



OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

BEND CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

May 2026

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

Wednesday, May 13th



*** 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
- ◆ IP28 (pg 10)
- ◆ 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, **Kevin Borst**, for the header photos. Congratulations to **Rex Parks** for receiving Member of the Year 2025 for the Bend Chapter and to **Doug Stout** for harvesting a Spring turkey. Sorry these photos are small. Ran out of room in the newsletter

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 April 21st our total membership was at 551. Due to an unforeseen glitch, there is no new member numbers for any of the chapters at the time I write this. If you are a new member to our chapter, 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 are still 34 members that let their memberships slip by them at the end of March. Remember, if you want to stay involved and know what is happening within this chapter and continue to receive the Oregon Hunter Magazine, so you know what is happening throughout the rest of our association within the state and beyond, you need to get that membership renewed. If you don't know when yours expires, you can check your membership expiration date that's on the address label of the magazine.

Thank you to all of our members who are involved and attending our meetings, projects, fundraiser and other activities. Everyone is encouraged to participate in any way you are able to.

Our 12th Annual Youth and Family Outdoor Day is fast approaching. That comes up on the Saturday following the Memorial Day Weekend as always. This year, that's the 30th of May. Sign-ups for families started on April 15th. Contact Kevin or Wendy Borst to see how you may be able to help out that day as well. You'll find more information in this edition of our newsletter.

As a reminder, get your big game applications taken care of soon if you haven't already. That deadline for entry is almost here.

Make sure to attend our upcoming May 13th meeting. We are having Trooper Jerome as our guest speaker that night. He's with OSP and will be telling us about some of the Fish and Wildlife cases that he's been involved with recently.

And finally on a personal note, another THANK YOU. This one to all our members who voted for our Bend Chapter Member of the Year at the January meeting. At our April meeting it was announced that I was given the honor to be the recipient of that award for 2025. Thank you to the other members who were also nominated this year as well.

Stay safe. Hope to see you out there.
Rex E Parks Sr
Bend Chapter President
Oregon Hunters Association

UPCOMING MAY MEETING INFO:

We look forward to seeing YOU at our next monthly chapter meeting on **Wednesday May 13th**. 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 May guest speaker will be **OSP Trooper Jerome**, who will update us on current Fish & Wildlife cases

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

April Meeting Recap

In case you were unable to attend our monthly meeting at Bend VFW on April 8th, here are a few highlights:

Our guest speaker was **Tyler Dungannon**, the OHA Conservation Director. He updated us on the impact the OHA Mule Deer Fund & BMEI have had, as well as introducing us to the new fund being created by OHA. He began his presentation by informing us that the mule deer hunt areas have changed. For more info, see the interactive deer hunt area map:

myodfw.com/articles/eastern-Oregon-deer-hunts

This article also explains the reason for the change to Deer Hunt Areas rather than Wildlife Management Units (WMU's) (Side note: Tyler is at least the 3rd speaker who has informed us of this change, yet we still hear hunters say that they were surprised when they put in for their tags this year. Encourage your friends and family to become OHA members. Then attend the monthly meetings, read your newsletters & magazines, and open those emails. Keep yourself and your hunting buddies informed.)

Forty years ago, the mule deer population in Eastern Oregon was 330,000. Now it is only 160,000! The OHA Mule Deer Fund was created in an effort to improve the mule deer populations. The initial goal of the fund was \$50,000 total annual support from the OHA chapters. That goal has been met and Tyler encourages the chapters to continue this support. The new goal seeks \$25,000 annually from corporations. In just 2 years, OHA has received 21 project proposals, totaling over \$600,000. OHA was able to fund 9 projects for \$110,115. Most of the projects involve habitat improvement such as plantings, eradication of invasive plant species, reducing canopy cover, buck & pole fences, wildlife crossings, acquiring winter range acreage, etc. This year's projects include signs along Hwy 20 to reduce deer-vehicle collisions.

You may recall that several years ago OHA joined forces with the Blue Mountains Elk Initiative (BMEI). Due to the pledges of several OHA Chapters, we've helped fund projects that benefit both elk & pollinators, since they need the same habitat.

OHA is now creating a new fund to benefit wildlife in Western Oregon: Black-tailed Deer & Roosevelt Elk Fund. Tyler invites every chapter to participate in this fund as well. Since their habitats have considerable overlap, both species will benefit from this fund.

You may be wondering how so much can be accomplished with the available funds. The OHA funds are used to leverage additional matching funds, which have amounted to millions of dollars.

HB4134, the "1.25% for Wildlife" bill, passed in the Oregon Legislature, and the Governor signed it in April. This transient lodging tax will help fund wildlife conservation efforts.

Harmony and Riley, two FFA students, bravely spoke, thanking us for the donation, as well as enlightening us on many of the activities/projects in which they participate. FFA is so much more than barn animals at the county fair.

Our Liability Insurance provider now wants liability releases signed for each event. Volunteers can no longer sign one release form for the whole year.

Cristy Ouellette created a follow-up questionnaire for the banquet. Thank you to everyone who submitted their valuable feedback.

Congratulations to **Rex Parks**, the Bend Chapter President, for receiving Member of the Year! He was recognized for his dedication and support in leading this chapter since July 2020. (photo on front page)

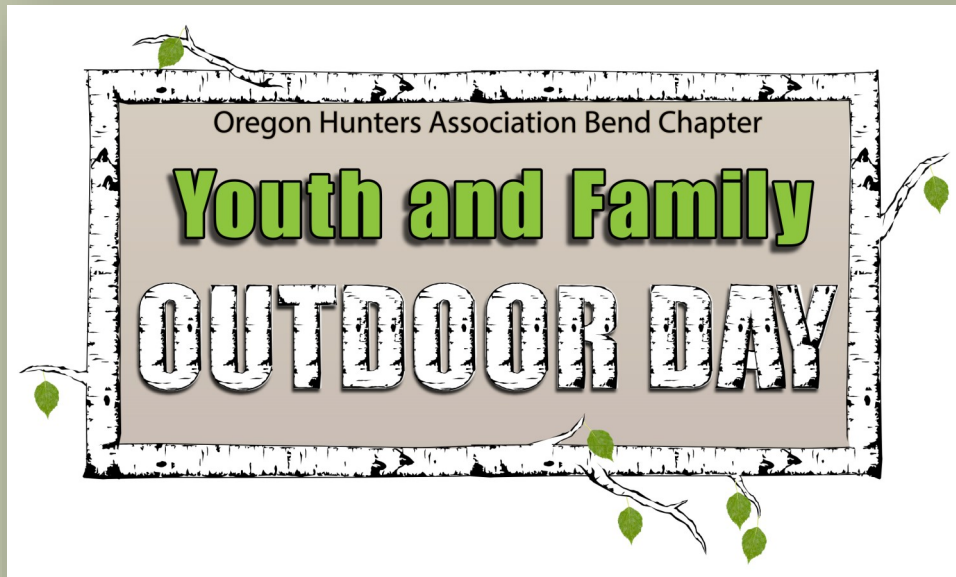
You missed out if you weren't at the meeting! Please join us at a monthly meeting. You might learn something new, have a good time, give us some valuable input . . .



*Protecting Oregon's wildlife, habitat
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Join us at
the Cyrus Ranch
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INCLUDED**



May 30, 2026

Pre-Registration required:

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

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY



- ◆ Sporting clays
- ◆ Archery
- ◆ Wilderness survival
- ◆ Demos
- ◆ Hands-on activities
- ◆ Camping essentials
- ◆ Make-and-take projects
- ◆ Flyfishing basics
- ◆ Try a new skill
- ◆ 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; *July 25* Three Rivers Archers and ODF&W will be hosting our annual ORPIC/Bowhunter warmup shoot at the La Pine archery park. OHA Bend invited to have a booth. *4th Saturday in September:* National Public Lands Day; *Oct 17:* Bend Chapter Youth Upland Bird Hunt; *on-going:* 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. We also have non-board banquet committee positions open each year. Come join the fun!

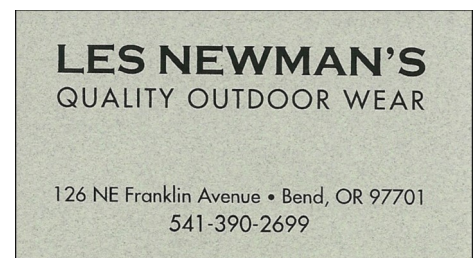
**REGISTER NOW FOR OUR
YOUTH & FAMILY
OUTDOOR DAY!**
www.oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter

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

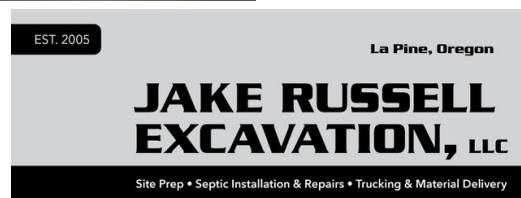
Online registration continues—
Register by Memorial Day

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

Registration is required
in order to attend



**Send photos to:
wenb.oha@outlook.com**



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:

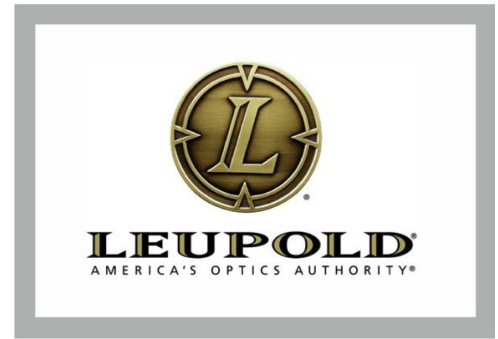
Eric Brown, Bend OHA @ 541-647-0424 or ericbrown5112@gmail.com

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

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| May 10 | Happy Mother's Day |
| May 13 | Monthly Chapter Meeting, 6:00 PM Bend VFW |
| May 24 | *Deadline to submit items for June newsletter* |
| May 25 | Memorial Day; last day to register for Youth & Family Outdoor Day |
| May 27 | Monthly Board Meeting |
| May 30 | Youth & Family Outdoor Day |
| June 10 | Monthly Chapter Meeting |

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

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Unleash Your Inner Adventure



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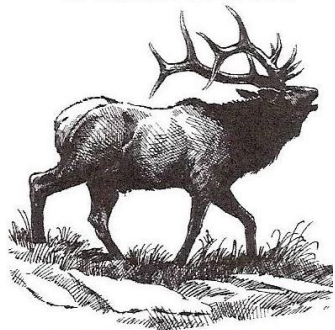


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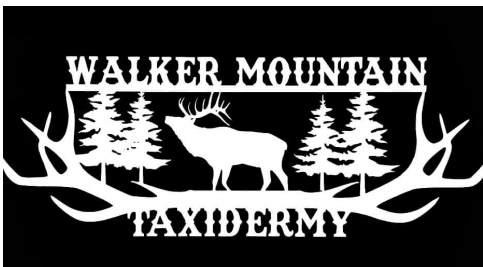


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It pays to attend our monthly chapter meeting:

Congratulations to **Greg Petsch** for winning the door prize at our April meeting.
Enjoy your \$25 Sportsman's Warehouse gift card!

Roger Heegard of Bend drew for the April 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!

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT IP28?

IT WOULD CRIMINALIZE HUNTING, FISHING, TRAPPING, FARMING, RANCHING, AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

WHAT IS IT?

IP28 is an initiative petition, not a legislative bill, aimed at the 2026 ballot.



It seeks to change the animal abuse statutes to **criminalize hunting, fishing, trapping, killing animals for food, education and research with animals, wildlife management practices, and even trapping mice & vermin**. It would classify breeding animals, to include domestic pets, livestock, and equine, as sexual assault.

It is an attack on a self-reliant lifestyle. It would create a 'no kill' sanctuary state, forcing Oregonians to a vegan diet or to have their meat and dairy products shipped in from other states, making us more reliant on the national food network for our food resources.



WHO'S BEHIND IT?

IP28 is driven by an **extreme, animal rights and vegan agenda** centered in Portland with out-of-state influences. (It was formerly known as IP3 & IP13)

The proponents of IP28 are currently gathering signatures to qualify it for the ballot; they have until July 2026 to gather over 117,000 signatures.

HOW DO WE FIGHT IT?

1) Educate everyone around you about this extreme measure and how harmful it would be to all Oregonians.

Make sure they understand:

Do not to sign anything for IP3!



Register to Vote Here



2) **Register to vote!** If this initiative makes the Oregon 2026 ballot, we need everyone to vote NO!

For more information:
oregonhunters.org/initiative-petition-13

Thank you to everyone who contributed content for this newsletter!

A Sincere Request:

Good afternoon OHA Family,

Pete and I have been out of town this week helping our son and his wife with our 22mo old grandson as our 4yr old granddaughter we rushed her to OHSU & Doernbechers last Thursday for exploratory surgery. Her scar tissue from her cancer surgery, at 4wks old, left scar tissue. The scar tissue caused her intestines to twist in on themselves causing a bowel blockage.

Surgery went well and she was able to start eating and drinking again yesterday. They hope to bring her home first of this next week. We've created a GoFundMe account that we share here in hopes to get the word out and hope you might share as well. Mom and Dad will be off work for several more weeks and need some financial help to assist them with medical expenses and help to get them through the month.

Any help is appreciated, but no obligations.

[HTTPS://gofund.me/991ef0b5b](https://gofund.me/991ef0b5b)

Thank you much,
The Ouellette Family



Kevin Borst (L) & Doug Stout (Rt) with the cadets from the Oregon National Guard Youth Challenge Program, after they assisted at our banquet

Two Zumwalt Prairie hunt winners drawn

The winners of OHA's raffle for dream deer and elk hunts on The Nature Conservancy's Zumwalt Prairie, drawn on April 22 at the OHA office, are:

Elk Hunt: Donald Monroe, Klamath Falls

Deer Hunt: Jon Blocker, Bend

OHA thanks all who bought tickets to support Blue Mountains habitat work and OHA's mission, as well as TNC for their commitment to conservation.



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Info@hdfirearmsusa.com
OFFICE: (541) 408-0003

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
content
for this
newsletter!**



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\$600 Bear, Cougar & Wolf
\$300 Habitat Destruction
\$200 Illegally obtaining Oregon hunting or angling license or tags
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\$200 Game Birds or Furbearers
\$200 Spotlighting
\$200 Snagging/Attempt to Snag



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5 Points-Bighorn sheep
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



Visit our website:

<https://oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter>

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Shaun Carpenter

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