



OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

BEND CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

June 2024

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

Wednesday, June 12th
*** 6:30 pm ***
Big E's (formerly Kelly D's)

**(come early if you
want to purchase dinner)**

Please turn to *page 2* for *more
details* on our upcoming monthly
chapter meeting.

We look forward to seeing
YOU there!

LOOK INSIDE FOR:

- ◆ Meeting recap
- ◆ Bend Chapter info.
- ◆ How to register for: All Hands, All Brands
- ◆ Volunteer opportunities, habitat projects
- ◆ Eric Newman family update
- ◆ OHA Tracker (no room this mo.)
- ◆ Photos & More!
- ◆ The Email to which you can send your photos, articles and other items for the newsletter. Thanks for your help!

Thank you, **Jim Ward**, for the header photo. (While downloading the OHA logo for our new Outdoor Day backpacks, Wendy B discovered this priceless photo also on the DVD, so she's sharing it with all of you.)

President's Message

Hello to all our members of the Bend Chapter of the Oregon Hunters Association

As of May 21st our total membership was at 557. Please join me in welcoming our 4 new members. **Chris Davis**, Jacob Franke, **James Hart** and **Randy Marchbanks**, all from Bend. Thanks for joining and we hope to see you at a meeting or out on a project or other activity soon. Reminder to all to check your membership expiration date.

By the time you receive this newsletter our annual Youth and Family Day will have occurred on the 1st of June. Hope you and your families were able to make it out to enjoy your chapter's event again this year. Special thanks to **Kevin and Wendy Borst** for again being the major force behind this and to **Keith and Connie Cyrus** for the continued use of their property on which to hold this event.

We'll know shortly how lucky we all were when the big game drawing results are available on the 12th.

The thinning project at Road Spring is completed. Four of your chapter members were able to get out there with their chain saws to get it done. Three members worked all day Saturday the 18th of May and another member was able to join them to finish up with another long day on Sunday the 19th. That just leaves about a days worth of work to do at Mush Spring to have this thinning/ edging project on the EFM property completed. If you have your sawyer certification and would like to help get this completed, please contact Mary Jo Hedrick. If you don't have her cell number, let myself or Don Clark know and we'll help you get in touch with her. This is the fifth year this chapter has been involved in the wildlife enhancement for this property. The Buck and Pole fencing of the meadow at Pot Hole Spring the first year, was followed by two years of Buck and Pole fencing around the meadow at Smoke Creek. We've been thinning/ edging the lodgepole and cutting most of the juniper around those fences to let more sun light in to enhance the ponderosa pine growth and let the wildlife have a better quality meadow to use. The folks that went out on Saturday were able to see elk leaving the meadow at Road Spring as they arrived. We saw a young buck leaving that same meadow when we got there on Sunday. This is a good sign that our work is accomplishing what we set out to do. Keep in mind that EFM properties are open for the public to use and enjoy for hunting as well. All the owners ask is that you use these properties with respect. Don't camp or have a fire, and to drive only on the open roads.

Stay safe. Hope to see you out there.

Rex E Parks Sr
Bend Chapter President
Oregon Hunters Association

UPCOMING JUNE MEETING INFO:

We look forward to seeing YOU at our next monthly chapter meeting on **Wednesday June 12th**. Our meeting location is **Big E's (formerly Kelly D's)** in Bend. Remember to arrive early so you can purchase dinner off the menu and enjoy it before the meeting. Arriving early also gives you the chance to visit with old friends or meet some new ones.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Our June guest speaker will be **Annie Wyka** from the Central Oregon Mushroom Club. She'll discuss locating and identifying mushrooms.

Your attendance is important to us and you might even win a prize. (see page 8 for last month's winners)

May Meeting Recap

In case you were unable to attend our monthly meeting at Big E's on May 8th, here are a few highlights:

Our guest speaker was **Gary Lewis**. He has been an OHA member since 1998 (Bend chapter) and was the Southeast Director for 8 years.

Recently Gary rode along with James Hayes, a La Pine-based senior trooper for the Oregon State Police. Gary took notes of the conversations and observations.

Hayes and Lewis started the shift on China Hat Road. "It happens to be where the mule deer want to go. It's the last little migration route out of the city.", Hayes said.

"This area here is crucial winter range. As you can see, it's lined with RVs and dogs," Hayes said.

"And a lot of these camps have pit bulls for protection and they chase the deer and kill them."

Lewis reported, "China Hat Road, when I moved to Central Oregon," Lewis recalls, "was a graveled gateway into the desert on the south end of Bend. Back in the mid-'90s, the road turned to gravel about a half-mile from the Knott Road intersection."

In the not-too-distant past mule deer herds wintered in the mixed stands of Ponderosa pine, juniper and bitterbrush. It was not uncommon to see a hundred mule deer any afternoon in January.

Hayes and Lewis observed dogs in almost every camp as well as deer bones and elk bones in many of the camps. In one instance a deer rib cage was tacked up on a tree. (see photo in right column)

One resident of a forest encampment had moved to Oregon from Iowa. He boasted his dog had run a big buck for an hour the day before.

"I seen a real majestic looking four-point yesterday and my dog Astrid took off after it for about an hour," the Iowan said.

Lewis said Hayes showed him all the new road building activity that the forest campers are engaged in. Lewis remarked on the lack of bitterbrush (an important mule deer food source) where there used to

be chest-high stands of bitterbrush. Lewis says the damage to the winter range that has already been done by the illegal forest campers will take 40 to 50 years to be restored.

Lewis showed pictures of trophy mule deer that he wrote about in years past. These bucks were taken 10 to 15 years ago in the newly roaded areas where the forest camps have been built.

"This is what we have lost," Lewis says.



Deer migration routes out of town are blocked by forest camps and dogs. And the situation is not unique to Bend. The same conditions exist from Chiloquin to La Pine to Bend to Sisters and to Redmond. Photo courtesy Linda Murrer

Three funding requests were voted on and passed: Partnering with ODFW to share the cost of a billboard at Wickiup Junction and our half should be no more than \$6520 for the year.

Sponsor Mountain View Trap Team again this year for \$3,000, which helps to cover their cost for participation, ammo, targets, etc.

Even though Candy and Randy Yow did not submit a funding request this year, the membership decided to give them gift cards totaling \$500 for their hunting training camps.

Recap continues on page 3

You missed out if you weren't at the meeting! Please join us at a monthly meeting. You might learn something new, have a good time, give us some valuable input . . .



*Protecting Oregon's wildlife, habitat
and hunting heritage.*

More May Meeting Recap

There were no new nominations for the board positions up for re-election, so the membership took a vote and the results were as follows:

President: Rex Parks
2nd Vice President (newsletter editor): Wendy Borst
Treasurer: John Bambe
1st Member-at-Large (Media Mgr): Bob Buddenbohn

By changing the job description of the vacant 2nd VP position and moving Wendy to that position, the secretary position then became open. Carolyn Lorimor has agreed to fill that position until it comes up for re-election next year.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦



Scott Conrad on a great hog hunt:
He and his work buddies went to Red Bluff, CA.
They got all of them in one afternoon.
Scott's weighed 300 lbs!
Photo submitted by **Steve James**



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**Send photos and other
newsletter items to:
wenb.oha@outlook.com**

TREASURER'S REPORT

According to our Treasurer,
John Bambe, as of
May 1, 2024 the checking
account balance was \$198,439

Volunteer Opportunities

Sometimes last minute volunteer opportunities arise. If you would like to be notified of such projects, please contact **Don Clark** @ 702-460-3653

SAVE THESE DATES

June 1: Youth & Family Outdoor Day (THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE VOLUNTEERS!)

Mid to late June: Complete Mush Spring (Mary Jo Hedrick will share details when they are known)

June 28-30: All Hands, All Brands (**DATE CHANGE**)
To register: www.trcp.org/AHAB



IMPORTANT:

If you did not receive the email with this newsletter, please turn to page 4 to learn how to update your contact info.
Apologies that this issue is arriving a few days later than usual.

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Seeking new meeting location:

**Due to the parking situation at our
current monthly meeting site,
we are open to new suggestions.**

**Please share your ideas with the
Bend Chapter President Rex Parks:**

541-480-0230

firelt602@gmail.com

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!

WANTED

**Please continue to save empty
HEAVY**

CARDBOARD TUBES
(from foil and plastic wrap)
for the craft tent next year
at our annual Youth &
Family Outdoor Day.
Thanks for your help!

You can give them to Kevin or
Wendy Borst

IMPORTANT:



Staying in touch with members is vital to our mission, so if you have not been receiving Email Alerts and Reports from OHA Bend Chapter once or twice a month, then please scan this QR code or go to <https://oregonhunters.org/bend-membership-update> to input your email, phone and mailing address. If you are unable to do this, then call 817-472-4272 where we'll take your information over the phone.

Your Chapter at Work

Enhancing Habitat

Protecting Our Hunting Heritage

These 2 photos are from April (ran out of room in the May newsletter)

L: **Gary Holtz**, R: **Mark Crisp** and in the photo below: **Eric Hopper**, work on the Gilchrist fence.



Yesterday (May 16) Bend OHA members **Eric Brown** and **Joe Benson** assisted Western Beavers Cooperative with BDA maintenance on the Bonnieview Ranch in the Ochoco's. Western Beavers have become part of the annual All Hands All Brands For Your Public Lands effort each year in the Ochoco's. A Biologist for Ducks Unlimited was also there yesterday and we likely will see her participation in All Hands this year. (thanks to Eric Brown for this update)

Mary Jo Hedrick provided a report on the May 18 and 19 EFM property volunteer weekend. **Don Clark** and **Joe Benson** spent their Saturday & Sunday and **Rex Parks** spent his Sunday completing the Road Spring portion of the edge feathering project on EFM's property. Everyone put in long days to complete this portion of the project. A big THANK YOU to all three. We were all very excited to finish and would have been jumping up and down with joy if we all weren't so tired. Photo: Joe, Don, and Rex at the completion of the project



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OHA Bend Chapter Officers

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1st VP	Doug Stout	(541) 312-8332
2nd VP (newsletter editor)	Wendy Borst	(541) 480-0748
Treasurer	John Bambe	(541) 480-9848
Secretary	Carolyn Lorimor	
At-Large (Media)	Bob Buddenbohn	(817) 470-7018
At-Large (Youth Events)	Kevin Borst	(541) 480-7323
At Large (Outreach Coord.)	JR Lorimor	(541) 420-2741
Project Coordinator	Don Clark	(702) 460-3653
Volunteer hrs. manager	Tom Hamper	
Banquet Chair	Bill Beckley	(541) 410-0824
Assistants to banquet coordinator: positions available		
Past President	resigned	

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oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter

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CALENDAR

Check our website for Bend OHA event dates and more details

June 1	10th Annual Youth & Family Outdoor Day
June 12	Controlled hunt results available
June 12	Monthly Chapter Meeting
June 14	Flag Day
June 16	Happy Father's Day!
June 20	Summer begins
June 23	*Deadline to submit items for July newsletter*
June 28-30	All Hands, All Brands (see pg 9 for details & how to reg)
July 1	Leftover tags go on sale

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TAG DEADLINES, HUNT END DATES, & EVENTS ACROSS OUR STATE



Send photos to:
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MVHS TRAP TEAM UPDATE

Kim Hurt gave us an update on the MVHS Trap Team: We had some big things happen for the team that has occupied our time. We were able to build our own trap range at the local COSSA range. Several local businesses donated their time and materials to make it happen. My husband, **Ronnie Hurt** oversaw the construction and put in countless hours of work himself to make this possible. We are currently in our spring season with 60 athletes on the team. We will end our season with a state tournament on June 23rd that we are looking forward to. I will continue to update with the team's progress throughout the season.



I have included a drone shot of the team spelling out "thank u" to the donors. I just posted a video to our social media that showcases all of the businesses that have helped.

REMINDER: **Kevin Borst** is the new Hunter Ed Coordinator for Bend/La Pine. Check the ODFW website for upcoming classes and field days so the youth in your life can earn their Hunter Ed card. You can also reach Kevin at 541-480-7323



It pays to attend our monthly chapter meeting:

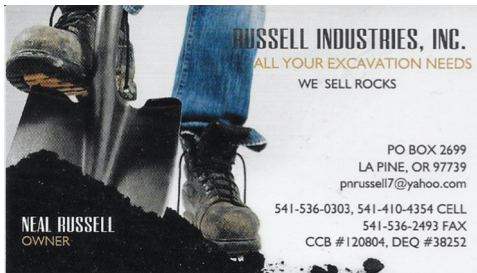
Congratulations to **JR Lorimor** for winning the door prize at our May Meeting.

Enjoy your \$25 Cabela's/Bass Pro Shops gift card!

Rick Ray of La Pine drew for the May monthly membership prize (\$500 towards any outdoor/hunting item) but was not present to win.

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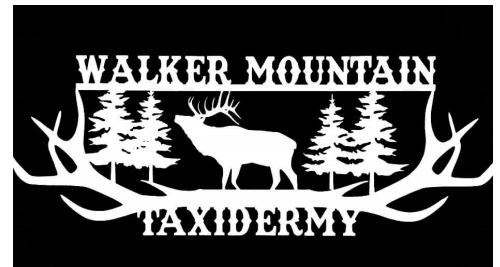
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REMEMBER TO RENEW!

When does your membership expire? Check out the back page for your expiration date. We currently have 592 members. Welcome to any new members!




Join us the weekend of **June 28-30** for a weekend of stream restoration in the heart of the **Ochoco National Forest at Deep Creek Campground**. This year's event will again focus on creating beaver dam analogs to aid in water retention and riparian restoration.

After a day full of conservation work, you'll be rewarded with a potluck steak dinner, gear raffle, and we'll cap the night off with campfire, music & general mountain merriment

It's an opportunity to connect with nature and like-minded individuals committed to making a difference. Camping is highly encouraged.


To register, visit: trcp.org/AHAB

All Hands All Brands For Your Public Lands was initiated five years ago by the Bend OHA Chapter and Ochoco National Forest Wildlife Bio's where numerous NGO's were invited to come to the table and partake in a volunteer project where all would be involved. Last year there were 68 volunteers that put in over a 1,000 hours building Beaver Dam Analogs.



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Eric Newman Family Update: As you may recall, Eric Newman was fatally shot at a boat ramp in Montana, while on a family vacation last summer. At the Bend Chapter banquet in March, it was announced that the funds from our “paddle up” segment would go to the Newman family instead of our youth events. After a moving tribute led by Michael O’Casey, bidder #’s were quickly raised all around the room. It was a beautiful moment. This is the fundraiser that Holly refers to in her letter.



Eric Newman’s Family: (L to R) Elliott, Holly, Ethan and Violet mountain biking on Eric’s birthday; we scattered ashes on a trail we used to ride as a family of five: Peterson Ridge.

To Eric’s dear friends in the Bend Chapter of OHA:

As I write this, we have just celebrated Eric’s first birthday without him. Our three children and I spent the weekend in Sisters: mountain biking, swimming, partying at a wedding, and scattering ashes. Eric was unfairly taken from us (and the rest of our family and friends, and all of you). His absence still seems surreal, but it is slowly becoming the new normal for our family.

We are so thankful for all of the support we have received - in the form of family dinners, childcare, decision-making, kind words, and donations and celebration of Eric. The initial outreach of support was so much that it was overwhelming – and frankly, my brain is still struggling to work and remember things correctly, so it’s largely a daze. When Mike wrote that another Fundraiser was planned by you all for our family, I was amazed to know you were still thinking of us. When I heard the total raised afterward, I was stunned. Thank you, so very much.

Eric was innocently murdered by an angry man who was ready to suicide, and he chose to take Eric with him. Our family witnessed his murder. My sister, Lauren Sprunk, and her three children: Tataum, Taylor, and Elias, were on vacation with us, and not many people realize they also endured that horrific day. I had been holding our youngest, Ethan, sleeping in my arms when Eric was shot; I gave him to Tataum, and I ran to pull Eric from his truck and start CPR. They covered Ethan’s eyes, so he did not see much of what the rest of us had to. They took care of Ethan and their brother, Elias, keeping them hunkered down and safe until we knew the threat had passed. Taylor took my other two children and hid in the woods to keep them safe. Afterward, she told me so many times “I’m here for you, Aunt Holly. I love you.”

My sister, Lauren, who is a nurse, called 9-1-1, and quickly followed me to help with CPR. After others showed up to take over for me, and other bystanders had led me away to my children, Lauren stayed and helped give chest compressions and start an IV line and intubate Eric. Her knees were cut and bloodied and her ankles rubbed raw from kneeling on hot asphalt for an hour trying to save him.

My sister and her children are the unsung heroes from that day. Along with all of the kind, random campers and law enforcement officers and volunteer medical crew, they got us through those moments and the first few days. They also continue to live with this witnessed trauma and grief, and have not had nearly the support that my children and I have, living apart from us, with this experience being largely unknown to their community.

I have decided to use much of the proceeds from your recent fundraiser to start 529 college accounts for all three of our nieces and nephews who were there, and to provide continued financial support for their family’s trauma therapy, family therapy, and other supportive care.

The months since Eric has been gone have been filled with more trying times for us - navigating trauma therapy for our oldest two kids, a kidney cancer scare for me (thankfully, not cancer, but I had half of my kidney removed in November), thyroid cancer and surgery for Lauren, half a month in hospitals with an airlift to Portland and chest tube for my daughter, Violet. We are enduring, and just now, finally beginning to transition from surviving to thriving. Thank you for continuing to remember us, to support me and Eric’s children, and for this gift to Lauren, Tataum, Taylor and Elias. Our hearts are filled by your love.

Holly

Two more photos on the next page . . .

More Newman Family Photos



The Newman kids attended a wedding on what would have been Eric's 41st birthday, 5/18/24. L to R: Ethan (3), Elliott (8), and Violet (6)



Sprunk family (L to R): Lauren, holding Elias (4), Tataum (11), Taylor (9)

SUCCESS IN THE FIELD!



Jaret's bear this year. Monster cinnamon. Hanging meat and bones is 202 lbs. Bear was over 300lb live. Pictures do not do it justice. It squared at 6' 2" Proud dad, **JR Lorimor**, shared the photo and details of this Central Oregon bear



Cole Hurt also with Mountain View High School Trap Club displays his pheasant from last year's youth upland bird hunt.



Brady Hadfield showing off his recently completed pheasant mount done by McLagan's Taxidermy. Brady shot this bird last year at our Fall Youth Bird Hunt. Congratulations!

Stay Informed

Please go to our chapter website: oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter and find the publications link to read past issues of The Tracker. We ran out of room to include the June Tracker in this newsletter, so watch for it to also appear on that link.

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\$200 Game Birds or Furbearers
\$200 Spotlighting
\$200 Snagging/Attempt to Snag



ODFW Preference Points rewards

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5 Points-Rocky Mountain goat
5 Points-Moose
5 Points-Wolf
4 Points-Elk
4 Points-Deer
4 Points-Antelope
4 Points-Bear
4 Points-Cougar



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