

yearlings

OHA Junior Newsletter

Winter 2019

For OHA Junior Members & children of Family Members



PLAN A BIG GAME HUNT!

The 2019 Oregon Big Game Regulations are out now, and they offer some great hunting opportunities for kids. Oregon holds youth hunts for deer, elk, antelope and spring bear. This year's regulations feature some new hunts for kids. The deadline to apply for deer, elk and antelope youth hunts is May 15, so pick up the new regulations and start planning your fall big game hunts now. See story on next page.

Abigail Hannay tagged her first buck in Oregon's Willamette Unit after sitting in a ground blind for 6 hours!



GEAR UP FOR A BIG GAME HUNT

Young guns in Oregon will get a number of special big game hunts to apply for in 2019. The new 2019 Oregon Big Game Regulations are out, and there are many youth hunts for kids only, plus guaranteed first-time tags in the general big game tag drawing again in 2019. Also, the Mentored Youth Hunter Program allows kids who haven't yet passed Hunter Education to hunt under the close supervision of an adult.

Oregon offers youth hunts for deer, elk, antelope and spring bear. The new regulations list 35 youth deer hunts, 59 youth elk hunts, 3 youth spring bear hunts, and 4 youth antelope hunts, including a new Hart Mountain hunt. Some of the youth hunts can be harder to draw than adult hunts, so pay attention to how many hunters applied last year. The deadline to apply for most hunts is May 15.

Oregon's "first-time hunter" program

allows a hunter under age 18 who is unsuccessful in the controlled hunt drawing for deer or elk tags to reapply for a controlled hunt having a minimum number of tags and be guaranteed a first-time tag. For more details about Oregon's "First-time hunter program," see the 2019 Oregon Big Game Regulations. For more information about Oregon's Mentored Youth Hunter Program for kids ages 9-13, visit the ODFW web site at myodfw.com

KIDS EARN THEIR WINGS AT YOUTH PHEASANT HUNTS



OHA's Bend Chapter hosted a youth pheasant hunt on Nov. 17.

Oregon kids got a chance to test their hunting and shooting skills in September at youth upland bird hunts hosted by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife at locations around the state. While wild birds live in many of the hunt areas, more birds were released for the youth hunts.

The pheasants are bought with some of the money that hunters pay for their Oregon Upland Game Bird Stamps. The Oregon Hunters Association and other hunting groups also buy some extra pheasants to give young hunters more chances to bag a bird.

At some of the hunts, OHA and other sportsmen's groups cook breakfast and lunch for young hunters and their families, and some of the volunteers go out in the field with kids to help them find birds. Many of the hunts also offer clay target shooting, and OHA members volunteer to help with that, as well.

Young guns bag chukars at OHA hunt

Kids got to try their skills at hunting chukars at a two-day hunt hosted by the Klamath Chapter of the Oregon Hunters Association on Oct. 20 and 21. Chukars are not native to Oregon, and are found in the wild only farther east in Oregon. The birds for this hunt were stocked in the area known as Klamath Hills south of

Klamath Falls. Klamath OHA members stocked the birds, signed youth hunters in and out, and even took kids afield with their trained hunting dogs. For many kids who don't live in chukar country, this was their first chance to chase chukars. Chukars are fast-flying birds brought to Oregon from India in 1951.



It was a good day afield for kids and dogs.

OHA helps make first youth hunt at Baskett Slough a success



This young hunter took a mallard at the first Baskett Slough youth hunt.

Ten lucky kids drew permits for the first youth waterfowl hunt at Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuge near Dallas, Oregon, in September.

The Oregon Hunters Association wrote lots of letters to get the hunt approved.

To make it the best hunt possible, groups like OHA, Oregon Duck Hunters Association, Ducks Unlimited, Oregon Waterfowl Festival and the Friends of the Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex made this possible. They provided decoys, built hunting blinds, and spent hours of

volunteer time to make the five hunt blinds and to help some of the young hunters.

There was 13-year-old Grace, who got her first duck, and Aaron, who bagged one mallard and three cackling Canada geese. Nick harvested a mallard with his father and their dog, Sailor.

For two hunters this hunt was their first ever. While not every hunter bagged birds, there were lots of shots taken and everyone really enjoyed the hunt. One parent said, "We feel like you really rolled out the red carpet for us, it was a great experience."



PUZZLE PAGE



When you finish the crossword puzzle, find your answers in the word hunt below.



Across

2. To emerge from an egg.
3. This is shot with a bow.
6. _____ ducks feed near the water surface rather than diving like diving ducks.
9. This unprotected mammal has a white stripe on its head and likes to dig.
11. The Western gray squirrel is the only type of _____ (small furry animal with big front teeth) in Oregon that is a game mammal.
12. To spend time getting to know an area before hunting there.

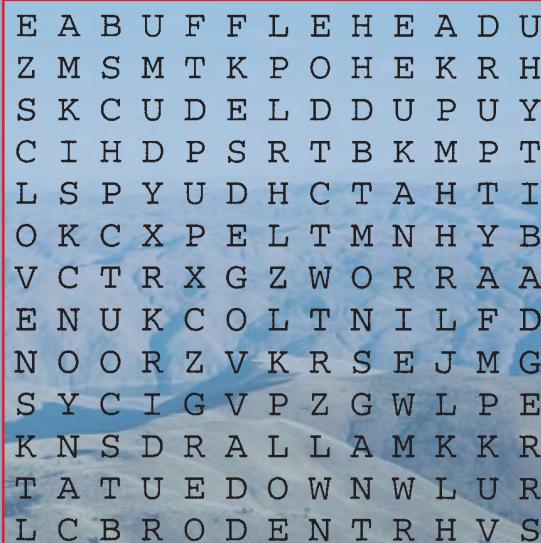
Down

1. Oregon's most common duck.
4. A very small diving duck with a black & white head.
5. An old kind of firearm that uses black powder.
7. A narrow valley with steep cliff walls.
8. The skin of an animal with the fur or hair still on it.
10. The warmest and softest feathers are called _____ (pillows may be stuffed with it).

Do You Know?

1. What large predator once lived in Oregon but no longer does?
2. What grouse lives at timberline?
3. What mammal has ivory teeth?
4. The name for a baby goose?
5. What a male bear is called?
6. Where snow geese nest?
7. What is Oregon's deepest gorge?
8. What Oregon duck eats fish?


Answers: 1-grizzly; 2-blue grouse; 3-ellk; 4-gosling; 5-boar; 6-Arctic Circle; 7-Hells Canyon; 8-merganser.



WILDLIFE CLOSE-UP POSTER

COUGAR



 ougars, also known as mountain lions, are one of Oregon's most powerful predators. Although they weigh only as much as humans, they can overpower elk, which weigh several times what the cougar weighs. Cougars eat mostly mammals, especially deer and elk. An adult mountain lion kills an animal as big as a deer or elk every week or two. That means that Oregon's 6,500 cougars probably take more deer every year than Oregon hunters do.

At one time, cougars killed so many stock animals that people were paid bounties by the government to kill as many cougars

as they could. When there were almost no cougars left in Oregon, they were protected. When the population rose again they were made game animals. Even with controlled hunting, cougars made a big comeback, and now there are more mountain lions in Oregon than ever before.

Because cougars do not come out much in the daytime, it is very hard to hunt them without trained hunting dogs, but a law passed in 1994 makes that illegal. Many people think it's a bad law that should be changed to allow hound hunting.



KIDS MAKE MOST OF BONUS DEER WEEKEND

Young big game hunters got to enjoy one last weekend of deer hunting all to themselves Nov. 3 and 4 during Oregon's annual youth extended deer hunting weekend.

The regular western Oregon deer season ended Friday, Nov. 2, but thanks to rules approved by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission, kids under 18 holding an unfilled western Oregon deer tag were allowed to hunt the following weekend.

Oregon's wildlife managers didn't think that giving kids this extra chance to hunt deer would have a big effect on western Oregon's black-tailed deer herds, but they hoped that the special chance to have the woods all to themselves would be a nice way to end the season, whether the kids took deer or not. That's the same reason that Oregon has late-season youth hunts that allow kids to enjoy a quality deer hunt in November or December.



Jacob Haley took this buck on youth extended deer weekend.

Sign up now for Hunter Education!

If you haven't passed Hunter Education yet and you plan to hunt with your own licenses and tags this fall, you need to get in a class now! Oregon's Hunter Education course is required for all first-time hunters under the age of 18. It's hard to find a class by fall, so don't wait! For information about enrolling in a Hunter Education program, call 503-947-6028, extension 6015, or log on at: myodfw.com



OHA MEMBER PLEDGE

As an OHA member, I pledge to:

- Respect the environment and wildlife;
- Respect property and landowners;
- Improve my outdoor skills and understanding of wildlife;
- Support wildlife and habitat conservation;
- Know and obey the law;
- Hunt safely;
- Show consideration of nonhunters;
- Abide by the rules of fair chase;
- Hunt only with ethical hunters; and
- Pass on an ethical hunting tradition.



* Adapted from the Hunter's Pledge of the Izaak Walton League of America



10 COMMANDMENTS OF SHOOTING SAFETY

1. Control the direction of your firearm's muzzle. Carry your firearm safely, keeping the safety on until ready to shoot. Keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.
2. Identify your target and what is beyond it. Know the identifying features of the game you hunt.
3. Treat every firearm as if it is loaded.
4. Be sure the barrel and action are clear of obstructions and that you have only ammunition of the proper size for the firearm you are carrying.
5. Unload firearms when not in use. Leave actions open. Firearms should be cased and unloaded while in a vehicle traveling to and from shooting areas.
6. Never point a firearm at anything you do not want to shoot. Avoid all horseplay with a firearm.
7. Never climb or jump with a loaded firearm. Never pull a firearm toward you by the muzzle.
8. Never fire a bullet at a flat, hard surface or water. With targets, be sure your backstop is adequate.
9. Store guns and ammunition separately in locked spaces out of reach of children and careless adults.
10. Avoid alcoholic beverages and drugs before or during shooting.



Nosler
UP FRONT

Proud sponsor

YOUNG GUNS BEAR TARGET



JIM WARD

DON'T MISS A THING! JOIN OHA TODAY!

When you join OHA as a Junior Member for just \$10, you'll get everything adult OHA members get – and MUCH MORE!



* You get 6 issues of OREGON HUNTER magazine.

Just \$10 for kids!

* You get an Oregon Hunters Calendar, with 12 colorful game animal pictures, and all the hunting season dates and deadlines!

* You get 4 issues of OHA's junior newsletter *Yearlings*.

* You'll be invited to OHA events where there may even be prizes for kids!

* You'll get your own OHA decal!



OHA Jr. Membership Application

I want to be an Oregon Hunters Association Junior Member! Please sign me up, send my Oregon Hunters Calendar and OHA decal, and start my subscriptions to OREGON HUNTER magazine and the OHA junior newsletter *Yearlings*!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone (_____) _____

Please enclose one-year dues of \$10

___ Payment enclosed (check or money order)

___ Bill my parent's: Visa / Mastercard / Disc. / Amex

Card #: _____

Expiration date: _____ CVV2# on back: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Return to:

OHA, P.O. Box 1706, Medford, OR 97501

(541) 772-7313 oha@oregonhunters.org

www.oregonhunters.org

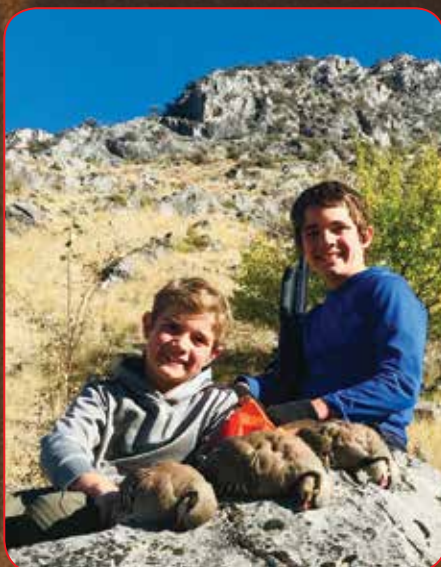
OREGON HUNTERS
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GOOD SHOTS FROM OREGON'S YOUNG GUNS



Easton Douglas, 10, bagged this Jackson County "spork" for his first buck through the mentor program.



Sam And Max LeFevre took these chukars during a deer hunt last fall in Hells Canyon.



Dylan Moore tagged this bull in the Dixon Unit on his only day to hunt last year with no football.