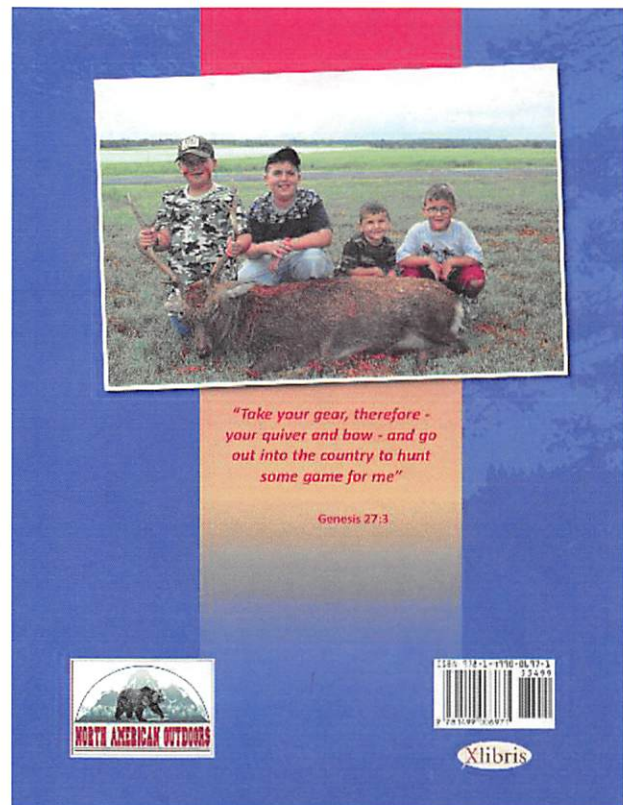
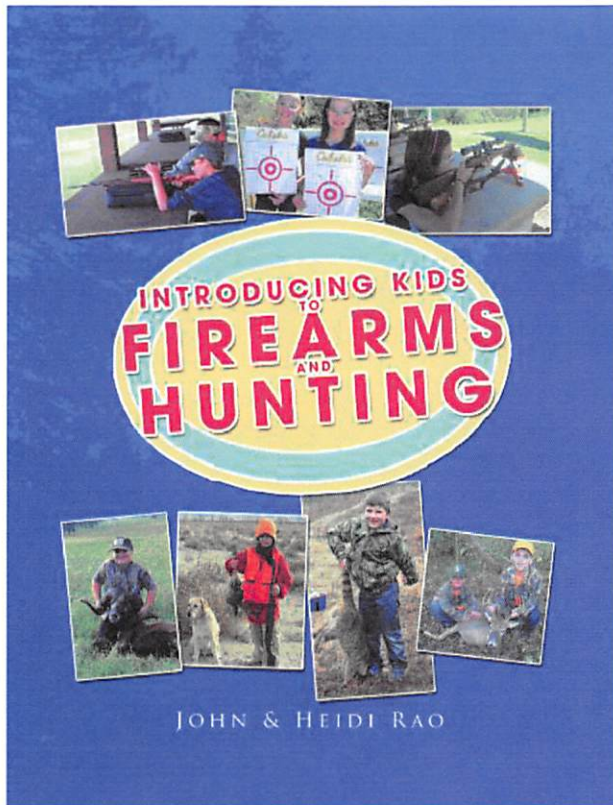


# Book Reviews

By Heidi Rao, Texas Parks & Wildlife Hunter Education Specialist, Houston, TX



## “Introducing Kids to Firearms and Hunting”

In today's society, there is a huge disconnection of kids who did not grow up in a firearm/hunting-friendly home, with those who did.

As adults, we have a responsibility to introduce our youth to our national traditions of firearms and the sport of hunting. When we do, it is crucial we shape them with high moral and ethical standards to advocate our sport. The future of hunting rests in our young hunters. If we do our part to inspire our children with the values and traditions we hold close to our own hearts, they will in turn become the devoted hunters that will carry on our hunting heritage for generations to follow. When we make the commitment to introduce our children to hunting, the method of teaching should become our main focus.

We must revise, modify, alter, adapt,

adjust, and whatever else it takes toward our own hunting behaviors to set the best example we can. For the rest of our lives, our children now become our responsibility to guide and educate. We need to teach them how to interact with the woods, waters, and fields. Involve them so they understand and respect the land. Kids need to learn how to study and appreciate the wildlife, learn their biology and how they are connected to the environment. Everyone needs to commit to a high level of ethics, respect and good sportsmanship in the manner of your hunt. This cannot develop overnight, but will take a lifetime of commitment and dedication to perfect.

Hunting is an activity that requires research, organization, proficiency, responsibility and dedication. These requirements are essential because there is a high expectation from others to do the right thing when in the field. If you come from a long line of hunters, this process of passing along these traditions

to your children could be relatively easy. Hunting families already have a social structure in place where you can turn to for advice and direction while guiding your youngster. If you do not come from a traditional hunting background, there are ample opportunities to get you headed in the right direction. These include the many state, federal, and private organizations to help guide you into being a mentor to a young hunter.

Regardless of the intent—hunting, protection, or just collecting—our children deserve to have the same rights as we have enjoyed. If kids understand at an early age that gun ownership is a right and that legal activities involving firearms are dependent upon that right, their children's children might have the same opportunities as our own kids.

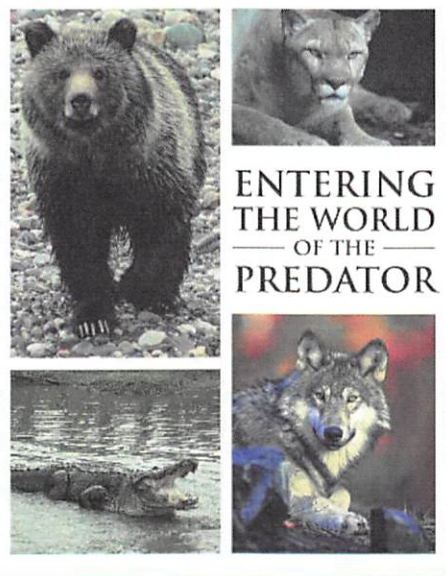
Kids WILL be exposed to guns, and our book is a guide to help introduce and educate kids about firearms—the correct way—safely.

## “Entering the World of the Predator”

As the title suggests, this book educates the reader on how to coexist with wildlife, especially wildlife predators such as brown bears, black bears, mountain lions and wolves.

There are five large predators remaining in North America that pose a real threat to outdoorsmen and women who engaged in hunting, fishing, camping, or just enjoying the great outdoors. These individuals could be families going to a state or national park, a boy scout going to camp, or someone going on a nature walk. These big five predators are brown bears, black bears, mountain lions, wolves, and alligators.

North America is also home to several



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species of pit vipers and one type of elapid and all are venomous! The pit

vipers native to North America are rattlesnakes, copperheads, and water moccasins. The only venomous snake in the elapid family native to North America are the infamous cobras, mambas, and kraits.

There are techniques and skills that the outdoor enthusiast can employ to minimize a deadly encounter with a large predator. It starts with the knowledge of the risks that can be encountered, and the knowledge of the predator that poses the risk. It is as simple as being prepared and having a plan. Knowing what to look for to predict an unintended encounter and what to do if an encounter is inevitable can mean the difference

between a tragedy and an enjoyable outing.

**More information can be found** at [NorthAmericanOutdoors.org](http://NorthAmericanOutdoors.org)

**NRA New Energy Video:** [www.nrawomen.tv/new-energy/video/heidi-rao-new-energy/list/heidi-rao-new-energy](http://www.nrawomen.tv/new-energy/video/heidi-rao-new-energy/list/heidi-rao-new-energy)

**Website:** [northamericanoutdoors.org](http://northamericanoutdoors.org) • **Blog:** [outdoorwomenadventures.com](http://outdoorwomenadventures.com)

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## Design and Performance – Look for Them Both in Your Shooting Glasses

By C. Douglas Nielsen

Perhaps the single most important piece of equipment a shooter needs is a quality pair of protective glasses, but at the same time, those glasses are the last thing a shooter needs to worry about when the time has come to perform on the range or in the field. The key is finding a pair of shooting glasses with a design that not only fits well and looks good so you will actually wear it, but also provides you with the performance and protection you need.

Some shooters simply choose to wear sunglasses purchased at the local budget mart, but there is more to protecting your eyes than covering them with plastic lenses. I was reminded of this while hunting mourning doves in Nevada in 2014 and was showered by shotgun pellets from a neighboring shooter. Luckily I came away unscathed, but the

incident was sobering nonetheless.

“Design is more than just how stylish a product is,” according to the folks at Smith Optics Elite. “Design is also how all the aspects of a product’s functionality are brought together.”

Smith builds on this concept through a military process known as Human Systems Integration (HSI). This process takes into account multiple human variables such as fit, optical performance, ballistic performance and fog mitigation. The only shooting glasses Smith makes that are not manufactured to military specifications are their prescription lenses, but those still meet ANSI specifications.

Another factor to consider when purchasing a pair of shooting glasses is their optical performance—the ability of the glasses to let the shooter see things as they are and not from a

distorted perspective. Lenses can create what is known as the Prism Effect. This occurs when light is refracted as it passes through a lens. This can make the target appear to be in one location when it actually is in another. Also, looking through a distorted lens can lead to eye fatigue, much like looking through a pair of binoculars that are not real clear.

Look for lenses designed to counter refraction. Smith Elite for example, combats the Prism Effect through what the company calls Tapered Lens Technology. This involves cutting the lens with a taper from the optical center of the lens to its outer edges. As a result, images are clear and accurate. ■

