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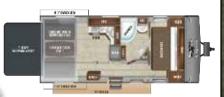


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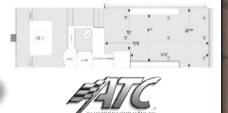


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14-15
Tips for
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Oregon photo essay: Elk camp is where some of our best memories are made





How an
Oregon
hunter beat
the odds to
take down a
dinosaur in
Mt. Emily

Put yourself in the circle of trust to win over wary waterfowl in Oregon this winter





Sh-36
Elk kills
bowhunter;
big game regs
changes for
2021; buck &
bull wasted by
poachers



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### Familiar places can heal us this fall

his year has been like none anyone can remember: a pandemic, a national panic, social unrest and rioting in the streets, and then fires burned Oregon towns to the ground. It's been enough to make many yearn for the normalcy of their old routines and wonder if life will ever be the same again.

Meanwhile, many of us are dealing with our own personal issues that would be difficult enough even under normal circumstances, but have become unbearable ordeals amid the chaos raging around us.

Where can one find relief and sanity?

Head for the hills!

When Ernest Hemingway's character Nick Adams returned wounded from war in "Big Two-Hearted River," he found a fire-ravaged countryside. Yet, he also found peace and solace in the solitude, as he camped and fished along the river.

Nick was happy as he crawled inside his tent .... It had been a hard trip. He was very tired .... He had made his camp. He was settled. Nothing could touch him. It was a good place to camp.

Hemingway's characters typically seek out nature as a place of refuge and redemption. We can and should do the same.

Hemingway's characters typically seek out nature as a place of refuge and redemption. We can and should do the same.

Even as the pandemic persisted and unrest would not rest, my son and I joined our hunting buddy from Baker for a bear hunt and scouting trip in Oregon's high country. It was an excuse to get away from the madness for a weekend. We camped on the edge of a Cascade wilderness in the same place where we camped last year and hung our friend's nice three-point buck that I helped him pack out of the wilderness.

It was good to escape the populated valley and breathe the alpine air, take in the amazing wildflowers in the mountain meadows, and enjoy the sound of the wind rushing through the tall firs, two of which still supported last year's meat pole.

A week later I joined OHA Field Director Bryan Cook on his long-awaited antelope hunt in southern Lake County, and we camped where my son and I had camped years before when we hunted sage grouse and he bowhunted for mule deer.

It was refreshing to smell the sage, behold the spectacular high-desert sunrise reflecting off a waterhole near camp, and savor the sunsets – even through the smoke of a distant wildfire.

When change leaves us reeling and grasping for some semblance of normalcy in our lives, meeting familiar faces in familiar places that haven't changed can provide us the reassurance that some of the things we cherish most in life are still there for us.

Yes, the landscape can change, but there's rebirth in that, too. My friend found his buck last year in a burn feeding on fresh browse regenerating in the sunlight and the soil enriched by the wildfire.

And yes, the generation before us can grow old, but not without lasting memories, and the generations behind us offer rebirth and hope for the future that our proud hunting heritage will carry on long after our own passing.

Our hearts go out to those who have suffered loss to the virus, the violence and the wildfires, and we hope that everyone is able to finally go afield for some quality time in Oregon's outdoors this fall. We all deserve it.

## ORIEGON HUNTTER

Editor & Publisher

Duane Dungannon (541) 772-7313

Editorial Assistants

Cynthia Martinich, Bret Moore

State Officers

President: Mike Ayers (541) 840-3723 Vice President: Ken McCall (541) 602-1819 Secretary: Mary Jo Hedrick (541) 576-4006 Treasurer: Mike Vallery (503) 538-8232

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Field Director
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Conservation Coordinator
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Amy Patrick (503) 949-9785
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### **WORK SHARP OREGON HUNTING QUIZ**

HELPING SHARP OREGON HUNTERS HOLD THEIR EDGE

### KNOW OREGON? WIN A WORK SHARP!

- 1. Tule Lake is a part of which National Wildlife Refuge complex?
- a) Umatilla
- c) Malheur
- b) Klamath Basin d) none of the above
- 2. Which is not among Oregon's top four most harvested ducks?
- a) wood duck
- c) pintail
- b) mallard
- d) wigeon
- 3. Which are hunted just outside the Crater Lake National Park boundary?
- a) blacktails
- c) pronghorns
- b) mule deer
- d) all of the above
- 4. The 4 in hunt number 465 means:
- a) pronghorn
- c) buck deer
- b) bighorn
- d) spring bear
- 5. Without drawing a special permit, you can now hunt Hart Mountain for:
- a) quail
- c) chukars
- b) waterfowl
- d) all of the above
- 6. Which game bird provides the lowest yearly harvest rate per hunter?
- a) turkey
- c) Hungarian partridge
- b) chukar
- d) ruffed grouse
- 7. Hurricane Divide is famous for its:
- a) pronghorns
- c) coast elk
- b) bighorns
- d) trophy blacktails
- 8. Which member of the Grand Slam of wild sheep resides in Oregon?
- a) Dall
- c) Desert
- b) Stone
- d) Rocky Mountain
- 9. A 150 score would qualify for the Oregon Record Book for which big game trophy?
- a) mule deer
- c) Roosevelt elk
- b) blacktail
- d) all of the above
- 10. Ladd Marsh is in what county?
- a) Klamath
- c) Baker
- b) Lake
- d) Union

**Answers:** 1-b; 2-a; 3-d; 4-a; 5-d; 6-a; 7-b; 8-d; 9-b; 10-d.



## WHERE IN OREGON WAS THIS PHOTO TAKEN?

Name this Oregon lake on the edge of a wilderness, 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: Nov. 20, 2020.





### LAST ISSUE'S WINNER:

### Thomas Greenleaf, Klamath Falls

Thomas's name was drawn from among the OHA members who recognized Mt. Bachelor.

### OUTDOOR OUTLOOK

OCTOBER 24-25

OHA Klamath Chapter youth chukar hunt, 541-643-7077

OCTOBER 28

Rocky Mountain elk 1st season opens

**NOVEMBER 1** 

Rocky Mountain elk 1st season closes

NOVEMBER 6

Western rifle deer season closes

NOVEMBER 7

Rocky Mtn elk 2nd season opens

**NOVEMBER 7-8** 

Youth general rifle season western deer hunt weekend

**NOVEMBER 14** 

Coast elk 1st season opens; late SW deer bow season opens

**NOVEMBER 15** 

Rocky Mountain elk 2nd season ends

**NOVEMBER 17** 

Coast elk 1st season closes

NOVEMBER 21

OHA Bend Chapter youth bird hunt, 541-480-7323:

Coast elk 2nd season opens; late NW deer bow season opens

NOVEMBER 27

Coast elk 2nd season closes

DECEMBER 1

Bobcat season opens

DECEMBER 6
Late SW deer bow season ends

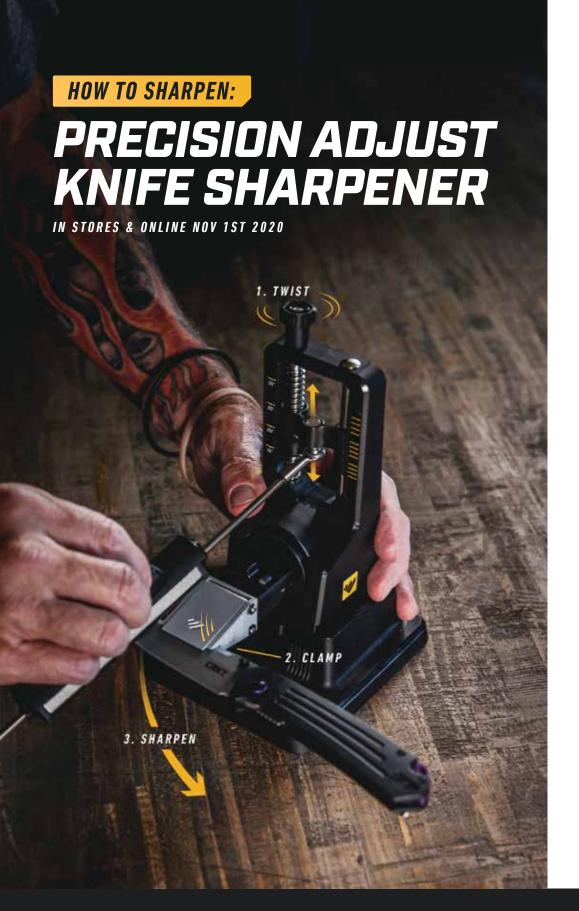
DECEMBER 13

Late NW deer bow season ends

DECEMBER 31

Seasons end for pheasant and bear

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## OREGON AFIELD

## So you still have grant a late cow tag?

Trouble Ahead: How a long elk season can produce long faces

"I know that you think you have so much time. Take it from me: it never will last." Randy Meisner (a founding member of The Eagles) penned those lyrics for *Trouble Ahead*, and he might as well have been singing about a late-season cow hunt.

The clock starts ticking soon on dozens of cow hunts in the Saddle Mountain, Upper Nehalem, Lower Columbia, Scappoose, Molalla and others, many of which have Dec. 1 openers and continue through Jan. 31 or go as far as March 31. For hunters who hold the Willamette Plus tag (spike or antlerless elk), the season started Aug. 1. It seems like a lot of time, but it is later than it has ever been. As



The author took this mixed bag of puddlers. Migrating birds have been arriving late and sometimes not staying, so be ready when they are.



Lifting fog revealed these coast elk. Don't let the weather send you away to hunt another day.

winter storms build off the coast, so do the chances of filling that tag.

Take a look at the Upper Nehalem No. 1 hunt, which runs from Dec. 1 to Jan. 31. Last season 33 hunters logged a total of 317 hunter days while harvest success ran 79 percent; 9.6 days afield to take an antlerless elk. Want to fill that tag this year? Plan on blocking out 10 days for the hunt. If you can only hunt weekends, the clock is really ticking.

An elk herd may range through less than 7 square miles. What that means is that a good hunting area may not have elk in it on Friday, but the elk could show up again on Sunday.

Count on rain and fog, both of which can be friend to the elk hunter. When fog settles over a valley, elk may feed out into meadows, clearcuts and old burns. When the fog shifts, a small herd may be caught in the open. It's better to sit in one good place than to keep moving.

Prepare for rain, but pray for tracking snow. If the forecast calls for 2 or 3 inches, cancel that Zoom meeting and head for the hills. Cut a fresh track, park the truck and follow. Have a partner meet you on the next road.

It's a matter of committing to the effort, spending time in the timber and watching the edges of meadows and clearcuts, whatever the weather throws at you.

When the season is long, it's easy to procrastinate. This year, don't put it off; hunt early in the season. You think you have so much time. Take it from me: it never will last. —*GARY LEWIS* 

### Hurry up and wait for migrant ducks

ain and northern storms – that's what Oregon's waterfowl hunters start wishing for this time of year. And that's about all we have in terms of hope, because for the first time since its 1955 inception, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service was unable to conduct hardly any of their spring waterfowl surveys due to COVID-19.

"Almost all spring waterfowl surveys on the continent were canceled, which includes our May aerial survey," shared Brandon Reishus, ODFW Migratory Game Bird Coordinator. The May survey is the one most Oregon hunters count on for a glimpse of what the season might yield.

In Oregon, Reishus noted habitat conditions hunters will want to be aware of. "Most of southcentral and southeast Oregon saw below-average winter precipitation. Also, temporary and seasonal wetlands in these regions – typically the most productive for breeding birds – were in poor shape. However, larger wetlands and marsh complexes still maintained good conditions for breeding from water which

held over from previous years."

In summer, Reishus suspected production would be about average, but noted that no formalized, statewide waterfowl production surveys were done.

"Habitat conditions are reported to be better in northeast Oregon, where winter precipitation and runoff was higher," he said. "In western Oregon, a dry April and early May likely led to good hatch success for local mallards, and the June rains will likely extend the period many wetlands stay wet this summer. Both of those could lead to better local production and duckling survival than what's typical."

Based on the past few seasons, ducks have been arriving late in the Pacific Northwest. That means now is the time to finish up any decoy preparation and blind maintenance.

By the time migratory birds make it to Oregon, they've likely been shot at and seen an array of decoy spreads, so do what you can to gain an advantage. See "Circle of Trust" on Page 24 for late-season duck-hunting tips. —Scott Haugen



Turkeys tend to gather in large flocks in fall.

## Bag your own holiday turkey

hen planning a wild turkey Thanksgiving, the main ingredient is a little harder to procure than the average Butterball, and it is probably going to be smaller. Figure on feeding 6 to 10 people.

First you need a turkey tag. Get one for every hunter in the family. This is a great family tradition. This year, paying for the privilege costs \$26.50. Don't expect to save any money on this deal. Turkey tags for Oregon youths cost only \$10.50, thanks to an OHA proposal a few years ago that also included the reduced-price youth sports pac.

What a wild turkey won't do for your budget, it will do for your culinary experience. Wild turkey, when it is not overcooked, is the best tasting turkey bar none. For a great recipe, see Tiffany Haugen's column in this issue on Page 40.

Southwest Oregon has more Rio Grande turkeys than any other corner of the state. Turkeys prefer edge habitat with oak trees and pines adjacent to land used for crops and livestock. Drive outside the cities of Medford, Albany, Salem or Eugene, and you will see exactly the type of cover that keeps these Texas transplants fat and happy. And, you will see turkeys.

The Trask, Willamette, Santiam, Stott Mountain, Alsea, McKenzie, Siuslaw, Indigo, Dixon, Melrose, Tioga, Sixes, Powers, Chetco, Applegate, Evans Creek and Rogue units are open for this general season hunt, and hunters may purchase tags through the end of the season.

The General Western Oregon fall turkey hunt begins Oct. 10 and runs through Jan. 31, for a bird of either sex, with a season bag limit of two.

This year, instead of just watching sports on TV, put sports back in the outdoors with shotguns and camouflage.

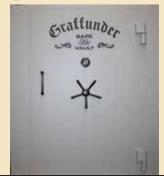
—GARY LEWIS

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## Oregon goes limited entry for archery

Commission delays changes to archery elk hunting regs

By Jim Akenson, OHA Sr. Conservation Director Jim@oregonhunters.org

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission on Sept. 11 approved the ODFW proposal for archery-only mule deer hunting in 2021, but delayed implementation of archery-only elk hunting at this time.

ODFW announced in August it would delay until 2022 the proposed changes to eastern Oregon archery elk season to become all controlled hunts. ODFW staff evaluated all their surveys and other forms of input, including recommendations from OHA and other sport group organizations, before making this announcement.

As OHA urged, ODFW decided to slow the process, allowing for more unit-specific hunter input and giving further refinement on tag numbers per unit, preference point variables, and the overall biological situation of elk per management unit.

OHA did not oppose the ODFW proposal to make all eastern Oregon units controlled for mule deer, based on the entire region experiencing poor survey counts or averaging just 50 percent of management objectives.

Controlled hunts for mule deer will help better distribute hunting pressure and reduce hunter crowding in popular areas. Currently, there is very little control or management of either.

### REMEMBER TO VOTE!

DONATE TO OHA'S VICTORY FUND AT oregonhunters.org/donate



OHA member LaDel Jones tagged this Cascade elk. OHA's Nosler Photo Contest receives nearly as many sasquatch photos as Cascade elk rifle photos. The season moves to November in 2021.

### Cascade elk season moves to November

By Tyler Dungannon, Conservation Coordinator TD@oregonhunters.org

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission approved the ODFW staff proposal to move the Cascade elk season to early November next year, so that this season will no longer break up the western Oregon buck deer season. Additionally, ODFW believes Cascade elk hunters will have better success in 2021 with the season dates set for Nov. 6-12.

OHA testified in support for the change, but we have ongoing concerns about the Cascade elk season opening on the same weekend as the extended youth deer hunting weekend. The additional youth deer hunting weekend was created to give kids who have not filled their western Oregon deer tags a chance to hunt one last weekend without crowding from adults. OHA advised ODFW staff of the need to monitor this change to ensure that youth hunters are still having quality hunting experiences during their extra youth weekend and are not being inundated by general season elk hunters.

Additionally, OHA suggested that ODFW and Oregon State Police ensure that law enforcement is not hindered by this change that creates concurrent general season deer and elk rifle hunting in the same area.

### Commission shoots down crossbow use

By Al Elkins, OHA Lobbyist Alvinelkins@yahoo.com

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission at its September meeting declined to authorize the use of crossbows for anylegal weapon big game seasons.

ODFW, as part of its staff recommendations for 2021, proposed that the use of crossbows be allowed in Oregon during any-legal-weapon seasons for big game (when rifles, bows, handguns, and other weapons are also allowed). This proposal was not in the original proposed changes.

Tyler Dungannon, OHA conservation

coordinator, gave the OHA position on the issue. In part Dungannon said:

"OHA is very cautiously supportive of this change, which has not been part of the big game review process. Recognizing that crossbows could only be permitted for use in hunts where all legal weapons are allowed is the only condition where OHA could consider supporting this. OHA is firmly opposed to having crossbows used in any archery season in Oregon."

After hearing public testimony, the Commissioners voted not to adopt the ODFW staff proposal.

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## Hunting deer in the footprints of Elbridge Trask

"Hope he does not get himself killd [sic] which wd be just like him. He was the most restless man I ever knew..."

From the journals of Osbourne Russell, 1845-57, writing from the Yam Hill District, where the mud was almost to the knees.

man named Trask left the area which is now Gearhart with a couple of Clatsop Indian guides in 1848. He was a mountain man. Osbourne Russell knew him from their trapping days out of Fort Hall in the Idaho country.

Elbridge Trask (one guesses his friends called him Bridge) was a restless sort, a hunter looking for new ground, and he found it in the land of the Killamook (writers of history changed the "K" sound to "T' somewhere around 1852). And like many a restless free-trapper, his name came to rest on a river and a mountain.

The blacktail hunter with a blackpowder rifle can follow in the tracks of Trask and get a sense of the land and the people that made history in the Tillamook country in the mid-1800s.

The Trask Unit muzzleloader hunt (114M) is made up of 42 percent public lands: bounded by Highway 18 on the south, Highway 47 on the east, Highway 6 on the north and Tillamook Bay and the Pacific Ocean on the west.

ODFW offered 220 tags in the 2020 season, with a bag limit of one deer in the 14-day season, which runs Nov. 7-20.

This "new" offering in the Big Game Regulations is part of a previous muzzleloader hunt, and as such we can look back at the harvest statistics to predict how hunters will do this season. In the last year for which the data was available, 181 hunters logged 975 hunter days for an average of 5.39 days per person. Harvest success ran 35 percent: 64 deer were taken,



OHA member Dale Thornton took this big Trask Unit fork. It was 6-1/2-years-old, and, when scored in 2018, it was the biggest 2-point in the Oregon Big Game Records taken with a muzzleloader.

which included 28 antlerless deer and 36 bucks.

A mid-November tag for black-tailed deer should be enough to get any hunter's enthusiasm up. Expect more rain than shine, but remember: blacktail hunting is better when it's wetter.

For the traveling hunter looking for a base camp, the biggest cities within the unit are Tillamook and McMinnville, but other possible base camps include Yamhill, Carlton, Sheridan, Forest Grove, Willamina and Beaver.

Scouting is more important than ever in these days of lower blacktail numbers, but while it's true deer populations are not what they were in the decades after the Tillamook Burn, deer numbers are probably more like what Elbridge Trask would have been used to.

Look for areas to hunt where timber cutting has been occurring for several years in succession. Forest fires large and small can also have a positive impact on hunting. Records of recent burns are kept on several government websites. Harvest success shifts from area to area as deer numbers go up and down in response to

the quality of the habitat.

Access can be found through ODFW's Access & Habitat program, which has secured property in the Trask Unit. For more information, click on myodfw.com and search Access & Habitat.

Get away from the road and the vehicle, sit down with binoculars, and let the glass cover the ground.

When a deer is discovered, plan a stalk to get within 100 yards, just like a hunter would have done in the 1850s.

Plan to have a bear tag in pocket. The Coast Range is bear country, and 59 Trask Unit hunters tagged bears last fall.

The Trask muzzleloader hunt is one of several great hunts to plan for in 2021. With a muzzleloading rifle in hand, you are walking in the tracks of the pioneers.

For a good campfire read, pick up a copy of *Trask* by Don Berry, published in 1960.



To order a signed copy of Hunting Oregon, send \$24.80 (includes shipping) to Gary Lewis Outdoors, P.O. Box 1364, Bend, OR 97709 or visit www.GaryLewisOutdoors. com



## Get aggressive for blacktails

s I write these words in summer, many of the trail cameras I have set out are showing blacktail fawns popping up. Three sets of fawns caught on camera in one area over the past two days were born between July 7-10. Why is this important to a late season blacktail hunter? Tracking blacktail fawn births is a big part of my late season hunting success.

Blacktail deer have a gestation period of about 200 days. Count back 200 days from a fawn's birth and that gives you the peak of the rut in that specific area. In my example, the peak of the rut hit around Nov. 20-24. I saw too many fawns in early June to presume this was a second rut.

This information not only reveals peak rut occurrence, but also pre-rut timing when many bucks are on the move in search of does and bucks they'll be competing with. Mind you, this is not an across-the-board deal. Trail camera work, along with spring and summer scouting over the years, has revealed to me the blacktail rut greatly varies, peaking in late October in some areas, and going into early December in others. Why the variance, I've not a clue, it's just what I've observed through years of being in the blacktail woods.

Once you know how bucks are behaving this time of year, you can assess how to hunt them. Start with the obvious, by targeting does. Keep track of adult does and watch them closely. This time of year, a doe is in heat every 28 days, for about 24 hours. If a buck's not with them in the morning, check them mid-day, then again in the afternoon, then again before dark. Bucks often push does all night, and they get tired of being pestered. So, does will lay down, not feed much at night, and resume feeding throughout the day. When up and feeding, does urinate, and this is when bucks sniff out estrogen levels. A higher concentration of bucks will often result in does being more active in daylight.



The author arrowed this massive-bodied buck with only moments of daylight left, as the buck pushed a doe from thick cover.

More bucks also means hunters can be aggressive. Don't misconstrue aggressive for careless. Always play the wind and watch your movement. Rattling can be very productive, but it's never a guarantee. I've rattled in bucks in back-to-back sets, then nothing in 30-plus sets.

If you're rattling from a stand, you can do so throughout the day, keeping in mind you're trying to catch the ear of a buck that's on the move, cruising for does. If hunting on foot, try picking a horizontal ridge, starting at one end rattling and calling your way to the other end, facing into the wind or working a crosswind the whole time.

If a known big buck is in the area, don't be afraid to stomp the ground, rake trees, and bust limbs in an effort to catch its attention when rattling. This aggressive approach rarely attracts lesser bucks.

If it's raining and windy, take the day off work and hunt until dark. Wind and rain are the best cover we have, and is all I use for scent protection. On such days, bucks are often moving all day long as cooler conditions keep their body temperature down

Decoys can work great, too. I'm a fan of Montana Decoys brand, as they are light and easy to carry. If a whitetail decoy doesn't set right with you, paint the tail black, or simply save the tail from a blacktail you kill to dry out and pin on the decoy.

Blacktails are not highly vocal deer, but they do make sounds. Buck grunts combined with doe bleats can be very productive when trying to lure a deer to within bow range.

If you're in an area where multiple trails meet, hang a treestand or set up a ground blind. I like having treestands at least 20 feet off the ground to keep my scent above the forest floor; remember, wind travels like a river, in horizontal layers. If you're hunting from a ground blind, place pre-cut carpet on the ground to keep things quiet.

Don't be afraid to move and try to make something happen in your quest for a late blacktail buck. Watch the deer, monitor weather conditions, and spend as much time in the field as possible, as that's the best way I've found to fill a late-season tag on the most challenging deer to hunt in North America.



For signed copies of Scott Haugen's bestselling book, Trophy Blacktails: The Science of The Hunt, visit www.scotthaugen. com. Follow Scott's adventures on Instagram and Facebook.



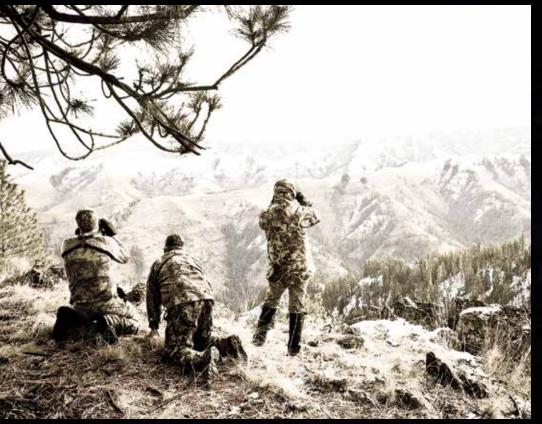
# EXPEDITION EXPEDITION EXPEDITION

Photo Essay by Zach Mansfield

lk camp. Those two simple words flood my memory bank with sights, sounds, and smells that are as fresh and real as the day they happened. I have been fortunate to share all sorts of elk camps, from 5-star lodges, to a piece of Tyvek on semi-flat ground. They're all special to me.

For six years of my life, I didn't get to share in any type of elk camp. I was deployed around the world, working my way through the Navy enlisted ranks. In the early part of my enlistment, I didn't miss the woods; I was busy finding my way through the Navy, and it consumed a majority of my time.

However, about halfway through my enlistment, I began to miss the smell of my old musty wall tent. The crackling of a fire in the night is certainly more soothing than the sounds of jets launching off an aircraft carrier. MRE and chow hall food were fine, but freezedried meals in the mountains or a big dinner in a wall tent surrounded by family and friends were what really stoked my fire. I won't say that elk camp is the reason I decided to not make a career of the military, but it was certainly one of the reasons that made it easy to leave.



A sure-footed horse or mule in the mountains of eastern Oregon heightens the elk hunting experience.

In second-season hunts, temperatures drop, snow falls and bulls become more concerned with surviving the elements than outwitting hunters. Advantage hunters.



Chelcee Mansfield holds the case of her .280 Ackley Improved after a successful shot.



Good hunting partners are worth their weight in gold. Zach Mansfield and Chad Dotson enjoy the moment with the bull of a lifetime for Zach.



If someone were to hold my feet to the fire and ask me to choose an animal to hunt the rest of my life, it would be the Rocky Mountain elk. I love the blood pumping adrenaline rush of the close encounters during archery season. I don't think I could go a year without sitting inside the comforts of a warm wall tent during the late season hunt. The addiction of hunting late season, big bulls post rut is the apex of any western hunt. Matching wits with an old big bull that has survived predators, bad weather and hunters for years – and finally getting to wrap your hands around his antler - is the sweetest of prizes.

The beauty of elk camp is that it means so many things to so many different people. For some, it's a vacation, a chance to disconnect from the modern world and reconnect with family and friends in the purest of fashions. As much as I love my late-season hunts, my early season backpack and horseback hunts have a special place in my heart. It's what I cut my teeth on: learning how to handle myself, my stock, and the merciless wilderness is an ever-changing dynamic that I take pride in performing to the best of my abilities.

For me, it's simple. Elk camp is wherever I find elk, and whatever the best means is to hunt them. My favorite hunts are during archery season. The fair weather, seasoned stock animals,



Elk camps are a uniquely American family tradition.

tuned archery equipment and beautiful views are something that I look forward to every year.

My two best bulls of my life have come during later season hunts, where the canvas of my tent likely kept myself and a couple buddies from freezing to death. I should probably pursue more rifle tags in northeast Oregon, but I just can't seem to shake the one or two close calls, that I get every September that either leave me shaking with adrenaline. Or better yet, shaking with adrenaline and punching my tag.

As much as I romanticize about elk camp, there are some parts of it that are plain hard work. Once an animal is down, loading stock or your pack and getting out can be a dangerous and exhausting endeavor. Setting up and taking down a wall tent in bitter cold temps can make me miss the beaches of Guam.

When it's all said and done, I know without a doubt I come out of elk season better mentally and physically, and if I've played my cards right, my freezer is filled.

Hunting elk is a western way of life, and it honors the rich hunting heritage of our past. Getting to enjoy an elk camp is a gift. Those precious days every fall seem to slip by too fast, which is why I make sure I soak in every last bit of elk camp that I can.



# TAKING DOWN A DINOSAUR

### By Shannon FitzGerald

umor has it dinosaurs still roam Oregon, and each year nearly 5,000 hunters hope the behemoths are not extinct by opening day. The Mt. Emily No. 2 centerfire elk hunt is slated from late October to early November, and has the reputation of concealing some of Oregon's rankest bull elk.

And thus, it typically demands about an 18-year ice age to draw the tag.

Tanis Conroy pulled it the first time she applied.

"Oh gosh, babe you will not believe what just happened!" Gordon declared last June.

"What?"

"You drew the Mt. Emily tag – and you had no points!"
"OK."

"No, seriously. You don't understand!"

"Yes, I do," Tanis countered.

"People die for this tag! They have to have 18 points; you drew it with no points!"

"Oh, that's awesome."

"No...yeah...that is really awesome!" Gordon affirmed, seeking desperately to help his wife comprehend the great improbability of her good fortune.

Gordon immediately got on the smart horn and contacted all their friends with the incredible news. As texts poured in, Tanis's excitement grew.

Tanis and her husband Gordon reside in Oregon City. She works as a probation officer on the Washington side of the Columbia River. He owns Broken Horn Outfitters where he guides in Central Oregon.

Unfamiliar with the Mt. Emily Unit himself, and eager to place Tanis in the best possible position, Gordon called Bobby Corey of Hunt Oregon to book the dates.

In the meantime, Tanis practiced diligently with a .300 Winchester Short Magnum. Her only elk prior was a cow at 200 yards. Certain the terrain could warrant shooting greater distances, Tanis would be ready.

Some things you can prepare for; others you can't.

In late October, flying back from a friend's birthday party in Arizona, Tanis got terribly sick. She planned to meet her husband in Pendleton the same night, but once Gordon heard his wife on the phone, he insisted she wait until morning.

When Tanis arrived in Pendleton, she and Gordon met up with Bobby Corey. That same afternoon, Tanis was in elk.

"I'll shoot that, I'll shoot that!" Tanis said of the first bull she saw.

"No, you won't; you're going to see bigger ones," Gordon assured Tanis.

"Do I have to take your bullets away?" Bobby warned.

Her first shot came on Halloween, and it would haunt Tanis for days.

Mornings were the worst time for her. She would bundle up, but still shiver.

Bobby and friend Blaine Hendrickson got Tanis a crack at an amazing bull of around 320 inches. The bull reacted to her shot and ran into a thicket.

"There was no blood and it was clearing logs," Blaine detailed. Tanis was devastated.

But whoever said being sick never brought good fortune?

Friday morning, they spotted five bulls feeding together about two miles away; three were taking turns fighting, while one enormous bull stood a short distance away watching, before withdrawing back into the timber.

Bobby looked at Gordon, "We need to kill that bull."

They retreated to Bobby's cabin for lunch and to devise an evening game plan.

After lunch, Bobby and Blaine suggested Tanis shoot her gun just in case.

After nailing the target a couple times, Bobby and Blaine simultaneously agreed, "Nope, you're good."

Tanis's confidence was up, and she was ready for "The Dinosaur," the moniker Bobby and Blaine had given the bull.

That evening, Blaine had eyes on the two bulls feeding out from his position.

The ridge was cold, and Tanis, suffering from a lingering cold, was shivering in an emergency blanket as she waited for the bulls to graze into view.

"Oh no, please don't," Tanis thought. She coughed quietly into her shirt. Behind her, Gordon and Bobby wore a startled look of concern.

At the same moment, Blaine observed the smaller bull glance toward Tanis, turn and move back into cover.

Saturday was Tanis's last day of her guided hunt. It was cold, and she was shivering on the ridge again.

"The goal is to keep Tanis warm," Bobby said. "If you have to cuddle with her, Gordon, get down and cuddle."

They waited in vain for The Dinosaur to appear, but finally

walked out with headlamps.

Tanis thought she had missed her only chance, but Bobby wasn't having it.

Bobby extended Tanis's hunt.

"We can go hunt a lesser bull tomorrow, or we can come back here and hunt for The Dinosaur," Bobby explained. Blaine believed the bull was still in the area.

"Nope, we go big, or go home," Tanis stated, and it became the theme.

"OK," Bobby instructed, "dress warm tomorrow."

Early Sunday morning, Nov. 3, Tanis and Gordon followed Bobby to meet Blaine, who had gone in early.

Tanis noticed it was much warmer. Not 60° warm, but 35° warm.

An alarmed Bobby spotted another person in front of them – and it wasn't Blaine.

They caught up with the other hunter as fast as they could.

"Are you a spike hunter?" Bobby asked. The hunter confirmed. "Can we get ahead of you?" Bobby appealed, explaining the situation.

The spike hunter obliged courteously, and asked to tag along.

It was steep country and hard hiking, but they made it down to Blaine's position.



Tanis Conroy overcame incredible odds to draw a Mt. Emily tag and overcame illness to fill it.

"He is just right over there!" Blaine whispered nervously indicating the Dinosaur's location across the canyon.

Bobby got Tanis in position.

"OK, when you're ready."

She took two deep breaths and shot.

"It's still standing!" she heard.

Tanis chambered another round and shot again.

Initially, thinking The Dinosaur ran

down the hill, Tanis and Blaine jumped up and followed Bobby for a possible third shot.

Then they heard a big crash and stopped and looked at each other.

"I know you hit it," the spike hunter said. Gordon agreed.

Tanis followed Bobby through thick bushes and everybody appeared in the clearing, but nobody approached the fallen Dinosaur out of respect for Tanis.

The bull lay motionless against a tree.

"Oh my gosh!" Tanis gasped and, overwhelmed, started to cry.

As Bobby recruited packing help, they found Tanis's first shot went directly through the elk's heart and her second pierced the lungs.

It took the group all day to pack The Dinosaur out.

Each night Bobby's 3-year-old son, Hales, would ask his dad on the phone if Tanis had gotten an elk. When his wife and son came to meet them that last time, Hales told Tanis, "I am so proud of you."

So was Gordon, who entered Tanis and her Dinosaur in the Pacific Northwest Sportsmen's Show and also in North American Hunting Competition for biggest





The rack of The Dinosaur won top honors in a pair of contests where it was entered.

antlers; they took 1st place in both contests. "She was a trooper," Blaine recalled, complementing Tanis's determination even in her condition.

So next time the odds appear massed against someone's hunting season, remember, with under one third of 1% draw chance, while 100% sick, Tanis Conroy took her 348" Dinosaur right through the heart at 355 yards.







Late birds have been deceived by the time they arrive in Oregon, so you must go the extra mile to win their hearts and minds.



WALLOWA COUNTY MALLARDS/ZACH MANSFIELD

"This heart of mine has been hurt before; this time I want to be sure."

—Foreigner

rust is an important thing in any aspect of life. In waterfowl hunting, building the birds' trust is a critical component, and it's something that is often overlooked by hunters. Trust comes and goes with waterfowl as the season progresses. Birds that were once easily fooled become ever so wary throughout the season, and hunters need to adapt and figure out what it takes to regain trust to commit to our decoy spreads.

How do you go about gaining a bird's trust – especially, when the trust has been betrayed since early October over and

Sometimes less

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calling for birds

that are now

suspicious

of both.

over by the many camoclad waterfowlers along the migration route before they arrive in Oregon? You just need to make them feel safe and secure coming into your decoy setup. The first thing I look for is good concealment – finding or creating a place that looks entirely natural. Sometimes if one little thing doesn't look natural, the birds will flare

or circle a few times and leave. So make sure you cover all of your bases when setting up.

Another great tactic to employ is to take a break for a week or so in the area you normally hunt to let the birds rest, relax and regain their comfort level to approach decoy spreads. Sun can be a waterfowler's worst enemy, as the glare and reflection from foreign objects can flare birds. Sunglasses, thermoses, decoy bags, shell boxes and many others are often culprits. One time I even noticed that I had a small piece of foil hanging out of my blind bag from my breakfast burrito. I put it away, and the birds started to commit. It's amazing that something that small can have such a big impact on your hunting.

To build trust, calling is very important, and knowing when to, when not to, how much or how little to call is key in earning a bird's trust. Birds are wary by November, and the smallest things can spook them, so keep in mind their keen eyesight and

prepare your hunt accordingly.

Use natural cover, and remember the birds are looking down on you and can see right into your pit or open-faced blind, so staying concealed until you holler, "Take 'em!" means staying hidden from above, as well. One year while hunting near Brownsville, we had several large groups of birds circling and flaring from our pit blind. Once we moved extra grass to the open pit faces, the birds made the commitment.

Earning a bird's trust again and again is tough, and as the season progresses into the last few weeks, it's time to make sure your calling is on point. Whether you are a beginner, good caller or a very seasoned

veteran, it all boils down to making the right sounds at the right time. This is easier said than done, but knowing what the birds want to hear and when is essential. I don't consider myself an expert caller – I might be average – and how I gauge the birds is by listening to what they are doing. For example, late in the mornings, I limit my calling to light feed calls and sprig whistles. I'll

get a little more aggressive with birds that react heavily.

One morning a few years back, during a hunt in Linn County east of I-5, my hunting partner left around 10 a.m. when I was 2 birds short of my bag limit. I told myself that I was going to hold out for a nice drake pintail and mallard. The hunting was slow, but I knew birds would be returning from their morning feeding grounds by noon. For about 30 minutes it remained slow, until I saw a lone greenhead headed my way. He was looking hard as he approached the pond. I chuckled and threw a feed call at him as he craned his neck back around, and as he dove to the left to circle one more time, I hit him with another feed call. The bird turned and cupped, and that was all I needed to put a good bead on him.

That beautiful drake put me one away from my limit, and it was no more than five minutes later when a single drake pintail approached from my left. I gave him a feed call and pintail whistle, and then shut



The author bagged this mixed bag in Lane County last season during stormy weather.

up. It took him only one pass to circle and come straight in, giving me my seventh bird of the morning. I was done by 11 and decided to sit and watch as larger and larger groups of birds began to return. That being said, it pays to be patient, especially late in the game.

Sounding enticing with your calling will make wary birds trusting one last time.

Winter birds may be looking to pair up for the coming breeding season, which can also tip the scales in our favor. Decoying wary birds is difficult, and often it's best to only take a half dozen or fewer decoys and set them in areas birds prefer.

Hunting feeding locations without decoys has also proven to be very effective for us in the past, but this requires extensive scouting to pattern bird movements.





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Sometimes small decoy spreads work better in Oregon when the birds grow wary of large spreads.

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Great calling and decoy spreads can be what typically put more ducks and geese in your bag, but the location you choose to hunt is probably the most critical, according to Brian Lovett, Realtree.com duck blog author.

"I've had some very good days over some pretty questionable spreads simply because I'd found where ducks or geese wanted to be," Lovett said. In-season scouting is very critical and should be done on a regular basis throughout the season. According to Lovett, hunters must have up-to-the-minute info on where birds are feeding, loafing, traveling and roosting to enjoy continued success. That takes a lot of work, and you'll have to sacrifice some hunting time, but the results are worthwhile.

You don't want to overdo it or be too skimpy on the plastic painted floatables. Later on in the season, movement with a jerk cord is crucial to convince flocks of northern birds. Rig a couple with birds in between that will move from the cord's ripples as well. Create good landing zones, and always position them in accordance to the wind so you know which direction the birds will be coming from.

By waiting until mid-morning to hunt "rest and digest" bodies of water, you can find some great success on returning birds that have been out to feed earlier in the morning. Patience is a huge part of any waterfowler's success, and sticking it out when things are slow will only give you more opportunities.

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## **New OHA** club forms at **Oregon State**

new OHA club has taken wing at Oregon State University, one that OHA hopes will serve as a model for other college campuses in the state. Earlier this year, the Oregon Hunters Association (OSU Chapter) received formal recognition from the College of Agricultural Sciences (Department of Fisheries and Wildlife) at Oregon State. The Department of Fisheries and Wildlife is an awardwinning program.

While in its infancy, the club already has 24 members. Among those is Jacob Berge of Tillamook, who spearheaded organizing the OHA student club at the university with the idea of being an ally, training-ground, and promotional arm of OHA – a student chapter of sorts. Berge serves as Youth Ambassador to the OHA State Board of Directors.

The club currently falls within the geographic area of the Mid-Willamette Chapter of OHA.

Technical assistance will be available from the state and local OHA offices and OSU faculty.

Grass-roots projects have already begun. The club began working with ODFW earlier this year to secure private property access to hunt spring turkeys. Club founders have already taken two youth hunters on their first-ever gobbler hunts. The group experienced the usual ups and downs, watching birds fly off the roost before they could get set-up and talk to them, and eventually, after changing locations in the afternoon, calling in two nice toms. These hunts plant valuable seeds that can be nourished and groomed into future partners in conservation. It's about passing it on.

The new club is now an option for students looking to enhance their college life by getting hands-on experience, making new friends or building a resume. The OSU website menu now includes hunting, alongside the Polo Club, Organic Grower's



Members of the new OHA Club at OSU took youth turkey hunters afield this spring.

Club and Vitis Association (wine club), among many others. There is also a link to OHA's website, which could drive traffic to and bring some newer, younger members.

Associate Professor Dr. Clinton Epps serves as the club's faculty advisor. According to OSU, Epps "studies wildlife ecology and conservation genetics, focusing on wildlife movement and impacts of disease. His work has influenced landscape-scale conservation in North America and Africa and management of game species, threatened species and wildlife on public lands."

Epps has also worked with OHA Conservation Director Jim Akenson, and is an accomplished hunter.

Two years ago, the OHA State Board began discussing the concept of a Youth Ambassador position to serve on the board in an advisory role to offer youthful insights and provide valuable experience to qualified students. After an interview process, Berge was appointed to the newly created position and has served admirably since. He is now a third-year student at OSU, majoring in Natural Resources, with an emphasis in Forest Ecosystems. He is also an active OHA member and serves in the Army National Guard.

Berge has participated in numerous board meetings and serves on two important committees. He and fellow student Jonathan McGhehev established a constitution for the OSU club.

Unfortunately for the fledgling club and all of us, the COVID-19 pandemic hit precisely at the wrong time, when the club was just getting rolling. It hasn't had the opportunity to conduct enough meetings or work with Dr. Epps.

OHA hopes that these great kids and all youngsters get to do their thing this fall.

For more information visit https:// sli.oregonstate.edu/find-organization or e-mail hunters@oregonstate.edu.

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





### **OHA** chapters say goodbye to 2020, slate 2021 events

elow are the regularly scheduled times and places for chapter events, which are subject to change according to gathering restrictions. Please confirm.

#### **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: canceled, but we held some raffles

**Update:** The Coastal Farm & Ranch and Les Schwab raffles were drawn Oct. 1.

#### **BEND**

**Rex Parks** 541-480-0230



oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter

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

**2021 banquet:** March 13, The Riverhouse Conv. Ctr.; call 541-480-9848. We will auction an A&H statewide deer tag.

**Update:** We held an outdoor chapter meeting in September at Bend Pine Nursery Park. Our chapter is a proud sponsor of the Northwest Ladies Hunting Camp, held again this year without a hitch.

### **BLUE MOUNTAIN**

**Dean Groshong** (541) 377-1227

Chapter Meetings: 4th Tuesday of the month, The Saddle, 2200 Court St., Pendleton, 6 p.m. meeting, 5:30 p.m. dinner and drinks available.

2021 banquet: April 3, Pendleton Convention Ctr.

### **CAPITOL**

**Erik Colville** (503) 851-8409

ohacapitol.webs.com

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

### **OHA BANQUET DATES** SET SO FAR FOR 2021

April 3 **BAKER** BEND : March 13 **BLUE MOUNTAIN** April 3 April 17 **CAPITOL** March 20 **CLATSOP COUNTY HOODVIEW** Feb. 20 **JOSEPHINE COUNTY** March 20 **KLAMATH** April 24 **LAKE COUNTY** April 3 **MID-WILLAMETTE** April 17 **PIONEER** March 6 REDMOND Feb. 27 **TILLAMOOK** May 1 **TIOGA** March 20 TUALATIN VALLEY (> April 10 A&H Statewide Deer Tag Auction

2021 banquet: April 17, Columbia Hall, Salem fairgrounds.

**Update:** Winning tickets for the Nosler and Les Schwab raffles were pulled Sept. 5. We held chapter meetings via Zoom in August and September.

### **CHETCO**

Wes Ferraccioli (541) 450-4100

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

### **CLATSOP COUNTY**

Jim Bergeron (503) 458-6829

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

2021 banquet: March 20, Clatsop County Fairgrounds.

**Update:** We will hold the Les Schwab and Coastal raffles in 2021.

#### **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.

**Update:** Our chapter recently donated \$1,000 to OSP in our area for eight trail cameras, SD card readers and SD cards. We have held socially distanced chapter meetings outdoors.

### **EMERALD VALLEY**

**Tony Hilsendager** (541) 729-0877

EmeraldOHA@live.com

**Chapter Meetings:** 2nd Wednesday, 7 p.m. Board meeting at 5:30 p.m.

### **HOODVIEW**

**Kelly Parkman** (503) 706-7481

oregonhunters.org/hoodview-chapter

Facebook: Hoodview OHA

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Thursday, 7 p.m., board meeting at 5:50, Elmer's, 1933 NE

181st Ave., Portland. **2021 banquet:** Feb. 20

**Update:** After a couple months off, chapter meetings begin again this month on Nov. 12. Our holiday party is Dec. 4 at Portland Gun Club. Our chapter plans to promote the Adult Learn to Hunt program.

### **JOSEPHINE COUNTY**

**Cliff Peery** 

(541) 761-3200

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

Update: Our annual campout was held at Willow Lake July 23-26, and included a board meeting and general meeting. We were back to Elmer's for our September general meeting.

#### **KLAMATH**

**Allan Wiard** 

(541) 884-5773 ohaklamath.webs.com

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

2021 banquet: April 24, Klamath County Fairgrounds; call 541-882-9593.

**Update:** The Youth Chukar Hunt date was changed to Oct. 24-25. Winning tickets for the Coastal and Les Schwab raffles were drawn Sept. 1. Our chapter put on a barbecue and orientation Aug. 21 for the Gerber Reservoir youth antelope hunters. Aug. 7-8 was our chapter guzzler campout.

### **LAKE COUNTY**

**Larry Lucas** 

(530) 640-3368

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

2021 banquet: April 3, Fairgrounds; call 541-810-1617.

**Update:** Two banquet raffles, Coastal Farm & Ranch and Les Schwab, were drawn on Labor Day. We held our banquet auction via radio on KORV 93.5 FM on Aug. 7. Fall plans included a September guzzler project and goose/duck boxes at Dog Lake on Oct. 17.

### LINCOLN COUNTY

**Todd Williver** 

(541) 648-6815

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



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#### **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's youth shoot scheduled for Aug. 22 was canceled.

### **MID-COLUMBIA**

**Stanley Walasavage** (541) 296-1022

Quarterly Chapter Meetings: 6 p.m., ODFW Screen Shop, The Dalles. Next meeting is scheduled for Nov. 19.

**Update:** We hope to hold our chapter meeting on Nov. 19, where we plan to draw the winner of the Coastal Farm & Ranch raffle for a Nosler M48 .300 Win Mag.

### **MID-WILLAMETTE**

**Jeff Mack** 

(503) 949-3787

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

**2021 banquet:** April 17.

**Update:** Chapter volunteers had a work day on Old Peak Meadow in mid-September. Our chapter purchased birds for the Sept. 26-27 E.E. Wilson youth pheasant hunt and members assisted at the event. Thanks go to Jacob Williams for his service as chapter president, and thanks to Jeff Mack for taking on the presidency.

#### **OCHOCO**

John Dehler, III (541) 815-5817

Chapter Meetings: 1st Tuesday, 7 p.m., Room 1868, 152 NW 4th St., Prineville. **Update:** Our chapter proudly sponsors Ladies Hunting Camp. This year participants came from as far away as Florida, New Jersey and Wisconsin.

### **PIONEER**

**Brian Andrews** (503) 266-2900

oregonhunters.org/pioneer-chapter

**Chapter Meetings:** 1st Wednesday, 7 p.m., come early for dinner, Canby Rod & Gun Club.

**2021 banguet:** March 6; call 503-710-1233.

Update: Sight-in-Days at Canby Rod & Gun Club were held Sept. 19-20 and 26-27. Volunteers worked on our guzzler project and our Adopt-A-Highway route Sept. 12. We are planning to host a booth at the Portland Expo Sportsman's Show Feb. 10-14, 2021.

#### **REDMOND**

K. C. Thrasher (541) 419-7215

OHA line (541) 383-1099

oregonhunters.org/redmond-chapter

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

**Update:** We held elections in August.

### **ROGUE VALLEY**

**Ricky Clark** 

(530) 905-1186

oregonhunters.org/rogue-valley-chapter

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

**Update:** The youth pheasant hunt scheduled for Sept. 19-20 at Denman Wildlife Area was canceled due to poor air quality in the region.

### **TILLAMOOK**

**John Putman** (503) 842-7733

Chapter Meetings: 3rd Monday, 7

p.m., Tillamook PUD.

Update: We will hold the Les Schwab and Coastal raffles in 2021.

#### **TIOGA**

**Marcey Fullerton** (541) 267-2577

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

**2021 banquet:** March 20.

**Update:** Chapter volunteers joined with RMEF Sept. 19-20 for a work party at the Seven Devils Recreation Site.

### **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.

**2021 banquet:** April 10. We will auction an A&H statewide deer tag.

Update: As of this writing, chapter meetings are on hold until Washington County is in Phase Two of re-opening. The Coastal Farm & Ranch raffle and the Les Schwab raffle are being held, with drawings scheduled for the Christmas Party on Dec. 12.

#### **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 picnic at Roseburg Rod & Gun Club was canceled. We plan to start up chapter meetings again in January, as usual.

### UNION/WALLOWA COUNTY

**Morgan Olson** (541) 786-1283

**Chapter Meetings:** La Grande Library,

next date TBA.

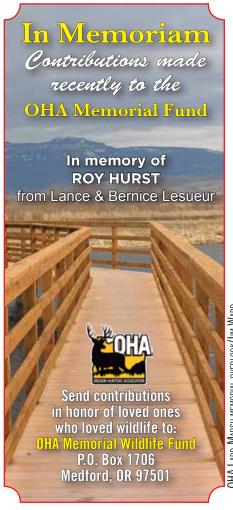
### YAMHILL COUNTY

**Andy Bodeen** (503) 490-2489

ohavamhill.com

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

**Update:** Our chapter and Newberg Rod and Gun Club held a youth shotgun shoot Aug. 15. Of the 30 participants, at least a third were first-time shooters. Volunteers are staffing the Stimson Gates on October and November weekends. We are holding some raffles, with winners to be drawn at our general chapter meeting Dec. 10; go to our chapter website ohayamhill.com to buy tickets.



OHA LADD MARSH MEMORIAL OVERLOOK/JIM WARD

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## 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. Winners are 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.

### Most recent 2020 OHA Gun Calendar Raffle winners:

3-Jun – Weatherby Deluxe 12 gauge, Garrett Weaver, Roseburg

10-Jun – Howa lightweight gray Cerakote KUIU Verde .223, Jenice Lawson, Rickreall

17-Jun – Bergara B-14 Hunter 6.5 Creedmoor, Becky Roberts, Salem

24-Jun – Springfield XD Model 2 subcompact .45 ACP, Jerry Walker, Corvallis

1-Jul – Flag Citadel 1911 in .45 ACP, David Tetrick, Portland

8-Jul – Browning X-Bolt Hells Canyon .26 Nosler, Dr. Melinda Judd, McMinnville

15-Jul – TC Compass 7mm-08, Paul Donheffner, Salem

22-Jul – Stoeger 3500 Camo Max-4 3-1/2 Mag, William Priaulx, Junction City

29-Jul – Savage THXP SS .260 Rem. W/3-9x40 Nikon, Tom Bosworth, Medford

5-Aug – Legacy Pointer 12 gauge O/U, John Hall, Drain

12-Aug – Rem ADL SS synthetic black .270/3-9x40 scope, Madeline Kuenzi, Turner

19-Aug – Bergara B-14 Hunter 7mm Rem. Mag, Terry Shipman, Myrtle Creek

26-Aug – TC Compass .300 Win. Mag, Rick Haflich, Salem

2-Sep – Tikka T-3 Lite SS 6.5 Creedmoor, Alan Bozarth, Rainier

9-Sep – Benelli Nova camo 12 ga., Steven Dark, Stayton

16-Sep – Savage TH-16 SS 7mm Mag 3-9x40 Nikon scope, Chris Mather, Astoria

23-Sep – Howa lightweight Cerakote KUIU Vias .243, Jon Schnebly, Klamath Falls

30-Sep – Springfield XD Model 2 subcompact .45 ACP, Arne Knutsen, Dallas

7-Oct – Beretta A300 Max 5 Camo 12 gauge, Elizabeth Gonzales, Hillsboro

### **Elk kills Oregon bowhunter**

In a rare and tragic incident, an Oregon bowhunter was killed this season by a bull elk he had arrowed.

Mark David, 66, of Hillsboro was bowhunting on private property in the area of Trask Road in Tillamook County on Aug. 29, when he arrowed a 5X5 bull elk, but was unable to locate it before dark.

David and the landowner attempted to find the wounded bull on the next morning. At approximately 9:15 a.m., David located the bull and attempted to kill it with his bow.

The elk charged David and gored him in the neck with its antlers. The landowner attempted to help David, but David had sustained fatal injuries and died.

The elk was killed, and the meat was donated to the Tillamook County Jail following the investigation.

OSP was assisted by the Tillamook County Sheriff's Office, Tillamook Fire and Rescue and the Tillamook County Medical Examiner.



This wounded elk fatally gored an Oregon bowhunter in Tillamook County on opening weekend of archery season.

### Sportsmen's donations support wildlife undercrossing, trails project

By Tyler Dungannon, Conservation Coordinator TD@oregonhunters.org

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission recently approved eight projects funded by the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund, including two supported by OHA. Sportsmen have demonstrated once again that hunters and anglers are our state's premier conservationists, as the largest portion of revenue has been raised by hunters and anglers who made online donations when purchasing licenses and tags.

The Gilchrist wildlife underpass fencing project received \$10,000 – the maximum amount that could be awarded to any one project this year. This project aims to reduce deer and elk mortality on Highway 97, and OHA has pledged over \$114,000 to the effort.

OHA also endorsed the Ochoco Trails project, where recreationists can enjoy unique scenery while minimizing disturbance to wildlife. This project received \$7,500 to create a trail network on the Crooked River National Grasslands. Project planners have been conscious of wildlife displacement issues, and this project aims to minimize human-instigated ungulate movement from public to private lands. Involvement in this project has allowed OHA to contribute to a project outside of the realm of our typical dealings, while investigating the possibility of upland gamebird hunting opportunities along the trail system.

### Annual Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation

Oregon Hunter is published bimonthly for the members Oregon Hunter is published bimonthly for the members of non-profit corporation Oregon Hunters Association, P.O. Box 1706, Medford, OR 97501, by publisher and editor Duane Dungannon, and is sold on newsstands statewide. In the past year, of the average 14,383 magazine copies published each issue, 8,594 were paid subscriptions, 2,786 were sold on newsstands, 1,004 were outsidecounty as stated on Form 3541, 12 were other classes mailed through the USPS, and 1,983 were not distributed, demonstrating 92% paid and/or requested circulation. In the preceding issue, 12,900 magazine copies were published, 8,046 of which were paid subscriptions, 3,440 were sold on newsstands, 1,205 were outside-county as stated on Form 3541. 16 were other classes mailed through the USPS, and 88 were not distributed, demonstrating 90% paid and/or requested circulation.

## **OHA presents annual state-level awards**

he Oregon Hunters Association recently honored some of our most outstanding volunteers with state-level awards. Chapters submitted nominations, and then votes were cast by chapters, OHA state board members and staff.

#### Wildlife Member of the Year: Eric Brown

Eric has been the Bend Chapter's Project Coordinator for several years, and in 2019 Eric was the lead for coordinating the first All Hands, All Brands event with several projects being completed not only on the weekend but throughout the whole week prior. Several agencies and nonprofits attended the weekend habitat project that provided a great opportunity to share and work together. Eric was also very instrumental in the Eco Trust Forest Management project building 1,600 feet of buck and pole fence to protect the lower end of Pothole Springs.

### Organizational Member of the Year: Cheryl Dollar

Cheryl is the Yamhill County Chapter treasurer, and among her greatest hits are a program she developed for iPads for the chapter banquet, organizing and managing the chapter and OHA State booth at the Pacific Northwest Sportsman's Show this year, and innovating the chapter and OHA State online fund-raising events that helped OHA salvage a potentially disastrous fund-raising season amid the COVID-19 shutdown.

#### Conservationist of the Year: Robbie Piehl, Ochoco NF

Robbie has closely worked with Bend, Ochoco and Capitol chapters for several years, especially during our June multichapter work party, which has now evolved into All Hands, All Brands.

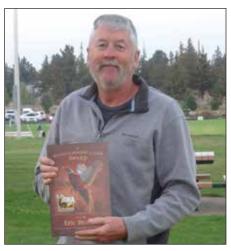
#### Corporate Landowner of the Year: Hancock Forest Management

Hancock Forest Management provides sportsmen access to a large tract of private land in the Sled Springs Unit as part of the ODFW Access and Habitat Program. They also donated a LOP elk tag to the Pioneer Chapter 2020 Banquet.

## Citizen Landowners of the Year:

## Randy & Candy Yow and Neal & Peggy Russell

The Yows and the Russells in partnership own land east of La Pine off Highway 31, where they host the Oregon Ladies



OHA Bend Chapter project coordinator Eric Brown was honored as OHA's Member of the Year for Wildlife, in part for his work on the All Hands, All Brands for Public Lands project.

Hunting Camp. The Yows and the Russells have made many improvements to their property with a kitchen, showers, archery and gun ranges and camping areas to host the camp. Randy & Candy Yow have held several Ladies Hunting Camps on the property, teaching women hunters everything from shooting, skinning, what to carry in their packs, self defense, how to apply for tags, orienteering, game calling, how to hunt and how to back up a trailer. Participants are instructed by some of the best and well known sports people around. Randy, Candy, Neal and Peggy are OHA members and are huge promoters of OHA and its mission at the camps.

#### Youth Member of the Year: Josh Newton

Josh is a 3rd generation OHA member who has come to our annual multi-chapter work parties in the Ochoco's for several years, working with rebuilding guzzlers and guzzler maintenance. Josh is a member of the local high school clay target league, and eagerly joined the OHA Bend Chapter's new OHA Youth Board and is serving as Treasurer.

#### **Special Recognition Awards:**

- Kevin Borst Kevin is the Bend Chapter's Youth Event Coordinator. In partnership with his wife Wendy, they coordinate two major events, Youth and Family Day and the Youth Upland Bird Hunt.
- **David Scott** David Scott is a longtime Pioneer Chapter board member, and 24-year banquet coordinator. David also

is a regular at all our volunteer projects. including running the lunch at our chapter youth day and coordinating the potluck at our annual chapter campout.

- Richard Moyer Richard is the long-time treasurer for OHA's Rogue Valley Chapter. An OHA Life Member, Richard was key in helping a newly minted board take shape. Richard administers the chapter's \$100,000+ budget and reporting requirements and financial summaries, and is instrumental at the banquet and a tireless worker at our youth events.
- Shirley Titus Shirley is the Yamhill County Chapter's vice president and has taken on the role of organizing our most profitable fundraising events.

#### **Chapter of the Year: Rogue Valley Chapter**

RVOHA continues to demonstrate its leadership in driving OHA forward. Building on last year's success increasing overall OHA membership, RVOHA posted the best banquet returns in its history, increasing gross banquet receipts by 20 percent amid record attendance levels. RVOHA leadership continues to lead the way in developing funding sources (Dubs Foundation), land use partnerships (Southern Oregon Land Conservancy, ODFW damage complaint turkey hunts) and coordinating content development and presentations with state and federal agencies (ODFW, OSP, USFS, BLM, etc.).

The Rogue Valley Chapter invested thousands of hours of volunteer support for projects last year. The chapter also contributed \$20,000 to support OHA conservation staffing and made good on a \$20,000 pledge for the Gilchrist Crossing on Highway 97, funded over \$17,400 of habitat projects (Clark's Fork, C2 Ranch, seed giveaway program), sponsored youth events serving over 350 participants (Turkey Clinic, Youth Day, Denman pheasant hunt), funded a new, Wildlife Services thermal scope (\$2,500), supported three local high school trap shooting teams, and supported numerous other events.

#### Turn In Poachers (TIP): Jim Andrews

Senior Trooper Jim Andrews of the Mid-Valley Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Division led the state last year in rewards issued to informants in fish and wildlife violation cases through OHA's Turn In Poachers (TIP) reward fund.

## **POACHING SPOTLIGHT**



For poaching news as it happens, find OHA on Facebook facebook.com/OregonHunters

DIAL \*OSP
TO REPORT VIOLATIONS



This buck was killed in the Dayville city limits.

### Mule buck poached in Dayville

OSP seeks tips in locating whoever shot a mule deer buck inside Dayville and left it to waste. OHA is offering a \$500 TIP reward for information leading to an arrest, or the informant can instead choose 4 big game preference points. Police on Sept. 5 received word of a dead buck near the Dayville Cafe. Troopers determined the buck had been shot with a firearm, most likely on Sept. 4. The meat was not salvageable.

If you have information regarding this case, please contact the TIP hotline: 1-800-452-7888 or \*OSP (677) or TIP email: TIP@state.or.us



OSP found a wasted cow elk near a dead spike.

## Lincoln County elk shot, wasted

OSP is asking for leads in identifying whoever is responsible for the unlawful killing of a spike bull elk and cow elk in Lincoln County. OHA's Turn In Poachers (TIP) reward fund is offering a \$500 reward for information leading to a citation, or an informant may choose 4 preference points. A Newport OSP Fish and Wildlife Trooper discovered a dead spike bull and cow elk on Aug. 23 on the USFS 5390 road just outside of Waldport. The cow elk was left to waste with no meat removed from the carcass and was not salvageable. Most of the meat had been taken from the spike elk. The elk were likely shot the previous evening. If you have information, call the TIP hotline at 1-800-452-7888 or dial \*OSP or email TIP@state.or.us



Six pronghorn antelope were run down with a pickup truck on a roadway in Lake County this spring. The driver, Michael Scott Phillips, 48, of Christmas Valley, told authorities that he did it because he hates pronghorns.

Oregon State Police Fish & Wildlife Division Troopers discovered a grisly scene of five does and one buck pronghorn antelope, their carcasses strewn along Fossil Lake Road near Christmas Valley. The buck's horns had been removed and taken as a trophy. One doe was eviscerated with a knife – her unborn fawn removed

and placed on its mother's carcass. May is fawning season for antelope in Oregon. Any pregnant does would have given birth within a month had they not been killed.

OSP received the initial report of the crime through the Turn In Poachers hotline.

Troopers served a search warrant on Phillips' residence in late May. They recovered the horns and other evidence linking Phillips to the crime. Phillips was arrested on May 21 and lodged in the Lake County Jail facing multiple charges, including aggravated animal abuse, take/possession of antelope, and waste of a game mammal.



Only the head was taken from this bull elk.

#### Valsetz bull wasted, head taken

OSP seeks tips about a bull elk killed and left to waste near the Valsetz mainline close to mile post 16 south of the rock quarry on the west side of Valsetz in Polk County. The head was cut off and taken, and the rest was left to waste. OHA is offering a \$500 TIP reward for information leading to an arrest. If you have information, please call the Turn In Poachers (TIP) hotline at 1-800-452-7888 or \*OSP(677), or TIP e-mail: TIP@state.or.us



## OHA pays out five TIP rewards totaling \$1,700

In the last two months, OHA issued five reward checks to informants in five fish and wildlife violation cases totaling \$1,700 from our Turn In Poachers (TIP) reward fund.

Charges included: unlawful take/possession of cougar and mule deer; taking elk closed season; hunting while trespassing; aiding in a wildlife offense; unlawful take of non-adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon; angling closed area; angling prohibited method-snagging; take/possession of female and undersize Dungeness crab.

## Subscribe to the

# BEAVER STATE PODCAST

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## Have you listened to ODFW's New Beaver State Podcast?

Each episode a look at hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing in Oregon through conversations with Oregonians, ODFW staff and luminaries throughout the conservation world. Each half-hour to forty-five minute podcast will explore complex fish and wildlife topics broadly and in detail.

#### Recent episodes include

- · Mule Deer Research
- Mule Deer Nutrition, Predation and Climate with Mark Hurley of Idaho Fish and Game
- Mule Deer Origins
- What's killing America's fawns



## GAME ON THE GRILL BY TIFFANY HAUGEN

## **Holiday turkey & trimmings**

ooking to prepare the perfect holiday meal? This is it! Free-range, wild turkeys are some of the best-eating game birds you'll find, and there's no shortage of them in Oregon. The key to success when cooking any wild turkey is to not treat it as you would a store-bought, domesticated turkey.

Wild turkey meat is very lean, and should not be overcooked. Before cooking, ensure all shot is removed from the breast meat, including any feathers that may have been carried into the wound channels. Remove any bloodshot and sinew, especially from around the shoulder; the tenderloin can be included in this recipe.

#### **Cranberry Citrus Glazed Stuffed Wild Turkey Breast**

1 skinless, wild turkey breast

1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice

1/2 teaspoon salt

Stuffing

1 tablespoon olive oil

1/2 cup Italian sausage

1/2 cup diced onion

1/2 cup diced celery

1/4 cup chopped cranberries

1 teaspoon poultry seasoning

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/2 teaspoon black pepper

1 cup dry bread cubes

1/2 cup turkey or chicken stock

1 egg, beaten

Glaze

1/4 cup butter

1/2 cup cranberry sauce

1/2 cup orange juice

2 tablespoons lemon and/or lime juice

2 tablespoons honey or brown sugar

2 teaspoons orange, lemon and/or lime zest

Clean any silver skin, fat or sinuous tissues from the turkey breast. On a sturdy, flat surface, place turkey breast between two large sheets of waxed paper. Using a meat mallet or heavy skillet, pound turkey breast to 1/4"-1/3" thickness. Sprinkle with lemon juice and 1/2 teaspoon salt.

In a large skillet, cook sausage, onion and celery in olive oil on medium-high heat until sausage is fully cooked. Add cranberries, seasonings and dry bread cubes and sauté a few more minutes. Remove from heat, let cool slightly. Stir in bread cubes and beaten egg, and mix until combined.

Prepare a baking sheet with a layer of foil. Spread stuffing mixture evenly over turkey breast. Roll, long ways, placing on foil, seam-side down. Cover lightly with foil and place in a preheated 350° oven and bake for 20 minutes.

While turkey is cooking, mix all glaze ingredients in a small saucepan and bring to a boil. Turn heat to medium and





Turkey, cranberries and stuffing — it's got everything but the pumpkin pie.

continue to cook 5-10 minutes or until glaze begins to thicken.

After turkey has cooked for 20 minutes, remove foil and baste with a few tablespoons of glaze and return, uncovered, to the oven for 5 minutes. Continue to baste turkey with glaze every 5 minutes until internal temperature reaches 160°. Cooking time should be 35-40 minutes total. Let turkey sit 10 minutes before slicing and serving.

For signed copies of Tiffany Haugen's popular cookbook, Cooking Game Birds, send a check for \$20 to Haugen Enterprises, P.O. Box 275, Walterville, OR 97489 or visit www.scotthaugen. com for this and other titles.





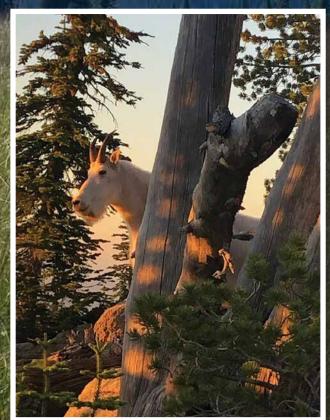
## NOSLER PHOTO CONTEST

## GENERAL CATEGORY FINALISTS



OHA life member John Sullivan of Redmond claims an OHA Coast Knife and a place in the finals of the 2020 Nosler Photo Contest for this photo of Heidi with a chukar John took on Steens Mountain.

Renay Bernard, OHA life member in Rainier, wins an OHA Coast Knife and a spot in the finals of the 2020 Nosler Photo Contest for this photo of a mountain goat during a scouting trip in the Elkhorn Mountains.



## NOSLER PHOTO CONTEST

YOUTH CATEGORY FINALISTS

Baker City OHA member
Kirstin Ornelas wins an
OHA Coast Knife and
a spot in the finals of
the 2020 Nosler Photo
Contest for this photo
of Reanna and Marjorie
Ornelas with Marjorie's
elk taken this August in
a youth hunt hosted by
Idaho Power in Baker
County.





**OHA** member Kristopher Davis of Baker City claims an OHA Coast Knife and a place in the finals of the 2020 Nosler **Photo Contest** for this photo of Ryker Davis and grandfather Murrit with a Baker County mule deer taken by Ryker's dad. Ryker got out of school just in time to track and pack.

## NOSLER PHOTO CONTEST

## **HONORABLE MENTION**



Nicole Varner, OHA member in Salem, receives honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of an elk she took this summer in the Ukiah Unit.



OHA life member Daniel Terry of Forest Grove garners honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of himself with a dandy Whitehorse buck taken last fall.



Lakeview OHA member Marla Slay gains honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of herself with a 16-inch Lake County antelope taken this season.



Russ Beane, OHA member in Trail, earns honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of son Justin Beane with his first buck, taken in the Evans Creek Unit.



OHA life member Greg Brown of Portland gets honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of Tom Marks with a Whitehorse pronghorn.





Justin Hoffman, OHA member in Redmond, gains honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of himself with an archery antelope he took this year in the Beatys Butte Unit.

Bryce Purtzer, OHA member in Canby, receives honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of himself with a bear taken this spring in the Snake River Unit.







## Rumble in the Jungle

ust because you haven't been able to go to the zoo doesn't mean that important stuff is not happening at the zoo every day. Like penguin tours. In a recent YouTube video, Oregon Zoo penguins Nacho and Goat go hiking in the woodlands with their handlers who are both masked to prevent us from establishing their identities.

On the other side of the continent, The Florida Aquarium recently sponsored a coronavirus penguin tour where seven of the black-footed African aquatic birds got to roam around and look at the sharks and seals.

In the videos my interns watched, the penguins were not introduced to polar bears, which should be no surprise, because they are polar opposites.

Another video the interns did not find was of penguins on zoo tours in England and that's because they are scared of Wales.

We are not making this up: penguin tours are going on all over the world. In Australia, they say the animals are so lonely even the koala bears follow the staff around for extra cuddles.

We are not making this up either: an Internet search revealed this slogan: "The ultimate mission of the Australia Zoo is to save one, save the species." I don't know how it works Down Under, but it takes two in the Northern Hemisphere.

The Australia Zoo also wants to remind us that "It's time for your animal encounter," to which I say, every animal encounter should be a planned, wanted animal encounter.

Regular readers of these pages might recall a mountain lion affectionately dubbed P-22 that found its way into the Los Angeles Zoo and killed the zoo's oldest koala bear. We observed back then that aggressive marketing from the Outback Steakhouse may have been the reason P-22 went taste adventuring.



Outback Steakhouse, whose slogan is No Rules, Just Right, had, at that time, 10 locations close to the Santa Monica mountains. This may have been the first time that a North American mountain lion was able to get a taste of koala bear.

Well, it has happened again, this time at the San Francisco Zoo, whose motto is "Become a SF Zoo Member!" The Australian WalkAbout exhibit was founded in 1995, a multi-species exhibit, featuring plants and animals – like the red kangaroo and wallaroo – native to Australia. It was only a matter of time.

On June 21, Fox News reported, "Mountain lion captured in downtown San Francisco suspected in deaths of 3 marsupials at zoo."

This time a koala bear was not one of the casualties, which probably means it was able to show its koala-fications.

Fox News called the 15-month old cougar a cub, which seems a bit of a stretch, as the animal, according to the California Department of Fish and Wildflowers, weighed 68 pounds. A cub? That's like calling your 10th-grader a toddler.

In any case, the roving cougar was said to have killed a red kangaroo and two wallaroos. A red kangaroo, the largest of all the kangaroos, can weigh anywhere from about 50 pounds up to 200 pounds. And well-fed wallaroos can tip the scales between 30 and 50 pounds. I would have liked to have seen the kangaroo and the lion square off.

Forgive me if I don't call your lion a cub, Bub.

I'm guessing there would have been a lot of hopping going on. And shadow boxing.

When two kangaroos fight, they stand up and go belly to belly. They circle, punch, shove and grapple. And when they kick, they kick with both feet.

My interns did some research on this topic and found a cougar is going to go for

the skull or throat every time. Advantage cougar.

According to Wikipedia, a cougar can leap 15 feet vertically while a red kangaroo has a reported 10-foot vertical leap. Advantage cougar.

In responsible journalistic fashion, the interns did a quick search of the San Francisco dining scene. Outback advertises heavily on TV, radio and highway billboards to support their establishments. It is not inconceivable that the big cat was exposed to Outback's advertisements.

I like to think the penguins watched the cougar fight it out with the wallaroos. But obviously, they're not making a hullaballoo.

The interns found nine Outback restaurants in close proximity, and all were, at the time, closed to dine-in options because of COVID-19. A critter could enjoy the Bloomin' Onion and Kookaburra wings through the to-go and delivery options. But only with a credit card. Advantage Outback.

Reportedly, the San Francisco Zoo has taken steps to safeguard the Australian exhibit, which means they removed condiments like tomato sauce and Vegemite to a secure location.

After its tour of Australian culinary delights, the cougar went uptown, where it was seen late at night and described as "disoriented," which of course, it would be.

Two days later, after skulking through the Embarcadero and Russian Hill neighborhoods, the cat was caught near Oracle Park, the home of the San Francisco Giants. They say it was disoriented, but I think it was looking for an IHOP.

The CDFW released the healthy young cougar back into the wild. Uncle Geddy says: If you forget that joke about the boomerang, it will come back to you later. Contact Gary Lewis at www.garylewisoutdoors.com

