

Outdoor Oklahoma

JULY / AUGUST 2024 — ONLY \$10 A YEAR

2024 Readers' Photography Showcase!

Habitat Cubes
Help Shape
Better Fishing

State Youth
Shine In
Shooting, Archery



A PUBLICATION OF THE OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION



PANORAMAS

This month marks a huge win for Oklahoma hunters and anglers as major changes are underway with our hunting and fishing licensing



structure. It's the culmination of a focused effort that has lasted more than four years to secure a reorganization and a pricing overhaul to an over-complicated system that had barely been touched in 20 years.

On March 26, Gov. Kevin Stitt signed the Oklahoma Wildlife License Modernization Act into law. ODWC had a lot of vital help getting to that point and it

would have never happened if it weren't for the collaborative efforts of many supporters who came together this past year.

A wide range of conservation groups were critical in supporting this legislation authored by Sen. David Bullard (R-Durant) and Rep. Ty Burns (R-Pawnee). Not only will this legislation provide for a more streamlined user experience for license buyers it also provides a key funding boost for the Wildlife Department.

Remember that the Wildlife Department does not receive any state-appropriated tax revenues; we operate on federal grant matching funds and license fees paid by those who enjoy and use the outdoors. But ODWC cannot just raise and lower license fees as it wishes; the state Legislature has authority to establish most license prices through Title 29 in state statutes.

After years of user surveys, research and advocacy, license modernization is now in place due to the support of these conservation groups and the state Legislature.

These groups understand the North American model of wildlife conservation – the time-honored process in which those who enjoy our natural resources now are the ones who pay it forward so future generations can also enjoy it later on. It's referred to as a user-pay, public-benefit system, because today's users are funding conservation that will benefit everyone in years to come.

Our conservation partners stepped up, realizing that this modernization plan would improve the license-buying experience for customers, provide better habitat for fish and wildlife, and increase recreational opportunities for all Oklahomans. We want to formally and sincerely thank them all:

- Oklahoma Ducks Unlimited.
- Trout Unlimited — Dave Whitlock Chapter.
- Oklahoma State Game Warden Association.
- Safari Club International.
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.
- Delta Waterfowl.
- Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation.
- National Deer Association.
- Mule Deer Association.
- Oklahoma Chapter, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers Association.
- Oklahoma Chapter, National Wild Turkey Federation.
- Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Foundation.
- Boone and Crockett Club.
- Pheasants Forever/Quail Forever.

The Oklahoma Wildlife License Modernization Act of 2024 is among the biggest accomplishments in the recent history of the Wildlife Department. It will secure our ability to conserve and protect our natural resources for years to come. ♡

Wade Free

Wade Free,
Interim Director

Outdoor Oklahoma

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Alan McGuckin, Skiatook

This rutting buck was chasing a doe near Tall Chief Cove on Lake Skiatook in November 2023.

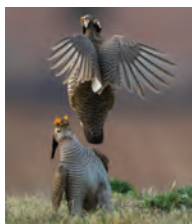
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Shop for Wildlife Department Merch!



ON THE COVER:

Lesser prairie-chickens conduct an energetic display on a booming ground at Cimarron Bluff Wildlife Management Area in this dramatic image captured by Bill Adams of Duncan. We celebrate our readers' amazing

photographic abilities starting on Page 14 of this issue of Outdoor Oklahoma.

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OKLAHOMA



OFF THE BEATEN PATH

NOTES ON WILDLIFE • OUTDOOR TIPS • READERS' LETTERS • ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS
COMPILED BY DON P. BROWN

ANGLERS GET SQUARE DEAL WITH FISH HABITAT CUBES

BY DON P. BROWN, COMMUNICATION AND
EDUCATION SPECIALIST

The biologists and technicians in the Fisheries Division of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation are rightly focused on the health and well-being of aquatic creatures and environments across the state. But they also give plenty of attention to how anglers are able to enjoy those resources.

Illinois and a local Friends of Reservoirs group. They were introduced to the Shelbyville cube, a large fish habitat structure, and quickly realized the benefits these cubes could bring to Oklahoma anglers.

The cubes are about 4 feet long by 4 feet wide, and around 5 feet tall, constructed of PVC pipe that is then wrapped in corrugated tubing. A "floor" constructed of snow fencing prevents sinking, siltation and other displacement issues that plague current fish attractors used in Oklahoma.

About a year ago, Fisheries biologists including Michael Hollie unveiled a plan to begin using the cubes here. A grass-roots campaign seeking online donations began. And a test build session was held, where Fisheries staff put together 10 of the cubes.

"We put a handful of these out on Fort Gibson and went back a week later and used live sonar. And they were just covered with fish. We have no doubt they are going to work," Hollie said.



A U.S. Army Corps of Engineers volunteer helps assemble fish habitat cubes for Lake Eufaula.

Good fisheries management usually yields good fishing. So, with that in mind, several ODWC staffers doubled-up — or rather "cubed-up" — on efforts to improve fish habitat using a previously-unused fish attractor design.

In 2022, Fisheries biologists David Bogner and Brad Johnston attended a fish habitat conference hosted by the Shelbyville Lake Habitat Alliance in



An ODWC Fisheries staffer fills fish habitat cube frames with gravel to hold them in place on the lakebed.



Build days were held to assemble more than 100 habitat cubes.



At one workstation, PVC pipe was being cut into the proper lengths.



Staffers cut plastic drain pipe to length at another workstation.



Staff and volunteers built almost 119 fish habitat cubes that were deployed at 55 sites in Lake Eufaula.

Jonathan West, another ODWC biologist who has been part of the habitat cube effort since it was proposed by Bogner and Johnston, said he expected to find some fish around the new-style cubes. "But I was pleasantly surprised at how many crappie there were. These things are proving to be magnets for crappie, which means better crappie fishing!"

The cubes further benefit anglers by attracting various species of fish including black bass, sunfish and crappie. And the rolling design and slick materials reduces the chances of tackle hang-ups. Fish benefit, too, as the cubes provide escape and hiding cover, concentrate feeding opportunities,

and help produce some vegetation near lake bottoms that are void of habitat.

All the funds donated toward the effort can be leveraged against federal matching dollars at a rate of 3-for-1. Soon, the City of Eufaula jumped in, donating \$10,000 to ODWC to secure an additional \$30,000 in federal matching funds, which was earmarked

WHERE ARE THEY?

Hundreds of fish habitat structures have been placed in waterbodies across Oklahoma. To view the most recent interactive map of structures placed across the state, including GPS coordinates and bank accessibility, scan the code. 📱



HOW TO HELP

Donations of \$5, \$10 or \$15 may be made to help produce more fish habitat across the state. To learn more, scan the code:



for Eufaula Lake conservation projects. Eufaula has pledged to continue making donations for fish attractors for a minimum of five years.

"This is their money at work," Hollie said. "We're putting habitat out there for them. And we're going to make these coordinates known so they can go and utilize these structures."

And anglers will be able to use the cubes wherever they are deployed for many, many years to come.

"They will last 15-plus years," Hollie said, at a cost of about \$165 per cube. "Typical brush piles (created as fish attractors) need to be refurbished every three to five years."

"A lake the size of Eufaula has more than 200 attractor sites, but we cannot get around to all of them in time. We can put these artificial structures, these cubes, out there, and they are going to last a lot longer. And it's just more habitat we

can put in the lake without it degrading before we can get to it."

Fisheries staff will still be maintaining the underwater brush piles when they aren't building and deploying the artificial attractors.

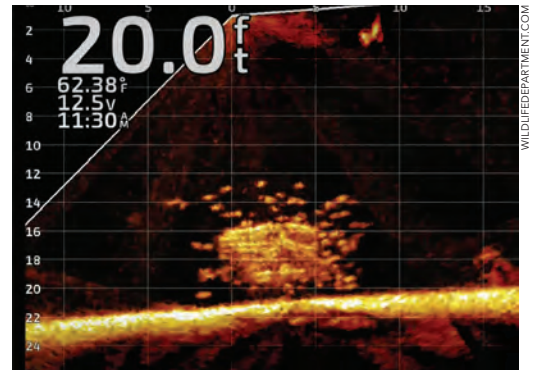
The first major build-out of the cubes was Feb. 28. ODWC staff from Law Enforcement, Wildlife and Fisheries divisions, along with volunteers from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the City of Eufaula and the Choctaw Nation, and several local anglers showed up to join in the assembly-line process.

Hollie said 119 Shelbyville cubes were built that day, and they were deployed at 55 sites in Lake Eufaula during the first week of March. The remainder of the city's donation was used to buy 63 MossBack Fish Habitat structures.

ODWC also plans to begin building and deploying cubes in waterbodies across the state as donations and funding become available. 🐾



Shelbyville fish habitat cubes are being deployed into Lake Eufaula.



LiveScope sonar shows fish congregating around a recently placed cube structure at Fort Gibson Lake.

MAJOR LEAGUE ANGLERS, YOUTH UNITE FOR EUFAULA FISH HABITAT



The group building and installing fish habitat structures at Lake Eufaula are ODWC Fisheries Division staffers Michael Hollie, Michael Williams, David Bogner, Julianne Perry and Madison Mitchell, along with MLF pros and the Oologah-Talala High School Fishing Team.

Major League Fishing pro anglers and the MLF Fisheries Management Division joined with ODWC and the Oologah-Talala High School Fishing Team on May 2 to complete the Minn Kota Habitat Restoration Project, supported by Humminbird, on Lake Eufaula.

"ODWC's commitment to our fisheries is unmatched and being able to experience this project with the Oologah-Talala High School Fishing Team is an extremely valuable opportunity," pro angler Edwin Evers said.

The project was part of a four-year large-scale habitat restoration program for Lake Eufaula that ODWC began earlier this year. ODWC is anticipating future donations from the City of Eufaula that they plan to increase through federal matching programs. The potential value of the four-year project is more than \$150,000.

Bass Pro Tour anglers Josh Bertrand, Stephen Browning, Ott DeFoe, Gary Klein, John Murray, Britt Myers, Micheal Neal, Skeet Reese, Colby Schruppf, Greg Vinson and Evers joined the high school team, ODWC Fisheries Division staff, Choctaw Nation Wildlife Conservation, MossBack Fish Habitat founder David King, and Director of the MLF FMD Steven Bardin to construct MossBack fish habitat products including Conservation Cubes, Safe Haven XLs, and John Godwin Crappie Towers. The structures were weighted using supplies donated by the local Lowes home improvement store and deployed into Eufaula Cove. 🐾

— Major League Fishing

MARSHALL REIGH IS GAME WARDEN OF YEAR



Marshall Reigh

After a nomination and selection process among his peers, Game Warden Marshall Reigh has been named 2023 Game Warden of the Year at the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

Reigh has served all of his 20 years as a game warden based in Grant County.

Lt. Col. Wade Farrar, assistant chief of law enforcement for ODWC, said Reigh has demonstrated exceptional dedication, leadership and innovation in his efforts to protect Oklahoma's natural resources. Reigh's tireless work enforcing conservation laws, engaging with the community, and implementing creative solutions to conservation challenges have had significant and positive impacts.

"Marshall has found ways to impact his community beyond the scope of just a ticket book and first-class wildlife law enforcement response. He understands that to truly have an impact on those around him, it takes more than a shiny badge and stern steadfast enforcement."

As a member of his local school board, Reigh oversaw a project to create an outdoor classroom and children's fishing area near the school. He also worked with the local Quail Forever chapter to begin construction of a trap range so regional youths can enjoy shotgun sports.

Reigh has fostered a relationship with Autry Technology Center in Enid to amplify its specialized outdoor education classes. He is directly involved in planning, teaching and developing these previously unavailable outreach programs that are now being used as the template for Career Tech schools around the state.

Reigh organized regional deer-scoring events and taught a live demonstration class on processing a deer. He teamed with the technology center's culinary program and taught students how to properly cook venison.

"Marshall's efforts in bridging the gap between outdoor education and culinary arts highlight his innovative approach and commitment to promoting sustainable living and appreciation for wildlife resources," Farrar said. "His passion, professionalism, exemplary service and unwavering commitment to conservation serve as an inspiration to us all."

Game Warden Austin Jackson, based in Craig County, was the 2023 Game Warden of the Year runner-up. Other nominees were Cody Youngblood based in Cherokee County, Thomas Gillham based in Pushmataha County, Garret Harley based in Seminole County, Josey Branch based in Payne County, Dylan King based in Canadian County, and Brandon Lehrman based in Greer County. 🏆

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Outdoor Oklahoma

MAY / JUNE 2024

LET'S CELEBRATE
WILDLIFE DIVERSITY

Your Chance To See,
Share, And Science!

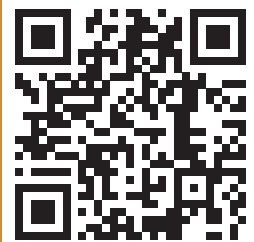
SPECIAL PULLOUT SECTION

Review Foundation's
Many Investments in



WE WANT TO KNOW
THE OPINIONS OF
OUR READERS!

Please scan the QR
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Outdoor Oklahoma
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STUDENTS IN ODWC'S SHOOTING, ARCHERY PROGRAMS WIN STATE, NATIONAL HONORS

OKLAHOMA SCHOLASTIC SHOOTING SPORTS PROGRAM

The Oklahoma Scholastic Shooting Sports Program (OKSSSP) celebrated its 11th year in 2024. This ODWC outdoor education program started in 2013 with 20 pilot schools and now has over 200 middle and high schools involved.

On April 2-3, about 1,200 students participated in two regional competitions at the Oklahoma Trap and Skeet Association in El Reno. The top 16 high schools and eight junior high schools as well as 80 individuals advanced to the state shoot April 17. Teams compete in a bracket-style competition until winners are determined through eliminations. Results of the event can be viewed online at wildlifedepartment.com/education/shotgun/oklahoma-scholastic-shooting-sports-program-oksssp.

Damon Springer, OKSSSP coordinator, said shooting sports has grown in popularity over the past few years and most colleges in Oklahoma have a shooting team with several offering scholarships. "Several high school seniors have signed letters of intent with colleges in Oklahoma for the fall 2024 semester."

See photos for the state shoot champion teams and individuals.

OKLAHOMA NATIONAL ARCHERY IN THE SCHOOLS AND VARSITY ARCHERY

Kelly Boyer, coordinator of ODWC's Oklahoma Archery in the Schools (OKNASP) and Varsity Archery programs, congratulated all competitors in the state shoot and the teams and individuals who went on to compete in national competitions.

"We harbor some of the most talented young archers in the nation and upheld that claim by those who placed at this year's national competition. Their dedication and leadership have made the state and our agency proud by continually raising the bar."

See photos for state shoot champion teams and individuals. Listed below are Oklahoma students who placed in national archery contests:

Western NASP Nationals Bullseye, Sandy, Utah

Number of archers competing: 2,152.

Eight teams (130 archers total) from Oklahoma.



OKSSSP State Top Senior Male and Top Overall Senior Individual: Bo Patten of Woodward.



OKSSSP State Top Senior Female: Audrey Grey of Boise City.



OKSSSP State Top Junior Male and Top Junior Overall Individual: Dylan Caddell of Boise City.



OKSSSP Senior Division State Champion: Merritt.



OKSSSP Junior Division State Champion: Okarche.

Placings:

5th Place Male, Middle School Division: Kyler Perkins, Zaneis (288)

6th Place Male, Middle School Division: Landon Carr, Lawton Academy of Arts and Science (286)

Western NASP Nationals IBO 3D, Sandy, Utah

Number of archers competing: 1,812.

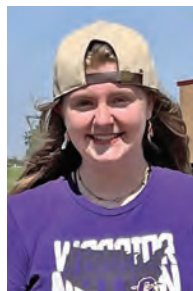
Six teams (96 archers total) from Oklahoma.

Placings:

7th Place Team, High School Division: McLoud High School

4th Place Female, High School Division: Ciera Dunn, McLoud (288)

10th Place Female, High School Division: Jordyn Rivera, Cameron (285)



OKSSSP State Top Junior Female: Tenley Ludwig of Okarche.

Eastern NASP Nationals Bullseye, Louisville, KY.

Number of archers competing: 14,494.

Twenty-one teams (378 archers total) from Oklahoma.

Placings:

2nd Place Team, High School Division: Locust Grove

1st Place National Champion Male Individual, High School Division: Dax Beason, Lexington (297)

2nd Place (three-way tie) Male Individual, High School Division: Caden Eyestone, Chandler (296)
 5th Place (five-way tie) Male Individual, High School Division: Jeff Adams, Locust Grove (295)

1st Place National Champion Team, Middle School Division: Locust Grove
 3rd Place Team, Middle School Division: Altus Jr. High
 2nd Place Female Individual, Middle School Division: Kylee Tugmon, Locust Grove (291)
 5th Place Female (three-way tie) Individual, Middle School Division: Layla Rubio, Altus Jr. High (290/21)
 8th Place Female (three-way tie) Individual, Middle School Division: Ali Pierce, Locust Grove (290/20)

1st Place National Champion Team, Elementary School Division: Altus Intermediate (four times in a row)
 7th Place Team, Elementary School Division: Chouteau-Mazie
 1st Place National Champion Male Individual, Elementary School Division: Kinsler Lamb, Altus Intermediate (288)
 6th Place Male Individual, Elementary School Division: Cash Ellis, Locust Grove
 3rd Place Female Individual, Elementary School Division: Jacklyn Girty, Chouteau-Mazie (284)
 7th Place Female Individual, Elementary School Division: Phoebe Oredson, Altus Intermediate (280)

Eastern NASP Nationals IBO 3D, Louisville, KY.

Number of archers competing: 6,445.

Nine teams (172 archers total) from Oklahoma.

Placings:

3rd Place Team, High School Division: Locust Grove

2nd Place Team, Middle School Division: Locust Grove

2nd Place Female Individual, Middle School Division: Kylee Tugmon, Locust Grove (291)

2nd Place Team, Elementary School Division: Altus Intermediate

5th Place Team, Elementary School Division: Locust Grove

9th Place Team, Elementary School Division: Chouteau-Mazie

3rd Place Male Individual, Elementary School Division: Cash Ellis, Locust Grove (287)

7th Place Male Individual, Elementary School Division: Kinsler Lamb, Altus Intermediate (281)



OKNASP State 1st Place Team, High School: Locust Grove.



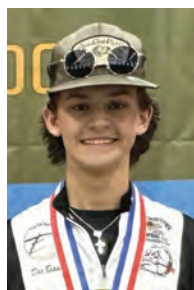
OKNASP State Champion Middle School Team: Altus Junior High.



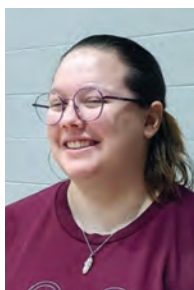
OKNASP State Champion Elementary Team: Altus Intermediate Elementary.

6th Place Female Individual, Elementary Division: Emma Bennett, Locust Grove (281)

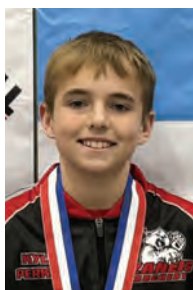
10th Place Female Individual, Elementary Division: Jacklyn Girty, Chouteau-Mazie (274)



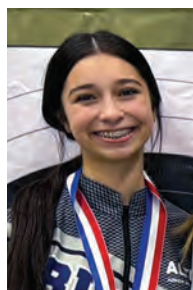
OKNASP State 1st Place HS Male: Dax Beason, Lexington.



OKNASP State 1st Place HS Female: Bailey Kupsick, Sequoyah.



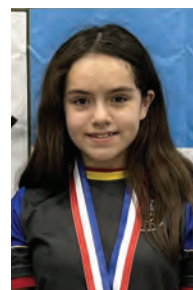
OKNASP State 1st Place MS Male: Kyler Perkins, Zaneis.



OKNASP State 1st Place MS Female: Layla Rubio, Altus.



OKNASP State 1st Place ES Male: Kinsler Lamb, Altus..



OKNASP State 1st Place ES Female: Jacklyn Girty, Chouteau-Mazie.

WILD ABOUT COOKING

FISH FILLETS GRILLED IN FOIL

From wildharvesttable.com

Grilling and summer fishing are finally here! Poaching fish in foil packets is a great way to cook fish on a grill, whether you're cooking on a gas grill, over charcoal, or with a campfire. You can leave smaller fish whole and the meat just pulls away from the bones after cooking, or you can fillet the fish to avoid bones altogether. The bit of liquid in the packets keeps the fish moist and tender as it cooks.



INGREDIENTS

- 1 pound freshwater fish fillets, any species, such as bass, trout, sunfish or crappie (salmon fillets shown in photos)
- 2 tablespoons butter or olive oil
- 2 tablespoons white wine and/or fresh lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons chopped shallot or red onion
- Pinch of salt and pepper and/or a spice rub (to taste)
- 2 tablespoons fresh chopped parsley, dill or other fresh herbs
- Heavy duty aluminum foil

INSTRUCTIONS

- Preheat grill to medium-high heat. Place a large piece of heavy duty aluminum foil on a flat surface. It's best to only have 1 or 2 fish fillets per foil packet, so depending on the number of fillets, you may need more pieces of foil.
- Place a few teaspoons of butter or oil, a sprinkle of fresh herbs and some onion in the center of the foil. Place cleaned fish fillets in a single layer on top of the herbs and sprinkle with salt and pepper.
- Place the remaining butter/oil, herbs and onion on top. Bring up two ends of foil above the fish and carefully pour wine on top of the fish.
- Fold foil to create a tight seal on all edges.
- Place foil pack directly on hot grill and cook about 5 minutes, then carefully turn packet over with a large spatula or tongs and cook about 5 minutes more. Remove from grill. Be very careful of the steam when opening packet.
- Note: You can get creative with seasonings and add any of your favorite spice rubs, such as Cajun or Old Bay, on the fish.
- Note: Softer vegetables such as sliced summer squash or asparagus can be cooked in the foil packs with the fish.
- Note: These foil packs work great on a campfire for camping or making a shore lunch!

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GAME WARDEN'S JOURNAL

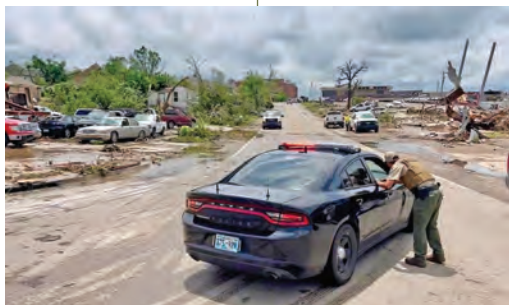
ACCOUNTS FROM THE FIELD BY THE PUBLIC SERVANTS WHO ENFORCE THE FISH AND WILDLIFE LAWS OF OKLAHOMA.



Game Wardens **Clint Carpenter**, based in Custer Co., **Tucker Blackburn**, based in Roger Mills County, and Lt. **James Edwards Jr.**, based in Beckham County, taught hunter education to 42 students recently in Elk City. Each year, game wardens teach hunter education classes for thousands of students, showing future generations how safe, responsible, respectful, ethical, and legal hunting practices can shape a brighter future for our hunting and shooting heritage! The First Assembly of God Church sponsored the free class, and Cameron Marcum at Totally Outdoors donated a raffle item.



Oklahoma Game Wardens **Clint Carpenter**, based in Custer County, and Lt. **James Edwards Jr.**, based in Beckham County, participated in the Dewey County NRCS Outdoor Classroom near Lenora. Game wardens taught firearms safety to 70 fourth-graders from Taloga, Leedey, Vici and Seiling.



Oklahoma Game Wardens responded quickly to assist in areas affected by the tornado outbreak of April 27, including Sulphur. Some game wardens had damage to their own property but were still out this evening helping their neighbors.

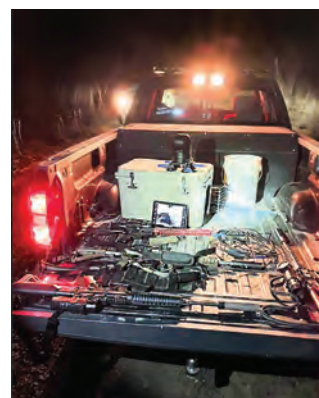
A favorite duty for Oklahoma game wardens is assisting sportsmen and sportswomen. Game wardens in

southeastern Oklahoma were on the water in May and were able to assist anglers young and old.

Game Wardens **Thomas Gillham**, based in Pushmataha County, **Matt Penwright**, based in Pittsburg County, and **Zach Hanson**, based in Latimer County, were patrolling Sardis Lake when they encountered a couple of anglers with a boat problem. The anglers gladly accepted a tow back to their ramp and were happy to get out of the stump field as the sun began to bear down on them.

Meanwhile, Game Warden **Shane Fields**, based in Pittsburg County, assisted with the Kids Fishing Derby at Lake Eufaula. More than 150 young and upcoming anglers participated. State game wardens often assist local, state and national conservation groups in outreach programs to ensure that the traditions of hunting, fishing, and conservation of natural resources are passed to future generations.

In late February, Game Warden **Tucker Clem**, based in Jefferson County, witnessed a truck slow-rolling a county road about 1:30 a.m. with headlights off. Clem made a traffic stop on the vehicle. He



discovered the truck had a vehicle-mounted thermal imaging device on it's roof that was being operated on the county road. On the truck's dash was an monitor displaying a live feed thermal video of the county road. The four people in the truck each had in their possession an AR-15-style rifle with a suppressor and mounted thermal scopes. The people in the truck said they were hunting with an outfitter from Jefferson County. Clem issued citations for operating a motor vehicle without headlights, spotlighting, and hunting with the aid of a motor vehicle.

(Reports from the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation-Game Wardens Facebook page.)

EDITOR'S NOTE: Please help make a difference! When violators break the law, they steal fish and wildlife from you! Report violations anonymously by calling Operation Game Thief at 800-522-8039. You could earn a cash reward.

2023 CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION

"I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE SUPER BORING SITTING THERE"

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and Oklahoma Station Chapter Safari Club International sponsor a creative writing competition for middle and high school students. A boy and a girl from two age divisions are selected winners. Students write essays using the theme "Hunting: Sharing the Heritage" or "Archery: What I Like About Archery in the Schools and Bowhunting." Winners in the age 15-17 category receive a guided antelope hunt in the Texas Panhandle, and winners in the 11-14 age category receive a hunting trip with Rack Attack Outfitters of Fairview (or similar) and a scholarship to the Outdoor Texas Camp. In this issue, Outdoor Oklahoma honors senior category female winner Skylar Ayers, 17, from El Reno High School.



By Skylar Ayers

Hunting has been an integral part of human history, providing nourishment, shaping cultures, and creating a deep connection between humans and nature. From the time I was old enough, I have had a strong desire to join in on being part of this tradition. Unfortunately, my aspirations faced setbacks due to my father's multiple back surgeries, leaving him unable to take me on my first hunting expedition. Everything changed when my mom entered me in a youth hunt that the Oklahoma Youth Hunting Program (OYHP) was planning. OYHP's program is focused on sharing the heritage of hunting with young people who might not otherwise have the opportunity. I was excited, nervous and worried all at the same time. I wished I could have had my dad take me on my first hunt. However, I will always cherish the memories I had on that hunt. I met some amazing people and learned a multitude of things.

When I first arrived at the campsite – a horse barn – we unloaded our vehicle and put everything into one of the stalls. My initial skepticism about sleeping in a horse stall gave way to a mix of emotions but it ended up being quite enjoyable. Once settled in, we went over firearms safety. We got to spend some time at the range shooting pellet guns while also meeting the guides. There was one guide that really stood out to me. She was easy to talk to and seemed quite knowledgeable. She ended up being my guide.

The next morning, we left for the blinds at 6 a.m. and stayed in the blinds for 3.5 hours. I thought it would be super boring sitting there for that long, so I hoped I would harvest my deer that morning. The waiting time did not end up being boring; rather it quickly became a lesson in patience and observation. By the third time going out to the blind, I learned that it is almost exactly time to shoot when the birds in the trees and the bugs on the water start waking up. We were sitting across a pond, and it was the most breathtaking sight. Rabbits would hop out, and fish would hit the top of the water to get the bugs scattering across the surface. The sky looked as if it was on fire. It was the most vibrant mix of orange and yellow. The pond gave a perfect reflection, looking like it was filled with a fiery substance.

After taking the sights in, the daylight was finally getting bright enough for me to determine shapes and objects. A doe appeared all of a sudden. I set my sights on it while she stood perfectly broadside. I had an ideal shot to take, but there was one problem. I could not stop shaking enough to get a shot off. It reminded me of something my uncle had told me in preparation for the trip, "The key is to get through the adrenaline and have the discipline to wait for a steady, lethal, and humane shot, or pass. Don't let anything pressure you otherwise. Sometimes it's the shots we don't take that define a true ethical hunter. Like everything in life, it's simple, but doing it correctly isn't always easy." I watched as the doe walked off, but I was not disappointed. I am proud to say that I had the control to not take the shot. If I missed it, then I might not get another chance that morning. Next thing I know, she reappears with two more companions. The adrenaline had passed, and I was as steady as possible. It was just a waiting game until one of the three stood broadside. Within a minute, one stood right where I needed it to stand. I told my guide which one I was looking at. When she gave me the OK, I steadied my breathing, put the crosshairs where I wanted them, and squeezed the trigger. It felt like I was in a dream. I saw the doe drop instantly, and my guide's cheers echoed the relief I felt. Once we got the clear to move, we left the blind to make sure I got my harvest. I walked up to the animal which was not moving at all. I was relieved at that because I listened to my uncle's advice and the doe did not suffer. I thanked the Lord for my harvest and began field dressing the doe. It was interesting to learn the different parts of a doe.

That day made me respect wildlife even more so than I had prior to this adventure. I hope to pass on my knowledge of hunting to others one day. I plan on returning to that camp as an alumna to share my insights and teach other youths who find themselves in a position I was in once. The inspiring individuals I encountered during this experience exceeded my expectations, motivating me to pursue a deeper understanding of the mechanics and strategies of hunting, with the hope of encouraging the next generation of ethical hunters. ♡



WELCOME TO THE TAILGATE!

Is the hunting good? You bet! Step up to **The Tailgate** and check out some great harvests during recent seasons by hunters in Oklahoma. Here's a few we thought you would enjoy! To submit your photo of a successful hunting trip, or to see what others have harvested, go to wildlifedepartment.com/hunting/tailgate or scan the code:



Christopher Smith, wild turkey, Dewey County.



Josh Lawhon, cottontail rabbit, Seminole County.



Caleb Jones, white-tailed deer, Lincoln County.



Lauren Shaefer, wild turkey, Nowata County.



Cory Heckle, wild turkey, Harmon County OLAP.



Kourtney Casillas, wild turkey, Okmulgee Public Hunting Area.

GAME BAG

A COLLECTION OF LETTERS TO THE WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

We'd like to hear from you! Send your letters to Outdoor Oklahoma Letters, P.O. Box 53465, Oklahoma City, OK 73152, or send e-mail to donald.brown@odwc.ok.gov.

Dear Jerrod Davis,
ODWC furbearer biologist,

Just wanted you to know that I gave an exam in class recently, and I always include a bonus question or two. One of the bonus questions was, "What is your favorite thing you've learned in this class so far?" Many folks responded that learning about furbearers and trapping was their favorite.



Jerrod Davis

In particular, one woman wrote: "Learning about trapping. Before this class, I was 100% against it. After learning more about it, I understand its value. Although I myself would not do it, I now have no issues with the practice." Thought you would appreciate that one!

*Colter Chitwood, Ph.D., assistant professor,
Department of Natural Resource Ecology
and Management, Oklahoma State University*

Errata

In a feature article titled "Snakes Alive!" in the March/April 2024 issue, the type of snake being used in an education program was misidentified in the captions of several photos. The type of snake shown is a prairie kingsnake.

IT'S THE LAW:

ANNUAL YOUTH SUPER HUNTING LICENSE

Hunting licenses for youths got much easier July 1, 2024, with the new Oklahoma Annual Youth Super Hunting License. Anyone younger than 18, regardless of residency, is now considered a "youth" in Oklahoma's hunting and fishing regulations. All youths hunting deer, elk, wild turkey, pronghorn, black bear, waterfowl, furbearers or engaged in trapping must have a Youth Super Hunting License. When hunting waterfowl, all youths must have a Harvest Information Program permit, and youths 16 or 17 must have a federal duck stamp. All youths are exempt from the state duck stamp. Youths hunting sandhill cranes or paddlefish must have a free harvest permit for those species. The annual Youth Super Hunting License is valid for 365 days from date of purchase. ♡

OUTDOOR CALENDAR

FOR THE LATEST UPDATES, GO ONLINE TO LICENSE.
GOOUTDOORSOKLAHOMA.COM/Event/Events.aspx

NOTICE: Events were scheduled at press time; they are subject to change.

JULY 2024

- 4** Independence Day; state offices closed.
- 6** Oklahoma City Free Fishing Day, no city permit required.
- 7** "Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, 8 a.m., OETA.
- 14** "Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, 8 a.m., OETA.
- 20** Youth Outdoor Day, Quail Forever Indian Territory Chapter, 8 a.m. to noon, Longcrier Park Lake Hudson. Register: <https://pfqf.myeventcenter.com>.
- 21** "Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, 8 a.m., OETA.
- 27** Elk City Kids Fishing Derby, 8 a.m. to noon, Ackley Park. Register: license.gooutdoorsoklahoma.com/Event/EventsHome.aspx.
- 28** "Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, 8 a.m., OETA.
- **ODWC Free Fishing Clinics** in Arcadia on July 2, 9, 18, 23, 30; Jenks on July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30. Register: license.gooutdoorsoklahoma.com/Event/EventsHome.aspx.
- **Ducks Unlimited** state convention, Oklahoma City, July 12. Info: www.ducks.org/events.
- **Friends of NRA** event in Ada, July 25. Info: friendsofnra.org/events.
- **National Wild Turkey Federation** event in Frederick, July 5. Info: your.nwtf.org/members/events.

AUGUST 2024

- 3** Oklahoma City Free Fishing Day, no city permit required.
- 4** "Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, 8 a.m., OETA.
- 5** Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission meeting, 9 a.m., Oklahoma City. Livestream: YouTube.com/OutdoorOklahoma.
- 10** Quail Forever Central Oklahoma 19th annual banquet, 6 p.m., Oklahoma City. Tickets: <https://pfqf.myeventcenter.com>.
- 11** "Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, 8 a.m., OETA.
- 18** Full Draw Film Night, 6:30 p.m., Rodeo Cinema Stockyards, Oklahoma City, hosted by Backcountry Hunters & Anglers. Tickets: www.backcountryhunters.org/full_draw_film_tour_oklahoma_city_ok.
- 24** Quail Forever Canadian Valley shotgun clinic, 8 a.m., Pocasset. Register: <https://pfqf.myeventcenter.com>.
- 25** "Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, 8 a.m., OETA.
- **Hunter Education Classes** in Wagoner, Aug. 3; McAlester, Edmond, Marietta, Walters, Tishomingo on Aug. 10; Bristow, Shawnee, Porum, Marlow on Aug. 17; Stillwater, Blanchard, Broken Bow, Poteau, Fort Cobb, Owasso, Elk City, Altus, Ada, Skiatook, Guymon, Ponca City on Aug. 24; Afton, Dewey, Mustang on Aug. 25. Register: license.gooutdoorsoklahoma.com/Event/EventsHome.aspx.
- **Ducks Unlimited** events (date) in Wewoka (2), Broken Arrow (3), Claremore (7), Sand Springs (9), Wagoner (10), Perry (10), Bartlesville (17), Idabel (17). Info: ducks.org/events.
- **Friends of NRA** event in Idabel, Aug. 24. Info: friendsofnra.org/events.
- **National Wild Turkey Federation** events (date) in Seminole (3), Skiatook (17), Ada (17). Info: your.nwtf.org/members/events.

** FOR HUNTING SEASON DATES, GO TO
www.wildlifedepartment.com/hunting/seasons **

WELCOME TO THE DOCK!

Are the fish biting? You bet! Step onto **The Dock** and take a gander at some great catches made recently by Oklahoma anglers. Here's a few we thought you would enjoy! To see more or submit a photo of your catch, go to www.wildlifedepartment.com/fishing/the_dock or scan the code:



Ben Johnson, striped bass, May 30, 2024, Lower Illinois River.



Amanda Berlin, rainbow trout, April 22, 2024, Lower Mountain Fork River.



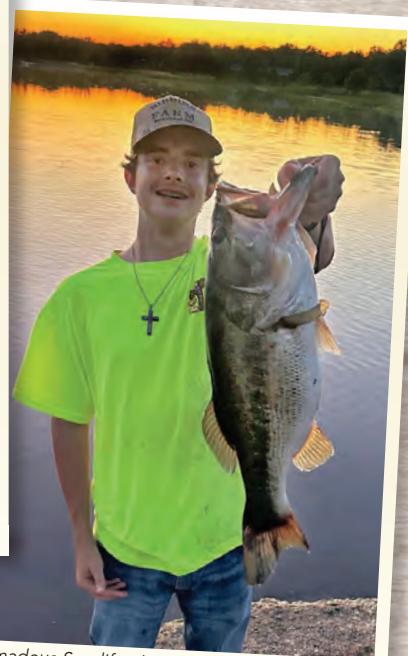
Benny Mattioda, paddlefish, April 15, 2024, Brushy Creek Reservoir.



Ron Miller, redear sunfish, May 17, 2024, Kay County.



Brad Homer, saugeye, May 11, 2024, Fort Cobb Reservoir.



Amadeus Sandifer, largemouth bass, May 18, 2024, Johnston County.

READERS' PHOTOGRAPHY



PHY SHOWCASE 2024



John Perez, Cleveland, Okla.
Bald eagle and red-headed woodpecker
Bald eagle and red-headed woodpecker on the Neosho River.



Crystal Griffith, Tulsa

A trip to the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve in northern Oklahoma lends itself to beautiful sunsets and rare opportunities. I stopped to observe an Oklahoma sunset, and this guy stayed perched on a (Leavenworth's eryngo) observing us for a while.

Welcome to the amazing sights of Outdoor Oklahoma! Once each year, we ask our readers to share images of the natural wonders they have captured across the state. The magnificent moments frozen in time always leave this viewer, and most likely every viewer, with an overwhelming sense of awe.

For the 2024 edition of the Readers' Photography Showcase, about 530 people submitted almost 1,240 images for us to consider. We examined them all and trimmed the field to those we believe are the cream of the crop — the top 82 photos that best pay homage to our natural surroundings.

Our sincere gratitude goes to everyone who submitted entries, and hearty congratulations go to the artists whose photos appear in this year's Showcase. Now, sit back and enjoy this visual "nature hike" through the wonders of Outdoor Oklahoma! ♥

— Don P. Brown, Associate Editor



Matt Engel, Norman
Bighorn sheep

This ram gave me a perfect pose with the sun on his nose. He went on to give a few more before disappearing into the Black Mesa and its rocks.



Jay Gault, Stillwater
Gulf fritillary

A photo of a butterfly on a butterfly bush located at my place of work in Stillwater.



Cody Abel, Muskogee
Wood duck

Wood duck on mossy pond.



Debbie Peck, Fort Cobb
Barred owl

I was taking photos of smaller birds at Fort Cobb State Park when this guy flew in and landed practically in front of me. He sure blends in.



Jennifer Lindsey, Pocasset
Porcupine

A porcupine that decided to visit our ranch, he started on the front porch early morning with the Pyrenees barking at him; so I helped him find a tree and directed him up.



Will Lincks, Romona
American goldfinch



Cody Weber, Crescent
Bobcat



Wesley Kirpach, Talihiina
Black bear

This 3-year-old female black bear is doing her best "Little Mermaid" impression. This shot took several days to capture with cautious approach, safety and luck. Taken north of Talihiina, it was the single most fun and challenging experience I've had as an amateur wildlife photographer!



John Wilson, Tulsa
Large tolype moth

This moth, called a large tolype, was on the campground bathroom wall at Runestone Park in Heavener, OK.



Desiree Cline, Honobia
Black bear

These charming cubs were playing on this tree stick, as if it were a seesaw. Their mother wasn't far from them. She was busy eating on tall grass. Picture taken on top of Lynn Mountain in southeastern Oklahoma.



Emma Resendiz, Owasso

A dragonfly's beauty is seen in the detail of the wings and body.



Cyndi Washington, Talihina
Flaming autumn colors near Broken Bow State Park.



Sherman Barr, Edmond
 Giant swallowtail
This is a giant swallowtail butterfly taken at Mitch Park in Edmond, Okla. This is a first sighting for me and I was dazzled by the size.



Dietmar Collins, Seminole
 American asters
Single shot of American aster flowers.



David Garrison, Chandler
Milksnake
Milksnake from Henryetta area.



Steven Wilson, Ardmore
Coyote
Snapped this picture of two coyotes on a hay bale from my treestand in western Carter County during rifle season.



Joseph Richards, Boerne, Texas
Chuck-will's-widow
*An adult Chuck-will's-widow sitting on a tree branch.
Photographed in Idabel, Okla.*



Joshua Permenter, Cache
Wild turkey
Turkey on roost at Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge.



Debbie Peck, Fort Cobb
Great horned owls
I saw these two as the sun was going down, driving on a Caddo County backroad. As soon as I stopped one flew away.



Duncan Brittain, Woodward
Porcupine
In the soft, early morning light, a porcupine emerges, its quills catching the gentle rays of dawn. With cautious steps, it began foraging for some breakfast.



Dietmar Collins, Seminole
Spotted orbweaver spider



Matthew Toms, Guthrie
Scissor-tailed flycatcher
Two scissor-tailed flycatchers play chase.



Morgan Prater, Hochatown
Foggy morning and fishing on the Lower Mountain Fork River.



Holly Burkhardt, Oklahoma City

This photo was taken at Quartz Mountain State Park in Oklahoma. It was taken around 6:30am on a June morning in 2023. At the time, I was 17 years old attending an arts camp called Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute for the photography discipline. I hiked to the top of this mountain at 5:30am, with my camera in one hand and using my other to scale 6-foot-tall boulders.



Mark Parker, Chickasha
Eastern collared lizard



Marc Crow, Elk City
Fox squirrel

"Just Checking the Weather" is what I call this. Fox squirrel, peaking out of its nest, in the tree in my backyard.



Randy Sander, Broken Bow
Ruby-crowned kinglet

Brayden Love, Woodward
Texas horned lizard

Texas horned lizard at Cooper Wildlife Management Area.





Seth Schubert, Moore

An incoming thundershower near a flowered meadow by Elk Mountain in the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge, taken just before getting soaking wet.



Daniela Spade, Norman

Indian blanket

Oklahoma's state wildflowers in the Wichita Mountains.



Greg Silva, Owasso
Bison

A bison cow and her calf's silhouette in the light of the sunrise out at the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve.



Vonda Barnett, Davis
Barrel cactus

A barrel cactus south of Davis, near Lake of the Arbuckles.



Ben Childers, Midwest City
Eastern collared lizard



Mark Robinson, Sapulpa

Bald eagle

Mature bald eagle, taken at Grand Lake below the dam on Dec. 26, 2023.

Wesley Kirpach, Talihina

Black bear

This is the dominant male wild black bear in our range of the Ouachitas. Distinguished by a tan face and black diamond eye markings he is gentle yet remarkably intimidating in size and strength. He stands at a little over 8 feet! Taken just north of Talihina after a morning swim in our pond.



Bluto Smith, Newcastle

Swift fox

A pair of swift foxes I saw playing in the grass at Black Mesa.



Desiree Cline, Honobia

Black bear

This cinnamon colored bear came out of the timber with a green leaf attached close to his eye. He raised up on this red cedar tree as if he were playing a flute. I was impressed with his claws; they can do wide variety of finely detailed tasks. Picture taken southeastern Oklahoma.



Matthew Toms, Guthrie
Greater roadrunner

A roadrunner tries to hide after catching a ring-necked snake.



Brandy Grant, Maud

In between Seminole and Maud, Okla., storms made a beautiful display of how Mother Nature works.




Steve Metz, Tulsa
Bighorn sheep



Dwayne Kear, Norman
White-tailed deer
A buck near Lake Thunderbird pauses for a photo while enjoying an acorn snack.



George Zimmer, Stillwater
Timber rattlesnake
Hike that led to this juvenile timber rattlesnake basking in early spring.



Eric Brown, Tulsa
Timber rattlesnake
*Osage County timber rattlesnake putting
on a show.*



Kalyn Smith, Altus
Taken at Tom Steed Lake in Snyder, Okla.



Randall Watkins, Cushing
Bald eagle
This bald eagle had caught a fairly large catfish, and was taking its catch to a safe place to consume its dinner. This image was captured in Pawnee, Okla.



Dasia Bowie, Tulsa
Mallard
A mother and her young swimming around the pond.



Matthew Toms, Guthrie
Northern pintail

A drake pintail seeks refuge in an oxbow during its migration back north in early spring.



Mark Parker, Chickasha
Cecropia moth caterpillar



Cyndi Washington, Talihina
Diana fritillary

A male Diana fritillary showing his gorgeous colors in Latimer County. There is hope that these butterflies will have a resurgence in their numbers with promotion of natural habitat.



Randy Anderson, Bixby
Cecropia moth

A newly eclosed Cecropia moth I saw on a cottonwood tree across the street. It was very windy that day and I shot several dozen photos before getting a few in sharp focus.



Shari Vick, Edmond
Halloween pennant dragonflies
By a pond at an Airbnb in Stonewall, Okla.



Dim Kim, Jenks
European honeybee
A honeybee collecting pollen.



Dietmar Collins, Seminole
Crab spider



Randy Anderson, Bixby
Northern flicker

A Northern flicker on our ash tree during a snow event. They love the suet we provide in the winter.



Cheryl Welch, Broken Arrow
Cedar waxwing



Kate Golden, Oklahoma City
Double-crested cormorant
Double-crested cormorant taken near Lake Overholser, January 2024.



Fred Frampton, Tulsa
Dickcissle

Aneda Smith, Sand Springs
Ruby-crowned kinglet
Ruby crowned kinglets are NASCAR fast so I'm thrilled whenever I am able to catch them and get a decent picture.





Zechariah Gaskins, Guthrie
Red-shouldered hawk

Red-shouldered hawk photographed in Oklahoma City in February 2023. I was up on an elevated walkway which put me right in line of sight with this magnificent bird. Amazingly, I was only about 20 feet away. It was watching a squirrel play right below, which was surely the only thing that kept it perched there on the branch with me just a few feet away. I quickly took a few shots and left it to enjoy its lunch. Easily in my top five outdoor memories.



Steven Hunter, Charleston, Ark.
Canyon wren

It took years to finally get a picture of a canyon wren. The cold snap of February 2021 decimated the population in Oklahoma, especially in the Wichita Mountains. I had been trying to get a picture even before that, but without results. Finally, on a trip to Black Mesa, I was blessed with the presence of several canyon wrens at the base of the mesa where several large boulders sit. These little birds probe the cracks and crevices of these boulders with their long, curved bills.



Amy Watts, Tahlequah
Indigo bunting



Steve Metz, Tulsa
Cinnamon teal



Malachi Biby, Nash
Western meadowlark
Meadowlark portrait, taken near Nash, Okla.



Ben Childers, Midwest City
Prothonotary warbler



Jack Chlebanowski, Oklahoma City
Coachwhip
A large coachwhip found at the Mountain Park Wildlife Management Area.



Tom Ashby, Mustang
Fox squirrel



Richard Taylor, Lawton
 White-tailed deer
Checking the air for does.



Mitch Grant, Edmond
 Tall prairie blazing star
My wife and I were driving out in the country in northeastern Oklahoma and stopped to take this picture of a flowering perennial in an old pasture.



Bill Adams, Duncan
 Candy striped leafhopper
Candy striped leafhopper was taken in my yard. I bet most people have never seen one since they are so small, but I set out looking for them.



Lynn Hill, Owasso
 Monarch
Monarch wearing migration tag among the plants at Woodward Park in Tulsa.



Chad Freeny, Broken Bow

Sunrise over Broken Bow Lake at the Overlook Circle in Beavers Bend State Park.

Cole Cirilo, Collinsville

American alligator

American alligator in Red Slough.





Michael Bonanza, Lawton
White-tailed deer

Three majestic bucks, bathed in the soft hues of the morning light, proudly stand in the tranquil wilderness, their impressive antlers catching the golden rays, creating a scene of timeless grace and natural beauty.



Eric Brown, Tulsa
Prairie kingsnake

On the move at dusk in eastern Oklahoma.



Stephen Ofsthun, Norman
Prairie rattlesnake

A prairie rattlesnake on the trails at the Black Mesa Nature Preserve.



Tony Solorio, Oklahoma City
Eastern screech owl

I saw this beautiful Eastern screech owl in a tree in Oklahoma City.



James Wareham, Tulsa
Raccoon

Raccoon sleeping in a tree.

OUTDOOR STORE

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Sign in or shop online as a guest. Some items also available in person at ODWC headquarters, 1801 N. Lincoln Blvd. in Oklahoma City.

****Prices listed on these pages do not include \$3 online ordering convenience fee.**



NEW ODWC LOGO DRINKWARE

Double-wall high-grade stainless steel 16-oz coffee mugs and 20-oz tumblers made by Yukon with DuraGrip powder coat finish featuring the new ODWC arrowhead logo. Tumblers come in navy, white, and bottomland camo; mugs come in olive drab and navy. They are vacuum-insulated and BPA-free. (Online sales only.) — \$20

Outdoor Gear



YUKON FLOATING GUN CASE

Welded waterproof construction, thick foam padding for protection, 500d tarpaulin exterior shell, carry strap and handle, universal fit for shotgun or scoped rifle. (Online sales only.) — \$70

YUKON ODWC BACKPACK COOLER

Double Duty — Works as Cooler or Padded Gear Bag, Keeps Ice For Days, Air Tight Zipper, Rugged Welded Construction, 20 can with Ice capacity. (Ships separate from other Outdoor Store items) — \$140.00



NEW OUTDOOR OKLAHOMA CAPS

These sleek fabric caps sport the latest Outdoor Oklahoma logo design! They are the Richardson 112 model, mid-pro shape, pro-curved visor, adjustable snap-back, 60% cotton/40% polyester. Various colors and styles will be available (subject to availability). (Online sales only.) — \$20

DURABLE COLLECTOR'S CARDS

Every hunting and fishing license holder can upgrade to a customized hard plastic card that won't be damaged by water, sun, dirt, or regular wear and tear like paper documents. Cards hold customer and license information on one side; the other side features artwork from Oklahoma artists that changes periodically. Several designs available. (Account sign-in required.) — \$6



OKLAHOMA HABITAT DONOR WINDOW DECALS

Show your support of the Wildlife Department's conservation efforts with these striking window decals. — \$10 each





WILDLIFE LICENSE PLATES

Dress up your vehicle while showing your support of our great state's wildlife resources by getting a wildlife license plate. Nine Wildlife Conservation Plates are available to serve as your regular, rear-bumper license plate. The plates cost just \$40 (original or replacement) or \$36.55 (renewals) above your regular annual registration fee with proceeds going to Oklahoma's Wildlife Diversity Program. The forms are available at local tag agencies, or online at tinyurl.com/WildTags.

OKLAHOMA WATERFOWL HUNTING STAMP

Oklahoma "duck stamps" are always popular with collectors and hunters. While each year's stamp features a different handsome design sure to add appeal to any stamp collection, funds from stamp sales are used for many kinds of waterfowl management projects. Specify year when ordering. — \$21 or \$31

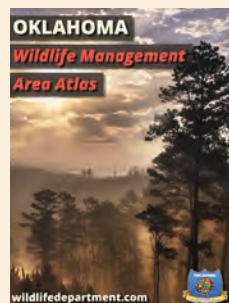


DURABLE FIELD TAGS

A three-pack of plastic field tags with name and customer ID printed on one side, and places to write your harvest date/time and the E-Check confirmation number on the other. Reusable. (Account sign-in required.) — \$6

HABITAT DONOR CAP

Top-quality, American-made cap displays the Bass Habitat Donor Patch, which designates you as a supporter of the Wildlife Department's conservation efforts. Wearing this hat means you care about future generations and the great hunting and fishing tradition. — \$20



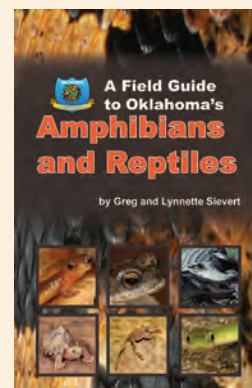
OKLAHOMA WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA ATLAS

The Wildlife Management Area Atlas presents maps of Oklahoma's WMAs and ODWC-owned fishing lakes. At 109 pages, the atlas features lands purchased before 2018. Each map shows special features such as parking sites, camping areas, and food plots. Your atlas purchase comes with a bonus one-year subscription to the award-winning *Outdoor Oklahoma* magazine. — \$25

LATEST

A FIELD GUIDE TO OKLAHOMA'S AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

Get an introduction to Oklahoma's 140 species of salamanders, frogs, turtles, lizards, snakes and alligator in the 4th edition of our guide to the state's amphibians and reptiles. Six species accounts have been added and range maps have been updated throughout the guide. — \$20



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MICHAEL BRYAN/READERS' PHOTO SHOWCASE 2024



Take a dive into our readers' fantastic outdoor photography, like this shot of a Northern cardinal in flight by Michael Bryan of Bartlesville. The 2024 Readers' Photography Showcase is featured inside this issue of Outdoor Oklahoma.

Outdoor Oklahoma

