



Conservation Leaders *for* Tomorrow

Hunting Awareness & Conservation Education

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Greetings,

On behalf of the Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation, I would like to welcome you to our program. We are pleased you will be participating in our CLFT Professional Workshop in **Shepherdstown, WV at the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC)**. Your time with CLFT will be informative, busy, fun, and safe.

Hunters and hunting are integral parts of natural resource management and conservation in North America. As such, hunting is nearly impossible to characterize universally. It is, however, an activity fraught with misunderstanding, both positive and negative. At our workshop, we invite you to take a thorough look at hunters and the facts and fiction surrounding hunting in North America. We welcome whatever questions you have, however difficult or sensitive, because they are very likely to be the same ones that you, as a professional, will be asked - regardless of your personal involvement with hunting.

CLFT instructors come from a variety of personal and professional backgrounds, but each of us has a common dedication to science, the practice of natural resource management, and the correlated heritage of hunting and the consumptive uses of wildlife. In addition, we are committed to making your workshop experience informative, memorable, and beneficial to your conservation career.

During the workshop, the instructors will share their knowledge, passion, and experiences via roundtable discussions, technical presentations, and various field exercises, including firearms handling, shotgun shooting, game cleaning and preparation, hunting with dogs and one-on-one interactions. There is also a safe, mentored educational hunt for participants who wish to experience hunting and gain a better understanding of this activity. You are **not** required to participate in any of the field activities that make you uncomfortable, but we expect all participants to observe, listen, learn, and enjoy.

It is neither the intention nor purpose of the CLFT program, staff or instructors, to convince you to be a hunter, or recruit you in any way. Our purpose is to provide an opportunity for you to learn about, witness, and briefly experience hunting. Your future personal involvement with hunting and the consumptive uses of wildlife is irrelevant and divergent to the primary concern, objective, and goal of the program. We believe that CLFT will enable you, as you advance in your professional career, to have a better understanding of the biological, social, economic, and personal values associated with the consumptive uses of wildlife, while also gaining an understanding of the role hunting, and hunters have in wildlife conservation and the natural resources profession.

You will be staying at the **National Conservation Training Center**. Our classroom will also be on campus and within walking distance of lodging and the dining facility. Lodging and all meals are provided and covered under the CLFT Master Bill.

Please bring the following important items:

- 1) comfortable, warm, outdoor field clothing--not too bulky**
- 2) toiletries**
- 3) cap or headband; (optional for your comfort)**
- 4) gloves (optional for your comfort)**
- 5) rain gear (optional for your comfort)**
- 6) warm, waterproof, hiking/ work style boots**



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You may also want to consider bringing the following optional items:

- 7) ***handwarmers***
- 8) ***personal snacks***
- 9) ***Agency marketing and giveaway items (to share with other participants)***

The outdoor field exercises ***will be*** conducted even if it is cold, raining or snowing, so come prepared for those possibilities. We recommend you check the **Shepherdstown, WV** area weather prior to packing.

We will request that cell phones be turned off, or at a minimum, silenced during workshop hours. You should let family and friends know that you will check messages as time permits. As you have seen on our agenda, **we do have long days that extend into the evening after dinner**. Mealtimes and late evenings will be your optimal times to call home.

If you have not already done so, please be sure to let us know of any dietary, medical, and or learning needs, or other condition that might require attention, including necessary use of prescription medication. Such confidential information will be shared only to the extent necessary to ensure participant safety, comfort, and well-being.

We will try to make the workshop as interesting, enlightening and as fun as possible. In any case, it will be safe and an adventure. For additional information on the CLFT program, please visit our webpage at www.clft.org. See you soon and feel free to contact me with any questions,

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