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2020

Membership publication of Oregon Hunters Association

WOMEN & CHILDREN FIRST!

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BOWHUNTING BULLS

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OHA YOUTH TURKEY CLINIC

OHA puts women and children first

While the fronts to fight in defending Oregon's hunting heritage are many, perhaps the biggest threat lurks much closer to home than we might like to think. Aging demographics and declining numbers of kids enrolling in hunter education courses foretell a frightening tale of hunting's future, but all is not lost. At least not yet.

Case in point. Like many men in their generation, my two grandfathers took their sons hunting and mostly left their daughters at home with their mothers. While they begat five sons between them, those boys combined to produce only two sons of their own. One's life was tragically cut short in a car accident. The other's father left when he was five years old, and were it not for a step-father and a couple of uncles to nurture that one's interest, hunting in both families would have ended right there, and this column never would have been written.

The theme of this issue of OREGON HUNTER is "Women & Children First!"

While the overall numbers in hunter recruitment are poor, women offer a ray of hope. Not only do women represent one of the fastest-growing segments of the hunting population, but they also are in position to pass along the hunting heritage to future generations. My grandfathers may not have recognized the importance of that, but the Oregon Hunters Association does.

OHA has supported many programs to help women become involved in hunting, from Becoming an Outdoors Woman to the Learn to Hunt program, and with Cindy Rooney at the helm of OHA's organizational committee and Amy Patrick on board as OHA's outreach coordinator, there's much more in the offing, including events organized specifically for women.

Meanwhile, OHA has been at the forefront of efforts to recruit and educate the next generation of Oregon hunters. OHA initiated the First-Time Hunter Program and the Youth Sports Pac, as well as half-priced youth turkey tags. We supported the creation of the Mentored Youth Hunter Program and got the upper age of eligibility raised to 16 to accommodate busy high school kids.

OHA publishes an award-winning junior newsletter, *Yearlings*, for OHA junior members and the children of family members. Check it out on our website.

At the local level, most OHA chapters host youth field days that attract families from the community where children have an interest in hunting, but the parents have no hunting background. OHA chapters also sponsor hunter education classes and assist at state-sanctioned events like the youth upland bird hunts held around the state each fall.

A number of OHA chapters sponsor youth archery and trap shooting teams that not only help kids develop and hone their shooting skills, but also introduce the shooting sports to schools and show the positive aspects of firearm ownership, even to those who do not participate.

The OHA Clatsop Chapter's Connections With Wildlife education trailer takes its message about wise natural resource management on the road to youth events in Oregon.

OHA's youth ambassador to the State Board of Directors, Jacob Berge, has helped start an OHA chapter at Oregon State University, where some wildlife students are attending, thanks in part to OHA chapter scholarships.

There's no single button to push in correcting the trajectory of trends in hunting participation. It takes a village to raise a hunter, but it certainly starts at home, as authors in this issue of OREGON HUNTER share. We hope you'll enjoy their stories and take the message to heart, because it's at the core of OHA's mission of protecting Oregon's wildlife, habitat and hunting heritage.

OREGON HUNTER

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OHA IN LETTER TO GOV. KATE BROWN: WE WERE SOCIAL DISTANCING BEFORE IT BECAME TRENDY.

DARYL STEWART



OHA recently sent a letter to Gov. Kate Brown asking that spring hunting seasons be kept open, stating that hunting IS social distancing, and it's important for Oregonians to get outside and enjoy some solitude in our great outdoors. Please join OHA and support our efforts.

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1. Which is the correct grouse name?
a) ruff grouse c) ruffled grouse
b) rough grouse d) ruffed grouse
2. Which bird is usually only found on the coast?
a) wood duck c) coot
b) black brant d) snipe
3. Which unit issues the most antelope rifle tags?
a) Malheur River c) Whitehorse
b) Beatys Butte d) Steens Mountain
4. In which unit can you hunt eight big game species?
a) Minam c) Sumpter
b) Catherine Creek d) Lookout Mt.
5. A handgun may be used to hunt:
a) bighorn sheep c) bear
b) Rocky Mt. Goat d) all of the above
6. Which bird is native to Oregon?
a) California quail
b) chukar
c) pheasant
d) none of the above
7. Which wilderness is in Lake County?
a) Badger Creek c) Gearhart
b) Black Canyon d) Monument Rock
8. A 40-pound bow is legal for which?
a) elk c) bighorn sheep
b) deer d) all of the above
9. Which unit is farthest north?
a) Walla Walla c) Saddle Mountain
b) Chesnimnus d) Sled Springs
10. Youths 11 years of age may
a) purchase an adult hunting license
b) apply for controlled hunt tags
c) obtain a Hunter Education Certificate
d) all of the above



WHERE IN OREGON WAS THIS PHOTO TAKEN?

Name this mountain in an Oregon wilderness area, be drawn from all correct entries, and win a Work Sharp Original Knife and Tool Sharpener! Send your best guess to Oregon Hunting Quiz, OHA, P.O. Box 1706, Medford, OR 97501, or submit your guess online at oregonhunters.org, where a larger version of the photo appears. One entry per OHA member.

Entry deadline: May 20, 2020.



LAST ISSUE'S WINNER:

Paul Breese, Albany

Paul's name was drawn from among the OHA members who recognized the Grande Ronde River.

OUTDOOR OUTLOOK

MAY 2

OHA Tioga Chapter banquet, 541-267-2577

MAY 9

OHA Malheur County Chapter sporting clay shoot, 208-573-5556

MAY 15

Application deadline for controlled hunts; OHA Mid-Willamette A&H statewide elk tag auction, call 971-270-7035 in advance.

MAY 16

OHA projects:

Capitol powerline, 503-509-9287
Hart Mountain, 541-884-5773

MAY 30

A&H raffle draws (oregonrafflehunts.com); OHA A&H statewide deer & elk tag auctions, call 971-270-7035 in advance; Bend Chapter family event, 541-480-7323

MAY 31

Turkey, spring bear seasons close

JUNE 6

OHA youth & family events:

Josephine County, 541-846-7437
Tualatin Valley, 503-290-6143
Rogue Valley, 503-779-7147

JUNE 19

All Hands All Brands for Public Lands weekend project, Ochocos, 541-647-0424; OHA Pioneer Chapter guzzler campout, 503-710-1233

JUNE 13

OHA Lake County banquet, 530-640-3368

JUNE 20

OHA Capitol Chapter banquet, 503-509-9287; Controlled hunt results available

JUNE 27

OHA chapter banquet:

Mid-Willamette, 541-971-3351.

OHA youth & family events:

Clatsop County, 503-791-0549

Lake County, 541-219-0614

OHA Pioneer duck boxes, 503-349-2824

JULY 11

OHA State Convention, Seven Feathers Casino, Canyonville, 541-772-7313

OHA chapter banquet:

Tualatin Valley, 503-502-0611

UMATILLA/FRED WALASAVAGE

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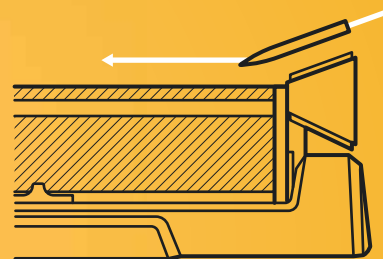
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Bears below the snowline

Spring bear hunting in Oregon occupies a wide range of habitats and conditions. If you're hunting bears where snowfall accumulated during winter, concentrating efforts along the snow line can pay off.

Melting spring snow offers three attractive features to bears. First, it moistens the ground, which spurs plant growth. From flowers to wild vegetables, once sunlight and warming temperatures combine with water, germination occurs.

Second, bears like traveling below a melting snow line where the ground is more firm than the snow, making for easy travel. Bears are typically lazy creatures, looking for the path of least resistance.

Third, the wet ground below a melting snow line makes it simple for bears to dig up ground squirrel dens and underground insect colonies, both of which make for a high-protein snack. If multiple colonies are



Once bears find a food source in soft ground, they'll keep digging and digging.

found, a hillside hammered by a burrowing bear can look as if it's been ravaged by an excavator.

Locate signs of bears digging below snow lines by glassing from a distance. Using a spotting scope, study south-facing hillsides for signs of digging. Often dig sites are right below the snow, but if it's warm, or later in the season when a good deal of snow has melted, dig lines can be well below the current snow line.

Once bears find a food source below

the snow line, they'll often continue digging at the same elevation around hillsides. When you locate multiple signs of digging, glass for bears on the move. If there's an opportunity, inspect dig sites to see what bears are feeding on as this allows you to target prime food sources.

If looking to score on a big boar, remember, the rut commences during the closing days of the spring season. If you find a sow, keep an eye out for boars on the move. —SCOTT HAUGEN



Turkeys have taken over in the Blue Mountains, providing a great upland experience and sometimes even a bonus for spring bear hunters.

Singing the Blues for late toms

As we enter the final stretch of Oregon's spring turkey season, there's a lot to think about if you have an unfilled tag. For most hunters, finding good public land is the place to start, as private lands have likely been tied up for weeks.

The best public hunting lands lie in the eastern part of the state. Keep in mind, fellow hunters have likely pressured birds, meaning you'll need to cover ground to find toms. Listen for toms calling from their roosts right before dark and at daybreak. Search secluded hillsides with quality optics, and don't overlook hidden canyons.

As it has for years, the Umatilla National Forest continues producing turkeys. The lower edge of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, from Medical Springs to Halfway, will also put you in birds. The Ochoco and Malheur forests, north of Burns, have some turkeys roaming around, but they can be spread out and are known for traveling great distances.

If looking to hunt around the southern face of the Wallowa Mountains, spend time in both the Eagle Creek and Pine Creek drainages, where bird numbers remain solid. The areas between Halfway and Keating continue to see growth in their turkey numbers, so it's worth spending some time there.

Turkeys are doing well along both the north and south sides of the Elkhorn Mountains. There's some private land in this area, so be sure to ask permission before hunting on any private property, anywhere in the state.

Hunters may want to check out the Gallatin Timber lands near La Grande, in the Sled Springs Unit. Turkey numbers have been on the rise in this area, and like anywhere, can be cyclical.

Call regional ODFW offices to get the latest updates prior to making a long drive. Ask about bird densities and spring conditions, then choose your best option and go for it. —SCOTT HAUGEN

It's back to the future in the Whitehorse Unit

If you keep the Oregon Big Game Regulations from each season, it is instructive to go back in time and look at previous offerings compared to the current year.

In this exercise, we go back one year to look at the Whitehorse pronghorn antelope hunt offered in 2019. Previously, the Whitehorse was divided into two hunts with 76 tags offered in Whitehorse No. 1 (9 days in the 2nd week of August) and 75 tags offered in Whitehorse No. 2 (9 days in the 3rd week of August).

In a move that would be cloaked in simplification, ODFW combined the Whitehorse hunts to offer one longer hunt (16 days) with a total of 153 tags. In 2018, 1,714 people applied for Whitehorse No. 1, while 1,058 people applied for hunt No. 2. That is a total of 2,772 antelope aspirants that could be eyeballing the "New for 2020" Whitehorse hunt this year.

We asked preference point guru Ron Wold, of the Oregon Tag Draw Percentages web site, to comment on the new Whitehorse hunt and a person's chances in 2020.

"My personal view is that it makes the hunt less desirable," Wold said. "Whitehorse first season has always taken a few more points to draw than the second season, because hunters want first crack at the bigger bucks."

Wold speculates the combined season will raise the potential for twice as many hunters roaming the unit on opening day, increasing traffic, competition and hunting pressure.

It is possible, Wold believes, the uncertainty could change the odds in other hunts. "It doesn't take much change in applicant behavior to impact the odds," Wold said.

"In general, the antelope hunts in this region are still seeing unstable applicant behavior, which I attribute to the late season winter kill hunt cancellation and tag reduction that occurred a few years ago."

In 2020, the Whitehorse could look like a poorer option with more people crowded into one season.

Some hunters might apply their decades-long accrual of points to Beatys Butte, Steens Mountain and the Owyhee

PHOTO BY THE AUTHOR



ODFW combined the Whitehorse hunts to offer one longer hunt (16 days) with a total of 153 tags. Will there be a resultant change in the number of people that apply for the Whitehorse Unit?

instead. Whether neighboring units become harder to draw or easier is anybody's guess. Up to this year, the Whitehorse hunts have required 13 to 15 preference

points.

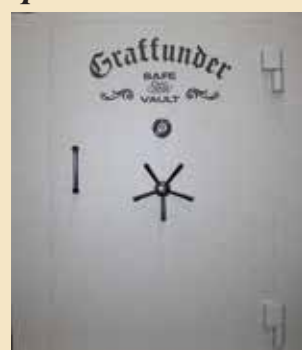
"It could turn out that there will be equal amounts of interest and dis-interest and the odds remain the same." — BY GARY LEWIS

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By AL ELKINS



OHA, NRA win appeal of gun storage title

By Al Elkins, OHA Lobbyist
Alvinelkins@yahoo.com



The Oregon Supreme Court on March 5 released a ruling in favor of an appeal filed by NRA and OHA challenging the ballot title for Initiative Petition 40 (IP40). As a result of the Supreme Court decision, IP40 is referred back to the Attorney General for modification. A new title was approved that OHA believes is more accurate in describing the impacts of the initiative.

IP40 contains locked gun storage requirements, reporting of stolen guns, and strict liability for injuries.

In an Oct. 15 letter about the proposed ballot title for IP40, OHA stated:

"The Draft Ballot Title for IP 40 is misleading by omission and does not adequately summarize the full and far-reaching effects this Initiative Petition could have on hundreds of thousands of law-abiding Oregonians, including hunters who are members of our association."

Paul Donheffner, OHA's Legislative Committee Chairman, called the Supreme Court decision a great win. "The Attorney General completely glossed over the implications of IP40, and ignored OHA's comments. We are very pleased that the Supreme Court agreed with us in handing down this important decision."

We would like to thank OHA members, the NRA and the other gun rights advocacy groups for a job well done. OHA is also closely watching the progress of several other gun initiatives with restrictions similar to IP 40.

Donate to OHA's Victory Fund at
oregonhunters.org/donate

Walkout stifles legislative session

By Al Elkins, OHA Lobbyist
Alvinelkins@yahoo.com

The 2020 legislative session started in early February at a fast pace with hearings being held and bills being passed. Then, on Feb. 24, Senate Republicans announced a boycott and on Feb. 25 the House Republicans announced a boycott.

OHA was supporting several bills and

following many others. The session never recovered.

Here's a list of the bills that died as the session reached an early end:

- **HB 4005 Gun Storage Bill**
- **HB 4075 Coyote Contest Ban**
- **HB 4052 Residency Bill**
- **HB 4091 Sage Grouse Fund**
- **SB 1543 Group Sports Pac**



Gun petitions await Supreme Court rulings

By Al Elkins, OHA Lobbyist
Alvinelkins@yahoo.com

All of these initiatives are awaiting responses from the attorney general or from the courts in response to challenges from OHA, NRA and others.

With traditional venues for signature gathering shut down, it will be a challenge for any initiative to qualify for the ballot.

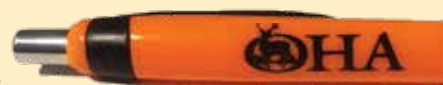
• **IP 40** – Requires locked gun storage, reporting stolen guns, strict liability for injuries. OHA appealed the draft ballot title in cooperation with the NRA and won, and it was sent back to the attorney general

for modification.

- **IP 60** – Regulates semi-automatic guns and large-capacity magazines. Appealed to the Oregon Supreme Court on Feb. 28.
- **IP 61** – Sale/transfer of certain semiautomatic firearms requires gun dealer, safety course, waiting period, age 21. Appealed to the Oregon Supreme Court on March 3.
- **IP 62** – Prohibits firearm magazines capable of holding more than 10 rounds of ammunition; provides for exceptions. Allows persons who have magazines over 10 rounds to keep them. Appealed to the Oregon Supreme Court on March 3.

Make the most of your written comments

By Amy Patrick, OHA Outreach Coordinator
Amy@oregonhunters.org
& Jim Akenson, OHA Sr. Conservation Director
Jim@oregonhunters.org



Building on our efforts to help members prepare for providing testimony to commission and legislative bodies, we now have to ask the question, "what if there are no meetings?" This is an unprecedented time we are in the midst of, with in-person interactions being severely limited. While "social distancing" has become a part of our accepted nomenclature, the work of committees, boards, commissions and representatives still must get done.

Providing written comments is key while we deal with canceled meetings.

Providing written comments will be the most appropriate and effective way to communicate with necessary entities while the country deals with the cancelation of in-person meetings.

Similar to our previous outline on providing effective testimony, written testimony should be kept concise, no more than a page in length. Begin with a clear statement of the issue being addressed and either the support or opposition of that issue. It's helpful to list the supporting statements in a bulleted format for easy reading by commissioners, legislators and partnering organizations.

As with oral testimony, building the argument in factual statements provides a solid base to then add personal experience and create an authentic presentation. Whether delivered in-person or on paper, this type of testimony can be very effective, and we encourage members to contact staff regarding topics they may be interested in taking part in.



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BLACK POWDER

By GARY LEWIS

Buck Hunting 101

A mule deer hunter picks up a blackpowder rifle for the first time and puts it to work on the last day of the season

When Jamie Rietmann of Bend realized he had 10 preference points and enough vacation days to put them to use in October and November, he applied for the Klamath Falls 132M deer hunt. Then he went looking for a muzzleloader.

This would be his first blackpowder hunt. He settled on a light, quick-handling Oregon-legal .50-caliber inline, the CVA Wolf, and went to work to figure out what powders and which bullets the little gun would like best. After shooting a number of combinations, he settled on a load of 85 grains of powder and a 250-grain Maxi Hunter bullet.

"It was a lot easier than I thought it was going to be," Rietmann said. His biggest challenge was shooting different types and weights of bullets to find the most accurate combination. "I didn't want to miss a deer because I was lazy."

He kept it simple. Instead of using a possibles bag, he put the necessary components in the zip-front pocket on his binocular pouch.

"I could get three speedloaders, a capper and the short starter inside my bino pack," Rietmann said.

The hunt started Oct. 28. Rietmann camped the night before and started on what would turn out to be a nine-day odyssey. "I camped in four different places," he said, "just trying to find the deer for the first half of the season."

One of the places he camped was at Gerber Reservoir, and he hunted west of Bly. But he saw very few deer. He moved camp back west toward Klamath Falls, on National Forestland, usually going east to Bly for resupply. By day 9, he was discouraged. He had seen a few three-points



Nine days in the field and one well-aimed shot scored a first blackpowder buck for Bend Sportsman's Warehouse Manager Jamie Rietmann.

and forked horn bucks and had developed a strategy around glassing small herds of does from long distance, waiting for bucks to show up.

On that last morning, he was headed back to camp.

"I had to be at work that next day, I was just burnt. I was done."

Rietmann was rumbling back to camp in his crewcab F-350 when he saw a buck out of the corner of his eye.

"I saw a double throat patch back in some trees and I knew, that's a buck."

Further on down the road, he parked, click-closed the door and put a cap under the hammer. On foot, he ghosted back through the junipers. He had circled wide and was on an old skid road, in shadow, when he saw the buck standing in the sagebrush at 90 yards.

He had burned a pound of powder learning to shoot this gun, and now he put his cheek against the stock and centered the bead behind the shoulder. The Wolf belched white smoke and the buck turned around in a circle and went down.

Although it had been hard to find a buck, he had made the best of it, earning a nice three-point on the last day of the season.



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How to load and shoot a muzzleloader for the first time

In the last issue of this column (March/April 2020) we outlined the accessories that make muzzleloading easier. Here is how to load and shoot a traditional-styled percussion gun with a blackpowder substitute and a pre-lubed conical bullet.

Before you load any muzzleloader, confirm it is not loaded already. Cen-

Before you load any muzzleloader, confirm it is not loaded already.

terfire rifles and shotguns are easily checked by opening the breech. With a muzzleloader, you must use the ramrod. Insert the ramrod

in the barrel. Compare the length of the ramrod with the length of the barrel and the breech.

First Shot Through a New or Used Rifle

When you're completely sure the barrel is unloaded, follow these steps.

Make sure the rifle is unloaded and pointed in a safe direction. Fire one cap to make sure the nipple orifice is open and your hammer will fully strike the cap. Drop a pre-measured charge down the barrel. A suggested load would be 90 grains of Pyrodex or Triple Seven. With the palm of your hand, rap the breech of the gun to settle the powder. Then start a pre-lubed bullet by mounting it in the barrel crown, using the pressure of your thumb to get it started. Use a bullet starter to push the bullet down the barrel a few inches. Use the ramrod to seat the bullet against the powder charge.

When the rifle is loaded with a full powder charge and a bullet, put the rod back in the barrel and make a mark on the ramrod at the muzzle end. This indicator is called a witness mark.

As a safety precaution, note the position of the witness mark when loading the gun each time. To make the gun ready to fire, ear the hammer back to half-cock and put a cap on the nipple. To fire, bring the hammer to full cock and touch finger to trigger. —GARY LEWIS

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The Best Lessons You Walk Away From

BY KEVIN JOHNSTON

You allow yourself to take a breath ... your ears are punished by a short-barreled .338. Emotions cycle rapidly from shock to fear to excitement. Then the tremors start, and you're not sure you will ever get your hands to stop shaking enough to reload. Your eyes dilate, and you focus intently on the golden mass of hair and claw below you. Not sure if you will cry or laugh, or maybe lose possession of the protein bar you ate an hour ago.

...

I love spring bear hunting. I love the first opportunity to hunt big game in the new year, the unpredictable weather and the expansive hunt areas. I love the opportunity to eat an animal that under the right circumstances would not mind eating me. But more than anything, I love to call.

Over the past three years, I have worked to develop some skill scouting, making sets, and calling big predators. Bear, wolf, and cougars have been my quarry, and I am sure at least on occasion they have thought of me as the same. While I have been able to connect on a pair of cats and a pair of black bears, I have only been able to call in a large black Idaho wolf, which outsmarted me before I could draw him into my shooting lane.

The spring of 2016 had been somewhat frustrating for me, as I had some difficulty finding the density of bear sign required to have a reasonable chance of calling one in. While out on the last weekend of spring bear season in Oregon, my father and I happened upon another hunter on an ATV. We stopped and rolled down the window and had a nice conversation with him. He informed us that he was coming down from the high country and had been unable to glass any bear at that altitude and was turning in due to his lack of success. When we mentioned to him that rather than

spot and stalk, we cold-called bear areas, his eyes lit up.

"Well if you call, maybe you can hunt my bow unit. I always have a lot of bears on my trail cameras, it's just too thick in there to glass at all."

After pulling out the maps and identifying a road-closed area, my father and I put together a plan for the next day.

We would walk a closed road 7 miles in length, my father accompanying me for the first half, then walking back to the truck and driving around to meet me on the other end at dark.

The next morning while driving to the start of our hunt, we were excited to have a fair sized chocolate bear crash down the hillside and run right in front of our truck, hitting a fence on the side of the road and finding his way through it, then loping out into a private cattle pasture.

We parked the truck and executed our plan for the next 3 1/2 hours, hiking for 15-20 minutes, stopping, making a set, calling for 20-30 minutes, and then moving forward.

While we had a fair number of elk come into our distress call, when we sat down for lunch, we had yet to see a predator. My father had come to the end of his portion of the hunt, and after a short sit in the shade, splitting up essential gear, he walked back to the truck while I proceeded forward, continuing my calling strategy.

I reached a creek that our helpful hunter had circled on the map, and decided to hike up it for about a half mile to get a good position in the thickly forested canyon to

have the most shooting lanes available.

Lesson 1: Call position is important.

The biggest problem became the mosquitoes, which, like me, were out for blood that day. In fact, the swarm around me was so irritating I considered hiking out without calling. I will never consider DEET non-essential gear for a spring bear hunt again.

I found a good spot and set my Foxpro on a stump next to me. I had initially intended to move up and away from the call my standard 30 yards, but I was so occupied by the rapidly forming welts on my upper body and irritating buzz in my ears, that I started the call with the intent to get this set finished as fast as possible.

I set my rifle next to me, and adjusted my headgear, even considered pulling my vest up over my head to drive away the horde of biting insects.

One minute into the call, I heard a large crash over my right shoulder and turned to see a blond bear in full lope straight for me (actually my call, but because it was sitting next to my left leg, it became one and the same). I measured the distance after it was all over to be just under 100 yards, but by the time I turned, grabbed my rifle and swung back, the bear was 10 yards from me, still coming strong.

Lesson 2: Turn your scope down; you can always turn it up for a long shot.

All I could see was tan hair in my 9x Leupold. With few options for aiming I let off the first shot without a sense of what my anatomic alignment might be. Fortunately, that shot turned the bear downhill and parallel to me (at least it was no longer advancing on my position). The short barrel and short action of the .338 Ruger Compact Mag allowed me two additional shots – one that broke the pelvis, and the

While the hunter survived the mauling by a bear he was hunting, he took quite a beating.



While all's well that ends well, the author learned lessons on this hunt that will allow him to hunt better and safer in the future.

other tucked behind the shoulder quartering away. The bear dropped and rolled, lying quietly near the bank of the creek not 40 yards from me.

Lesson 3: Mosquitos are less annoying when you have a bear down.

The blood-sucking bugs continued to feast while I skinned the bear, quartered and hung it in the willows to cool. I strapped the head and hide to my daypack and started my journey out. My wife would be convinced that I had chicken pox when I returned home, but the bites would heal, and the hunt was worth every ounce of blood lost.

Lesson 4: Pay Respect for the kindness of other hunters.

After a long pack and return trips to get my meat out of the woods that lasted until 1:30 in the morning, I limped into camp and slept soundly. The next day my father and I tried to figure out where our friend was camped to take him a bottle of spirits and toast his advice, but alas, we could

not find him. The best I can do is make him this promise. While I saw beautiful elk and multiple bulls in this unit, and while I have a bull bow tag in my pocket as I write this, I will never hunt this area for elk and will never reveal it to others, and if I can take another bear or a cat out of there to enhance his chance of harvesting an elk, I will do it.

Lesson 5: The best lessons are the ones you walk away from.

When I was young, I was dragging hay fields for my father with the old Massey Ferguson tractor that had been his father's. I forgot to drop the arms suspending the drag, popped the clutch and found the tractor's nose facing the sky, in that perilous position where the laws of physics determine whether the machine crashes back to its front axle or whether it crushes you, taking your life without malice.

Fortunately for me, the former was the case, but it shook me to the core.

I walked back to the ranch house crying, and when my father met me at the door, I realized he had seen the whole event from a distance.

"Did you lower the drag?" he asked quietly.

"No," I blubbered.

"Did you pop the clutch?" he further inquired?

"Yes."

"The best lessons are the ones you walk away from," he said without emotion and turned back to the truck to go out and feed.

The night we got back from our hunt I read a story about a hunter in the Northwest, who on the exact same day that I harvested my bear less than 200 miles away, was mauled by a bear he was hunting, and while he survived, he took quite a beating.

I was fortunate to harvest a beautiful bear, which the wildlife biologist estimated at over 20 years old (he had to take three teeth to age it given the amount of wear).

I will not stop hunting or calling big predators, but I learned lessons on this hunt that will allow me to hunt better and safer in the future.

And I always lower the drag, and treat the clutch with the respect it is due.



Kevin Johnston is a family physician in Burns and a lifelong hunter.



WOMEN & CHILDREN FIRST!

By
Gary
Lewis

A mother and daughter make the most of Oregon's archery elk season, then turn their sights to mule deer and whitetail.

With her father Fred calling, Hannah Walasavage, 22, claimed her first branch bull with a bow last September in Oregon's Eagle Cap Wilderness.

Every now and then you meet a person whose eyes sparkle when they talk about their last hunt or the next one. It drives them. It fuels them.

Fred Walasavage is one of those people, and that same passion serves OHA; Walasavage is chairman of the OHA State Board of Directors.

An accomplished hunter is apt to chase his own goals, but not Fred. This Oregon hunter recognizes he has a hunting heritage to pass on.

If you meet him, ask about his 2019 season, which he might call the best season of his career – when he put the interests of his wife and daughter first.

When they looked at September and marked out their annual archery hunt in northeast Oregon, the Walasavage family – Fred, Renee and 22-year-old Hannah – had to budget their vacation time around

Hannah's college schedule as well as two long-awaited deer hunts. For Renee and Hannah, the elk hunts were the main event, but they had been saving preference points for these deer hunts for so long, they had to make sure they didn't use all their vacation time in one place.

They opted to elk hunt the first and second week of September when bulls would be locating and gathering harems.

On a September afternoon on the edge of an old burn, Renee settled her sight pin on a sleek spike bull and let the arrow soar. Less than a week later, Fred called, and Hannah connected on her first branch-antlered bull.

After the long pack out, and when the wall tent was put away for another year, Renee and her husband Fred began to re-pack for her mule deer hunt. Hannah would go back to school and look forward to November.

Umatilla NWR No. 3 Mule Deer

It may be the most-sought after deer hunt in Oregon. It's a 600-series hunt, an antlerless hunt, but, the bag limit for 644A3 is one deer. In 2019, 1,549 people applied for the tag and three tags were awarded. Renee Walasavage had 24 preference points. It's a short season – five days. The hunt is limited to use of shotgun, archery or muzzleloader, and it's not as easy as one might think.

Renee chose a 12-gauge Remington 11-87 with a rifled barrel topped with a Leupold scope. After testing a number of slugs, she settled on a 300-grain Hornady SST.

"The reality of the hunt," Renee said, "didn't match the number of years I had to apply for it."

"We had grand visions of monster bucks," Fred Walasavage said later. "The reality is deer numbers and quality have

subsidized all over eastern Oregon and the refuge was no different.”

One of the deer they noticed early in the hunt was a buck they took to calling Two-by-Four. The buck was still in velvet, although this was October, and it had two points on one side and a weird combination of points on the other. Initially they looked for a larger buck, perhaps because they didn't look at this one close enough.

“The refuge is not all that big,” Renee said. There were two other hunters. One of them tagged a forked horn buck on the second day, while the other left discouraged on day three.

Renee, though, had gained an appreciation for this hunt. The pair glassed from dawn to dusk and Renee used the opportunity to watch the swallows, ducks, geese, pelicans, crows and hawks work the landscape and the water.

The mule deer, she said, were sly, but they seemed to keep to patterns, leaving cover to feed on private lands or to go to the corn pivots.

On day 5, the last day of the season, Renee watched two bucks move off the refuge and onto private land. Another group of three bucks fed down toward the river. Renee and Fred decided to make a play for the biggest. It was Two-by-Four, and the more they looked, the more they realized what a trophy this buck was, in velvet, with massive beams and lots of stuff that might be called eyeguards around its brows.

The ladies used bows, a shotgun and a muzzleloader to fill their tags last fall.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FRED WALSAVAGE

Renee liquidated her 24 600-series points for the Umatilla hunt, and then liquidated this buck.

The landscape allowed for the pair to close the distance, and when the bucks fed over a ridge, Renee scrambled up to the rise.

She set up shooting sticks and waited for a good angle on the buck called Two-

by-Four. When it turned broadside, she squeezed the trigger, rocked with the recoil and tried to get her eyes back on the deer. What she saw was two other bucks running away. Fred counseled to hold back.

It was an hour before they took up the blood trail.

They startled the buck from its bed and saw it moving to the river. Two-by-Four was in the Russian olive trees now and among the willows. Here the Columbia moves slow and ponderous, with Washington on the other side. Holding back, Fred and Renee watched the deer move up the shoreline, and when they could, they followed it along the river's edge, tight to the reeds, sedges and cattails.

And then, when they were able to close the gap to 75 yards, the buck turned and lunged for the brush. In the split second the animal was out of the water, Renee recognized her chance, put the crosshair on the crease behind the leg and dropped the buck on shore where it rolled back and down into the water.

Renee and Fred floated the buck back down along the bank to a duck blind. The buck was everything Renee had hoped for after all.

“When I got close to him, I couldn't



Hannah capped the family's big-game blitz last season with this black powder whitetail.



Renee Walasavage arrowed this bull on Day 10 of the family's wilderness hunt last fall.

believe I had passed him up over and over.”

West Blue Mountains Whitetail

While her mother was gambling 24 points on a chance for a trophy mule deer hunt, 22-year-old Hannah decided to take her chances and her 13 banked 600-series points in the Blues. The bag limit in this hunt is one white-tailed deer and the season runs from late November to mid-December, archery or muzzleloader only. And 1,507 hunters applied for the privilege. Hannah Walasavage was one of 120 that were drawn.

Muzzleloading was new to her, but the gun, a .54-caliber Oregon legal in-line, seemed to fit her.

After a weekend hunt, Fred, Renee and Hannah and a family friend named Hunter returned for another try. They woke up to a snowy Thanksgiving morning.

Southeast of Pendleton, hunting on private land, they spotted two bucks and a doe and decided to make a play.

With the .54-caliber, Hannah was certain of her shooting to 100 yards. If she

could get within range, she would shoot.

Down in a creek bed, Hannah was able to cut the distance in half. But the deer were on the move. Snow blanketed the branches and accumulated on top of the barrel of her gun. Up on the bank of the creek now, she weaved in and out of the thorn bushes and to the edge of the meadow.

She wiped snow from the sights and took a look with the binocular again.

“A hundred yards.” She heard the whisper. The biggest of the bucks had moved away, but a 3x3 whitetail stood broadside looking back.

She found a rest, wiped snow off the front sight again, centered the bead, and squeezed. A cloud of white smoke was thrown up between Hannah and her buck now, but she walked through it, walked through the silence of a Thanksgiving morning and knelt beside her prize.



Author Gary Lewis is an award-winning outdoor writer and television host. Contact him at garylewisoutdoors.com

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Girls Gone Wild!

Seasoned hunter finds girls make good hunting buddies

BY KEN SHELTON

Soon after exiting the truck on opening morning of deer season, I saw a distant shape that warranted a look through the binoculars. The shape proved to be a deer, along with two others. Because they were a half mile away, we planned a route to close the distance.

My hunting partner was my adult daughter, Crystal Hutchings. After a stalk of nearly an hour, we approached from below, using sagebrush as cover from their wary eyes. As their position came into better view, we found there were 11 deer, including three bucks. The larger two bucks were sparring, causing a clattering of antlers that interrupted the quiet October morning.

We carefully maneuvered closer until we were 250 yards from our quarry. With the shooting sticks set up, I directed Crystal to the largest buck of the group. While I was mere inches above her head and could see the buck clearly, she was unable to see the buck over the sagebrush.

Several times we slipped closer, but each time the brush blocked her view in the scope. Eventually, the group fed over the ridge.

Afraid they had eluded us, we proceeded on an angle to intercept them. When we crested the ridge, there were no deer in sight. Crystal said, "Dad I hear their horns hitting." Soon three does fed into sight. I once more positioned Crystal on the sticks so she was ready when the bucks came into view. I pointed out the 4-point. Seeing I couldn't help her anymore, I also took a sitting position to shoot if the opportunity arose.

Crystal's aim was true, and before they escaped, I was able to bag the next largest buck of the three.

Next came the hugs and congratulations.

While processing the animals, Crystal exclaimed, "Here comes a giant bull elk!" Within 100 yards, 13 elk walked by single



The author's daughter Crystal learns from her dad's vast hunting experience, and he finds he benefits from her sharper senses.

file with the last being a trophy bull. What a morning!

When finished, Crystal said, "Dad, I don't want to go home yet." I answered, "Let's take the long way home through the forested land." Her desire to persevere frequently keeps me in the field longer than I would have stayed without her.

Crystal has proven to be an outstanding hunting partner. When our three daughters were young, I made them take hunter education, but hunting was their option. Crystal was the only one bitten by the hunting bug. Her eyes and ears are sharper than my aging senses, so I see and hear more game when she accompanies me.

Men are reluctant to accept advice from someone who is more experienced. Not Crystal.

She is more than willing to cash in on

my 50-plus years of hunting experience.

A good example was during last spring's turkey hunt. Knowing where some turkeys were roosting, we slipped into the chosen tree in the dark. I had cautioned her, "Don't move, no matter what itches."

As daylight approached, the turkey talk commenced. After what seemed like an eternity, we started seeing and hearing turkeys flying down from the trees. A mature tom, a jake, and a hen paraded just out of range. They

disappeared for a minute, then marched single file up the very fence we were sitting beside. With the hen in the lead, Crystal didn't have a shot, and they passed by her only a few feet away. As instructed, she never moved.

Her eyes and ears are sharper than my aging senses, so I see and hear more game when she accompanies me.



Before long, the tom and jake reappeared above the fence. When they went behind a bush about 20 yards away, I whispered, "swivel now." That motion caused a hen still in the tree directly above us to give off an alarm call, which froze the toms. Having not called at all that morning, I decided now was the time for some calming clucks from my mouth diaphragm. The mature tom responded by strutting out from behind the bush. With his tail fanned, he was attempting to attract the hen he had heard clucking.

I whispered, "Now." After her successful shot, I bagged the jake before he could escape.

On the way back to the truck with our double, Crystal teased, "I wish I had a better turkey guide."



Author Ken Shelton is a longtime volunteer with the OHA Union-Wallowa Chapter.

BOWHUNTING

By ERIC NEWMAN

Son's first hunt, Dad's first elk

The first day of September started in an odd way for elk hunting: we slept in. Today was the first time my son Elliott was hunting during elk season with Dad. I'd been planning on this day for a few months, telling myself to lower my expectations and have fun. I didn't want to start the day off in a bad way by waking up before first light with a 3½-year-old, so we slept in, ate a good breakfast and took off when we got around to it.

We were high in the Umatilla National Forest and the air was cool. My great friend and hunting partner Dan Johnson was with us, and was in agreement with my plan to get Elliott in the woods; Dan and I talked about a week prior and he predicted, "We're going to find a bull, Elliott will hang back with me, I'll call him in and you'll smoke him with an arrow!" I thought he was crazy thinking we'd do that with a toddler, but I loved the positive thoughts, which are always needed during elk season.

Elliott is no stranger to the woods. We've camped and hiked since he was very young. We saw our first black bear together in the Ochoco Mountains while he was in a backpack kid carrier on my back. We were off trail hanging cameras at the time; memories that will last a lifetime. The biggest difference with this hunting trip is that Elliott would, ideally, need to be quiet. I'd been reminding Elliott over the past several months that we needed to be quiet when hunting and we had watched several elk hunting videos online to help him understand what we would be doing.

Around 9:15 a.m., we rolled out from camp in the truck to scout some areas that Dan and I had wanted to investigate for a few years. The terrain was rugged and steep; without a doubt, it would be too much for Elliott, so we continued onward in the truck.

Around 10:30 a.m., we drove past a gated road. Dan checked out the area



The chaos of son's first hunt and Dad's first elk proved to be the perfect complementary combo.

beyond the gate in onX maps and the topo lines were fairly wide apart. We thought it would be a good spot to check out with Elliott on foot, so we parked the truck and got our gear ready. I thought it could be a good place to hike for a bit, hopefully see some tracks or scat and educate Elliott on how we find animals. We proceeded beyond the gate on a gravel Forest Service road for a few hundred yards. The vegetation was thick with evergreens and deadfall. We saw a few elk tracks and mountain lion scat – lots of mountain lion scat.

The youngster was ready for a break, and the mid-morning sun was getting warm, so I told Elliott we could take a break when we found a nice log in the shade. We had made it about 500 yards from the truck. Elliott found the perfect log and was ready to relax. I suggested that Dan mark our location in onX maps and take off exploring on his own while Elliott rested for a bit. Dan agreed and set off. Elliott enjoyed some snacks and a drink. We could hear Dan in the distance bugling and chuckling, trying to find a bull.

In no more than 10 minutes, Dan came running back toward us, eyes as big as half-dollars, telling us to grab our gear. He had zeroed in on a bull! It was now 11:20. I grabbed my gear and reminded Elliott of the plan: stay quiet and hang right by Dan. We headed down a grassy clear-cut and got to the top of a mild ridge. Dan pointed out where the bull seemed to be, but we hadn't physically seen the bull. I dropped my backpack and got about 40 yards ahead

of Dan and Elliott.

Dan started bugling and chuckling again, and the bull immediately came back with chuckles and was thrashing trees. Dan looked back at Elliott and asked in a whisper: "Did you hear that?" Elliott responded excitedly, "I heard that!" Thankfully, the bull didn't hear Elliott!

I had an arrow nocked and started ranging trees. It was fairly thick, with no shot opportunity beyond 30 yards. The bull was still talking back to us and sounded closer, then went quiet for what seemed like an eternity. I still couldn't see the bull or tell if there were more elk with him. The wind was in my face, so I knew the situation was as good as it could be. The bull came back with a few more chuckles and sounded like he was moving away. I moved in 30 more yards for a better view, but still no sight of the bull. I could hear the bull snapping limbs, and it sounded like he was just beyond a group of thick pines. I ranged trees again, but still no shots beyond 30 yards. Finally, I saw brown antler tines floating above short pine trees. I saw a head, then a shoulder, then the body.

The bull stopped in what was probably the only shooting lane I had in the area. I came to full draw and almost forgot how to properly anchor my string after shooting three times a week all summer. The bull looked my way briefly while I came to full-draw. I thought I had been busted, but the bull turned his head back and was none the wiser.

This was now foreign territory – I'd

never been here before, with a bull broad-side 30 yards in front of me, wind in my face, and I'm at full draw. I attempted to steady my body ... and released an arrow. The bull immediately ran, then circled back and headed back the way he came, into the thick timber. We could hear trees snapping, limbs breaking, but the sound of only one elk. Finally, all went quiet. I was unsure if the bull ran into the next county or if he piled up just out of earshot.

I headed back to Elliott and Dan, shaking so badly, I was a wreck, full of adrenaline. Dan saw me come to full draw during the whole situation, but never saw the bull and didn't know if I had shot. I told Dan I had shot, and we were both filled with excitement.

It was time to give the elk some time to expire with no pressure. Dan and I gathered our packs and talked about what just happened. Elliott probably thought we were crazy to be as excited as we were, after all, everyone gets an elk within 30 minutes on YouTube. What's the big deal?

I decided to attempt to find my arrow or a blood trail. The ground cover was so thick that Dan and I could barely walk through it at all, and I didn't want Elliott to possibly step on a broadhead, so I tossed Elliott on my shoulders and we headed to where the elk was when I had taken the shot. The pungent smell of elk was in the air, so we knew we were in the right spot. I got Elliott down from my shoulders and had him stay in one area while Dan and I tried to find the arrow. Dan was the first to spot blood on a four-foot-tall pine tree, then he found my arrow. It was covered in blood from tip to nock.

The shaking in my body wouldn't stop. I remembered the elk ran left, then circled back to the right. I walked three feet to the left and found blood, a strong blood trail. We knew at that point there was a dead elk in the woods.

I picked up Elliott and we started following the crazy amounts of blood going through the woods. We walked no more than 20 yards and the woods floor cleared a bit, I scanned the horizon and found our elk piled up!

The 5x6 bull was 57 yards away from where the arrow first hit him.

It's amazing how quickly things can change in the woods. Everything happened just as Dan had predicted.

Now we had a 700-pound elk in front



For kids, trail mix makes for happy trails.

of us that we needed to get quartered out, we had a three-year old approaching lunch time and nap time and we were four hours from Bend. Don't panic, Dad!

I proceeded to pull all my extra clothes out of my backpack and assemble a make-shift nest for Elliott about 15 feet away from the elk. I pulled out all of my snacks and water. Luckily, thanks to my wife, I have kids' audiobooks on my cell phone, so we do what any grown man would do: we started playing Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat and other children's audiobooks while Dan and I were quartering the elk.

After three hours of cutting, we were ready to take the first load to the truck, which led to the next challenge. Elliott was exhausted, so I knew he wouldn't be up for multiple trips back and forth from truck to elk and back. I talked Elliott into hiking 150 yards out of the woods to the gravel road, then I put him on my shoulders, while carrying a front shoulder in my arms, back to the truck. Once we all got to the truck, I grabbed my frame pack and headed in for a heavy load while Dan stayed with Elliott at the truck. I had a pair of radios to keep Elliott entertained while I was walking back for the first load.

Dan and I proceeded to trade off trips to the elk meat a few times before getting it all back to the truck. We had all the meat in the truck by 5:30 p.m. Elliott crashed as soon as the truck's wheels started to roll. We packed up camp and rolled back to Bend, arriving at 11 p.m. to deal with the meat and a tired Elliott. Dan and I and our families took care of the meat and split it evenly.

It was an amazing day. Not only did Dan and I get our first elk – a feat four years in the making – but the best thing is that my son was with us to experience the entire adventure on his first hunt. 🐾



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8/1/2020, John Day, OR

8/8/2020, Newport, OR

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TBD, Enterprise, OR

TBD, McMinnville, OR

Dates subject to change.
Please check the website for updates.

**GET TICKETS AT:
RMEF.ORG/OREGON**

YOUNG GUNS

By JASON HALEY

Bruns Foundation sends kids afield with free licenses

Emerson said “Any relation to the land, the habit of tilling it, or mining it, or even hunting on it, generates the feeling of patriotism. He who keeps shop on it, or he who merely uses it as a support to his desk and ledger, or to his manufactory, values it less.” I agree. As such, the nationwide decline in hunter participation and subsequent potential for wildlife management funding shortfalls and adverse effects to sensitive species is troublesome. Changing hunter demographics are worrisome, as well, as the average age of our community keeps going up.

With the current, critical need for hunter recruitment and retention, it's comforting to know some folks are still focused on young people and our outdoor heritage. That's what William T. Bruns was known for.

William T. (Mr. Bill) Bruns was a building engineer at South Prairie Elementary School in Tillamook. He was an avid hunter and angler and enjoyed sharing his passion with others, especially young people. Mr. Bill helped local students with a salmon egg rearing project every season of his career. He passed away from cancer on Oct. 8, 2016, but not before making an impact on kids and sharing the outdoors. He's still doing it.

The William T. Bruns (WTB) Foundation provides hunting and fishing licenses to kids ages 12-17 who attend school in the Tillamook School District. This includes Youth Sports Pacs. Youth Fishing Licenses include angling, shellfish, Columbia River Endorsement, and Youth Combined Angling Tag, as well as the Hatchery Salmon/Steelhead Harvest Card.

The Youth Sports Pac includes Combination Hunting/Angling, Shellfish License, Combined Angling Harvest Tag, Upland Game Bird and Waterfowl Validations, plus a General or Controlled Deer, General or Controlled Elk, Cougar, General or



This happy youngster received a Youth Sport Pac compliments of the Bruns Foundation.

Controlled Bear, and Spring Turkey tag. A Youth Sports Pac also includes the Columbia River Basin Endorsement. Single day licenses are also provided.

The Youth Sports Pac was an initiative first presented by OHA staff to former ODFW Director Roy Elicker. It's a \$55 value. The WTB Foundation asks that only serious students request a Sports Pac and have the skills, equipment, transportation, adult assistance and landowner permissions necessary. The wish is that these students intend to put the license to use on multiple days of each season.

Here's how the program works: Certificates are made available in each school office. They can be redeemed at Tillamook Sporting Goods (TSG). Certificates must be completed by students, and they should indicate the type of licenses desired.

Kids must make sure they are familiar

with applicable Oregon hunting and fishing regulations and be hunter safety certified. Tillamook is in the Northwest Zone, which has specific, often changing regulations for each waterway and hunting area.

Carson Remington, a sixth grader at East Elementary, got his first Sports Pac thanks to the WTB Foundation. He's been fishing local rivers and lakes since the time he could hold a rod. School representatives said he doesn't go anywhere without packing his tackle box and fishing rod. He enjoys digging for shellfish and is looking forward to elk and deer season this fall. Carson is the youngest member of a local archery club, rubbing shoulders with some guys in their 60s. He enjoys target shooting with his bow and his .22 rifle.

According to Mr. Bill's widow, Joann (a special education teacher and speech pathologist for 30 years), 12 students have been assisted so far, mostly junior high kids. There have been four Sports Pacs and eight other hunting/fishing licenses provided. The hope is to provide many more.

You can help.

Please join me in making a tax-deductible donation. For only \$10, a kid can fish all year. You will also be furthering the cause of outdoor heritage in Oregon and cementing the already significant legacy of the beloved Mr. Bill, who relished helping young people enjoy the outdoors.

Donations can be sent to: William T. Bruns Foundation, 6900 Munson Creek Road, Tillamook, OR 97141.

Contact the foundation via e-mail at Brunsfoundation@gmail.com or by phone at 503-842-8796.



The late Mr. Bill and his granddaughter.

WANTED:

HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS



**Remember the thrill of your first hunt?
Do you have a passion for hunting that you would like to pass on to others?**

ODFW's Hunter Education Program NEEDS you!

The hunter education program involves passing on the hunting tradition to future generations in a safe, fun, and responsible manner.

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- Wildlife management and conservation
- Outdoor safety

Hunter education instructors are individuals 21 and older who have a passion for hunting. You do not need to be an expert hunter to teach this course; a strong interest in introducing young people and adults to the sport is what is required.

How do I become a Certified Instructor?

- Easy process: contact the number below for an application.



Hunter Education

ODFW Hunter Education Program 503-947-6028
www.dfw.state.or.us



Oh, Baby!

Oregon Springs to Life

Photo Essay by Scott Haugen

This blacktail fawn in Oregon's Coast Range is lying low for the moment, but soon will be ready to explore its brave new world.



Spring hunting in Oregon is what gets us in the woods, allowing us to observe nature unfolding its beauty this time of year. If you're a turkey hunter, spring bear hunter, or one who enjoys searching for shed antlers or chasing varmints, you know what I mean. For us, it's these activities that get us afield, and were it not for them, our motivation might be lacking when it comes to seeing all this great state has to offer this time of year.

I'll never forget the first time I set up and called turkeys in the North Bank Habitat Area. Instantly, multiple Columbia whitetail does came on the run, darting and dodging their way through the oak trees to inspect the calls I made. They were curious, in no hurry to leave, and their beauty, captivating, in the lush green grass studded with small, bright yellow flowers. That was over 20 years ago, and it seems like yesterday.

I've discovered numerous turkey nests over the years, and recently found one where the chicks were actually pipping. I've also witnessed nest dumping – where a hen lays her eggs in another hen's nest – and have reveled in watching poults take wing for the first time at just over a week of age.

Oregon's marshes are alive this time of year and are worth seeing. Last spring I spent time at Ladd Marsh and watched baby sandhill cranes, called colts, feeding under the watchful eyes of their parents. Canada geese family units were also joining force, with goslings numbering over 50 in some extended flocks.

At Summer Lake, the singing of many non-game birds echoed through the marsh as I stared through my spotting scope, watching a myriad of duck species and their ducklings. On the surrounding farmlands, families of Belding's ground squirrels emerged from their fossorial hides, while in the mountains overlooking the vast basin, mule deer could be seen grazing in the shadows.

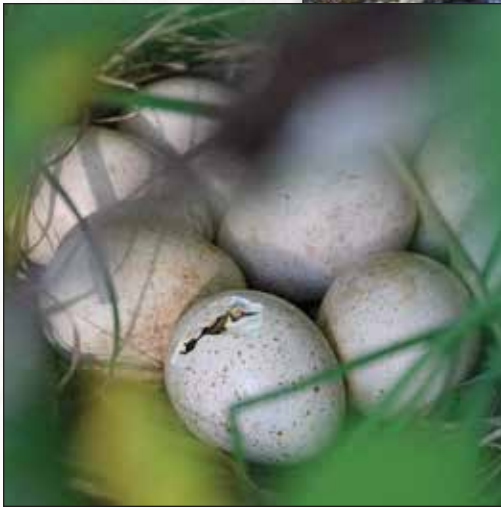
I'll never forget the time I was walking across a sage flat in the spring, looking for muley sheds, when I stumbled upon a newborn calf elk. The cow was nowhere to be seen, and I quickly got out of there.

If you've never seen black bears during the rut, it's a sight to behold. The vigor with which a boar relentlessly pursues a hot sow is phenomenal. Observing cubs of the year is also something every hunter would appreciate.

When hunting the Coast Range for bears in the final few days of a spring season, an unsteady movement caught my attention. As I moved through the timber to

There's so much more beauty to wildlife than what we see during hunting season.

Wild turkeys continue to thrive in Oregon. Here a hen and her poults take a brief break in a bit of shade during a late morning feeding session.



External pipping of a wild turkey is a rare sight. Oregon has huntable turkey numbers in every county, making it one of the best states in the nation for hunters.

see what it was, my eyes locked up with those of a tiny blacktail fawn. Instantly it laid down, curled up, and held as still as a statue. I snapped some quick photos, and as I began to slowly back out, the flicker of an ear caught my eye. It was a second fawn lying a few yards behind the one I'd been snapping pictures of. I was so focused on the one fawn, I failed to notice its twin.

In the same coastal forest, I've observed many Roosevelt elk calves over the years. Watching the lifecycle of these elk unfold, from the height of the fall rut during archery season, to their winter survival strategies, to the birth of another generation, inspires a true appreciation for what Oregon's wildlife endures.

As a boy, I remember lying in the front yard, listening to the distant calls of migrating sandhill cranes, and always being surprised at how far, once I finally located them, they really were. Oregon's variety of non-game species is also enthralling to



A Rocky Mountain elk calf finds refuge in the open sage, a traditional and still very important habitat for many of Oregon's elk and other big game species.



A pair of redhead ducklings explore a food-rich pothole in Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.



Honker nursery! As goslings grow, family units join to make large flocks. There were more adults lingering in the tall grass nearby.



A pair of colts feed under the watchful eyes of both parents in Ladd Marsh. This is the place to see sandhill cranes nesting in Oregon.



A healthy group of doe and fawn pronghorns make their move into a field to graze near Riley.

watch. In fact, it was the many songbird nests I found over the years that spurred my curiosity to identify what I was looking at, further serving as a catalyst to the passion I have for birding today.

Now is the time of year to get out and see for yourself how much Oregon has to offer all lovers of wildlife. What you'll discover, if you haven't already, is there's so much more to the beauty and complexity of our wildlife than what we see during hunting season.



To order signed copies of Scott Haugen's best selling books, visit www.scotthaugen.com. Follow Scott's adventures on Instagram and Facebook.

OHA State Convention



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Saturday, July 11, 2020

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Tickets must be ordered and prepaid by July 1, 2020.

To order your tickets, contact the OHA State Convention Committee,
PO Box 1706, Medford, OR 97501 • (541) 772-7313 • oregonhunters.org



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- 1 in 10 wins a Citadel 1911 flag grip pistol! (\$599)
- 2 Dinners & 6 Drink Tickets
- 8 Party Starter Raffle Tickets
- 8 Special Raffle Tickets
- 72 General Raffle Tickets
- 8 Early Bird Tickets**
- 2 Commemorative Gifts

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(1-PERSON TROPHY PACKAGE)**

- 1 in 10 wins a Citadel 1911 flag grip pistol! (\$599)
- 1 Dinner & 3 Drink Tickets
- 8 Party Starter Tickets
- 8 Special Raffle Tickets
- 72 General Raffle Tickets
- 8 Early Bird Tickets**
- 1 Commemorative Gift

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- 24 General Raffle Tickets
- 2 Early Bird Tickets**
- 2 Commemorative Gifts

STAG PACKAGE \$125*

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- 1 Party Starter Raffle Ticket
- 12 General Raffle Tickets
- 1 Early Bird Ticket**
- 1 Commemorative Gift

* OHA member prices. Nonmembers add \$35 for 1-year OHA membership.

** Early Bird tickets must be ordered by June 11, 2020.

Party Starter: 2 guns (\$599 & \$349). Max 1,900 tickets.
Special: Rifle (\$960); Knife (\$40). Max 1,760 tickets.
General: 45 items (>\$7,000 total). Max 24,000 tickets.
Early Bird: Rifle (\$469); Knife (\$40). Max 1,900 tickets.

CHAPTER NEWS

Chapters reschedule banquets

As COVID-19 concerns spread faster than the virus itself this spring, OHA chapters were forced to cancel or reschedule banquets, projects and youth events. The information contained herein was current as of early April. Below are the regularly scheduled times and places for chapter meetings, which were suspended at press time, and previously scheduled projects. Please confirm all information found here.

BAKER

Charlie Brinton
(541) 403-0402

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., Best Western Sun Ridge Inn; optional dinner 6 p.m.

2020 banquet: Date TBD, Baker County Event Center.

Update: Baker City Banner Bank has partnered with our chapter in support of continuing education and our Harold and Rojean Atkins Scholarship program.

BEND

Bob Dixon
(503) 572-2805

oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Wednesday, 7 p.m., Bend Golf & Country Club

2020 banquet: Rescheduled for Aug. 15, Riverhouse Convention Center; call 541-480-9848.

Update: The chapter youth & family day at Cyrus Ranch is scheduled for May 30; call 541-480-7323. The multi-chapter and multi-organization project All Hands All Brands on Your Public Lands is scheduled for June 19-21; call 541-647-0424.

We pledged \$500 toward the \$10,000 TIP reward in the bighorn poaching case.

The Bend Chapter congratulates Monty Gregg, Forest Wildlife Biologist on the Ochoco National Forest and a Bend OHA Chapter member, who was recently recog-

OHA's Union-Wallowa County banquet was the last fund-raiser before the statewide hiatus.

nized at the Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society meeting on Feb. 6, and was the recipient of the 2020 Oregon Wildlife Society Conservationist of the Year award.

BLUE MOUNTAIN

Dean Groshong
(541) 377-1227

Chapter Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of the month, The Saddle, 2200 Court St., Pendleton, 6 p.m. meeting, 5:30 p.m. dinner and drinks available.

2020 banquet: Canceled.

Update: Our chapter pledged \$500 toward the \$10,000 TIP reward in the Wenaha Wildlife Area ram poaching case.

CAPITOL

Eric Colville
(503) 851-8409
ohacapitol.webs.com

Chapter Meetings: 4th Tuesday, 7 p.m., Marion County Fire Station #1, 300 Cordon Rd. NE, Salem.

2020 banquet: Rescheduled for June 20, Columbia Hall, Salem Fairgrounds; call 503-585-4547.

Update: The powerline project in Detroit is scheduled for May 16; call 503-509-9287.

CHETCO

Wes Ferraccioli
(541) 450-4100

Chapter Meetings: 5:30 p.m.; next meetings TBD.

CLATSOP COUNTY

Kevin Werst
503-325-1036

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. speaker, 4H Clubhouse, Clatsop County Fairgrounds.

2020 banquet: Date TBD, Clatsop County Fair & Expo.

Update: Our chapter's youth day at the



BRYAN COOK

Clatsop County fairgrounds will be held June 27.

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Jordan Hicks
(949) 533-7271

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Monday, 7 p.m., dinner 6:30 p.m., Kozy Korner restaurant, 371 Columbia Blvd., St. Helens.

2020 banquet: Held Feb. 29.

Update: We are holding a membership participation contest, with quarterly prize drawings.

EMERALD VALLEY

Tony Hilsendager
(541) 729-0877

EmeraldOHA@live.com

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Wednesday, 7 p.m., Sizzler Steak House, 1010 Postal Way, Springfield; Board meeting at 5:30 p.m., Social 6:30 p.m.

2020 banquet: Held Feb. 22

HOODVIEW

Catherine Hamell
(503) 358-7821

oregonhunters.org/hoodview-chapter

Facebook: Hoodview OHA

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Thursday, 7 p.m., Elmer's, 1933 NE 181st Ave., Portland.

2020 banquet: Held Feb. 22

Update: The Youth Turkey Hunting Clinic was canceled. At this writing, the White River habitat project is a possibility in June.

JOSEPHINE COUNTY

Cliff Peery
(541) 761-3200

Chapter Meetings: 3rd Thursday, 7 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m., Elmer's Restaurant, Grants Pass.

2020 banquet: Rescheduled for July 18, Josephine County Fairgrounds; call 541-821-1511.

Update: Our chapter has pledged \$500 toward the \$10,000 TIP reward in the Wenaha Wildlife Area bighorn sheep poaching case. Youth Day is scheduled for June 6 at Josephine County Sportsman's Park; call 541-846-7437.

KLAMATH

Allen Wiard
(541) 884-5773

ohaklamath.webs.com

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Thursday, 7 p.m., Shasta View Community Center.

2020 banquet: Banquet has been canceled, but an Access & Habitat Statewide Elk Tag will be auctioned on May 30; call Bryan Cook in advance at 971-270-7035.

Update: Our Bob Boring Scholarship





**NEW
DATES!**

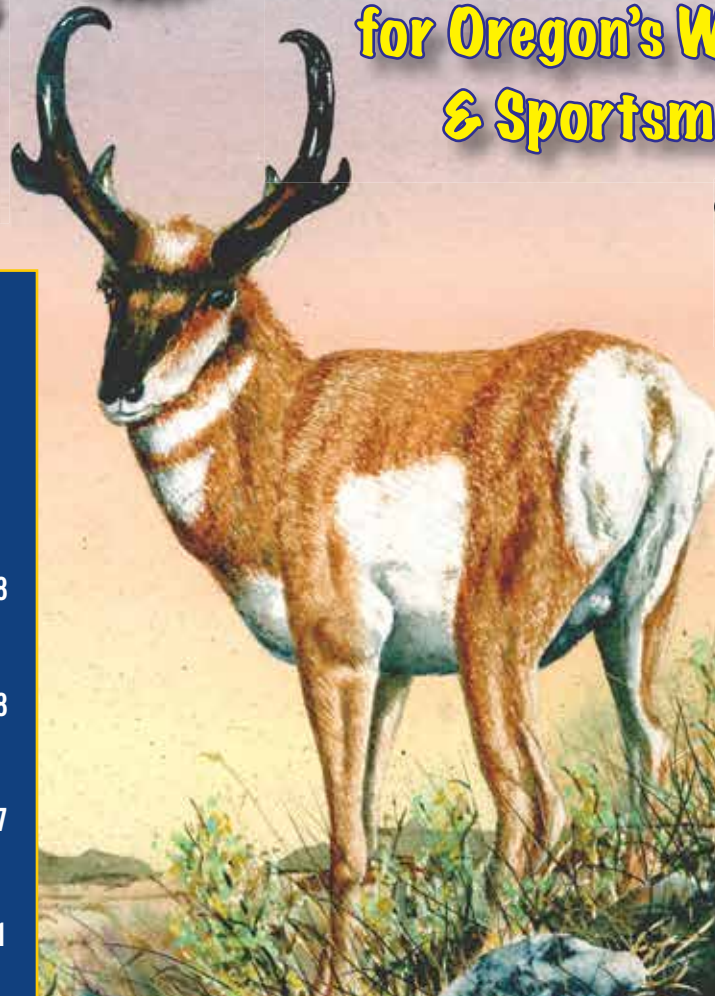
OHA Invites You to Our 2020 Banquets for Oregon's Wildlife & Sportsmen!

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Gear, Trips,
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REVISED 2020 OHA BANQUET SCHEDULE

MAY 2		
Tioga		541-297-6178
JUNE 13		
Lake County		530-640-3368
JUNE 20		
Capitol		503-585-4547
JUNE 27		
Mid-Willamette		541-971-3351
JULY 11		
State Convention		541-772-7313
JULY 11		
Tualatin Valley		503-502-0611
JULY 18		
Josephine County		541-821-1511
JULY 25		
Rogue Valley		503-250-3000
AUGUST 15		
Bend		541-480-9848
TBA		
Baker		541-403-0402
Clatsop County		503-791-0549



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at each OHA banquet courtesy of
Coastal Farm & Ranch!

application deadline has been extended to April 30. The Hart Mountain project/campout is slated for May 16; call 541-884-5773.

Our chapter will host a barbecue at the orientation for the Gerber Reservoir youth antelope hunters Aug. 21; call 541-281-6518.

LAKE COUNTY

Larry Lucas

(530) 640-3368

Chapter Meetings: 1st Tuesday at 6 p.m., The Village Restaurant, Lakeview.

2020 banquet: Rescheduled for June 13, Lake County Fairgrounds.

Update: Our spring guzzler project scheduled for May 16 has been postponed; call 541-417-1750. Youth Day is June 27; call 541-219-0614.

LINCOLN COUNTY

Todd Williver

(541) 648-6815

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, 6 p.m. meeting, OSU extension office, Newport.

MALHEUR COUNTY

Bruce Hunter

(208) 573-5556

Chapter Meetings: 3rd Thursday, 6:30 p.m., no host dinner 5:30, location TBA in the chapter newsletter.

Update: Our chapter scheduled for May 9 a Sporting Clay Shoot and fund-raiser at Ontario Shotgun Complex; call 208-573-5556.

MID-COLUMBIA

Stanley Walasavage

(541) 296-1022

Quarterly Chapter Meetings: 6 p.m., ODFW Screen Shop, The Dalles. Next meeting is scheduled for May 21.

Update: Our February meeting was held at Spooky's Pizza in The Dalles.

MID-WILLAMETTE

Jacob Williams

(541) 740-5992

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Thursday, 7 p.m., board meeting at 6 p.m., Old Armory, 4th and Lyons, Albany.

2020 banquet: Rescheduled to June 27, Boys & Girls Club, Albany; call 541-971-3351. An Access & Habitat Statewide Elk Tag will be auctioned May 15 at 6:30 p.m.; call 971-270-7035 in advance to bid.

OCHOCO

John Dehler, III

(541) 815-5817

Chapter Meetings: 1st Tuesday, 7 p.m., Room 1868, 152 NW 4th St., Prineville.

2020 banquet: Held Feb. 22

PIONEER

Bill Park

(503) 730-7650

oregonhunters.org/pioneer-chapter

Chapter Meetings: 1st Wednesday, 7 p.m., Canby Rod & Gun Club.

2020 banquet: Held March 7.

Update: Shotgun and Archery Youth Day April 25 at Canby Rod and Gun Club was canceled. The annual family campout dates are June 19-20; call 503-710-1233. We will staff a booth at the Molalla Buckaroo July 1-4; call 503-710-1233.

REDMOND

Tim Van Domelen

(541) 771-8383

oregonhunters.org/redmond-chapter

Chapter Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, VFW Hall. Dinner at 5:30, member meeting at 6:30, board meeting at 6.

2020 banquet: Held Feb. 29.

Update: Redmond OHA will plant 3,200 shrubs and several hundred cottonwood trees along with drip lines and setting pumps April 24-26. Contact jlcrafton@hotmail.com for information.

ROGUE VALLEY

Bryan Coggins

(541) 601-9905

oregonhunters.org/rogue-valley-chapter

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Thursday, 6 p.m. social & dinner, 7 p.m. presentation, Eagles Club, 2000 Table Rock Rd.

2020 banquet: July 25, Medford Armory; call 503-250-3000.

Update: We donated \$20,000 to state OHA for funding conservation staff, and challenged other chapters to contribute. We pledged \$500 for the \$10,000 TIP reward in the ram poaching case. Young Oregon Hunters Day at Denman Wildlife Area is slated for June 6; call 503-779-7147. We partnered with ODFW to offer a predator hunting presentation and planted more than 400 trees along Whetstone Creek.

TILLAMOOK

John Putman

(503) 842-7733

Chapter Meetings: 3rd Monday, 7 p.m., Tillamook PUD.

2020 banquet: Canceled.

TIOGA

Marcey Fullerton

(541) 267-2577

Chapter Meetings: 4th Tuesday, 7 p.m., 6 p.m. no host dinner, Puerto Vallarta restaurant, Coos Bay.

2020 banquet: May 2, Coquille Community Building.

Update: Our shed antler pickup at Dean Creek on April 18 and our May 2 Youth Day were both canceled.

TUALATIN VALLEY

Tony Kind

(503) 290-6143

oregonhunters.org/tualatin-valley-chapter

Chapter Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, dinner at 6 p.m., meeting at 7, Prime Time Restaurant & Sports Bar, Forest Grove.

2020 banquet: July 11, NW Events & Environments, Hillsboro, 503-502-0611.

Update: The April 4 youth turkey hunting clinic was canceled. We plan to do habitat restoration at Barney Reservoir May 16; call 503-290-6143. Our Youth Days are June 6-7 at Henry Hagg Lake, partnering with I'm Hooked. We will clean up the Tillamook Forest target shooting area July 18; call 503-290-6143.

We pledged \$500 toward the \$10,000 TIP reward in the bighorn poaching case.

UMPQUA

Tadd Moore

(541) 580-5660

Chapter Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, 7 p.m., Roseburg ODFW office. Board Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, same place.

Update: Our chapter donated \$10,000 to state OHA for funding conservation staffing, and we pledged \$500 toward the \$10,000 TIP reward in the bighorn poaching case. Our chapter picnic will be held July 21 at Roseburg Rod & Gun Club.

UNION/WALLOWA COUNTY

Morgan Olson

(541) 786-1283

Chapter Meetings: La Grande Library, next date TBA.

2020 banquet: Held March 14.

Update: We pledged \$500 for the \$10,000 TIP reward in the bighorn poaching case.

YAMHILL COUNTY

Bill Dollar

(503) 804-2843

ohayamhill.com

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Thursday, 7 p.m., 6 p.m. dinner, American Legion Hall, 126 NE Atlantic, McMinnville.

2020 banquet: Canceled.

Update: We donated \$12,001.01 to support OHA conservation staff, and we pledged \$500 toward the \$10,000 TIP reward in the bighorn poaching case. We will staff a booth at the St. Paul Rodeo June 30-July 4, and at the Yamhill County Fair July 29-Aug. 1. A youth trap/shotgun shoot will be held at the Newberg Rod & Gun Club Aug. 15; call 503-737-9483.

All Hands, All Brands For Your Public Lands



Weekend work party in the Ochocos
(Gathering restrictions permitting)

June 19-21, Sugar Creek Campground, Ochoco National Forest

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competition!**



**Potluck dinner,
raffle, campfire
stories, & music
Saturday night.**



**Contacts/RSVP: Michael O'Casey, TRCP Oregon Field Rep @ 541-668-2316
Eric Brown, OHA Bend Field Rep @ 541-647-0424**



A total of 275 acres of the northern portion of the refuge will be open to waterfowl hunting. Hunting will be from designated blinds placed on or adjacent to the interior levee surrounding the lake.

Wapato Lake NWR to open to hunting

OHA is excited to share information about a new hunting opportunity in Oregon. The Wapato Lake National Wildlife Refuge near Gaston will be open to waterfowl hunting this fall. OHA members have lobbied for public hunting here. Use this link to view information on the refuge and comment: https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Wapato_Lake



A Browning Hells Canyon rifle in .28 Nosler and a Citadel Black Flag 1911 pistol were the first guns in April to be awarded in OHA's 2020 Gun Calendar Raffle.

OHA gives away a gun a week in 2020 Gun Calendar Raffle!

OHA is giving away a gun every week to winners in the 2020 OHA Gun Calendar Raffle. The first guns given away were a Kimber Pistol and a Nosler Custom rifle. A new winner is announced every Wednesday on OHA's website and Facebook page.

Ticket sales ended Dec. 17 and no calendar raffle is being held for the coming year.

2020 OHA Gun Calendar Raffle winners so far:

Jan 1 – Kimber Custom II .45 ACP, Christina Houtz, Springfield
 8-Jan – Nosler Liberty M48 .300 WSM, Robert Browning, Baker City
 15-Jan – Beretta A300 Max 5 Camo 12 gauge, Quinton Graves, Klamath Falls
 22-Jan – Henry Big Boy .44 Rem. Mag., Steve Pringle, Gaston
 29-Jan – Savage TH-16 SS Syn. .270 & 3-9x40 Nikon scope, Troy Hickok, Glide
 5-Feb – Tikka T-3X Hunter Blued 7mm Rem. Mag, Luther Yam, Hillsboro
 12-Feb – Benelli Nova camo 12 gauge, Ethel Reeves, Hood River
 19-Feb – Ruger 10-22 Stainless black, Joe Morse, Unity
 26-Feb – Ruger American 6.5 Creedmoor camo/bronze Cerakote, James Slaughter, Bend
 4-Mar – Howa lightweight gray Cerakote KUIU Vias .223, C. J. Trotta, Tillier
 11-Mar – Springfield XD Model 2 subcompact .45 ACP, Dennis Hungerford, Bend
 18-Mar – Remington ADL SS syn. .30-06 & 3-9x40 scope, Curt Allen, Astoria
 25-Mar – Savage 93R17 BTVS .17 HMR, Tom Luttrell, Molalla
 1-Apr – Black Flag Citadel 1911 in .45 ACP, Aaron Burke, Sweet Home
 8-Apr – Browning X-Bolt Hells Canyon Speed .28 Nosler, Bryce Denfeld, Redmond
 15-Apr – Benelli Nova camo 12 ga., Jonathan Anderson, Warrenton
 22-Apr – Kimber Hunter SS 6.5 Creedmoor, William Abbott, Clatskanie



OHA, others offer \$10,000 reward in ram poaching

OHA and others have increased the reward to \$10,000 for information leading to an arrest for the poaching of a bighorn ram in Wallowa County January.

OHA's Turn In Poachers (TIP) fund is offering the standard \$1,000, while the OHA Union-Wallowa, Blue Mountain, Bend, Josephine County, Rogue Valley, Umpqua, Tualatin Valley and Yamhill County chapters each pledged \$500.

The Oregon Wildlife Foundation and Oregon Foundation for North American Wild Sheep each pledged \$2,500.

The informant may remain anonymous, and may choose to take five preference points in lieu of a cash reward.

The ram was shot on the Wenaha Wildlife Area along the road leading to the feed site. The ram wore a telemetry collar and ear tag. The collar and severed ear were the only items left at the scene.

Anyone with information should call the TIP line at 800-452-7888 or *OSP (677).



DUANE DUNGANNON

OHA State Secretary Jason Haley holds the winning tickets for OHA's Zumwalt Prairie guided deer and elk hunt raffles drawn March 21.

OHA draws winners of Zumwalt hunts

OHA officials on March 21 drew the winning tickets for our sold-out raffles for deer and elk hunts on The Nature Conservancy's Zumwalt Prairie Preserve.

Deer Winner: Irene Vandecoevering, Garibaldi
Elk Winner: Mike Highland, Sherwood

Raffle proceeds support OHA's mission, and we thank all who bought tickets.

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New program targets poaching

Tools will make bagging poachers easier in Oregon

Poachers devastate mule deer herds in southeastern Oregon and brazenly shoot bighorn sheep in the north. State Legislators have taken notice of Oregon's poaching problem. Their solution is an anti-poaching campaign designed to increase reporting, citing and prosecuting crimes against wildlife. They charged three agencies with accomplishing the task.

Oregon State Police (OSP), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), and the Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ) will launch a three-pronged statewide anti-poaching effort that unifies hunters and non-hunters. The goal is to reduce illegal killing of fish and wildlife. All three agencies – along with the Oregon Hunters Association, which was instrumental in lobbying for the legislation – agree that this is a winning strategy.

"This legislation creates new opportunities for us to combine efforts with our law enforcement and judicial partners to reduce fish and wildlife crimes," said ODFW Director Curt Melcher, "and most importantly, it will translate to improved fish and wildlife populations for the enjoyment of all Oregonians and our visitors."

Lawmakers like Rep. Brad Witt recognize that poaching reduces opportunities for hunters. Witt, Chair of the House Committee on Natural Resources and an avid hunter, sponsored this and other legislation targeting poachers.

"We need to stop the poaching to save our precious wildlife resources, but also because it is unfair to true sportsmen, honest hunters and anglers who obey laws and bag limits and just want to enjoy a day in the field," he said.

The new strategy supports four additional OSP Fish and Wildlife Troopers and one sergeant now working in the field. This brings the total to 126 fish and wildlife



\$10,000 BIGHORN REWARD! SEE PAGE 36

troopers across the state. OSP will also purchase additional trail cameras, according to Lieutenant Craig Heuberger. The trail cameras help troopers spot criminal activity in remote areas of the state and in poaching hot spots where it is not feasible to post a trooper.

The second prong of legislation supports a roving district attorney position. Sometimes county officials would like to prosecute poachers, but their dockets are full. The roving district attorney will reach out to jurisdictions across the state to assist in prosecuting wildlife crimes and offer insights into how crimes are committed, what evidence is most useful, and common pitfalls to avoid.

This is a much-needed resource for OSP troopers like Mark Schoenborn, who patrols in Multnomah and Clackamas counties. Schoenborn enforces fish and wildlife laws in a combination of urban and rural areas divided by several rivers, and encompassing forests and fields. In such a diverse landscape, identifying crimes, gathering evidence and interviewing witnesses requires keen attention to detail along with in-depth geographical and regulatory knowledge.

"Having a dedicated fish and wildlife DA is beneficial because of the nature of wildlife crimes," said Schoenborn.

The third prong in the legislation is an education and awareness campaign headed by ODFW. Yvonne Shaw will lead the campaign. Shaw, who has a background in issues campaigns and community education, will reach out to stakeholders across the state. She will engage recreational users, hunters, anglers, landowners and special interest groups in a common goal to end poaching.

Steve Hagen, Northwest Director at Large for OHA, says the public awareness campaign is an important new element which will draw in recreation stakeholders.

OHA pays \$6,100 in 21 TIP rewards

In the last two months, OHA issued 21 reward checks to informants in 19 cases totaling \$6,100 from our Turn In Poachers reward fund – perhaps a record for a two-month period.

Charges included: unlawful take of deer, elk, black bear, game birds and salmon; hunting prohibited area; hunting prohibited hours; angling after taking daily limit; snagging; lending, borrowing or selling big game tag; no big game tag; failing to check in bear to ODFW; exceeding bag limit; aiding in a game violation; shooting from a highway; waste of a game mammal; illegal baiting for carnivores; habitat destruction – offensive littering.

He is quick to point out that illegal hunting is not hunting. It's thievery. Increased penalties for killing trophy animals elevate crimes from a misdemeanor to a felony. In the past, it's usually been a hunter, angler or neighbor who would report poachers, and this campaign increases that reach.

"We never had the opportunity to broadly influence education in every county," Hagen said, "We never have had, in the past, a program or the staff to do that."

"Now with our populations changing and more people than ever recreating across the state," Shaw said, "it's important that we educate all Oregonians on how to recognize poaching when they see it and to empower them to report the crime."

Reporting the crime is easy. State law enforcement officials designated a hotline that ties into the same emergency reporting infrastructure as 911. The Turn In Poachers Line (TIP Line) directs calls to OSP Fish and Wildlife troopers who patrol the area. If someone reports a big game poacher, they can receive preference points or a cash reward if a citation was written. They don't have to be convicted.

"Wildlife is a public trust resource," said Melcher, who compares the anti-poaching campaign to activating an army of unpaid lobbyists. "We rely on both the hunting and the non-hunting public to report crimes."

To call the TIP Line: Dial *OSP or 1-800-452-7888.

2020 Oregon Big Game Raffle Hunts

Entries sold online at **ODFW.HuntFishOregon.com**

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12 premier hunts in 2020

Extended season from
Aug 1 - Nov 30, 2020

Residents and
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Expanded hunt boundaries.
Consult the 2020 Big Game
Regulations for details.

Drawings will be held May 30, 2020
starting at 6:30pm and can be
viewed online. For more information
visit OregonRaffleHunts.com.



AVAILABLE HUNTS

Governor's Statewide Combo - 1 Deer Tag & 1 Elk Tag

1 Bighorn Sheep Tag

1 Statewide and 3 Regional Elk Tags

1 Pronghorn Antelope Tag

1 Statewide and 3 Regional Deer Tags

1 Rocky Mountain Goat Tag

* Except for specific area closures listed in ODFW's 2020 Big Game Regulations

** Columbian white-tailed deer can be hunted only in areas with authorized seasons and tags
(see 2020 Big Game Regulations)

For more information: call (503) 947-6301 or visit OregonRaffleHunts.com

Entries sold online at ODFW.HuntFishOregon.com



GAME ON THE GRILL

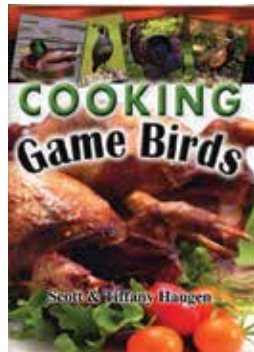
By TIFFANY HAUGEN

Creamy Cajun Instant Pot Turkey

While we were eating our way through New Orleans, many dishes we sampled motivated me to jot down flavors and textures I could try to recreate with wild game and fish. Wild turkey can be tricky to tame, requiring proper care in the field as well as some tried-and-true cooking techniques.

Very often we'll separate the breast meat, cooking it hot and fast in a stir-fry or pounded thin for cutlets. The rest of the turkey will always benefit from slow or pressure cooking. If you're looking for something you can do with any or all of your turkey, quickly, and keep your kitchen cool this time of year, look no further than this flavorful Instant Pot recipe.

- 3 pounds wild turkey
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1 cup chopped green bell pepper
- 1/2 cup chopped red bell pepper
- 4 cloves garlic, chopped
- 2 teaspoons paprika
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 teaspoon oregano
- 1 teaspoon thyme
- 1 teaspoon red chili flakes
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 1 jalapeño pepper, thinly sliced
- 3/4 cup sour cream



If using legs and thighs, separate at the joint. If using turkey breast meat, cut into large chunks, about the size of a fist. Place olive oil in Instant Pot or pressure cooker and sauté onion, bell peppers and garlic until onions are softened.

Add seasonings and continue to sauté, 1-2 minutes. Add turkey pieces and brown on all sides. Add chicken broth and seal the Instant Pot.

Cook on high pressure 25 minutes.

When the meat has pressure cooked, use the quick release button and let the pressure off. Once it is safe to remove the lid, remove all turkey pieces. Add sliced jalapeño peppers and whisk sour cream into the turkey liquid.

Let turkey cool slightly and, using a fork, pull all the meat from the remaining bones. Add "pulled" turkey back to the Instant Pot and simmer, allowing the liquid to thicken. Serve in a bun, over biscuits, rice or stir cooked pasta into the turkey mixture.

For 150 more great bird recipes and signed copies of Tiffany Haugen's popular cookbook, *Cooking Game Birds*, send a check for \$20 (free shipping) to Haugen Enterprises, P.O. Box 275, Waltherville, OR 97489 or order online at www.scotthaugen.com.



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2020-2021 PHOTO CONTEST

FINALIST PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded in general and youth categories.

1ST PRIZE: Nosler M48 Heritage Rifle

2ND PRIZE: Case (10 boxes) of Nosler Trophy Grade Ammo

3RD PRIZE: Leupold Scope

4TH PRIZE: Danner Alsea Hunting Boots

5TH PRIZE: Benchmade Altitude Hunting Knife

Each finalist will receive an OHA-engraved Coast knife, and entrants whose photos are selected to appear in Oregon Hunter will receive a Nosler hat.

Two finalists in each category will be chosen and published in each issue of Oregon Hunter, beginning with the March-April issue and ending with the November-December issue. From the 10 finalists in each category, five finalist prize winners will be chosen. These will be announced in the January-February issue of Oregon Hunter. Photos received after the entry deadline will be judged for the next issue.

ENTRY INSTRUCTIONS

Go to **OHA's website at www.oregonhunters.org** Click on **OHA CONTESTS**. Read the rules, and fill in the required fields. Click **CHOOSE FILE** and attach your photo. Click **SUBMIT**. That's it! You will be entered for a chance to win more great prizes courtesy of Nosler, proud sponsor and OHA supporter for more than a quarter century!

PHOTO CATEGORIES

GENERAL: Any aspect of hunting, including but not limited to preparation, camping, hunting situations, game and packing.

YOUTH: Same as above, except photos must feature a person who was 18 or younger at the time the photo was taken.

Current year contest prizes will be delivered the following year



NOSLER PHOTO CONTEST

GENERAL CATEGORY FINALISTS



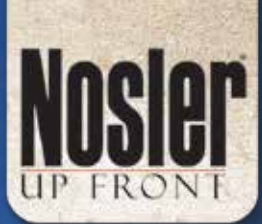
OHA member Travis Rutz of Prineville claims an OHA Coast Knife and a place in the finals of the 2020 Nosler Photo Contest for this photo of Molly posing with a limit of ducks taken on the last weekend of the season at Sauvie Island.

Jason Kamperman, OHA member in Bend, wins an OHA Coast Knife and a spot in the finals of the 2020 Nosler Photo Contest for this photo of Reed Kamperman and himself with a bighorn taken last year on Steens Mountain.



NOSLER PHOTO CONTEST

YOUTH CATEGORY FINALISTS



Matt Bartolotti, OHA member in Prineville, wins an OHA Coast Knife and a spot in the finals of the 2020 Nosler Photo Contest for this photo of Jolene Bartolotti with a Cascade elk she took on a mentored hunt last fall in the Upper Deschutes Unit.



OHA member Lucy Langer of Sherwood claims an OHA Coast Knife and a place in the finals of the 2020 Nosler Photo Contest for this photo of herself and Alyse Hurley on a Christmas break duck hunt near home.

NOSLER PHOTO CONTEST

HONORABLE MENTION



Darrell Auvil of Portland took this mule buck bedded in the rimrock of the Columbia Basin Unit in 2016.



Graham Armstrong of Eugene tagged this monster muley in the Northside Unit.



Gracelyn Johnson of Medford took this Jackson County blacktail with a Browning .243 Super Short Mag in a December youth hunt.



Vin Searles of Salem captured these images of Jeff Labhart and Brian Levering glassing for elk in the Minam Unit.





Shane Byerly of Dayton took this bear last fall in the Snake River Unit using a .300 WSM and 180-grain Nosler Accubonds.



Kansas Raber of Eagle Point tagged this Rogue Unit blacktail in a youth hunt.



Keaton Zarbano of Coos Bay took this bull on public land in the Chesnimnus Unit.



Steve Gilbert of Lebanon shared this photo of Shawn, Norlen and Brooke Nelson on a North Dakota pheasant hunt in December.



Dylan Marcum of Tillamook shared this photo of Matt Marcum with a Wilson Unit blacktail.

To enter your best shot for a chance to win a Nosler rifle or other great prizes, visit OHA's website: oregonhunters.org



A day after arrowing his own bull, Matt Marcum of Tillamook called in this coast archery bull for Dylan Marcum.

PARTING SHOTS

By Uncle Geddy

Family Planning for Modern Bear Hunters

Many young persons who have hunted and fished all their lives mistakenly assume that the outdoor ardor must also burn bright in the bosom of their beloved. When they meet that special someone who professes to love the outdoors, it seems like a match made in heaven, or at least a match made at the Sportsman's Show, which is almost as good.

While going through my mail one afternoon, I noticed a picture in a magazine of a happy couple posing with a bear that had recently assumed room temperature. The hunters, nattily attired in color-coordinated outfits, were looking at the bear the lady had bagged. All three of them had good teeth.

"Those aren't hunters," I told my daughter. "They're highly-paid models. Or at least two of them are."

Always eager to learn from my vast experience, Little Sassy fixed an attentive gaze on me. "What else is in the mail?"

"Well for one thing," I told her patiently, "they're clean, and they're wearing new clothes. Second, they're happy and they're together during hunting season."

I was still thinking about it that night when I showed up at Charlie's Fish & Chips for our monthly ritual of fish-fry.

O'Jambo pulled out a chair for me and poured me a glass of root beer. O'Jambo is my gunbearer. I had long admired the British hunter's tradition of employing staff to assist on the hunt. A few years ago, when I had an opening in that department, he applied. We've been working together ever since. I did away with his western European-influenced moniker and applied the Irish appellation O'Jambo lest he forget his position. Someday I hope to add a driver, a tracker and a Skinner to my entourage.

"Uncle Geddy, you look like you've been thinking," he said.



"Right you are, O'Jambo," I said. "I confess that there is a soft spot beneath this old greasy hat and bewhiskered exterior. Except in late May, when the old bruins are following the sows, it's not often that my thoughts turn to matters of the heart."

The Bear Mountain Gang is made up of a collection of bear hunters from all walks of life. But this evening, my mind was on the plight of the unwed bear hunters in our midst – our unfortunate brothers going through the seasons without the presence of a spouse and offspring.

I noticed the room went quiet as all turned to listen.

As happens so often in our monthly meetings, it was T. Roy who was the first to ask for advice. "What could an old coot like you know about love?" he asked.

"Well, my boy, it's like this. A bear hunter can have a spouse to make the sandwiches and kids to do the laundry, but only if he follows four important rules.

"Rule Number One is you have to pick the right spouse. Take the prospective partner on a hunt. If she brings lunch and an umbrella and doesn't mind watching a clearcut for eight hours, you might have a keeper."

O'Jambo has been following me around long enough to chime in with Rule Number Two.

"The trouble is," he said, "there is no good time to get married. But there are really, really bad times to get married. Like May and October."

They should talk about this kind of stuff in Hunter Ed.

"It should be against the law to get married in the fall. Tie the knot in October and you can count on missing a lot of good bear hunting. Miss your anniversary one

too many times and you might end up with too much time for hunting and no one to pack the lunch.

"Get married in June or July. Spring bear season is over by then and you can honeymoon until August."

June anniversaries are nice because, as the years go by, you can turn them into scouting trips without a non-participant spouse noticing.

Another point in favor of a June wedding is that most high school graduations take place in June. A future anniversary (scouting) trip with your spouse might keep you from sitting through some nephew's boring graduation ceremony.

I could see we had T. Roy's attention. He's been going out with RaeBelle since the Reagan Administration and she has been walking him by the window of the jewelry store for the last several years.

"I like all that talk about the honeymoon," he said. "But what about having kids? Doesn't that limit the amount of hunting days in a year?"

"It all depends on the arithmetic. That's why we have rule number three. Birth your children early in the year. Procreate in July and August. Just add nine months. See

how well Rule Number Three fits in with rules number one and two? If birthdays are strategically planned, there is no danger you will be absent at

an important family event that just happens to coincide with the opening of bear season. And you can tell the in-laws that Junior needs new binoculars or a fawn in distress call for his birthday.

"I could use a skunk cabbage in distress call," T. Roy said.

"As Junior gets older, you can take him scouting on extended getaways. When he's old enough, you can let him use the rifle you bought on his first birthday."

T. Roy was counting on his fingers. He had a faraway look in his eyes.

Last week Little Sassy saw T. Roy and RaeBelle headed out to T. Roy's favorite clearcut with a gunnysack of day-old pastries. It might be against the law to bait for bear, but RaeBelle had a jelly doughnut in one hand and an apple fritter in the other. I guess we forgot to tell T. Roy about Rule Number Four.



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Photo by Marcus Hockett