.com/book/>
  + Tovar Cerulli, The Mindful Carnivore. <http://www.tovarcerulli.com/>
  + Gut it, Cut it, and Cook it. Eric Fromm and Al Cambonne
  + Jim Pozewitz:
    - Inherit the Hunt
    - Rifle in Hand
    - Beyond Fair Chase
  + Georgia Pellegrini. Girl Hunter.
  + Steve Chapple, Confessions of an Eco-Redneck: Or How I Learned to Gut-Shoot Trout & Save the Wilderness at the Same Time.
  + Ted Kerasote, Blood Ties.
  + Aldo Leopold, A Sand County Almanac
  + Gordon MacQuarrie, Tales of the Old Duck Hunters Association, Inc
  + Last Child in the Woods. Richard Louv
  + In Defense of Food. Michael Pollon