



# Yearlings

OHA Junior  
Newsletter  
Spring 2023

For OHA junior members & children of family members

Thomas Wright of Bend  
took this gobbler on  
Youth Turkey Weekend.

## Take a Shot at Turkeys!

**O**regon kids can be first in the field again this year, when Oregon holds its youth turkey hunting weekend April 8-9, a few days before the regular turkey season opens April 15. Youth weekend lets kids enjoy some uncrowded hunting in Oregon's outdoors.

Chapters of the Oregon Hunters Association will offer youth turkey clinics on April 1 at the White River Wildlife Area near The Dalles and the Denman Wildlife Area near Medford, where kids and their families learn tips and practice calling and shooting.

For more information, visit [MyODFW.com](http://MyODFW.com)





# check out OHA's Spring & Summer Youth Days



Kids of all ages had a blast at OHA's youth days around the state last year.

**C**hapters of the Oregon Hunters Association will host youth field days for kids around the state this spring and summer. Most of the events are free, while some may charge a small amount to cover the costs of putting on the event. Many of the youth field days offer kids a chance to try outdoor activities and test their skills. Most of the events also offer food kids love to eat.

OHA chapters will host the yearly youth

turkey clinic on April 1. The clinic will get kids ready for youth turkey hunting weekend on April 8 and 9.

Youth field days will be hosted by OHA chapters all over the state later in the spring and summer.

In September, OHA will help out at youth bird hunts around the state. To learn about youth events in your area by logging on to <https://oregonhunters.org/events/>

## Spring & Summer OHA Youth Events

**April 1:** OHA/ODFW White River Youth Turkey Clinic, [MyODFW.com](http://MyODFW.com);  
OHA/ODFW Rogue Valley Youth Turkey Clinic, [MyODFW.com](http://MyODFW.com)

**April 29:** OHA Pioneer Chapter Spring Youth Day, 503-936-4718

**May 6:** OHA Tioga Chapter Youth Day, 541-267-2577

**June 3:** OHA Bend Chapter Youth & Family Day, 541-480-7323;  
OHA Josephine County Chapter Youth Day, 541-218-2836;  
OHA Tualatin Valley Chapter Youth Event at Hagg Lake, 503-453-0521

**June 4:**  
OHA Tualatin Valley Chapter Youth Event at Hagg Lake, 503-453-0521

**June 24:** OHA Lake County Chapter Youth Day, 541-417-2983

**July 8:** OHA Tioga Chapter Shotgun Clinic, 541-267-2577

**August 12:** OHA Yamhill County Chapter Youth Day Shotgun Clinic, 503-804-2843.



OHA Junior Member Avery Orlow took this buck hunting with his grandmother Michelle Duer in the Mentored Youth Hunter Program.

## Apply for big game tags by May 15

**N**ow is the time to start planning your fall big game hunts. The 2023 Oregon Big Game Regulations offer youth hunts for kids only, as well as guaranteed first-time tags in the general big game tag drawing. Also, in the Mentored Youth Hunter Program, kids who haven't yet passed Hunter Education can hunt under the close supervision of an adult.

Youth hunts are available for deer, elk, antelope and spring bear. Planned for 2023 are youth deer hunts, youth elk hunts and youth antelope hunts. Some youth hunts are harder to draw than adult hunts, so pay

attention to how many hunters applied last year. The deadline to apply is May 15.

In Oregon's "first-time hunter" program, which OHA helped create, a hunter under age 18 who is unsuccessful in the controlled hunt drawing for deer or elk tags may reapply for a controlled hunt having a minimum number of tags and be guaranteed a first-time tag. For information about Oregon's "First-time hunter program," see the 2023 big game regulations. For information about Oregon's Mentored Youth Hunter Program for kids ages 9-13, visit the ODFW website at [myODFW.com](http://myODFW.com)

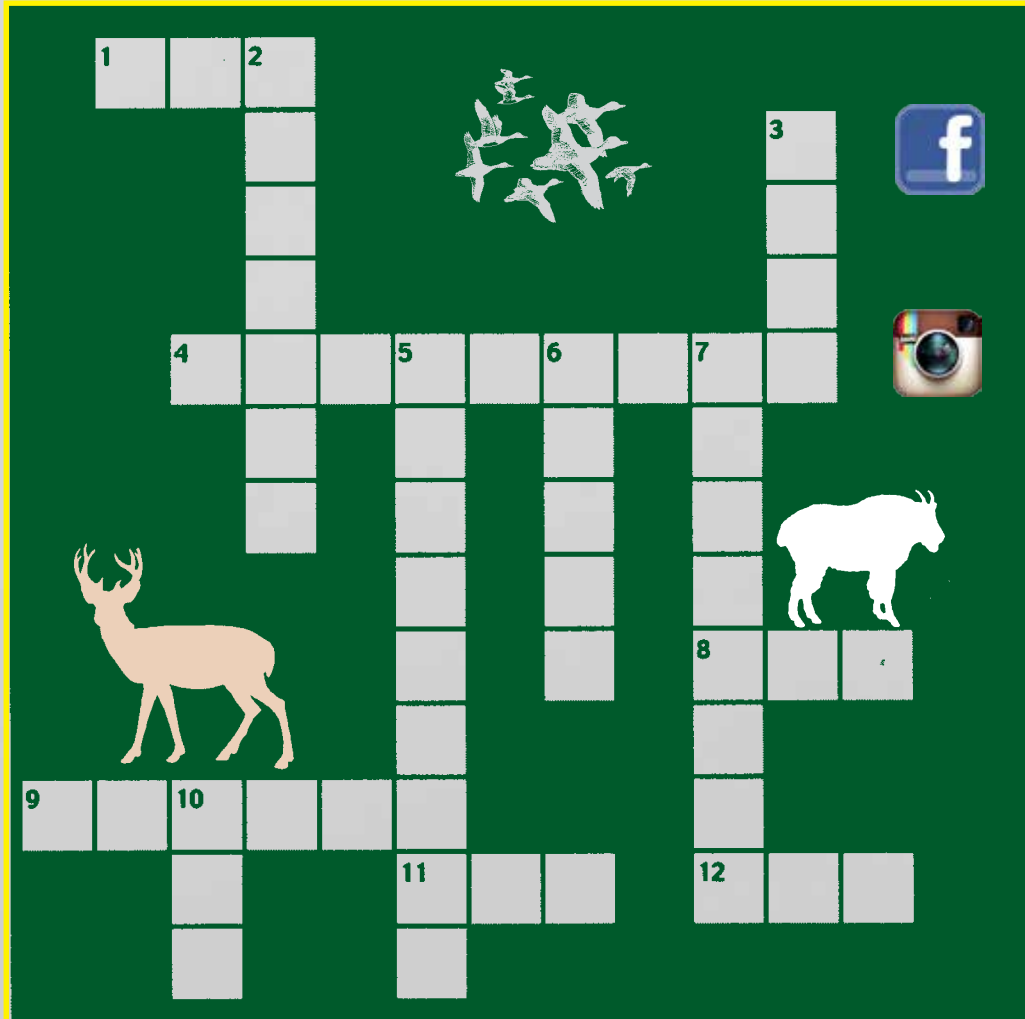




# PUZZLE PAGE



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



## Across

1. Quail have a \_\_\_\_ knot.

4. Meat-eating animal.

8. A home where bears or coyotes sleep.

9. The parts of a gun that load, fire and eject a cartridge.

11. Initials for All Terrain Vehicle.

12. A female bighorn.

## Down

2. A fast-flying duck with a long tail.

3. Inside part of the barrel of a firearm.

5. Animals that are active at night are called \_\_\_\_.

6. Poison injected by poisonous animals.

7. Fancy name given to the feral pigeon.

10. A mature male turkey.

## Do You Know?

1. What two Oregon big game animals don't shed their horns?

2. What two grouse live in the high desert?

3. What big game animal sleeps part of the winter in a den?

4. The name for a baby bighorn?

5. What a male cougar is called?

6. What country Oregon's chukars came from?

Answers: 1-bighorns & mountain goats; 2-sage and sharp-tailed; 3-bear; 4-lamb; 5-tom; 6-India.

X	L	M	W	F	X	G	M	E	W	E	Y
B	O	R	E	W	A	C	T	I	O	N	Y
Y	O	W	M	T	O	M	T	M	U	A	Y
N	B	C	E	V	D	I	B	O	F	P	O
O	Z	N	R	P	C	E	G	F	P	I	K
C	E	V	O	D	K	C	O	R	V	N	L
T	O	E	V	U	M	N	S	Y	Y	T	S
U	L	G	I	Z	O	Y	O	S	H	A	Q
R	F	N	N	O	N	C	A	I	F	I	A
N	C	E	R	B	E	J	Z	H	Z	L	T
A	J	D	A	H	V	V	V	G	H	K	V
L	M	K	C	O	Q	F	Y	H	F	J	L







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## **WILDLIFE CLOSE-UP**

# **WILD TURKEY**

The wild turkey is native to North America, but not to Oregon. The first wild turkeys were brought to Oregon from other states where they are native.

Turkeys that were released into the wild have done very well in most areas of Oregon, especially around Douglas and Jackson counties in the southwest. This part of the state has habitat that turkeys like: low rolling hills and areas mixed with oak trees and evergreens. However, turkeys are now found throughout the state.

The things turkeys like to eat the most are small plants and insects.

Turkeys are most often hunted in the spring, although Oregon has a fall season, too. Only male turkeys are hunted in the spring. Adult males are called "toms" and young males are called "jakes." Usually by this time of year the female or "hen" turkeys are on nests hatching their eggs.

In the spring time, hunters try to call in tom turkeys by sounding like hen turkeys. That's when tom turkeys fluff their feathers and strut around to show off.

*Photo by Jim Ward*



# ARE YOU MISSING OUT ON PREFERENCE POINTS??

**P**reference points are like the money you earn tags with. Some tags are “cheap,” and you don’t need many points to get them. Sometimes those tags are “cheap” because they’re not very good tags. The best hunt tags take a lot of points to get. Kids can get extra preference points in a couple of programs you should know about, so you can make sure the kids in your family have their best shot at good tags.

## **Mentored Youth Hunter Program**

Start with the Mentored Youth Hunter Program, if possible. The program is intended to get youngsters interested in hunting at a young age. Kids ages 9-15 can hunt with a licensed adult, on the adult’s tag or bag limit, without first passing a hunter education program, with certain rules. OHA helped change the maximum age from 13 to 15 to let busy high school students who can’t drive yet participate, too. That’s more chances for points. Registration is free.

## **Mentored Youth Preference Points**

Kids receive one mentored youth preference point for each year they register for the



Jacob Burton took this trophy mule deer in an Oregon hunt you have to apply for.

program. The most a youth could receive is seven points, if they register each year. ODFW keeps track of the points until the youth is ready to apply for a controlled hunt, even if it is after the kid turns 18. All MYHP points must be used at one time, toward one controlled hunt. Nonresidents can participate as a mentor or mentored-youth hunter.

## **Double Preference Points**

Here’s where it gets confusing and it’s

well disguised. Youth nine years of age or older can also apply for point savers provided they have a valid “Youth License.” All references to Youth Licenses say 12-17, but ignore that. Youth Game Bird Hunting Licenses (age 11 or younger) are free. Ignore that, too. It’s not either/or. Youngsters can still participate in the MYHP even after they have passed Hunter Education and purchased a Youth License. By choosing the Point Saver option for certain big game species (which always end in 99), they can double their bonus points each year until they turn 16.

This way, the youngster can only hunt under the MYHP for game animals for which he or she has no tag. For example, a 12-year-old with a hunting license could hunt for deer on their own general rifle tag after failing to draw a controlled hunt and earning a preference point. Then, he or she could hunt for elk under the MYHP with a mentor (if the youngster has no tag for elk). By doing this, young hunters could have 14 points by the time they turn 16.

## SIGN UP NOW FOR HUNTER EDUCATION!



**I**f 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)



## 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.

## 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 non hunters;
- 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



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# Passport to the Outdoors



## YOUNG GUNS TURKEY TARGET



**Pattern your shotgun, and know the limits of you and your gun. When hunting, shoot only from distances from which you can put several shot pellets in the kill zone.**



## 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 / MC / Discover / AmEx

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

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

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

Return to:

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

(541) 772-7313 oha@oregonhunters.org

[www.oregonhunters.org](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



*Sydney Federico of southern Oregon took this bull elk in Utah last September.*



*Aidan Morrow bagged this pheasant at the Coquille youth pheasant hunt last fall.*



*Tabor Card of central Oregon tagged his first deer last year in the Siuslaw Unit on the coast.*