



The Wild Turkey

Lesson 1

“I'm an outdoors girl and I love the excitement of fishing, riding four-wheelers and hunting” - Miranda Lambert

Life Application

Hunting turkey is considered by many to be one of the most exciting forms of hunting out there. There is nothing like waking up in the morning and have an old tom send chills down your spine when you hear him gobble on the roost. Today, wild turkey are plentiful in many states, however, this has not always been the case. The wild turkey as we know it had to make a giant comeback from signs of extinction.

“Every conservationist must prepare for the future” - John Stamper

The health and success of today's turkey populations is a testament to conservation and protection efforts. The same can be said in our lives. What are you doing today to ensure long term health and success in the future?

How To

The Wild Turkey that we see today are actually native to North America and we have seen turkey populations make a giant comeback throughout the US. Their numbers have boomed over the last decade due to great conservation efforts. The Wild Turkey was here long before the Europeans colonized America. They are not to be confused with their cousins, domestic turkeys (the ones you eat for Thanksgiving). Common Descriptions: Male = Tom or Gobbler, Young Male = Jake, Female = Hen, Young = Poult. The four major species of turkey found in America are listed below:

Eastern Wild Turkey: The Eastern Turkey has the largest range of all turkey species found in America. It actually covers the entire eastern half of the United States. It goes as far north as Maine, South to Florida and west as Oklahoma. This species has chestnut brown tips on the upper tail and can weigh 30lbs. They have been known to grow to four feet. They number from 5.1 to 5.3 million birds.



Osceola Wild Turkey: This species is known for being found throughout Florida. It has been documented that their name came from the famous Seminole leader Osceola, and was first described in 1890. They are known for being very dark, smaller and have longer legs than the other species. When you look at the feathers you will see an iridescent green and purple color. Their numbers range from 80,000 to 100,000 birds.

Rio Grande Wild Turkey: This species is known to range in specific states which include California, Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Oregon. You can also find this species in Hawaii and a few regions in the northeast. You will find that its feathers often have a green-coppery sheen to them as well as a light tan color along the tips of the tail and on the lower back feathers. Their numbers range from range from 1,022,700 to 1,025,700.

Merriam's Wild Turkey: The Merriam is typically found in Wyoming, Montana, South Dakota as well as New Mexico and the Rocky Mountains. They can be easily identified with their white tips found on the tail feathers. You will also find white tips and some purple and bronze coloration along their back feathers. Their numbers range from 334,460 to 344,460.

Did You Get It?

1. What gender do you need to be to turkey hunt? Any Gender. The great thing about hunting is that ANYONE can experience our sport.
2. Why have we seen the turkey population increase? great conservation and care.
3. What species has white tips on their tails? Merriam Wild Turkey.
4. Why is it important to care for ourselves? insure preservation today, but assist us in becoming all we were can to be.



Sample How To's

The How To section should be fun and exciting for each student. Make sure that you have all the necessary elements available to insure you are properly teaching this section. Make sure you reiterate SAFETY and the importance it has in our lives and in our sport. Having them participate will have a significant impact on their overall experience of your group:

Sample How To's:

1. **Gold:** Help students identify the species of turkeys through pictures.
2. **Platinum:** Bring in a mounted Turkey and describe the species and the colorization of the feathers. Test their knowledge to see if they can determine the species name based on the description.
3. **Titanium:** Have a local taxidermist come in and bring several species of turkey. You could also invite a local conservationist to describe the species of local turkeys along with helping students understand what is needed to preserve their habitat.

LESSON #1



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THE WILD TURKEY

LESSON #1

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LEARN IT?

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DID YOU GET IT?

1. What gender do you need to be to turkey hunt?

2. Why have we seen the turkey population increase?

3. What species has white tips on their tails?

4. Why is it important to care for ourselves?





Scouting Lesson 2

"For your information, I would like to ask a question."

- Samuel Goldwyn

Life Application

Successful turkey hunting requires good scouting. Scouting is a military word that means "to go before and gather information." It is this research that allows us to know the location of the turkey and the best tactics to use in hunting them.

We do this in a lot of areas of life, don't we? We research things like the next smartphone, video games, and other things we may want to purchase. Information is key in life and in turkey hunting.

"The craving for information is so huge now, and it can be marketed at such a rapid rate." - Clint Eastwood

As you continue to mature, the types of things you will begin scouting become even more important--things such as college choice, future spouse, and even where you want to begin your career.

Scouting before an actual hunt is the process of gathering as much information as possible to make the best choice as to where to hunt, when to hunt, and what bird you are hunting..

How To

In turkey hunting, scouting is very important because it helps you determine the location, the time, the bird and even *if* you will go. No one wants to get up early in the morning, waste money on unneeded supplies, or waste a full day in the field for the chance of never getting a trophy turkey. Scouting can help with all these issues and significantly increase your percentages in harvesting a trophy turkey.



Follow these next steps to help you understand some basics in scouting turkeys:

Early Morning:

1. Go and listen to all hunting areas you have permission to hunt. Do you see or hear gobblers?
2. Drive all the roads around your hunting property to see if you can visibly see toms in the fields.
3. Walk logging roads, ridge tops, flats and timbered bottoms looking for turkey or sign of turkey.

Evening:

1. Look and find turkey feeding.
2. Watch turkey from their feeding grounds to their roost.
3. Locate several ambush sights for the next morning when they fly off their roost.

Did You Get It?

1. What is scouting?

Scouting is the process of gathering information.

2. Why is scouting important?

It helps us choose the location and time that would be recommended to hunt.

3. Name one early morning and one evening scouting tip.

Any of the six tips listed in the "Learn It section"

4. How do we scout for our life?

We begin to scout out things such as college, future spouse, and even where you want to start your career.



Sample How To's

The **How To** section should be fun and exciting for each student. Make certain that all the necessary elements are available to properly teach this section. Make sure to reiterate SAFETY and the importance it has in our lives and in our sport. Their participation will have a significant impact on their overall experience of the group.

Sample How To's:

1. **Gold:** Have students describe their own hunting areas and how they plan scouting these areas for turkey hunting.
2. **Platinum:** Have some maps of the local area and discuss how one would go about scouting these areas. Another option would be a competition of taking photos and times of the areas they plan to scout.
3. **Titanium:** Invite a local hunter to describe the process he/she uses to scout their own area. Have students prepared to ask questions and give awards/prizes away for those who ask focused questions.

LESSON #2



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SCOUTING

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DID YOU GET IT?

1. What is scouting?

2. Why is scouting important?

3. Name one early morning and one evening scouting tip.

4. How do we scout for our life?





Location

Lesson 3

"The three most important factors in killing a turkey are, location, location, location!" - Unknown

Life Application

The old adage of being in the right place at the right time is true in turkey hunting. Every hunter wants to be at the exact spot, at the exact range, with the exact shot to take a trophy bird. Finding and planning for the perfect location will put you in the right place...most of the time.

"The best thing about the future is that it comes one day at a time."
- Abraham Lincoln

As you go through life, being in the right place at the right time is very important. Like turkey hunting, careful planning and keen observation will put you in the best location at the best time to capitalize on opportunities as they come. You want to be keen in life and look for the signs that will put you in the best location for whatever you want; such as a spot on the team, a job, etc. If you want something in life then plan to be in the best location instead of leaving it up to chance.

How To

Location in turkey hunting is the place the hunter wants to set up in order to see the most turkey. These locations can include several areas depending on the birds being hunted, the terrain, and even the time of day. After the hunter has finished scouting the turkey, he or she will know more of the turkeys' routines and where they like to travel.

Look for several of these turkey markers below to help pick your best location to hunt.

EARLY MORNING: Set up within 40-50 yards of their roosting trees, between their roosting trees, and on an open field or logging road.

MORNING: Set up on logging roads or fields where there are strutting areas/zones the toms often visit.

AFTERNOON -EVENING: Set up on food and water locations where they visit.

EVENING: Set up on their actual roosting area to hunt as they go back to their roosts.



Did You Get It?

1. What is a “location” when referred to in turkey hunting?

Location is the place the hunter wants to set up in order to see the most turkey.

2. What are some symptoms that can affect your location while turkey hunting? Feeding areas, time, weather etc. all are symptoms that can effect you hunting location.

3. Where is the best place to set up in the afternoon to see turkey?

Set up on food and water locations where they visit.

4. How do we scout for our life?

Careful planning and observation will put you in the best location at the best time to capitalize on opportunities as they come.



Sample How To's

The **How To** section should be fun and exciting for each student. Make certain that all the necessary elements are available to properly teach this section. Make sure to reiterate SAFETY and the importance it has in our lives and in our sport. Their participation will have a significant impact on their overall experience of the group.

Sample How To's:

1. **Gold:** Simply list the four times of the day and give some candy/prize to those that can describe the suggested set-up for each time frame.
2. **Platinum:** Have some students describe their own hunting areas. Then have students comment on some suggested areas based on the description of the land.
3. **Titanium:** Show trail camera photos and discuss what time the turkeys appear in the pictures. What are they doing and where do you believe they are going and why?

LESSON #3



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Set-Up

Turkey Hunting - Lesson 4

*"Be sure you put your feet in the right place, then stand firm."
- Abraham Lincoln*

Life Application

It is important in life to be an individual and have your own voice. How many times have you been told, "stand out and be a leader...don't follow the crowd"? In our culture and in media we often idolize and follow those who stand out the most probably because they are different and not afraid to be seen or judged. While refusing to blend in may be good advice in life, it does not necessarily translate to turkey hunting.

"Leaders lead but in the end it's the people who deliver." - Tony Blair

There's no doubt that a key pressure we all deal with is the pressure to conform...to blend in. We must withdraw from that feeling and actually *stand up* for our convictions. Do not blend into the crowd; rather, stand up boldly and be heard for your convictions.

How To

Turkey have some of the best eyesight of any North American game animal which can make them very difficult to hunt. Not only can they see well, but they can also see in color. Camouflage and set-up is key in order to harvest your turkey. The hunting blind is a great tool if you know how to use it and keep it unseen to the best eye in the forest.

Hunting blinds can be anything from a store bought pop-up tent to using make-shift trees and brush. Regardless of which blind you choose, follow some of these simple steps to insure your hunting set-up is turkey proof.

- Set up your blind to allow yourself a 20-40 yard shot.
- After set-up of your blind, use real foliage to cover your blind. Nothing is as good as the real stuff!
- You should set up your blind weeks in advance to allow it to become a normal structure in that area if possible.
- Have chairs and stools already in blind. (The less you carry in the better.)



- If you have a tent blind, do not open all the windows. Remember, turkeys have great eyesight and backlight from open windows can cause a silhouette to give away your presence. Open no more than two or three windows only as needed to see and get the end of your weapon in place.

Remember, when blind hunting your personal camo should match that of the blind. If inside a tent blind you should wear black. If using trimmed green tree branches then you should have green camo to match.

Did You Get It?

1. What are some great leaders that are very outspoken and in front of people?
President, teachers, community leaders, club leaders, athletes, etc.

Help them see that many times leaders do not blend into the crowd. Encourage them to stand up boldly in order that they may be heard for their convictions.

2. How good is turkey eyesight?
They have incredible eyesight. They have some of the best eyesight of any North American game animal making them very difficult to hunt.

3. How far should your set-up be from where the turkeys are going to be?
It is recommended that you have your blind set-up between 20-40 yards.

4. If you are hunting from inside of a tent blind, what color should you be wearing?
It is recommended that your clothes match the backdrop of the blind you are hunting in. If the inside is black, then one would wear black



Sample How To's

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Sample How To's:

1. **Gold:** Review the suggested set-up steps and award some prizes to those who correctly answer.
2. **Platinum:** Have students make a mock turkey hunting set-up using desks, chairs etc. Encourage creativity with mock decoys. This will help them to realistically see 40 yards.
3. **Titanium:** Bring in two blinds and break students into two teams. Have them camouflage the blinds. Award the team with the best-camouflaged blind. It is also good to set a time limit to help create excitement.

LESSON #4



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SET-UP

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DID YOU GET IT?

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2. How good is turkey eyesight?

3. How far should your set-up be from where the turkeys are going to be?

4. If you are hunting from inside of a tent blind, what color should you be wearing?





Set-Up (“Run and Gun”)

Turkey Hunting – Lesson 5

“To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often.”
- Winston Churchill

Life Application

Life is all about adjustments. No matter how hard a person studies, prepares or plans, great leaders understand that every situation requires careful and well thought-out adjustments. Just like a quarterback who changes the play at the line of scrimmage, great leaders learn to respond quickly and decisively to what they are observing. In turkey hunting, this is called the “run and gun” method and can be an effective way of taking a trophy turkey.

“Plans are nothing; planning is everything.”
- Dwight D. Eisenhower

We all know people who “fly by the seat of their pants” as well as those who plan every event with excruciating detail. Both personality types have their advantages. The best approach is one that incorporates planning and adjusting. The best leaders understand the end goal and have a plan on how to reach it, but they are quick to adjust to changing circumstances.

How To

Every great turkey hunter is a planner and will adjust quickly to what the birds are doing. He/She goes into the field with a plan based on careful scouting and observation, but when the turkey do not behave as expected, that hunter has to do whatever he/she can in order to get to the end plan...a harvested turkey!

Follow these next few steps to help you set up in a “run and gun” method so that you have the best plans to harvest a trophy turkey.

1. Know the entire hunting area and property boundaries. You need to understand where you are going and how far you are allowed to go.
2. Know where you are starting your hunt. (Waiting for them to fly off roost, going to their strutting zone, etc.)



3. Take your time. When the birds do something unexpected...take your time and adjust your plans.
4. Don't try to get too close. Remember, these birds can see very well and they still want to mate so get close and call them to you. Do not let them call you to them!
5. Be observant and SAFE! Everyone is in full camouflage and others will hear the same birds, so make sure you are watching for others and watch out for yourself. Turkey season is one of the most dangerous seasons to get accidentally shot by a fellow hunter!

Did You Get It?

1. What is a time when your plans didn't go the way you thought and you had to adjust?
The best way to get this discussion started is by sharing a personal example, then allow them to share.
2. What are the two things that stay the same in the "run and gun" set-up?
Two of the key steps in this process is to be observant and SAFE.
3. Why should you know your hunting ground property lines?
This will allow you to understand where you are going and how far you're allowed to go.
4. What should you be observant for when you are turkey hunting and constantly moving positions?
Other hunters.



Sample How To's

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Sample How To's:

1. **Gold:** Encourage the students to share their current set-up plan and then allow them to share what they would do if they had to abandon their original position and revert to the “run and gun” set-up.
2. **Platinum:** Take the students outside and allow them to get set up in a mock position. Then time them moving to another position. You can use chairs and balls (basket, soccer, etc) as blinds and decoys. Using other available items could be fun and spark some creativity as well.
3. **Titanium:** Bring a hunting blind along with some decoys. Have the students participate in setting up a normal set and then demonstrate what you would need for a “run and gun” type set-up. Award prizes to the students who provide correct answers.

LESSON #5



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SET-UP ("RUN AND GUN")

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LESSON # 5

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2. Know where you are starting your hunt. (Waiting for them to fly off roost, going to their strutting zone, etc.)
3. Take your time. When the birds do something unexpected... take your time and adjust your plans.
4. Don't try to get too close. Remember, these birds can see very well and they still want to mate so get close and call them to you. Do not let them call you to them!
5. Be observant and SAFE! Everyone is in full camouflage and others will hear the same birds, so make sure you are watching for others and watch out for yourself. Turkey season is one of the most dangerous seasons to get accidentally shot by a fellow hunter!

DID YOU GET IT?

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3. Why should you know your hunting ground property lines?
4. What should you be observant for when you are turkey hunting and constantly moving positions?





Decoys

Turkey Hunting – Lesson 6

“Don’t follow the decoy; be the determined leader.”
- John E. Stamper

Life Application

In turkey hunting, few things are as effective as a good decoy. In turkey hunting, few things are as effective as a good decoy, whether it’s made of plastic, foam or even film. Everyday you run into decoys and never know it: we intend to say something but get sidetracked, want to practice on a hobby but a good show is coming on television, want to go for a run or workout but find something better to do. These are all decoys in everybody’s lives. Decoys are good things when you are the hunter but not when you are the hunted.

“Decoy; A thing or person used to lure or tempt into danger or a trap.” - Webster’s

In many years of hunting I have seen some great decoys and some poor decoys. In life, leaders never want to use decoys. Great leaders want to be honest and stand boldly for what they believe. So many people today may try to get you to look at something and convince you that it is real. They intend to fool you and to take advantage while you are not looking at the real thing. Practice speaking the truth and standing for what you believe with your family, friends and strangers. Decoys are great for hunting, but poor in leadership.

How To

There are times when using decoys may be the convincing factor that leads a gobbler into a set-up location. The decoy gives the gobbler something to see to keep its attention towards it and not you and the surrounding location. The more convincing the set-up location can be the better the chances of seeing your trophy bird. There are several types of decoys including jakes, hens, and gobblers.



After you have found your location and set-up, follow these recommended instructions to set up the best decoys. Find a clearing nearby where the decoys can be seen from most locations:

1. Set up your decoys in the clearing, which could be 20-40 yards from your set-up.
2. Set up the decoys in a normal turkey behavior (single hen, couple hens, jake and a hen, gobbler and hens).
3. Use the appropriate decoys for the time of day and time of season you are hunting:
 - Early morning = Several hens
 - Late morning early afternoon = Single hen
 - Early Season = Jake and a hen
 - Late Season = Several gobblers and hens

Did You Get It?

1. Does a good leader use decoys in life? Why?

No, leaders want to be honest and stand boldly for what they believe and are saying.

2. What types of decoys are there in life?

We have many “decoys” in life such as temptations, peer pressure and other distractions that will prevent us from focusing on what is important.

3. Where should you set up your decoys?

There are many locations to set up your decoys. We have listed several for you to review. They key is to have them reflect normal behavior.

4. What determines which decoys you use?

There are two key tips to help you determine your decoy: time of day and the time of the season.



Sample How To's

The **How To** section should be fun and exciting for each student. Make certain that all the necessary elements are available to properly teach this section. Make sure to reiterate SAFETY and the importance it has in our lives and in our sport. Their participation will have a significant impact on their overall experience of your group:

Sample How To's:

1. **Gold:** Have some pictures of decoys and quiz the students on what decoys to use for specific times of the day and season.
2. **Platinum:** Invite students to bring in some of their own decoys. Divide the group into four smaller groups. Have each group set up their decoys in the most realistic position and award the winning team(s) according to their presentation and participation.
3. **Titanium:** Invite a local pro-staff to come to your meeting and demonstrate how he/she uses decoys. Allow for a question and answer time.

LESSON #6



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DECOYS

"Don't follow the decoy; be the determined leader."

- John E. Stamper

In turkey hunting, few things are as effective as a good decoy. In turkey hunting, few things are as effective as a good decoy, whether it's made of plastic, foam or even film. Everyday you run into decoys and never know it: we intend to say something but get sidetracked, want to practice on a hobby but a good show is coming on television, want to go for a run or workout but find something better to do. These are all decoys in everybody's lives. Decoys are good things when you are the hunter but not when you are the hunted.

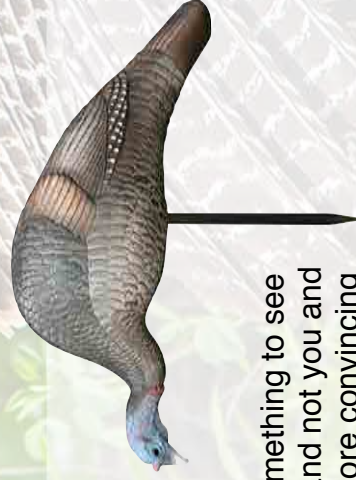
"Decoy: A thing or person used to lure or tempt into danger or a trap." - Webster's

In many years of hunting I have seen some great decoys and some poor decoys. In life, leaders never want to use decoys. Great leaders want to be honest and stand boldly for what they believe. So many people today may try to get you to look at something and convince you that it is real. They intend to fool you and to take advantage while you are not looking at the real thing. Practice speaking the truth and standing for what you believe with your family, friends and strangers. Decoys are great for hunting, but poor in leadership.

LEARN IT?

There are times when using decoys may be the convincing factor that leads a gobbler into a set-up location.

The decoy gives the gobbler something to see to keep its attention towards it and not you and the surrounding location. The more convincing the set-up location can be the better the chances of seeing your trophy bird.



LESSON # 6

There are several types of decoys including jakes, hens, and gobblers.

After you have found your location and set-up, follow these recommended instructions to set up the best decoys. Find a clearing nearby where the decoys can be seen from most locations:

1. Set up your decoys in the clearing, which could be 20-40 yards from your set-up.
2. Set up the decoys in a normal turkey behavior (single hen, couple hens, jake and a hen, gobbler and hens).
3. Use the appropriate decoys for the time of day and time of season you are hunting:
 - Early morning = Several hens
 - Late morning early afternoon = Single hen
 - Early Season = Jake and a hen
 - Late Season = Several gobblers and hens

DID YOU GET IT?

1. Does a good leader use decoys in life? Why?
2. What types of decoys are there in life?
3. Where should you set up your decoys?
4. What determines which decoys you use?





Calls: Shock

Turkey Hunting – Lesson 7

"The greatest fear of man is the unknown." - Unknown

Life Application

To be alone is very frightening for most people. When you are around young children and they get scared, they start to talk a lot and ask questions. They want to hear someone else's voice so they know they are not alone. Another fear that most people have is the fear of wasting your time, money and resources. This goes along with the fear of being alone because we believe when we are with others we are safe and will stay on track.

"Don't let the fear of striking out hold you back." - Babe Ruth

Sometimes being a leader is lonely. Often a leader is out in front going where no one has ever gone before. Hopefully the leader can take comfort in the people he or she is leading. A leader is never really alone because there will always be people behind him or her. Are people following you or are you following someone else?

How To

A locator or shock call is simply a call that does what it sounds like. You can use these calls to locate or scare a turkey into gobbling, thereby finding its location. Locator calls are very important in very early morning before the turkeys fly off their roost or when it is evening and they have flown back up to their roost.

There are many different kinds of locator calls including crow, owl, woodpecker, coyote pup, hawk, and more. The two most popular calls are the crow and the barred or great horned owl (depending on where you live.) Locator calls are important because you can hear the bird, make sure you are not alone, and get closer to it without the bird being aware. A hunter can use a turkey call as a locator call, but as soon as the turkey hears the call it could go away, come to you quickly, or just not answer.



These following steps will help you with your locator or shock calls.

- Get and practice with both the crow and owl calls. (These are the easiest to perfect and the most common.)
- Determine which one you like best because that will be the one you tend to use first. (Your preference.)
- After getting to your hunting land make sure you have everything you need.
- When ready, blow your call and listen for the response.

Using your scouting knowledge, try to figure out the closest, easiest bird to get to quickly. (You will only want to blow your call one or two times to locate the birds, so knowing your hunting grounds is key.)

After you hear a response, get to that bird as quietly and as quickly as you can and get your set-up done quickly.

Did You Get It?

1. Is a leader ever really alone? Why not?

A leader is never really alone because there will always be people behind him or her.

2. Why are locator calls important?

Locator calls play an important role in locating turkeys while on the roost.

3. When are locator calls the most useful?

The locator call is most useful during the morning before the turkeys fly off the roost or when it is evening and they have flown back up to their roost.

4. What should you do after locating the turkey?

After you hear a response, get to that bird as quietly and as quickly as you can and get your set-up done quickly.



Sample How To's

The **How To** section should be fun and exciting for each student. Make certain that all the necessary elements are available to properly teach this section. Make sure to reiterate SAFETY and the importance it has in our lives and in our sport. Their participation will have a significant impact on their overall experience of your group:

Sample How To's:

1. **Gold:** Bring a locator call with you and demonstrate the call. You could ask the students when would be the best time to use a locator call and why.
2. **Platinum:** Have several locator calls available for the students to use. Divide the students into equal groups. Allow each group to judge themselves who is the best within their group. Finally, have a competition with the group representatives and judge who can sound the best using the locator call. Be prepared to award the team with some candy or prizes.
3. **Titanium:** Invite the students prior to this lesson to go out and use a locator call on their own hunting property if possible, have them record their experience with a phone or camcorder. On the day of the lesson have them share their video with the group. Make sure you have a reward to give to those who put forth some initiative.

LESSON #7



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CALLS: SHOCK

"The greatest fear of man is the unknown." - Unknown

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LEARN IT?

A locator or shock call is simply a call that does what it sounds like. You can use these calls to locate or scare a turkey into gobbling, thereby finding its location. Locator calls are very important in very early morning before the turkeys fly off their roost or when it is evening and they have flown back up to their roost.



There are many different kinds of locator calls including crow, owl, woodpecker, coyote pup, hawk, and more.

LESSON # 7

The two most popular calls are the crow and the barred or great horned owl (depending on where you live.) Locator calls are important because you can hear the bird, make sure you are not alone, and get closer to it without the bird being aware. A hunter can use a turkey call as a locator call, but as soon as the turkey hears the call it could go away, come to you quickly, or just not answer. These following steps will help you with your locator or shock calls.

- Get and practice with both the crow and owl calls. (These are the easiest to perfect and the most common.)
- Determine which one you like best because that will be the one you tend to use first. (Your preference.)
- After getting to your hunting land make sure you have everything you need.
- When ready, blow your call and listen for the response.

Using your scouting knowledge, try to figure out the closest, easiest bird to get to quickly. (You will only want to blow your call one or two times to locate the birds, so knowing your hunting grounds is key.)

After you hear a response, get to that bird as quietly and as quickly as you can and get your set-up done quickly.

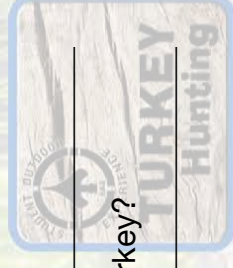
DID YOU GET IT?

1. Is a leader ever really alone? Why not?

2. Why are locator calls important?

3. When are locator calls the most useful?

4. What should you do after locating the turkey?





Calls: Slate

Turkey Hunting – Lesson 8

“Try not to become a man of success, but rather try to become a man of value.” - Albert Einstein

Life Application

We all like positive feedback from those important to us. It just feels good to have our thoughts, actions and decisions affirmed. We all want to feel validated by those around us and by those who are in authority over us. The same is true in turkey hunting. We want the turkey to hear us and respond back in such a manner that we know we are doing and saying the right things.

“Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value.” - Albert Einstein

Where are some places that you wish you were heard better by those around you? Are there people in your life who always listen to you? You probably think about how much you like them because they listen to you and take your words seriously. This is something great to remember as a leader. As a leader, you must listen to everyone because a leader will have the affection of their followers and a heart for their concerns...so you must listen to those around you.

How To

A slate call is the second hardest call to master out of the three types of calls. A slate call is a round flat circle about the size of a coaster and about one inch thick. These calls are made out of slate, aluminum, or even glass. You will need a striker to rub on the circle surface to produce the noise. These strikers are also made out of many different materials such as wood, plastic, and carbon among others. The more combinations of surfaces and strikers you carry only increases the variety of different turkey sounds you can produce.



Follow these steps to learn the basics of using a slate call:

1. Hold the circle slate call with your fingers, leaving room between the bottom of the call and your palm.
2. Draw tiny circles on the slate call with the striker to produce a yelping sound. Apply various types of pressure to get different noise levels and intensities.
3. Put the tip of the striker on the slate and make a short, sharp pull towards you to get a cluck sound.
4. Put the tip of the striker on the slate and pull back slowly with a little pressure to get the purring sound.
5. Have a piece of cleaning pad (fine sandpaper or a piece of Scotchbrite pad) to rough up the surface after a lot of practicing or hunting. This will help you produce the friction you need to produce the right sounds with the call.

Did You Get It?

1. Do you truly listen and respond to those around you?
Give students a chance to respond. You may also want to share an example of how you listen and how it helps shape your decisions in life/business.
2. What are some materials that a slate call can be made out of?
These calls can be made out of slate, aluminum or even glass.
3. How do you cluck on a slate call?
Put the tip of the striker on the slate and make a short, sharp pull towards you to get a cluck sound.
4. What do you use to clean your slate call?
You can typically use fine sandpaper or a piece of Scotchbrite pad.



Sample How To's

The **How To** section should be fun and exciting for each student. Make certain that all the necessary elements are available to properly teach this section. Make sure to reiterate SAFETY and the importance it has in our lives and in our sport. Their participation will have a significant impact on their overall experience of your group:

Sample How To's:

1. **Gold:** Bring a slate call with you and demonstrate the call. Ask the students when would be the best time to use a slate call and why.
2. **Platinum:** Have several slate calls available for the students to use. Divide the students into equal groups. Allow each group to judge themselves. Finally, have a competition with the group representatives and judge who can sound the best using the slate call. Be prepared to award the team with some candy or prizes.
3. **Titanium:** Invite the students prior to this lesson to go out and use a slate call on their own hunting property if possible. Have them record their experience with a phone or camcorder. On the day of the lesson have them share their video with the group. Make sure you have a reward to give to those who put forth some initiative.

LESSON #8



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CALLS: SLATE

"Try not to become a man of success, but rather try to become a man of value." - Albert Einstein

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LEARN IT?

A slate call is the second hardest call to master out of the three types of calls. A slate call is a round flat circle about the size of a coaster and about one inch thick. These calls are made out of slate, aluminum, or even glass. You will need a striker to rub on the circle surface to produce the noise. These strikers are also made out of many different materials such as wood, plastic, and carbon among others. The more combinations of surfaces and strikers you carry only increases the variety of different turkey sounds you can produce.



LESSON # 8

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3. Put the tip of the striker on the slate and make a short, sharp pull towards you to get a cluck sound.
4. Put the tip of the striker on the slate and pull back slowly with a little pressure to get the purring sound.
5. Have a piece of cleaning pad (fine sandpaper or a piece of Scotchbrite pad) to rough up the surface after a lot of practicing or hunting. This will help you produce the friction you need to produce the right sounds with the call.



DID YOU GET IT?

1. Do you truly listen and respond to those around you?

2. What are some materials used to make a slate call?

3. How do you cluck on a slate call?

4. What do you use to clean your slate call?





Calls: Box and Diaphragm

Turkey Hunting – Lesson 9

*"If you think you can do a thing or think you can't do a thing,
you're right." - Henry Ford*

Life Application

The wooden box call is probably the easiest and most popular turkey call. It is a great call but has one major drawback: if the wooden box call gets wet then it softens, therefore reducing the friction between the box and lid causing no sound to call out.

In life, we often see the same thing. Those who seem strong and loud only shrink and become muted when trouble comes. We must be dedicated in life to overcome difficulties in order to achieve our goals and lead others.

"Genius is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration" - Thomas A. Edison

The diaphragm call is the hardest of all turkey calls and takes years of practice and dedication to master. Those who invest the time to master it find they can depend on it for the softest of calls in the closest proximity of that trophy turkey. It is the best call when turkey hunting because it is hidden in your mouth and there is no need to move your arms or legs providing a better chance to blend in with your chosen set-up.

How To

The box call is the easiest call to learn on and the most popular turkey call. Follow these steps to learn how to get the basic turkey sounds out of your box call.

1. You will want to hold the box in one hand and the lid handle in the other.
2. Slide the lid of the box over the opening of the box to produce screech or yelp. (The differences in pressure and movement will produce a variety of yelps.)
3. Hold the box vertically with the lid facing you. Shake the box letting the lid flop around on the box causing cutting.
4. Hold the box and apply very little pressure while moving the lid slowly without a lot of movement to produce a purr.



Follow these next few steps to start the process of mastering the diaphragm call:

1. Insert call up against the roof of our mouth with open end out.
2. With the call being held up by your tongue exhale allowing the air between your tongue and the call.
3. Using your tongue to press the call harder against the roof of your mouth will produce higher sounds.
4. Less pressure with the tongue will produce lower sounds.

Once this is mastered, try exhaling while saying the letter "H" or the word "cluck". Keep practicing.

Did You Get It?

1. Describe dedication.

A feeling of very strong support for or loyalty to someone or something : the quality or state of being dedicated to a person, group, cause, etc.

2. What is a difficulty with a box call?

When it gets wet it softens, therefore reducing the friction between the box and lid causing no sound to call out.

3. How do you produce different sounds on the box call?

The differences in pressure and movement will produce a variety of yelps.

4. To make lower sounds, what do you do?

Decrease the pressure you place on the lid.

5. Where does the diaphragm call go in your mouth?

Insert call, with open end out, up against the roof of your mouth.



Sample How To's

The **How To** section should be fun and exciting for each student. Make certain that all the necessary elements are available to properly teach this section. Make sure to reiterate SAFETY and the importance it has in our lives and in our sport. Their participation will have a significant impact on their overall experience of your group:

Sample How To's:

1. **Gold:** Bring a box and diaphragm call with you and demonstrate the call. Ask the students when would be the best time to use a slate call and why.
2. **Platinum:** Have several box and diaphragm calls available for the students to use. Divide the students into equal groups. Allow each group to judge themselves. Finally, have a competition with the group representatives and judge who can sound the best using the slate call. Be prepared to award the team with some candy or prizes.
3. **Titanium:** Invite the students prior to this lesson to go out and use a box and diaphragm call on their own hunting property if possible. Have them record their experience with a phone or camcorder. On the day of the lesson have them share their video with the group. Make sure you have a reward to give to those who put forth some initiative.

LESSON #9



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CALLS: BOX AND DIAPHRAGM

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LEARN IT?

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LESSON # 9

3. Hold the box vertically with the lid facing you. Shake the box letting the lid flop around on the box causing cutting.

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Follow these next few steps to start the process of mastering the diaphragm call:

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2. With the call being held up by your tongue exhale allowing the air between your tongue and the call.

3. Using your tongue to press the call harder against the roof of your mouth will produce higher sounds.

4. Less pressure with the tongue will produce lower sounds.

Once this is mastered, try exhaling while saying the letter "H" or the word "cluck". Keep practicing.



DID YOU GET IT?

1. Describe dedication.

2. What is a difficulty with a box call?

3. How do you produce different sounds on the box call?

4. To make lower sounds, what do you do?

5. Where does the diaphragm call go in your mouth?





Review

Turkey Hunting – Lesson 10

*"A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way,
and shows the way." - John C. Maxwell*

Life Application

If you are like most students, chances are that you hang out with people who look like you and think like you. Look around your school and you will see this in a very visible way. The football team sits together, the band kids sit together and so on. If you really want to become a better person and a better leader, try hanging around those who are different from you. Step out of your comfort zone and meet a new friend.

"Leaders encourage and influence others daily." - John E. Stamper

Even as outdoorsmen/outdoorswomen we need to insure we are connected with other leaders who help encourage and support us as we continue to lead the way in our homes, communities and the outdoors. It is important to connect with others that are not like you with the goal being to encourage and lead them to become all they were created to be.

How To

We would highly recommend that you go back and review all your lessons. By reviewing all the lessons on turkey hunting, you will insure that you have learned the basic principles. It will give you the confidence to interact with others and teach these basic turkey hunting steps.

Follow these steps to provide some healthy competition, showing others that you have heard and understood all of the turkey-hunting action steps and tips.

1. Look at some photos, local fields or woods or discuss scouting tips.
2. Look at some local maps, seeing which student can find some good, close turkey locations to hunt.



3. Try setting up some different types of blinds and use other stuff to camouflage them into a tree line or field.
4. Have some calling competitions using all the different types of calls.
5. Have a final competition to see who knows the most about all turkey facts.

Did You Get It?

1. Who are some students at your school who don't look, think or talk like you? Help students identify other students that may not fit in with their group and why it is important to encourage others.
2. Even if you didn't win some of the competitions, what are some local places that would be good hunting grounds? Help students locate some local hunting grounds and opportunities. Help them think creatively and identify local public hunting grounds.
3. What is an area of turkey hunting that you need to work on? This may be calling or other areas. You can go back to the lesson that covered this topic along with helping them to connect to online resources as well.
4. Do you have any more questions about turkey hunting? This is a time for them to ask "anything" regarding turkey hunting. Please know it is okay to not know the answer. If you are unsure, let them know you will look it up and have an answer for them next club meeting.



Sample How To's

The **How To** section should be fun and exciting for each student. Make certain that all the necessary elements are available to properly teach this section. Make sure to reiterate SAFETY and the importance it has in our lives and in our sport. Their participation will have a significant impact on their overall experience of your group:

Sample How To's:

1. **Gold:** Follow the “learn it section” and have local maps and satellite pictures of areas for them to discuss. **You will also want to have the certificate of achievements to award the students on this day as well.**
2. **Platinum:** Have all of the lessons available and quiz the students on the “did you get it” section. Award the students with prizes. This should be a fun and exciting time. **You will also want to have the certificate of achievements to award the students on this day as well.**
3. **Titanium:** Break the group into three teams. Have each team set up a blind, decoy(s) and provide a mock calling. This should include the yelp, cluck and purr. Give them a set time and award each group with a first, second and third place prize. For fun you could recommend that an individual from each group represent a gobbler coming in and give extra points away for creativity and realism. This should be a fun time for the students. **You will also want to have the certificate of achievements to award the students on this day as well.**

LESSON #10



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REVIEW

"A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way." - John C. Maxwell

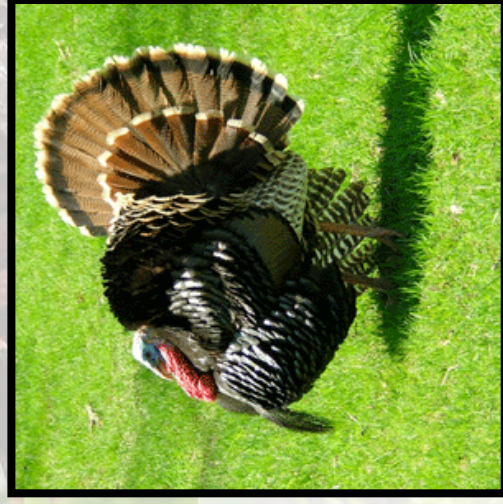
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LESSON # 10

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2. Look at some local maps, seeing which student can find some good, close turkey locations to hunt.

3. Try setting up some different types of blinds and use other stuff to camouflage them into a tree line or field.

4. Have some calling competitions using all the different types of calls.

5. Have a final competition to see who knows the most about all turkey facts.



DID YOU GET IT?

1. Who are some students at your school who do not look, think or talk like you?

2. Even if you didn't win some of the competitions, what are some local places that would be good hunting grounds?

3. What is an area of turkey hunting that you need to work on?

4. Do you have any more questions about turkey hunting?



CERTIFICATE of ACHIEVEMENT



This certifies that



*This certificate has been awarded for the completion of all steps
contained within the Student Outdoor Experience Turkey Hunting
requirements to include all safety and how-to sections.*

DATE

SOE LEADER