




OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

BEND CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

April 2026

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

Wednesday, April 8th

 *** 6:00 pm ***
Bend VFW

(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 our annual Youth & Family Outdoor Day
- ◆ OHA Tracker (no room)
- ◆ Our generous supporters/donors
- ◆ Photos & More!
- ◆ The Email to which you can send your photos, articles and other items for the newsletter. Thanks for your help!

Thank you, **Eric Brown**, for the header photo: **Greg Petsch** cutting out a tree along the wildlife fence near Cottonwood. **Roger Points** and **Brady Fuller** are in the background. See page 10 for report

President's Message

Hello to all our members of the Bend Chapter of the Oregon Hunters Association.
Our Mission: Protecting Oregon's Wildlife, Habitat, & Hunting Heritage

As of March 20th our total membership has jumped up to 542. That includes 42 new members, including the 39 that signed up during the month of March. WOW!!! I'm sure some of those signed up during our recent Mule Deer Classic Banquet, taking advantage of the great deal when they purchased one of the 2027 OHA Gun Calendars. There are too many to list here this month, just know that you are welcome and thanks for joining. We hope to see you at an upcoming meeting, on a project or any of our other activities soon. There were still 12 members who had let their members expire the end of February and 9 that expired in January. If you don't remember when yours expires, you can check your membership expiration date that's on the address label of your Oregon Hunter magazine.

As mentioned earlier, we just completed our annual Mule Deer Classic Banquet fund raiser, another sold out evening. Everyone there had a great time with the games, raffles, silent and live auctions. Our live auction this year included one of the A&H State Wide Mule Deer Hunt Auction Tags that this chapter was fortunate to get. That tag sold for a whopping \$90,000!! 10% of that amount goes to increase our chapter's funds for the evening. A special thank you goes out to Bryan Cook, our state OHA Field Director for getting those phone bidders lined up for us.

The great success of our annual fund raiser wouldn't be possible without the countless hours our committee and its many members spend every year getting out to visit our much appreciated donors. From talking to, (and sometimes twisting a few arms) collecting donations, cataloging, tracking, sorting, resorting, boxing, loading, unloading... you get the point! It takes a lot of work, not just what is seen the night of. As was mentioned, all the members who help put this event together are key in insuring our continued success every year. We could always use your help next year as well.

On the subject of help, our chapter has several board positions that are up for election in June. My position as President is one of those. I've been in it for 3 terms now and as I said two years ago, I don't plan to continue in my current position after this one expires. It's time for this chapter to get more of our members to step up and get involved.

Stay safe. Hope to see you out there.

Rex E Parks Sr
Bend Chapter President
Oregon Hunters Association

UPCOMING APRIL MEETING INFO:

We look forward to seeing YOU at our next monthly chapter meeting on **Wednesday April 8th**. Our meeting location is **the VFW Hall** in Bend. Remember to arrive early so you can purchase dinner from a nearby food truck (Midtown Yacht Club) and enjoy it before the meeting. Food is also available onsite at the VFW bar when the food truck in the parking lot is not open. (You are welcome to bring food with you) Arriving early also gives you the chance to visit with old friends or meet some new ones. Doors open at 5:00pm.

START TIME is 6:00pm

GUEST SPEAKER:

Our April guest speaker will be **Tyler Dungannon**, the OHA Conservation Director. He will inform us on how our funds are used for the Mule Deer, BMEI, new funds and projects

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

March Meeting Recap

In case you were unable to attend our monthly meeting at Bend VFW on March 11th, here are a few highlights:

Our guest speaker was **Mary Jo Hedrick**, a member of the OHA State Board of Directors. She is a retired ODFW Biologist and now manages industrial timberland. She assists in creating or reviewing usage plans as well as planning the actual projects. These plans include recreation, wildlife, and timber. (including Forest Service, BLM, BMEI, Mule Deer, Minam, EFM, etc.) They are currently creating a plan for the Minam Property. There will be no camping and it will open in December for bird hunting.

You've heard about the EFM property many times in the past few years. The Bend Chapter has volunteered on numerous projects, including thinning and building fences around the springs. Before any work began on that property, there were 9 miles of road per square mile. Now there are 2 mi of road per square mi. Mary Jo secures grants and funds to support the projects. Sometimes professionals need to be hired, but most of the work is completed by volunteers. She has requested our assistance on the next project, but no date has been set. If she attains a grant, then professionals will cut down/lop the trees and she would need us to stack the logs into piles. She assured us that the logs would be 8" or less in diameter and cut to 4-6 ft lengths. The location of this project is the upper portion of Smoke Creek.

There will be an increase in the lodging tax to help fund wildlife crossings, anti-poaching, wolf compensation fund (Wallowa County has a lot of wolf damage), etc. Conservation groups can apply for grants. See the April issue of the OHA Tracker for more details, as well as updates on other legislative bills.

Remember to thoughtfully consider how you can become more involved in the Bend Chapter. Becoming a board member is an important and much needed role. Don't ignore your inner voice nudging you to step up. We will have nominations in May and will vote in June. Our most urgent positions are: President, Secretary, Media. We look forward to working with you!

Please check your membership expiration date on your Oregon Hunter magazine. Remember to renew! Some subscriptions go a month or 2 past due so we remove them from our lists. We don't want anyone to fall thru the cracks and not receive the monthly newsletter or announcements. If you are still receiving a hard copy of the newsletter and are ready to switch to the digital version, please **send your email** address to **Wendy** (some members do not have an email listed, others bounced back when **Bob** sent the newsletter, others wanted to see how the digital version would work on their systems, etc). **Also**, if you are not receiving the monthly announcements and newsletter in an email from Bob, please give your email address to Wendy so we can update our records. Remember to include your name. Thanks for your help! Wenb.oha@outlook.com

It is time for your college student (new or returning) to work on the Beckley Family Scholarship Application. It must be postmarked by April 15th. If you didn't pick up an application at the banquet, it is available on our website.

Please share your suggestions for future guest speakers with **Rex**. Perhaps it could even be *you*.

Thank you for ALL of the banquet donations as well as any help with the planning, prep, and behind-the-scenes details. Your dedication paid off and is greatly appreciated!

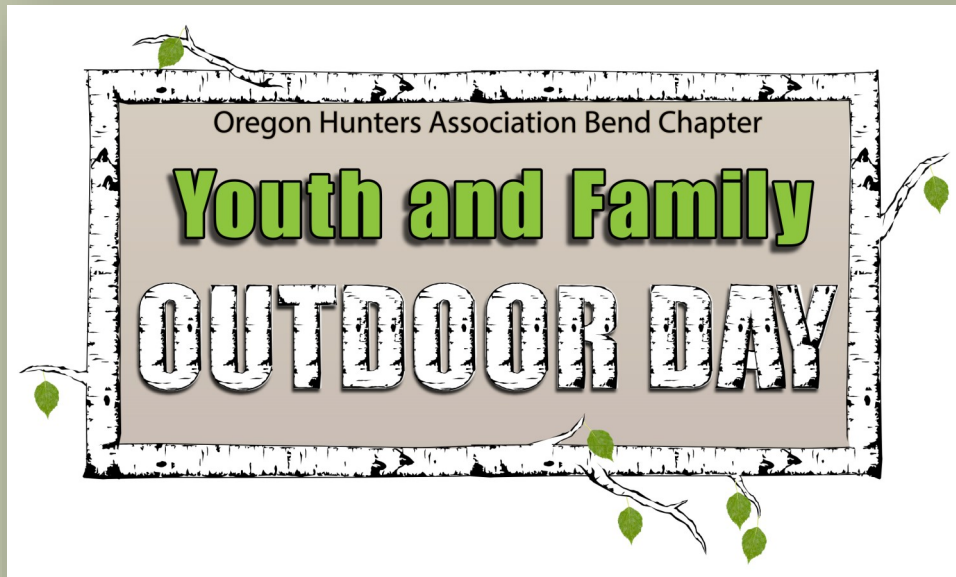
You missed out if you weren't at the meeting! Please join us at a monthly meeting. You might learn something new, have a good time, give us some valuable input . . .



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Pre-Registration required:

online April 15 thru Memorial Day: www.oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter

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- ◆ Prizes and MORE!

For more info call the **Bend OHA Youth & Family Activities Coordinator:**
Kevin Borst 541-480-7323

Upcoming Projects & Volunteer Opportunities: *May 30* Youth & Family Outdoor Day; *June 6-7* Elkhorn Wildlife Area buck & pole fencing; *June 19, 20 & 21* All Hands, All Brands: fire rehab from the Crazy Creek Fire—fence & guzzler building; *June 26, 27 & 28* Southwest Cascades Meadow project: fence; *4th Saturday in September:* National Public Lands Day; *Oct 17:* Bend Chapter Youth Upland Bird Hunt; ongoing: wildlife fence maintenance (Eric 541-647-0424)
Reminder: We have positions available for you to join the board, let your voice be heard, and help this chapter to remain strong. More positions opening in July. We also have non-board banquet committee positions open each year. Come join the fun!

REGISTER APRIL 15th FOR OUR YOUTH & FAMILY OUTDOOR DAY!
www.oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter

ONLY \$5 per person!
Ages 5 & under are FREE

Register on the 15th and receive 7 raffle tickets at the event; be the first family to register and receive 7 more raffle tickets!

Our 12th annual event will be Saturday, May 30th

Register by Memorial Day



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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.

All Hands, All Brands For Your Public Lands

Weekend work party in the Ochocos



June 19 - 21, Sugar Creek Campground, Ochoco National Forest

Join the many organizations and agencies rebuilding fences, guzzlers, and replacing signs destroyed by the 2024 fires.

**Archery
Shoot!**



Celebrate with a potluck dinner, raffle, campfire stories, music, and breakfast Sunday morning.



Contacts/RSVP:

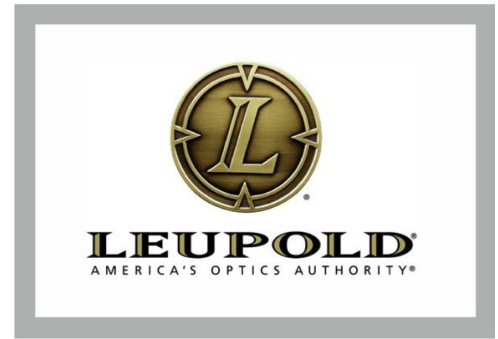
Eric Brown, Bend OHA @ 541-647-0424 or ericbrown5112@gmail.com

OHA Bend Chapter Officers

President **Rex Parks Sr** firelt602@gmail.com (541) 480-0230
 1st VP **Doug Stout** (541) 312-8332
 2nd VP (newsletter editor) **Wendy Borst** (541) 480-0748
 Treasurer **John Bambe** (541) 480-9848
 Secretary **Carlie Holm** (interim)
 At-Large (Media) **Bob Buddenbohn** (817) 470-7018
 At-Large (Youth Events) **Kevin Borst** (541) 480-7323
 At Large (Outreach Coord.) **position available**
 Project Coordinator **Don Clark** (702) 460-3653
 Banquet Chair **Cristy Ouellette**
 Assistants to banquet coordinator: positions always available
 (thank you to everyone who stepped up to help!)
 Past President resigned

Website:

oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter



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CALENDAR

Check our website for Bend OHA event dates and more details

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| April 1 | Spring Bear opens |
| April 2 | Passover begins |
| April 5 | Easter |
| April 8 | Monthly Chapter Meeting, 6:00 PM Bend VFW |
| April 15 | Youth & Family Outdoor Day online registration begins
Turkey season opens; Beckley Family Scholarship applications postmark due date |
| April 24 | *Deadline to submit items for May newsletter* |
| April 29 | Monthly Board Meeting |
| May 13 | Monthly Chapter Meeting |
| May 25 | Memorial Day |
| May 30 | Youth & Family Outdoor Day |

CHECK YOUR OREGON HUNTER'S CALENDAR FOR TAG DEADLINES, HUNT END DATES, & EVENTS ACROSS OUR STATE

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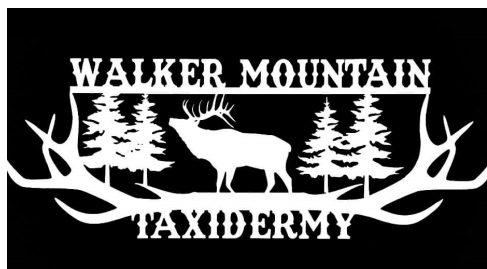


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It pays to attend our monthly chapter meeting:

Congratulations to **Gary Holtz** for winning the door prize at our March meeting.

Enjoy your \$25 Sportsman's Warehouse gift card!

John Susac of Bend drew for the March monthly membership prize (\$500 reimbursement towards any outdoor/hunting item) but he was not present

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REMEMBER TO RENEW!
When does your membership expire? Check the address label
of your Oregon Hunters magazine for your expiration date.
Welcome to any new members!

THANK YOU!!

The Bend Chapter of Oregon Hunters Association extends heartfelt appreciation to all of the donors who make our annual Mule Deer Classic Event and Banquet a success. The banquet on March 14th this year was a sold-out event with more than four hundred and twenty guests, many of whom are young hunters who will be the guardians for hunters' rights and future habitat preservation.

None of this would be possible without your generous support and donations!

Thank you again and we look forward to working with you next year.

To learn more about the Adopt-a-Guzzler program, attend the Spring meeting on April 16 6:00-7:30 pm at Pinky G's Pizzeria in Bend.

Now's your chance to join the guzzler maintenance volunteers and meet the ODFW staff

YOUTH:

Find a Hunters Education class this Spring & Summer so you can attend our 23rd annual Youth Upland Bird Hunt this Fall.

(If you don't already have your Hunter Ed card.)

Look for your card now in case you need to order a replacement. You must have the card with you.

Youth Hunt registration begins on September 1st at the Bend ODFW office. The event will be Oct. 17th

Questions? Call Kevin Borst 541-480-7323

Volunteer Hours:

Continue to use the **Bend Chapter's QR code** to report your volunteer hours until further notice. We are not yet ready to switch to the OHA State Office's link. Sorry for the mix-up!



The QR code and link are also on our chapter website:

Oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter


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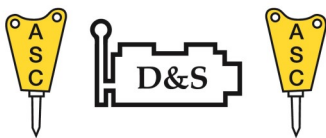
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Your Chapter at Work

Enhancing Habitat

Protecting Our Hunting Heritage

WILDLIFE FENCE MAINTENANCE & REPAIR - LAVA BUTTE TO VANDEVERT

March 26, 2026

Today 7 Bend OHA members utilized 3 SxS's and 1 Quad to patrol the wildlife fence and make repairs. Overall the fence was in good condition. Today Bend OHA member **Brady Fuller** joined us for the patrol. Brady is a Civil Engineer and Principle Project Manager at Jacobs. One of Jacobs many projects has been involved with designing wildlife fences in surrounding states so Brady wanted to learn more about our fences.



The only major issue today was this fallen tree causing fence damage. A smooth high wire was installed on two different locations where previous damage had been caused by falling trees. Hog rings were then used to connect the top smooth wire to the top wire of the fence.

7 T posts that were bent towards the forest on the east side south of Vandevort Road were straightened today. We have only seen this in one location on the original fence between Sunriver Jct and Lava Butte. This past year we have at least 4 locations on the fence between Sunriver Jct. and Vandevort Rd where the T posts have been bent towards the forest. This is caused by the elk. This newer section is a different design than the original fence. There are numerous 3" posts concreted in along the old fence where this is clearly not the case for this newer section.

Volunteers today were **Don Clark, Dave Sweet, Brady Fuller, Bill Littlefield, Greg Petsch** and **Eric Brown** for a combined volunteer time of 21 hours. 159 vehicle miles occurred coming/going from the site and 32 miles with ATV's.

Eric Brown



Brady is put to work tightening up an angle bracket.

If you would like to join the wildlife fence patrol crew, give **Eric Brown** a call:
541-647-0424

Below: **Dave Sweet, Don Clark, Brady Fuller**





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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 Tracker in this newsletter, so
watch for it to also
appear on that link.



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**Thank you
to everyone
who contributed
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\$300 Habitat Destruction
\$200 Illegally obtaining Oregon hunting or angling license or tags
\$200 Unlawful Lending/Borrowing Big Game Tag(s)
\$200 Game Fish & Shellfish
\$200 Game Birds or Furbearers
\$200 Spotlighting
\$200 Snagging/Attempt to Snag



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4 Points-Deer
4 Points-Antelope
4 Points-Bear
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