



October 2018



## TEACH TABLET

If you've been counting down the days like a child before Christmas, then you already know. It's finally arrived! Happy Waterfowl Season! Time to make memories and piles of birds!

Whether you are a waterfowl hunter or not, you can appreciate the change of the season and all the excitement it brings. If you aren't a waterfowl hunter, perhaps your calendar is marked for Opening Day of archery season, youth season or shotgun season for deer. Maybe your freezer is empty and defrosted and you are ready to provide for your family. Maybe there is a nice buck you've caught on your trail cam and you are dreaming of the mount. Either way, it's close enough to taste.

TEACH Outdoors has had one youth hunt to start off waterfowl season and another one approaching in November. It sure is exciting to see the next generation of hunters coming up. Please follow us on social media if you don't already. We'd love to see your hunting snapshots from the field. Sometimes, the best moments happen at camp or in the lodge. Maybe you like to sit around a campfire or play cards around the table to pass the evening. No matter what you like to do, share those snapshots with us. Let's celebrate the season together.

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### THIS EDITION IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

Waterfowl Assassins Guide Service. WA Guide Service provides an unmatched waterfowl hunting experience in Maryville, Missouri. Visit [@waterfowlassassins](#) on Facebook or call (816) 806-1902.

TEACH Outdoors thanks Waterfowl Assassins for providing this year's second waterfowl hunt for youth!





### INTRO TO BASIC ARCHERY CLASS:

On Sunday, September 9, 2018, TEACH Outdoors hosted a Basic Introduction to Archery event. It was the first of its kind at Woodsmoke Ranch in Seneca, IL. At this basic level archery class, students were introduced to two styles of bows, long bow and compound. The students learned how to hold them and load them, properly and safely. While aiming accurately was a goal, this event wasn't about scoring on a target or splitting arrows with bullseye shots. The 20 children and handful of young at heart adults, broke into groups of four to take turns on the shooting lanes with one on one coaching provided by Bob Wilkins and Amanda Ringness. The small groups rotated out from 10 am to noon when they broke for lunch. A big thanks to Woodsmoke Ranch for being gracious hosts and to our volunteers: Bob, Amanda, Larry, Chad, Sarah and daughters. After lunch, some students hung out to practice a while longer. If you are interested in taking a Basic Introduction to Archery class, please email Smitty at [Smitty@TeachOutdoors.org](mailto:Smitty@TeachOutdoors.org).

*What a busy and fun filled month! Lots of "firsts" for TEACH Outdoors & enough generosity to have us counting our blessings well before Thanksgiving.*

This month started with REACTION WATERFOWL sponsoring our **first youth goose hunt**. Paul Cavenaile shares the story.

There's a First Time for Everything, Goose Edition

Just a few short years ago I was looking for a Hunter Safety course for my son Ethan. He was preparing for his first hunting adventure. He would deer hunt on his grandpa's land in WI. In my search for a class, I was introduced to Jim "Smitty" Smith and the T.E.A.C.H. Outdoors team. At the Hunter Safety course, I said to Smitty, "I love what T.E.A.C.H. Outdoors does. How do I get involved?" Smitty replied, "Just show up, brother." After getting involved, I learned that one of Smitty's dreams for T.E.A.C.H. Outdoors was to take some of the Hunter Safety graduates on their first hunt.

Smitty is a very experienced waterfowl hunter. I have asked, Smitty (would say begged), to go waterfowl hunting for the past 3 years. It was one hunt I have never been on and al-

ways wanted to try. When Reaction Waterfowl offered their services to T.E.A.C.H. Outdoors and Smitty invited Ethan and me, I was overjoyed. "When Jordan, owner of Reaction Waterfowl, offered TEACH this opportunity, I thought, "How cool would it be for TEACH to have a father and son on their first waterfowl hunt together?" Smitty told me. "Does Ethan have a friend who would like to learn?" This is where things would align for Smitty's dream. Jacob a longtime family friend was just about to take his hunter safety course that TEACH was providing. After a short conversion with Jacob's Dad, who is a waterfowl hunter, the pieces were in place to have two first time waterfowl hunters on their first hunt.

Our journey started September 6, the night before we were to leave. There is no better way to build excitement, and exhaustion, for two fourteen-year-olds than allowing them to have a sleep over in the camper.

On September 7 we hooked up to the camper and began our trip to Hutchinson, MN. This also happened to be Ethan's birthday. Eight hours is a long trip for two teenagers, but they man-



## SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS *CONTINUED*



aged by sleeping for the first part of the trip (my plan payed off), creating and basketball game with their hats attached to the back of the seats and ending with a game of eye spy because all creativity for games had been spent. We stayed at McLeod county park, a beautiful local camp ground. The first night we sat by a camp fire and Smitty offered a glimpse into what the next day would bring.

September 8 our day began at 4am. It was a quick wake up and travel to a local Casey's General Store for the ultimate breakfast: donuts. We were met by one of Reaction Waterfowl's people and followed them to a local farm field. Reaction Waterfowl had been at the field for some time, where they had decoys spread throughout the field. Our group helped finished laying out the decoy spread with the help of headlights. As first light came over the field, it was then that I could fully appreciate the work that Reaction Waterfowl put in before we got there. Jordan explained we were hunting in lay out blinds and there were some safety precautions to go over. After teaching Jacob, Ethan, and me about layout blinds, we were ready to begin. It wasn't long before Canada goose were in flight and Jordan and his team were working their magic. Time and time again they would call goose to us, but the geese wouldn't seem to "commit," as Jordan put it. Then from behind us came a lone goose. Jordan yelled for everyone to cover up in their blind. Jordan successfully

called this goose to mere feet of the ground. "Take him," he called as blinds popped open and a successful shot was taken. The day from there on was slow. "This is not the norm; it is early season. Things can be strange during early season," Jordan reminded us. After a great lunch and friendly conversation, we were back at it for the evening hunt. The evening brought the same, geese off in the distance, none willing to commit. Even in the slump it is still a joy to watch a person like Jordan with his talent. We watched a group of 20 geese a mile and a half out turn 90 degrees to come to Jordan's calling. He is amazing with a goose call. One of the most beautiful things to see and experience was when he jokingly sounded like a swan which brought 4 of them, who were nearby, to fly majestically over our group answering to his calls. His talents and abilities and his team were above what anyone could expect. We ended our hunt for that day by helping load the trailer with decoys.

That night at camp Smitty taught Jacob and Ethan how to process a goose. We ate goose fajitas. Who knew

We are so proud of Cole Haynes, member of TEACH Outdoors Orange Crush Youth Shooting Team. He placed 8th in the State of Illinois Trap Competition with 4-H by shooting a 118/125 overall. **Congrats Cole!**





## APPLICANTS WANTED

Did you know that TEACH Outdoors has been offering \$500 scholarships to high school graduates since 2016?

We also have a very special scholarship offer for 2019 called the *Joyce Betz Memorial Scholarship*.

To apply, visit:  
[www.TEACHOutdoors.org](http://www.TEACHOutdoors.org)  
to download the application.

For additional information, contact  
AmandaRingness  
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Smitty was a good cook? On that night, all Smitty could do was smile. He had successfully completed one of his dreams for TEACH: To take kids from the education of hunter safety to their first hunt. And to top it off a little “field to table.” The night ended by another camp fire and recalling the day’s events.

September 9 were back to it. Routine was the same, but this time we were hunting the corn field that was partially taken down and were standing in the leftover corn. We had the pleasure of hunting alongside a local father and son who were also hunting the same filed. We hunted until 10:30 that day. Another slow day for geese but a great time for camaraderie. Ethan and Jacob learned and got see in action how two hunting groups can work together when field arrangements get mixed up. As we left for home the conversation was all about goose hunting. The electronic devices that were “banned” during the hunting portion of the trip were out and goose hunts and goose calling videos were retrieved on YouTube instead of the normal teenage games and music.

Ethan, Jacob and I would like to thank Reaction Waterfowl for an amazing weekend learning to hunt Canada goose. Thanks to Jordan for answering thousands of questions, mostly asked by me. It was a joy to learn and get you know all of you. While our group was only able to harvest one goose, we understand that hunting isn’t always the harvest, it’s the experience too. The beauty of watching the sunrise over a field of decoys was priceless.

To TEACH and Smitty we say thank you for what you do. You just may have created three future waterfowl hunters.





## UPCOMING EVENTS—FALL 2018

**We interrupt this Calendar of Events to bring you HUNTING SEASON! We hope to see you in the field...or not, because your camo choice was spot on.**

**October: Duck, Canada Goose, & Snow Goose seasons; Archery (Deer)**

**November: Upland Game; Deer open (gun season)**

If your child would like hunt with TEACH Outdoors, email [Smitty@TeachOutdoors.org](mailto:Smitty@TeachOutdoors.org).



TEACH Outdoors, Inc. NFP is the proud recipient of the Illinois Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus Grant for 2018. The grant was presented to T.E.A.C.H. Outdoors by State Representative David Welter on September 13, 2018. This grant is to help provide funding for hunting and fishing activities for our youth.

### **The 70th Annual Grundy County Corn Festival Parade**

took place on Sunday September 30, 2018.

Thank you to Pie, Janelie and Ro for pulling the TEACH Outdoors trailer in the Grundy County Corn Festival parade and for transporting all of us in your amazing military truck.

As TEACH Outdoors headed down the parade route this year, everyone was packed in the back of Pie's military truck. Buck Gardner Mallard Magic duck calls rang loud and clear for all to hear from the back of the truck! The kids and parents had a great time waving to all the people and being part of the parade with TEACH Outdoors.

When the parade was over we ended the day with Smitty's homemade chili and Nan's homemade cheese soup! Thank you to all who joined in on a day of family fun!



Pictured are: State Representative David Welter, T.E.A.C.H. Outdoors President Jim Smith, Treasurer Chad Both and Secretary Brittney Erickson.



September 23, 2018, TEACH Outdoors hosted a bat education seminar at the Black Road Branch of Joliet Public Library. Laura Yancick, youth services manager, invited the group when she learned about the TEACH mission.

The children learned about the little brown bat by reading “Shadows of the



Night” by Barbara Bash. Kids got to experience how difficult it is to eat like a bat when you don’t have echo-

location. After attending, the kids know how bats normally act, how white nose syndrome affects bats, then went outside to build bat boxes and play games. Each family went home with a newly constructed bat box and installation instructions. Thank you to volunteers Amanda, Kim, Andy, and Paul. A special thanks goes to JPL for the invitation.



## Crackerbox Derby

TEACH Outdoors had an amazing time participating in the Grundy County Corn Festival Crackerbox Derby this year. Seven local kids registered with Sarah to experience driving in a derby for their very first time.

The pits opened at 7:30 am, racers



said the Pledge of Allegiance, then the racing began! The Precision Class was the last class to race, so Smitty and Paul took the 7 racers over to the hill to watch the other classes so they would know what to expect. Watching other kids really added to their anticipation.

TEACH Outdoors drivers were: Hunter, Aiden, Jordan, Mackenzie, Mia, Emmalee, and Josh. Each driver took two downhill runs and their times were averaged. When it was race time, Smitty and Paul stayed at the top of the hill with the drivers, Sarah positioned herself in the middle of the track, and Kim was at the bottom of the track. As the kids traveled downhill their focus was as intense as the smiles on their faces when they crossed the finish line.

TEACH Outdoors Precision Wheel Class Finishers: Hunter took 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Mia placed 4<sup>th</sup>, Emmalee and Aiden rounded out 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> place respectively. A special award was given to sisters Jordan and Mackenzie for being good sports



when they both crashed at their first Crackerbox derby. Trophies were awarded for top three finishers in each class and all other participants received ribbons.

Thank you to Morris Lions Club for sponsoring the event and providing prizes, Mr. Darrell Gary, the Boy Scouts & leaders for all their hard work on derby day & to the Grundy County Corn Festival for hosting.