

# yearlings

OHA Junior Newsletter

Winter 2023

For OHA Junior Members & Children of Family Members



Grayson Smith of Springfield took this big blacktail buck on opening weekend last year using his dad's tag in the Mentored Youth Hunter Program.

## PLAN A BIG GAME HUNT

**T**he 2023 Oregon Big Game Regulations are out now, and they offer some great hunting opportunities for kids. Oregon holds youth hunts for deer, elk, antelope and spring bear. This year's regulations feature some great hunts for kids. The deadline to apply for deer, elk and antelope youth hunts is May 15, so check out the new regulations and start planning your fall big game hunts now. See story on next page.





# GEAR UP FOR A BIG GAME HUNT

**Y**oung guns in Oregon will get a number of special big game hunts to apply for in 2023. The new 2023 Oregon Big Game Regulations are out, and there are many youth hunts for kids only, plus guaranteed first-time tags in the general big game tag drawing again in 2023. Also, the Mentored Youth Hunter Program allows kids who haven't yet passed Hunter Education to hunt under

the close supervision of an adult.

Oregon offers youth hunts for deer, elk, antelope and spring bear. Some of the youth hunts can be harder to draw than adult hunts, so pay attention to how many hunters applied last year. The deadline to apply for most hunts is May 15.

Oregon's "first-time hunter" program allows a hunter under age 18 who is unsuccessful in the controlled hunt drawing for

deer or elk tags to reapply for a controlled hunt having a minimum number of tags and be guaranteed a first-time tag.

For more details about Oregon's "First-time hunter program," which OHA helped start, see the 2023 Oregon Big Game Regulations. For more information about Oregon's Mentored Youth Hunter Program for kids ages 9-15, visit the ODFW web site at [myodfw.com](http://myodfw.com)

## KIDS EARN THEIR WINGS AT YOUTH PHEASANT HUNTS



*OHA's Bend Chapter hosted a youth pheasant hunt in November.*

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

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

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

## Young guns bag chukars at OHA hunt

**K**ids got to try their skills at hunting chukars at a two-day hunt hosted by the Klamath Chapter of the Oregon Hunters Association in October. Chukars are not native to Oregon, and are found in the wild only farther east in Oregon. The birds for this hunt were stocked in the area known as Klamath Hills near Klamath Falls. Klamath OHA members stocked the birds, signed youth hunters in and out, and even took kids afield with their trained hunting dogs. For many kids who don't live in chukar country, this was their first chance to chase chukars. Chukars are fast-flying birds brought to Oregon from India in 1951.



*It was a good day afield for kids and dogs.*



*Some kids bagged their limit of 2 chukars.*



# PUZZLE PAGE



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



## Across

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

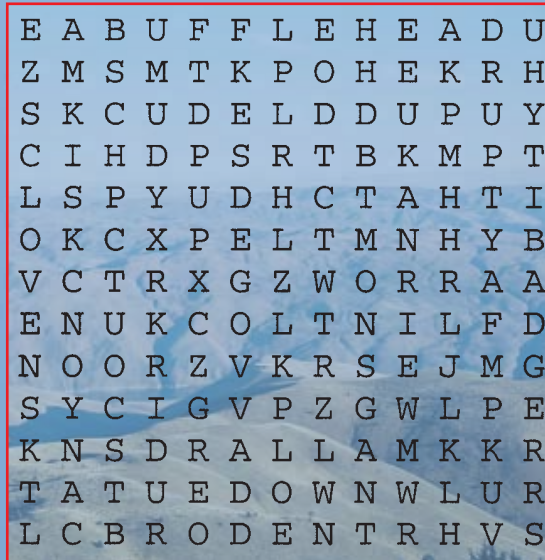
## Down

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

## Do You Know?

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

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





***WILDLIFE CLOSE-UP POSTER***




# ***COUGAR***



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 ougars, also known as mountain lions, are one of Oregon's most powerful predators. Although they weigh only as much as humans, they can overpower elk, which weigh several times what the cougar weighs. Cougars eat mostly mammals, especially deer and elk. An adult mountain lion kills an animal as big as a deer or elk every week or two. That means that Oregon's 7,000 cougars probably take more deer every year than Oregon hunters do.

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

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

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





# KIDS MAKE MOST OF BONUS DEER WEEKEND

Young big game hunters got to enjoy one last shot at deer hunting all to themselves the first weekend of November during Oregon's annual youth extended deer hunting weekend.

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

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



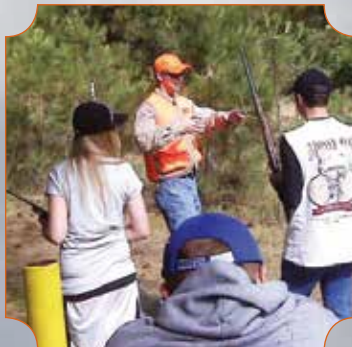
*The OHA Yamhill County Chapter opened and watched over a main gate on Stimson timberland to allow young hunters like this guy to hunt private forest land on youth extended deer hunt weekend.*

## Sign up now for Hunter Education!

If you haven't passed Hunter Education yet and you plan to hunt with your own licenses and tags this fall, you need to get in a class now!

Oregon's Hunter Education course is required for all first-time hunters under the age of 18. It's hard to find a class by fall, so don't wait!

For information about enrolling in a Hunter Education program, visit: [myodfw.com](http://myodfw.com)



## OHA MEMBER PLEDGE

As an OHA member, I pledge to:

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

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



## 10 COMMANDMENTS OF SHOOTING SAFETY

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





# YOUNG GUNS BEAR TARGET

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## DON'T MISS A THING! JOIN OHA TODAY!

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



\* You get 6 issues of OREGON HUNTER magazine.

**Just \$10 for kids!**

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

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

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

\* You'll get your own OHA decal!



### OHA Jr. Membership Application

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please enclose one-year dues of \$10**

\_\_\_ Payment enclosed (check or money order)

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

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV2# on back: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Return to:

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

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[www.oregonhunters.org](http://www.oregonhunters.org)

*Yearlings* is published quarterly for OHA junior members and the children of family members.

## GOOD SHOTS FROM OREGON'S YOUNG GUNS



OHA family members Harding and Hazel Huber enjoying a late December duck hunt with Dad.



Sebastian Meneley took his first deer near Powers using his grandfather's tag in the Mentor Program.



Kendall Aamodt, age 9, bagged her first turkey with a 410 shotgun in Baker County last October.