

# YOU MISSED OUT IF YOU WEREN'T AT OUR YOUTH UPLAND BIRD HUNT

In order to get a newcomer's perspective, Board Member **Bob Buddenbohn** was asked to write a paragraph, informing you about the recent Youth Upland Bird Hunt. Well, he went above and beyond, to produce this informative article for you.

## OHA Bend Chapter 17th Annual Wayne Elliott Memorial Youth Upland Bird Hunt Report Saturday November 21, 2020

*If success is measured in smiles, newfound confidence and warm friendship, then this weekend's Youth Hunt blew away expectations!*

Let's start with the numbers:

23 Youth participants up to 17 years old; about half of which were 1<sup>st</sup> time attendees

Every attendee enjoyed instruction & guidance with some of the most experienced outdoors-men/women in Central Oregon.

The 8 guides and 15 eager dogs enabled the youngsters to hunt over experienced, well trained bird dogs to make this a truly memorable experience for the kids; 9 of the dogs were some of the finest (competition quality) bird dogs trained by **Holly & Jared** from Burns

We planted 5 live birds – 2 Pheasants & 3 Chukars for every participant, & a few of the hunters bagged all of their birds.

Over 30 Volunteers gave generously of their time to welcome and make every youngster's day safe, productive and thoroughly enjoyable

Lunch was offered to all who attended, including burgers, homemade Elk Chili & Sweets



**John Bambe** (enjoying a cup of chili) & **Barb Wilson** at check-in

Here's exactly what each participant experienced:

After a quick check-in, each youngster and accompanying parent attended a 15-20 minute safety orientation by Hunter Education Instructor **Roy Geiger**. Roy began with an examination and explanation of each participant's firearm that they'd brought for the day. Some of the guns were quite unique and required a bit of special handling. Roy then followed with how best to hold and safely handle their guns throughout the day, especially while hunting in the field where things happen quite fast. Roy did an outstanding job actively engaging every youngster with a combination of questions and hands on demonstrations – a genuinely first class “show & tell” session that also helped to break the ice with many of the youngsters who arrived a bit nervous!



**Roy Geiger** (left) & hunters gather for safety session.  
Photo by Jon Hansen

Next was the Clay Pigeon Shooting Station which **Spence Tabor** generously brought and setup with some help the day before. Spence, who has trained some expert marksmen, along with Hunter Ed Instructor **Dale Putman** carefully coached each youngster on how to hold, aim and fire their guns accurately & safely. Many were inexperienced yet before they were done, their growing confidence was evident as many began hitting 2 and sometimes

even 3 targets in a row – no small feat considering the small gauge, often single shot shotguns most brought for the day.



**Spence Tabor** coaching a young hunter at the sporting clays station

What followed next was nothing short of pure fun. Participants were ushered to one of three typical rolling high desert fields full of sage and bunchgrass where live birds had been randomly placed (planted). There the hunter met the dog and its handler assigned to guide every 1-2 hunters. After going over safety reminders, they took to the fields for an entire hour – the hunt was on! Almost every hunter shot a bird, many 2-3 and a few got their 5 bird limit. The entire time they were coached on what they were doing right and what they might adjust.



Gavin & Iris, taking aim. Photo by Jon Hansen

The 4<sup>th</sup> stop is where they learned the proper method, and then actually got to clean their own birds. While it may be the least enjoyable activity of the day, it's one of the most vital. **Troy Boyd** did an outstanding job helping each hunter prep their bird (s) to ensure a safe and tasty meal afterwards. They

safe and tasty meal afterwards. They also learned to never just shoot a bird and leave it to waste.



**Troy Boyd** waiting for hunters to come off the field so he can teach them how to properly clean their birds, leaving a feathered head or wing attached

The last stop was the chow line where a team of volunteers prepared & served everyone a well-earned meal with refreshments. A few OHA Bend members generously donated elk meat that was transformed into out-of-this world home-made Chili. There were trays of homemade sweets available throughout the day. We hope every attendee also received a copy of "Some of our Favorite Pheasant & Chukar Recipes" booklet. If not call Wendy (541-480-0748) for one



Unusual year: no food tent; kitchen crew wore masks & gloves: **Wendy Borst, Steve Holm, Calvin Schneider, Colleen Schneider**

To round out the perfect day there was a camp fire going from 6:30am (thanks to **Greg Petsch**) until the end of the day. Aside from the obvious – helping everyone warm themselves (it was 21 degrees when people began arriving) - it's where new acquaintances were made, a few friendships renewed and special memories of the day were shared.



## YOUTH HUNT REPORT CONTINUED:

To top it all off (as if that were possible), to our pleasant surprise quite a few participants' families made generous donations, thanking the club for a day beyond their best expectations.

We have many more people than space to thank for so successful a day, but let's try: **Kevin & Wendy Borst** led the effort spending weeks/months organizing everything and then orchestrating the day which went so well. Wendy also led a team which prepared the homemade Chili and sweets. Then there are those already mentioned above. A special shout out to **Holly Higgins**([steensmountainsetters@gmail.com](mailto:steensmountainsetters@gmail.com)) & **Jared Tappero** ([indianheadbirddogs@gmail.com](mailto:indianheadbirddogs@gmail.com)) who traveled all the way from Burns to share their exceptionally well trained dogs with us. Both can also be reached at 541-480-7620 should you ever have questions or be looking for a well-trained dog which they occasionally sell.



A big thank you to the landowners who freely permitted us to use their property, **Susan Loomis** who donated Shotgun Shells, **Troy Boyd, Dale Putman**, and **Kevin Pillow** who picked up and delivered all the live birds. (and **Bob Elliott's** trailer) To aid in bird planting, we thank **Eric Brown, Rex Parks** and **Bill Littlefield** for bringing their quads. We wouldn't have had elk chili without the generous elk donations from **Troy Boyd, Doug Stout & Bill Littlefield**. And **ALL the volunteers** who went out a day ahead to set up everything and those who joined them throughout the Big Day including some from our **OHA Youth Board** and from **3 Rivers Archers**.

While that day will be hard to beat, one thing was missing. More Youth Hunters. No doubt COVID had an effect this year; but there's room for up to 42 kids and we can all begin to get the number up by beginning to spread the word right away. In addition to word of mouth, feel free to share this report.

Note that Attendees do not need to be OHA members nor do they need to have hunters in their family. Some of our best attendees have had no hunters in their family and were simply curious about hunting, willing to learn and open to the prospect of a whole new experience and circle of friends.

For those of you with children and grandchildren under 18, OHA Bend invites you to join us next year. Start by marking your calendar for the Saturday before Thanksgiving – November 20, 2021. We also ask you to invite neighbors and friends with youngsters.

We're absolutely confident it will be one of the most

worthwhile and memorable days in the lives of the young ones and the adults who accompany them! (*Remember, youth must have Hunter Ed card.* Registration for the event usually begins around October 1st at the Bend ODFW office: thank you to them!)

Until next year, Happy Holidays and again **thank you everyone** – participants, their parents and of course ALL the volunteers who generously gave of their time, in kind contributions and best of all - life-



Proud brothers Connor (11) and Carson (9) Davis  
Show us their pheasants & chukars .  
Dad is Bend OHA member **Chad Davis**

**Send photos to:**  
[wenb.oha@outlook.com](mailto:wenb.oha@outlook.com)