

# Outdoor Oklahoma

JULY / AUGUST 2025 — ONLY \$10 A YEAR

A PUBLICATION OF THE OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION



# PANORAMAS



If you're a waterfowl hunter and you've ever felt overwhelmed by the number of licenses and permits needed to hunt ducks, you're not alone.

Between the federal duck stamp, the Oklahoma state waterfowl license (state duck stamp) and your HIP permit, it can seem like a lot. But there are good reasons behind all of those requirements, and it all comes down to protecting the places and the birds you love to hunt.

First, the federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (commonly called the federal duck stamp) is a must-have for everyone 16 and older who hunts migratory waterfowl anywhere in the United States. Nearly 98% of the money raised from the sale of the federal stamp goes directly into buying and preserving critical wetland habitats through the National Wildlife Refuge System. These wetlands aren't just homes for ducks and geese and other waterfowl, they're vital ecosystems that purify water, control floods and support seemingly countless other species.

In Oklahoma, there's another important piece of the puzzle: the Oklahoma waterfowl license (state duck stamp). If you don't hold a lifetime license or hunt exclusively on your own land, then you'll need this license. The funds it generates are reinvested right here at home, restoring and managing Oklahoma's wetlands to keep them healthy and thriving. Most of this money supports nearly 30 Wetland Development Units (WDUs) and other areas statewide that are public areas specifically designed to give hunters prime opportunities to pursue waterfowl.

(Note: Possession of either the paper Oklahoma waterfowl hunting license or the physical state duck stamp (issued only on request) serves as proof in the field that a hunter is properly licensed. A digital license on a hunter's Go Outdoors Oklahoma mobile app is also valid proof.)

Then there's the Harvest Information Program (HIP) permit, which hunters are also required to obtain. HIP is all about tracking migratory bird harvests to help wildlife agencies collect data that's vital to conservation.

When hunters register for a HIP permit, they answer a short survey and may be selected for follow-ups to collect detailed harvest data such as keeping a hunting season diary or submitting bird parts for research. This information helps wildlife managers understand where, when and how many birds are taken each season, guiding regulations that support sustainable populations.

While it might seem like a lot, each license, stamp, and permit plays a vital role in the bigger picture of waterfowl conservation. These requirements ensure that the wetlands we hunt and the birds we pursue remain abundant and healthy for generations to come.

Remember: By taking the time to get properly licensed, you're not just obeying the law, you're actively supporting the future of duck hunting in Oklahoma and beyond. ♡

*Paxton Smith*

Paxton Smith

ODWC migratory game bird biologist

# Outdoor Oklahoma

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**Now available: Outdoor Oklahoma T-shirts!**



## ON THE COVER:

*The spellbinding gaze of a snowy egret was captured head-on in this dramatic photo by Stephen Ofsthun of Norman as he kayaked on Lake Thunderbird. It's the*

*second time in three years that an image entered by Ofsthun has earned the cover spot for Outdoor Oklahoma's Readers' Photography Showcase issue! See dozens more exceptional entries from this year's contest, starting on Page 10.*

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# OFF THE BEATEN PATH

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

## "OUTDOOR OKLAHOMA" MARKS 50 CONTINUOUS YEARS ON TV

BY KELLY ADAMS,  
COMMUNICATION  
SUPERVISOR

"Hello, and welcome to 'Outdoor Oklahoma.'"

What began as several occasional television spots in the 1950s and '60s is now an award-winning program that takes thousands of viewers afloat or afield each week.

This year, we celebrate "Outdoor Oklahoma" for 50 years of continuous broadcasting on the state's airwaves. And we say farewell to retiring host **Todd Craighead** and his trademark "hello and

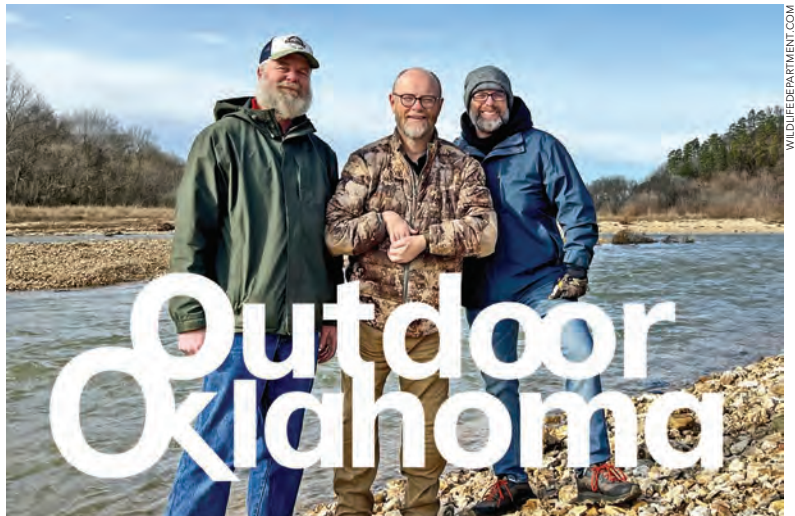
welcome" to open the show for the past 25 years.

It was 1975 when the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) entered into an agreement with the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority (OETA). The United States was navigating a landscape vastly different from today's. The war in Vietnam had just ended, Bill Gates founded Microsoft, and Glen Campbell's "Rhinestone Cowboy" had just hit the charts.

The agreement gave ODWC a chance to begin producing a weekly TV program. Stories were captured and edited on 16mm film that showcased Oklahoma's bountiful fishing, hunting and wildlife watching opportunities. The relationship also gave ODWC a pathway to inform, educate and demonstrate accountability as stewards of Oklahoma's wildlife resources.

In that era, TV technology was far removed from the high-definition, on-demand experiences of the 21st century. Broadcasting involved bulky equipment, film reels, and a more linear approach to programming. Compared to today's instant access to digital media, the production and distribution of shows like "Outdoor Oklahoma" was considerably more arduous.

Educating the public about the state's natural resources drove the show's production. Building



*Outdoor Oklahoma TV producers Darrin Hill, Todd Craighead and Blake Podhajsky.*

on the foundation of Outdoor Oklahoma magazine, the TV show brought the state's diverse wildlife and outdoor activities into people's living rooms.

A small staff of ODWC videographers, producers and hosts created segments about fishing, hunting or various topics like fisheries research or how to improve backyard wildlife habitat. The 12-20 minutes of weekly programming was taken to OETA studios, where the film was paired with in-studio hosts interviewing various guests to round out the half-hour program.

OETA budget constraints in the late 1990s spelled the end of the show's traditional in-studio format. But improvements in video cameras and editing led the show to transition to an all "in-the-field" production, which continues today.

Now, a small staff of three producers (**Blake Podhajsky, Darrin Hill, Aaron Ralstin**) continues to produce award-winning shows with everyday Oklahomans who love the outdoors.

The program's longevity stands as a testament to the enduring appeal of Oklahoma's rich outdoor heritage. Over the years, the show's core mission has remained: to connect people with the outdoors. This connection, bridging the gap between nature and viewer, is the lasting legacy of "Outdoor Oklahoma." ♡



# WOODBURNING OF BALD EAGLE WINS ODWC ART AWARD

A woodburning (pyrography) artwork titled "Protecting a Majestic Symbol of Nature" by Cambell Gaisford of Alva Independent Schools won the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation Special Award in this year's Sutton Award student art competition.

The artwork depicting the bust of a mature bald eagle also took first place in the 2-D Art category.

A 12th-grader, Gaisford received a cash prize for the best depiction of an Oklahoma-related conservation subject.


Other first-place Sutton Award winners in each category were:

- 3-D Art: "Kaleidoscope" by Corinne Kabel, Thomas Edison Prep High School, and "The Malayan Pangolin" by Caedmon Myers, Booker T. Washington High School.
- Photography: "Dappled Beauties" by Abbie Moreton, Thomas Edison Prep High School.

This year's online contest drew 64 entries. Sponsors of the 2025 contest included the Wildlife Department, NatureWorks, The Ralph and Frances McGill Foundation, The GERAL H. Westby Jr. Foundation, Brooks and Joan Fortune Family Foundation, VisualFX, and Grant's Frames.

Established in 2005, the Sutton Award recognizes high school students who demonstrate the ability to communicate current conservation topics in compelling ways. The show is free to enter and open to all Oklahoma high school students grades 9-12. The award is funded up to \$20,000, which is distributed to winning students and their instructors as determined by a selection committee.

Nearly 2,700 students have been encouraged to express themselves through this art competition during the past 20 years.

The next Sutton Student Art Award competition will start seeking entries in fall, with artworks due in January. For more information and to view a gallery of this year's entries, go to [suttoncenter.org/art](http://suttoncenter.org/art). 



Alva student Cambell Gaisford won the ODWC Special Award along with First Place in 2-D Art in this year's Sutton Awards contest.

COURTESY SUTTON CENTER

# 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 2025

- 4** Independence Day (state offices closed).
- 5** OKC Free Fishing Day, no city permit required. Stilwell Kids Fishing Derby, 8 a.m., Adair Park, (479) 616-4345.
- 6** "Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, 8 a.m., OETA.
- 7** Elk City Fishing Derby, 8 a.m., Ackley Park. Register: (580) 225-9696.
- 12** OKC's Youth Hooked on Fishing, 9 a.m., South Lakes Park, (405) 297-1426.
- 13** "Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, 8 a.m., OETA.
- 20** "Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, 8 a.m., OETA.
- 25-27** Delta Waterfowl Duck Hunters Expo, Bennett Center, State Fair Park, Oklahoma City, [deltawaterfowlexpo.com](http://deltawaterfowlexpo.com).
- 27** "Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, 8 a.m., OETA.
- **Tackle the Basics Free Fishing Clinics**, 6 p.m., Jenks-Zebco Pond and Arcadia Cons. Education Area, June 14, 21, 28. Register: [license.gooutdoorsoklahoma.com/Event/EventsHome.aspx](http://license.gooutdoorsoklahoma.com/Event/EventsHome.aspx).
- **National Wild Turkey Federation** event (date) in Tulsa (26). Info: <https://your.nwtf.org/members/events>.

## AUGUST 2025


- 2** OKC's Youth Hooked on Fishing, 9 a.m., Route 66 Park, (405) 297-1426. OKC Free Fishing Day, no city permit required. **Hunter Education Class**, 8 a.m., Wagoner. Register: [license.gooutdoorsoklahoma.com/Event/EventsHome.aspx](http://license.gooutdoorsoklahoma.com/Event/EventsHome.aspx).
- 3** "Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, 8 a.m., OETA.
- 4** **Tackle the Basics Free Fishing Clinic**, 6 p.m., Arcadia CEA. Register: [license.gooutdoorsoklahoma.com/Event/EventsHome.aspx](http://license.gooutdoorsoklahoma.com/Event/EventsHome.aspx). **Okl. Wildlife Conservation Commission** meets, 9 a.m., Oklahoma City. Livestream: [YouTube.com/YouTube.com/@Okwildfedep](http://YouTube.com/YouTube.com/@Okwildfedep).
- 9** **Hunter Education Classes**, 8 a.m. in McAlester, Poteau, Walters; 9 a.m. in Marlow, Shawnee, Ada, Muskogee. Register: [license.gooutdoorsoklahoma.com/Event/EventsHome.aspx](http://license.gooutdoorsoklahoma.com/Event/EventsHome.aspx).
- 10** "Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, 8 a.m., OETA.
- 16** **Hunter Education Classes**, 8 a.m. in Cole, Tahlequah, Bristow; 9 a.m. in Porum. Register: [license.gooutdoorsoklahoma.com/Event/EventsHome.aspx](http://license.gooutdoorsoklahoma.com/Event/EventsHome.aspx).
- 17** "Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, 8 a.m., OETA.
- 23** **Hunter Education Classes**, 8 a.m. in Afton, Broken Bow, Ft. Cobb; 9 a.m. in Woodward, Tishomingo. Register: [license.gooutdoorsoklahoma.com/Event/EventsHome.aspx](http://license.gooutdoorsoklahoma.com/Event/EventsHome.aspx).
- 24** "Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, 8 a.m., OETA.
- 29** **Oklahoma Waterfowl Stamp Design Contest** entry deadline, [tinyurl.com/OKduckstamp](http://tinyurl.com/OKduckstamp).
- 30** **Hunter Education Classes**, 8 a.m. in Blanchard, Marietta, Ponca City; 9 a.m. in Guymon. Register: [license.gooutdoorsoklahoma.com/Event/EventsHome.aspx](http://license.gooutdoorsoklahoma.com/Event/EventsHome.aspx). Shotgun Clinic, Canadian Valley Chapter-Quail Forever, 8 a.m., Pocasset. Register: [rick.simms@proton.me](mailto:rick.simms@proton.me).
- 31** "Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, 8 a.m., OETA.
- **National Wild Turkey Federation** events (date) in Dewar (2), Miami (9), Norman (9), Pauls Valley (16), Poteau (21), Woodward (22). Info: <https://your.nwtf.org/members/events>.
- **Ducks Unlimited** events (date) in Wewoka (1), Broken Arrow (2), Altus (7), Wagoner (9), Perry (9), Guthrie (16), Bartlesville (16), Idabel (16), Ponca City (21), Guthrie (23). Info: [www.ducks.org/events](http://www.ducks.org/events).

\*\* FOR HUNTING SEASON DATES, GO TO  
[www.wildlifedepartment.com/hunting/seasons](http://www.wildlifedepartment.com/hunting/seasons) \*\*

# WHERE TO HUNT

A new feature on the Wildlife Department's website is the ability to search through the list of more than 100 wildlife management areas to determine which areas are open for a particular hunting season. There are also searches available by name, region, and whether there is a shooting range on the area.

The WMA list and the new searching tool is found at [wildlifedepartment.com/hunting/wma](http://wildlifedepartment.com/hunting/wma).

The new search automates the information that appears in the Special Area Regulations section of the annual Oklahoma Fishing and Hunting Regulations. Now, instead of consulting the printed regulations book, hunters can simply search online for instant answers about where they can hunt on public land. 



# 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](http://wildlifedepartment.com/hunting/tailgate) or scan the code:



Hailey Schaefer, Eastern wild turkey, Nowata County.



Vickie Farmer, elk, Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge.



Mason Pearson, Rio Grande wild turkey, Tulsa County.

## OKNASP PART OF NATIONAL TREND IN YOUTH ARCHERY

The numbers are in from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and they show that archery has firmly taken root with youths ages 6-15 nationwide.

Furthermore, a likely influence in current archery participation rates among people 18 and younger across the U.S. is the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP), of which OKNASP is an important part.

In Oklahoma, OKNASP promotes physical education by providing target archery training to the state's youth. Designed for 4th-12th graders, the curriculum covers archery history, safety, techniques, equipment, mental concentration, and self-improvement. It is among the suite of educational programs administered by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation across the state.

A newly released addendum to the USFWS's


landmark five-year survey on target shooting recreation participation specifically calls out NASP's huge reach, now over 23.5 million students in over 9,500 schools. In Oklahoma, nearly 60,000 students in 720 schools now participate in OKNASP and Varsity Archery programs.

Some key findings:

- The report emphasizes that NASP is a likely influencer of the high youth participation rate.
- The growing participation rate among youths tracks with the introduction and expansion of NASP.
- In contrast to firearms target shooting, where participation peaks among adults aged 25-34, archery has taken hold with younger demographics, thanks in large part to school-based programs.

The number of Americans who engage in archery is high. One way to think of this participation is to consider there are 8.6 million registered motorcycles in the U.S., but there are more than twice as many target archers today!

The Archery Trade Association has reported significant increases in archery participation, from 7 million in 2000 to over 19 million today.

To get involved in OKNASP, go to [wildlifedepartment.com/education/archery](http://wildlifedepartment.com/education/archery). 



DOUG BROWN/ODWC



# 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 73152-3465, or send e-mail to [donald.brown@odwc.ok.gov](mailto:donald.brown@odwc.ok.gov).

### Dear Wildlife Department,

I have to say your "Outdoor Oklahoma" show yesterday about the coonhounds and hunters brought back many great memories. I'm 73 years old and started hunting with my dad when I was very young, like 6 years old. I was that boy on "Where The Red Fern Grows," which is an excellent movie. Back when I started with my dad we used carbide lanterns and carried a two-cell flashlight. Ask the hunters today what a carbide lamp is, and very few know. We didn't have fancy GPS tracking devices. We had dogs mostly trained to hunt short distances unless they were on a track.

I'd love to hear the sound of the dogs on a track in the crisp air echoing through the night again, going until they treed that little bandit. Your show yesterday brought a big smile on my face and brought back many happy memories.

I have watched your show on Sunday mornings for many years. Tell Todd Craighead and crew to keep up the good work. I still fish some, but I've slowed down a bit due to my age.

I think y'all do a fantastic job. Thanks again for the fantastic memories.

**William Wosika**



Todd Craighead

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Thanks for the kind letter! Our TV crew does a superb job capturing great outdoor stories on video. I will share your praises, but I will have to call Todd, as he retired in February 2025 after nearly 30 years with the wildlife department! However, fans can still get their "Todd" fix anytime on the "Outdoor Oklahoma" YouTube channel, where hundreds of episodes are posted for viewing.

### Dear Law Enforcement Chief Nathan Erdman,

I just want to give ODWC's Law Enforcement District 1 a shout out. Over the last month or so, there was a vandal working on the newly replaced grazing lease fences on Spavinaw Wildlife Management Area.

The fences had been cut in several places, often right next to a parking area with a walk-through gate. We contacted Capt. Hank Jenks, and he had game war-



Hank Jenks

dens respond quickly. They set up cameras and conducted a weekend saturation patrol, and they caught a suspect. They were as dedicated to finding the vandal as we were.

**Russell Perry**, area biologist, Spavinaw and Oologah WMAs

### Dear Wildlife Department,

This letter is intended to thank your agency for the outstanding response from game warden Tanner Raasch during a vehicle collision Feb. 28 in Greer County south of Quartz Mountain. Raasch assisted at the bottom of a 13-foot irrigation canal. The driver had suffered severe injuries. Raasch's quick response along with fellow first responders provided rescue aid by stabilizing the driver in place until medical personnel arrived. Raasch provided ropes and a tow strap from his emergency vehicle that aided in retrieving the driver from the bottom of the canal. Raasch's actions provided the driver quicker access to advanced medical personnel, allowing transport to a trauma center resulting in the preservation of life. His actions speak highly for himself, the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and law enforcement officers across Oklahoma.

I want to personally thank you for having personnel like Raasch in our area who are willing to assist in protecting and preserving safety in our community.

**Patrick Strange**, Greer County Undersheriff



Tanner Raasch

### Dear Communication Specialist Heather Del Moral,

You and your group did amazing at the recent Bouquets and Bobbers fishing clinic to celebrate Mother's Day! Thank you so much for such a fun evening! Us big kids got to play and truly enjoyed the whole event. So glad you had such a great turnout. I appreciate you all.

**Kim Gray**, event participant



Heather Del Moral

## IT'S THE LAW:

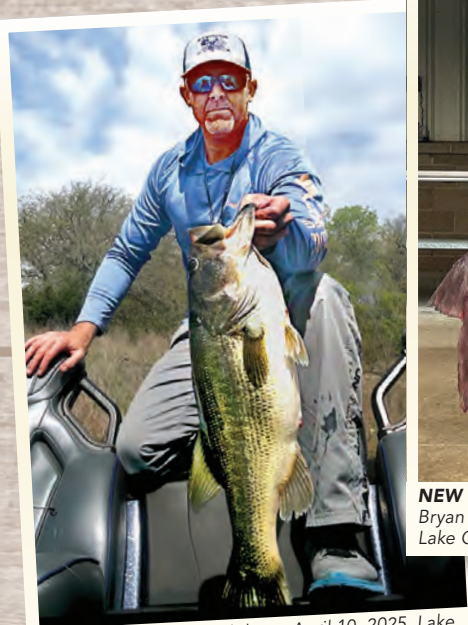
The Wildlife Department manages 18 fishing lakes across the state. Anyone visiting an ODWC fishing area must have either a fishing license, hunting license or Wildlife Conservation Passport (unless otherwise exempt). Public use restrictions appear in the current Oklahoma Fishing and Hunting Regulations. Some fishing area restrictions are:

- Beer and other alcoholic beverages aren't allowed on any lands or waterways subject to control of ODWC, except at designated camping and parking areas.
- Possession or use of explosive devices, including fireworks and firecrackers, is prohibited.
- Dogs must be kept on a leash at all times, except when dogs are used for hunting during open seasons.
- Camping is permitted only in designated camping areas. 🏡



# 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](http://www.wildlifedepartment.com/fishing/the_dock) or scan the code:

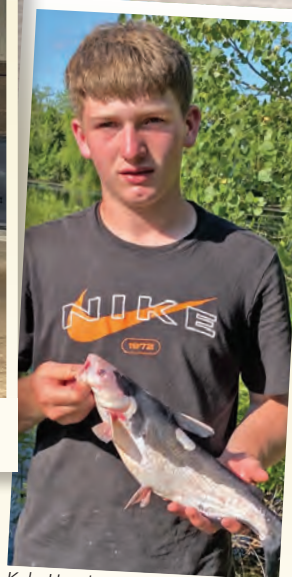


Justin Scott, largemouth bass, April 10, 2025, Lake of the Arbuckles.



**NEW STATE RECORD!**

Bryan Baker, bighead carp, 118 pounds 10 ounces, April 26, 2025, Grand Lake O' the Cherokees.



Kale Headrick, piebald blue catfish, June 6, 2025, Waurika Lake.



Linda B., white crappie, April 12, 2025, Caddo County.



Jeff Haas, blue catfish, April 26, 2025, Robert S. Kerr Reservoir.



Ryan Baldwin, largemouth bass, April 4, 2025, Lake of the Arbuckles.



# GAME WARDEN'S JOURNAL

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



For over 28 years, District 4 game wardens have proudly partnered with Big 5 Community Action Head Start to host the annual Big 5 Fishing Clinic at Coalgate City Lake. This beloved event is designed to give families of more than 500 Head Start students a chance to enjoy quality time together, connect with nature, and step away from screens.

The event offers hands-on fishing education led

by dedicated game wardens dedicated to continuing this cherished tradition of community service and outdoor fun!

District 4 game wardens include **Cody Jones, Lydia Gearhart, Bailey Johnson, Tracer Wagner, Trae Taylor, Zane Arnold, Lt. Bud Cramer Jr., Garrett Beam, Trey Hale, Dale Stites, Clayton Johnson, Garret Harley** and **Capt. Tom Cartwright.**



To help ensure Oklahoma's waters remain safe and enjoyable for everyone, game wardens **David Garrett**, based in Adair County; **Trae Taylor**, based in Hughes County; and

**Lt. Chad Strang**, based in Cleveland County, recently completed National Association of Underwater Instructors Rescue and Basic Life Support Certification under the expert guidance of instructor Tim Knight at Nautical Adventures Scuba.

The intensive training equips game wardens with vital lifesaving skills and advanced underwater rescue techniques, and is another step in ODWC's ongoing commitment to public safety and emergency readiness.



A radio-collared pronghorn doe was shot with a high-powered rifle Monday, April 28, around 11 a.m. northwest of Boise City. It was left to waste after being shot, along with the doe's two dead fawns. This antelope was being monitored by a joint research project between the Wildlife Department and Oklahoma State University.

Game warden **Lt. Mike Baker** asking for any tips or leads from the public. Anyone who calls can remain anonymous and can also receive a cash reward. Please call (580) 651-9135.

Two Alabama turkey hunters learned the hard way not to trust everything you hear. Their "friends" told them about a turkey hot spot and sent them a pin that took them to the Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge. Turkey harvest there is by controlled hunts only. Game warden **Marshall Reigh**, based in Grant County, issued citations. "No matter what your friends tell you," Reigh said, it's always best to check the regulations.

A May 22 fish kill caused by toxic wastewater claimed multiple species of fish for 13.5 miles on Skeleton Creek south of Enid. An investigation was conducted by ODWC's Northwest Region Fisheries Supervisor **Chas Patterson**, fisheries biologist **Dalton Norris**, fisheries technician **Mack Wood**, and game warden **Blake Cottrill**, based in Garfield County. Testing showed an abnormally high ammonia level in the creek water. There will be further investigation to determine total numbers and value of lost wildlife and environmental impact.

Every minute counts when seeking to isolate the cause and source in fish kill situations. It's important to report any toxic discharges or fish kills the moment they are detected.

*(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.

# TOP GAME WARDEN HONOR GOES TO JUSTIN CORNETT

Game warden **Justin Cornett**, based in Caddo Co., is the 2025 Game Warden of the Year for the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation after nomination by his peers.

This past year, Cornett created an educational program called the "Poacher Mystery Program," designed for late elementary school and middle school students, which leads them to solve a poached turkey case. The class was created to help the public better understand the varied work that game wardens do and to get them to feel engaged in fighting wildlife crime.

Cornett has earned the respect of his peers and the public by consistently exhibiting the highest standards in his professional and personal conduct, said Lt. Col. **Wade Farrar**, assistant chief of ODWC's Law Enforcement Division.

"Warden Cornett's passion, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to conservation serve as an inspiration to us all. He is a humble man who downplays the significance of his role in team efforts. Justin provides an excellent example of the type of work ethic and attitude needed within a team framework for everyone to be successful," Farrar said.

Cornett made 150 wildlife cases in 2024, assisted with many more, and is a valued member of the Wildlife Investigations Team (WIT).

Warden of the Year runner-up is game warden **Zane Arnold**, based in Johnston County. Game wardens in each law enforcement district nominate one of their own for the award. Nominees this year were game wardens Larry Green (Osage Co.), **Allen Couch** (Haskell Co.), **Thomas Gillham** (Pushmataha Co.), Arnold, **Mark Murray** (Canadian Co.), Cornett, **Dylan Jones** (Ellis Co.), and Lt. **Mike Baker** (Beaver Co.).



Justin Cornett  
2025 Game Warden of the Year

# SPIRIT OF ODWC AWARD GOES TO AMANDA THOMAS

The 2025 Spirit of ODWC Award winner is **Amanda Thomas**, shooting range coordinator in the department's Communication and Education Division.

This award honors employees whose daily work reflects the best of ODWC's mission, service, and values. It recognizes employees who are not considered in other division awards but who are performing outstanding service to the ODWC.

Thomas previously served in federal aid and accounting sections.

"Amanda has consistently demonstrated a team-first attitude, strong problem-solving skills, and genuine leadership. She lives out ODWC's core values in every aspect of her work in growing access for shooting sports around the state," ODWC Director **Wade Free** said.

Other nominees selected by their peers were **Jeff Pennington**, **Kara Gardner**, **Daniel Griffith**, **Heather Del Moral**, and **Kristen Gillman**.



Amanda Thomas  
2025 Spirit of ODWC Award



# 2024 CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION

## "EVERY RUSTLE OF LEAVES MADE MY HEART RACE"

**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 Bowhunting and Archery in the Schools." 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 junior category female winner Berklee Snow, 13, from Elgin Middle School.



### By Berklee Snow

If you are a hunter, there are certain sounds and sights that need no explanation. The crackle of leaves under their feet as they walk, the flicker of a white tail off in the distance, and the snort of a doe nearby – if you know, then you know. All of these bring excitement to the deer hunter.

According to the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, for the 2022-23 season, hunters reported taking 134,158 deer, a new record. For these people, hunting is a tradition; it's a heritage built on skill, memories and love for the land.

To be a good hunter, you must understand the skill. First, an Oklahoma hunter education course is required. Safety is the No. 1 factor to a successful hunt. "Over the past 40 years, hunting-related accidents and fatalities have declined by more than 70 percent in Oklahoma" (ODWC, 2024). This is largely due to these required courses.

Aside from learning how to correctly handle a firearm, hunters must understand wildlife and how they live. For example, deer have strong sight and smell, so you must be very still and wear no scent when hunting.

Coming from a family of avid deer hunters, there was no question I would become a part of this heritage. I started hunting long before I was able to harvest my own animal. My dad began taking me with him when I was very young.

I will always cherish the memories made with Dad and Papa while in the tree stand. There is nothing like watching the sun come up and listening to nature. It is an escape from the world.

I have now harvested my own deer, and I can remember stories from each one. However, what I remember most is being there with family, whether it was my dad, Papa or sisters. Hunting is a tradition for our family, a true heritage.

Finally, hunting is about loving the land. We should take care of our resources, and hunting is one way to do that. The Wildlife Department provides a lot of information about wildlife conservation and the importance of hunting. By harvesting deer the right way, we are helping both "protect and enhance" our resources, according to ODWC.

In Google's English dictionary, "heritage" means an inheritance, something passed on. When I think about the heritage of hunting, I think about skill, memories and love for the land. To be a successful hunter, you need both skill and a desire to take care of the land. However, memories are the most important.

Heritage is about passing our love of hunting on to the next generation. I am thankful my family has passed it on to me, and I look forward to passing it on to my 2-year-old niece. Soon enough, she will hear the crackle of leaves, see the flicker of a white tail, and hear the snort of a doe nearby. And then she will know. 🦌



# READERS' PHOTOGRAPHY SHOWCASE 2025

Excellent photography has become a hallmark of Outdoor Oklahoma magazine during its 80-year history. We are so thankful for our loyal and talented readers who greatly contribute to that goal. Truly, those who enter their images into our annual Readers' Photography Showcase contest are among the greatest contributors – and photographers – that we know!

Showcase participants never cease to amaze with their remarkable photos that capture the beauty and variety of Outdoor Oklahoma!

For the 2025 edition of RPS, about 350 people submitted nearly 1,000 photos, hoping for publication. Every image was viewed, and the top 83 appear in this magazine.

As usual, several photos really stand out every year, and those vie for the coveted cover shot. This year, four entries were in that very elite group of cover-shot possibilities. You've seen the cover image that was eventually selected, but the others that fell just short of the cover spot are noted in this year's showcase of winners. It's a little deserved recognition for those photos we would call the cream of the crop.

A big "thank you" to all the readers who shared these visual treasures; everyone comes away much richer as a result.

Now, let's turn the pages and enjoy a feast for the eyes as we celebrate Oklahoma's remarkable natural diversity.

— **Don P. Brown, Managing Editor**

**Michael Bryan, Bartlesville**  
Oklahoma Aurora with Windmill

*In May of 2024, my dreams came true as the Aurora Borealis visited Oklahoma. This photo was taken in Osage County west of Bartlesville.*









**Benjamin Benson, Durant**  
Raccoon



**Christian Gockel, Wilburton**  
Downy Woodpeckers  
*Downy woodpeckers caught in the act of feeding.*



**Jessica Webster, Henryetta**  
Mississippi Kite

*A beautiful summer night moonrise in Green Country. Even the raptors love a full moon!*





**Maria Perkins**, Fort Worth, Texas  
Short-eared Owl  
*Short-eared owl hunting at sundown at the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve in Osage County.*

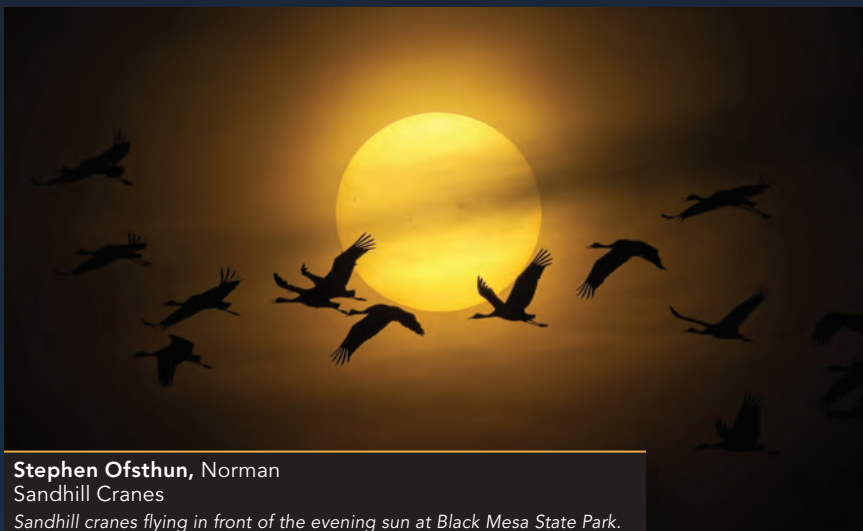




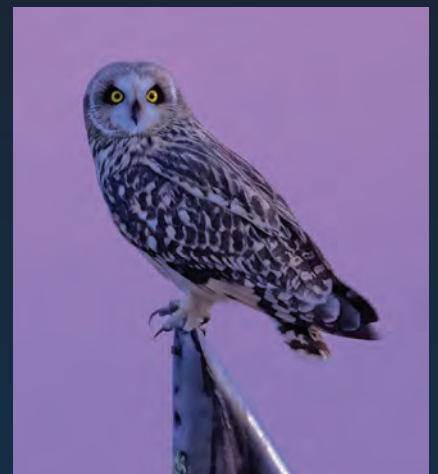
**Alisa York, Geneva, Ill.**  
Sandhill Cranes  
*Sandhill cranes at daybreak headed to field for feeding.*



**David Creason, Colony**  
*Entering the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge from Meers.*



**Stephen Ofsthun, Norman**  
Sandhill Cranes  
*Sandhill cranes flying in front of the evening sun at Black Mesa State Park.*



**Angie Precure, Meridian**  
Short-eared Owl





**Christopher Johnson, Park Hill**  
White-tailed Deer

*As I drove upon this tranquil forest scene, the only thought I had was taking me back to a Thomas Kinkade puzzle, then it hit me that it needed a grazing deer among the trees, surrounded by the soft hues of autumn leaves and fog. Much to my surprise and timing, the scene was completed with this yearling white-tailed deer that sprinted out from the river's edge.*



**Erin Banta, Marietta**

*This web, along with many others, collected the drops of moisture on a foggy morning at Hickory Creek Wildlife Management Area.*

**Eric Brown, Tulsa**  
Western Diamond-backed Rattlesnake



OUTDOOR OKLAHOMA





**Maria Perkins**, Fort Worth, Texas  
Coyote





**Ted Warkentin, Lawton**  
**White-tailed Deer**  
*Bucks establishing dominance at the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge.*



**Desiree Cline, Honobia**  
**Black Bears**  
*Black bears in Oklahoma typically engage in mating activity during the summer months, with the breeding season usually occurring in late May and extending into July. This was my first time in 11 years to witness black bear breeding since I started photographing them.*



**Don Price, Midwest City**  
**Scissor-tailed Flycatchers**





**Greg Silva, Owasso**  
Pileated Woodpeckers



**Beth Young, Sparks**  
Fox Squirrels



**Roger Twilley, Tulsa**  
Bald Eagles  
*A pair of eagles along the Arkansas River near Sand Springs.*





**Andrea Johnson, Del City**  
Bald Eagles

*Bald eagle flying in with nesting material, while its mate waits in the nest.  
Photographed northeast of Oklahoma City.*



**Richard Taylor, Lawton**  
White-tailed Deer

*Photographed at the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge.*





**Michi White, Lawton**  
Elk

*This beautiful elk bull was watching over his newly formed herd after the rut early one morning when the sun was coming up and the fog was still lifting behind him near one of the creeks in the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge.*



**Phyllis Owens, Prague**  
White-tailed Deer

*Buck in autumn leaves.*



**Scott Smith, Newcastle**  
Rio Grande Wild Turkey

*I was looking for owls in the trees at Black Mesa State Park when I heard a very aggressive gobble. I looked up to see this beautiful guy challenging me. He is the most beautiful turkey I have ever personally seen.*





**Anne-Marie Mee, Oklahoma City**  
Bobcat

*A juvenile bobcat and I surprised each other one early morning. I had been following footprints for weeks and finally had the encounter. Mom was not far away, watching closely.*



**Sherman Barr, Edmond**  
Northern Harrier



**Bluto Smith, Newcastle**  
Northern Cottonmouth

*Many people mistake common water snakes for cottonmouths. This close-up of a cottonmouth (water moccasin) at Sequoyah National Wildlife Refuge shows what its head looks like.*



**Mark Dolph, Tulsa**  
Western Meadowlark

*This western meadowlark was sitting atop an old fence post in the Oklahoma Panhandle when I happened by. The meadowlark was patiently awaiting the unsuspecting fly that was slowly climbing up the post, soon to become a one-bite snack.*





**Duncan Brittain, Woodward**  
Eastern Screech-owl

*An eastern screech-owl emerges from the shadows, its golden eye catching the last light of day. Perched silently in its natural Oklahoma habitat, this elusive predator embodies the quiet mystery and resilience of native wildlife, captured in a fleeting, powerful moment of stillness.*





**J.D. Miller, Collinsville**  
Largemouth Bass  
*A local largemouth bass just before release.*



**Roger Twilley, Tulsa**  
Osprey  
*Photographed at Fort Gibson Lake.*



**Anne-Marie Mee, Oklahoma City**  
American Mink and Largemouth Bass  
*Momma mink taking a "little snack" to her three babies.*





**Cindy Turney, Fort Cobb**  
 American White Pelican  
*Breakfast at Fort Cobb State Park. Watched this beautiful pelican trying to catch fish. Successful!*



**Bridget Kirk, Silo**  
 Rainbow Trout  
*Rainbow trout caught at the Lower Illinois River.*



**Cheryl Welch, Broken Arrow**  
 Yellow-crowned Night Heron  
*Yellow-crowned night heron gulping down a crayfish.*





**Crystal Griffith, Tulsa**  
Short-eared Owl

*In the golden hush of tallgrass prairie, the Whisper Watcher perches high, keeping silent vigil over waving grasses. Born of dusk and rooted silence, it sees all, speaks little. Those who meet its gaze may hear forgotten stories carried on grass-blown breeze, if they dare to listen.*





**Ted Warkentin, Lawton**  
Rio Grande Wild Turkey  
*Photographed in flight at Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge.*



**Jacob Miller, Arnett**  
Mule Deer  
*A mule deer buck in the snow in northwestern Oklahoma.*





**Don Price, Midwest City**  
Western Honey Bee  
*This honey bee is taking a drink on a hot day.*





**Joshua VanTuyt**, Lawton  
Checkered White Butterfly



**Jim Palmer**, Tulsa  
Neon Skimmer Dragonfly

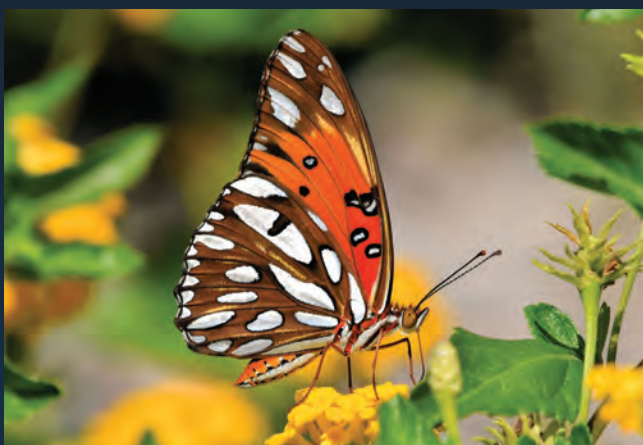


**Kellie Carter**, Newcastle  
Jumping Spider

*This cute little jumping spider was going across one of my flower beds at our home garden in Newcastle. I was out shooting flower photos when I noticed that this little rascal was ready for his close up!*



**Michael McGregor**, Tulsa  
Paper Wasp



**Cheryl Welch**, Broken Arrow  
Gulf Fritillary Butterfly



**Seth Schubert**, Moore  
Millipede

*A millipede taking a defensive spiral shape at the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge.*





**TaSheena Wesley, Rattan**  
*Sunset at Lake Ozzie Cobb while on a fishing trip.*



**Jacie Brown, Blackwell**  
*Watching your dog's determination and passion is unexplainable.*



**Joe Hapgood, Edmond**  
**Horned Grebe**  
*Lake Overholser provides constant treats throughout the year for birding enthusiasts, as the cast of characters constantly changes with the season. This horned grebe was transitioning into full breeding plumage, and it was a special treat to be able to see and photograph this beautiful bird.*



**Timothy Rossiter, Midwest City**  
**Southern Leopard Frogs**  
*Three frogs enjoying each other's company.*





**Joe Hapgood, Edmond**  
Yellow-crowned Night Heron

*A yellow-crowned night heron devours a crayfish at Lake Overholser in May 2024. These birds are truly unique, and are incredibly fun to watch. While they primarily consume crayfish, they are opportunistic feeders and enjoy shad and other small aquatic creatures. They are around for the entire summer, usually arriving in late April and migrating out of our area by late September.*



**Reginald Murray, Bristow**

*Daisy Murray is eagerly watching and waiting for another retrieve.*



**Jim Palmer, Tulsa**  
Blue Dasher Dragonfly

*Blue Dasher dragonfly on a lotus pod with a spider lurking underneath. Photographed in Tulsa.*





**Ben Childers, Midwest City**  
American Avocets



**Keith Treat, Norman**  
American Coot



**Tina Burrows, Roff**  
Yellow Warbler

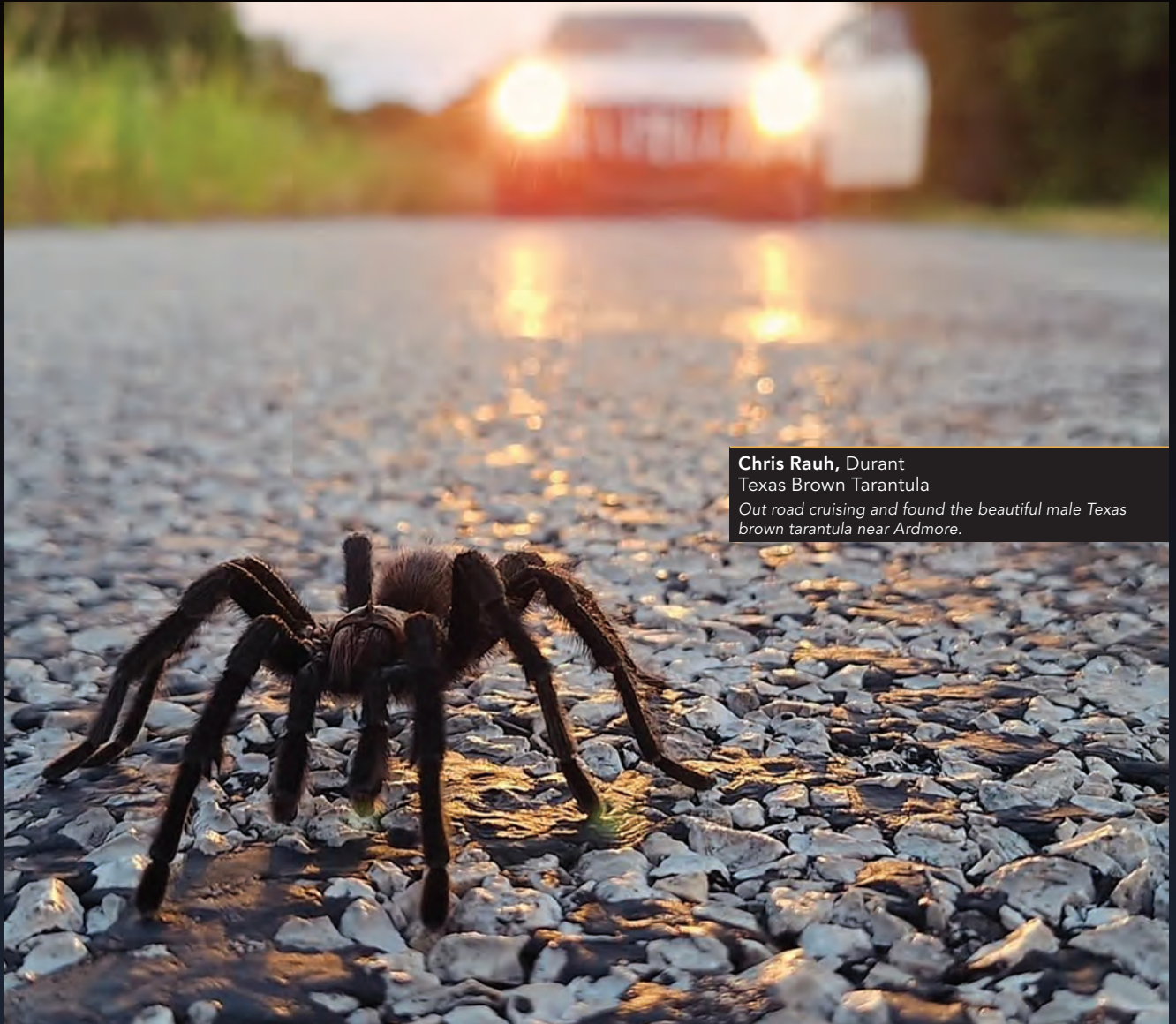
*Yellow warbler enjoying a bath in our pondless water feature. He appears to be smiling in this captured shot as he was enjoying a cool bath in the Oklahoma heat.*





**Dan Reinking**, Bartlesville  
Purple Gallinule  
*Photographed at Red Slough Wildlife Management Area in McCurtain County.*





**Chris Rauh, Durant**  
Texas Brown Tarantula  
*Out road cruising and found the beautiful male Texas brown tarantula near Ardmore.*



**Rachel Oswald, Shawnee**  
Black Widow Spider  
*Black widow spider under water trough in Shawnee.*



**Haydn Aunko, Tulsa**  
Gaillardia  
*Oklahoma's state wildflower, also called the Indian Blanket.*





**Carrie Allen-Cole**, Broken Arrow  
Augochloropsis Sweat Bee



**Ashley Faram**, Yukon  
American Bumble Bee



**Jason Dudley**, Bonham  
White-tailed Deer

*September velvet bucks just doing what bucks do, starting to display their natural behavior for the upcoming activities.*





**Andrew Guthrie, Luther**  
Tufted Titmouse

*Tufted titmouse takes a break during a cold snap in early spring at Martin Park Nature Center in Oklahoma City.*



**Craig Flatter, Coweta**  
Northern Cardinal

*Cardinal trying to stay warm in backyard tree during a weeklong freeze.*



**Kyler Gaylor, Sand Springs**  
Barred Owl





**Jacob Miller**, Arnett  
American Badger  
*This half-blind badger has seen better days!*

**Duncan Brittain**, Woodward  
American Kestrel

*A male American kestrel pauses in perfect stillness, its vivid plumage glowing against the muted Oklahoma sky. This smallest of falcons, often overlooked, radiates elegance and alertness—embodying the fierce beauty of native birds of prey in a fleeting moment of calm.*



JULY/AUGUST 2025



**Sherman Barr**, Edmond  
American Kestrel





**Mark Dolph, Tulsa**  
American Bison

*As a volunteer at The Nature Conservancy's Tallgrass Prairie Preserve north of Pawhuska, I have the good fortune to see and photograph bison throughout the year. This shot of a beautifully sun-lit bull a few days before Christmas, 2024, was an especially special Tallgrass gift.*





**Scott Smith, Newcastle**  
Texas Horned Lizard

*I was at Black Mesa near the area where the dinosaur tracks are located. I saw movement out of the corner of my eye and this little guy was in full pose mode.*



**Corey Miller, Arnett**  
Prairie Rattlesnake  
*Rattler near the Antelope Hills.*



**Kayleen Sugianto, Enid**  
Eastern Collared Lizard

*In the Wichita Mountains in southwestern Oklahoma, a gorgeous male collared lizard gets a bit curious and scrambles onto a rock to check out my camera.*

**Michael E Martine, Cache**  
Elk

*A pair of bull elk at the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge.*







**Sarah Kinney, Ardmore**  
Burrowing Owl

**Terry Brunholtz, Owasso**  
Gray Fox and Groundhog

*A gray fox and groundhog come face-to-face in my backyard near Owasso. They eyed one another for a couple moments, then went their separate ways without further confrontation.*







**Hunter Jones, Jenks**  
Western Pygmy Rattlesnake



**Tina Burrows, Roff**  
Ruby-throated Hummingbird  
*Male ruby-throated hummingbird, going in for a little fresh nectar from my dwarf coral plant.*



**John Wilson, Tulsa**  
Ringed Salamander  
*The ringed salamander is found only in the easternmost counties of Oklahoma. I had looked for one for many years, and finally found one near Stilwell.*





**Jodie Gisinger, Lawton**  
Elk  
*Elk smelling the morning breeze in Rucker Park at Fort Sill.*



**Melanie Emerson, Choctaw**  
Common Nighthawk



**Sarah Kinney, Ardmore**  
Painted Bunting  
*Male painted bunting resting on a twig near Springer.*





**Craig Flatter, Coweta**  
Red-shouldered Hawk and Earthworm  
*This young hawk is catching a worm.*





*The sun was just rising as the anglers arrived at the place to launch their kayaks on the Illinois River below Tenkiller Ferry Lake dam.*

# RIVER KAYAKERS SEEK OUT SUPER STRIPERS

BY WES LITTLEFIELD

We launched our kayaks on the Lower Illinois River as the sun was turning the horizon bright orange on a soon-to-be hot September day.

My only defense against the swarm of mosquitoes was to dip my legs in the cool river. "Next time, don't forget the bug spray," I told myself.

My buddy Landon Bennight, a local fishing guide, promised to show me how to catch striped bass, which I'd never done on this river despite floating it a hundred times or more. I'd always focused on the excellent trout fishing instead of the potentially record-breaking striped bass fishing.

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) has stocked rainbow trout and some occasional brown trout in the Lower Illinois River for decades. As a kid, I remember watching ODWC trucks



release thousands of hatchery-raised trout into the river near Marval Campground, but none were willing to take my bait.

ODWC also stocked striped bass in the Lower Illinois River. These predator fish feed on the trout and can grow to record sizes in this small river. That's why many anglers target stripers here. However, we had the river all to ourselves this morning, which wasn't such a good sign.

We planned to catch a few trout for bait, drop them in the deeper holes, and hook a striper or two. Our expectations to catch a big striper were low, as the summer heat had driven most of them farther downriver than we were prepared to go. I just wanted to learn a new way to fish, so I didn't mind the odds being stacked against us.

I knew the first trout spot well, so it didn't take long to set the hook on a small rainbow trout using my Super Duper spoon on my ultralight rod and reel, but the little rascal must have known we planned to keep him and shook the hook.

Thankfully, Landon reeled one in on a crappie jig a few minutes later, and we had our bait.

We continued casting our ultralight gear to the first striper hole. It was about 50 yards long and 4 feet deep, but the surrounding water was a foot or less. Landon cut the trout into 2-inch chunks, much like I would do with shad while catfishing. He said that shad also works as bait farther downriver, where the water is too warm for trout, but trout are the premier bait this far upriver.

He placed a chunk of cut bait on a 6/0 circle hook tied to 25-pound-test line (5/0 to 8/0 circle hooks all work well, depending on the size of the striper you're targeting) and tossed the Carolina rig (or slip sinker rig) with a 2-ounce egg weight into the middle of the hole.



The battle is on after Wes connects with one of the river's largest stripers of the year.



NELS ROSEFELD/ODWC

## Striper Record Set in '96 On Lower Illinois River

Oklahoma's state record striped bass came out of the Lower Illinois River, and the record has stood for 29 years. Louis Parker of Greenwood, Ark., hauled in the 47-pound, 8-ounce monster on June 10, 1996.

"When I set the hook, it stripped off 100 yards of line and wrapped up in a tree in about 10 feet of water. ... By the grace of God, the fish came off the tree." After a 30-minute knock-down, drag-out battle, the fish was hoisted into the boat. It was 48 inches long and had a 30-inch girth.

The record fish was a recently spawned female that might have weighed more than 50 pounds only a few weeks before it was caught, an ODWC biologist said.

Striped bass are saltwater fish native to the East Coast of the United States. The Wildlife Department began stocking stripers in Oklahoma in the 1960s to provide increased angling diversity and fill biological niches in man-made reservoir systems. Now, breeding populations are in lakes Keystone and Texoma and the Arkansas River system, and ODWC has stocked stripers in Foss, Tenkiller, Canton, Great Salt Plains, Grand and Kaw lakes. ♡





Wes finally pulls the big striper into his net.



Wes Littlefield holds the striped bass he caught from a kayak in the Lower Illinois River.

Landon handed me the trout head to stick on my Carolina-rigged 6/0 circle hook. I tossed my setup in at the top of the hole, and it didn't take long before I noticed my 12-pound-test line bouncing. I let the fish have it and then set the hook with the heavy-fast action baitcasting rod I use for bass fishing, only to come up empty.

After repeating this situation a few more times, we downsized our bait to inch-sized chunks, and Landon immediately hooked up on an 8-pounder after dropping his bait at the end of the deep section.

We could relax a little with the skunk busted, but I still wanted to land one. We continued downriver, stopping at the edge of deeper holes to drop our baits, hoping for a big bite as the sun rose and warmed the day.

The Lower Illinois River originates below Tenkiller Ferry Lake dam, which releases clean, cold water from the lake's bottom, creating great trout and striper habitat. The water warms up too much for trout near Gore Landing, but stripers are better equipped for the temperature change. They are regularly caught where the Illinois River meets the Arkansas River and farther downstream.

Landon told me the Lower Illinois River's best striper fishing holes are below or near the best trout spots. Places, such as ripples, logs,

and holes, where trout can use current breaks to rest while they wait for their next meal, are also where striped bass group up. Since striped bass regularly feed on trout, this makes complete sense.

As we stopped at one of my favorite trout holes, I realized it had all the makings for the ideal striped bass location: a deep hole just below some ripples, with riprap and logs creating multiple current breaks.

I anchored my kayak near the bank and cast my bait into the middle of the long, deep hole. Landon beached his kayak and cast his bait farther downriver. After a few minutes, my line began moving upstream.

I reel up the slack and set the hook. The river exploded to life, and my



drag started to sing as the fish darted upstream. It then zig-zagged up and down the river for the next few minutes, which felt like an eternity. Initially I thought it was big, but as it surfaced and stripped more drag, the adrenaline surged through my veins and Landon said this fish looked like one of the biggest stripers caught on the river all year.

After another couple of minutes battling this beast, I finally managed to get it into my net. Fueled by adrenaline, I wetted my hands, lifted the 30-pound fish, and snapped pictures.

I was surprised to learn that striped bass are fairly delicate, although not as fragile as trout. A long, hard fight like the one we just endured would require a little patience and extra precautions on my part to ensure the fish fully recovered.

I didn't immediately plop it into the water, as I would with a largemouth or catfish. Instead, I walked it to knee-deep water, holding onto it by its bottom lip. I refused to let it go until it pulled free of my firm grip, so I knew it had recovered and someone else would have a chance to catch it.

We stopped at a couple more holes without a nibble before calling it a day. However, that one fish has me eager to return to the beautiful Lower Illinois River for more trout and striped bass fishing.

It's the perfect place for a family float in northeastern Oklahoma. I typically drop off a vehicle at Marval Campground or Gore Landing (depending on how long I want to float that day), before launching the kayaks just below the dam. This trip takes five or six hours, depending on water flow, how fast you paddle, and how many stops you make to fish. 🍷

### About the Author

*Wes Littlefield is a full-time free-lance outdoor writer and content creator who would much rather spend the day fishing from a kayak than sitting in front of a computer. His home base is in northeastern Oklahoma with his wife and two children.*



PROVIDED

*Wes handles the big striper carefully so it will survive to fight again.*

**I didn't immediately plop it into the water, as I would with a largemouth or catfish. Instead, I walked it to knee-deep water, holding onto it by its bottom lip. I refused to let it go until it pulled free of my firm grip, so I knew it had recovered and someone else would have a chance to catch it.**



# OUTDOOR STORE

license.GoOutdoorsOklahoma.com

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.**



## 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

## 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



## 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



## 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 separately from other Outdoor Store items) — \$140.00



## YUKON LUNCHBOX COOLER

Keep your cool with an ODWC-logo lunchbox with four pockets and a welded thermal foil liner that is antimicrobial and leak-resistant. It will hold eight cans and is 12.5 inches long. — \$27



## RIVERSIDE DRY BAG

This handsome high-capacity dry bag sports the ODWC shield. Measuring 28 by 15 by 9 inches, it has four pockets and a rugged exterior shell. — \$80







## 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 \$41.60 (original or replacement) 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/wildlifetag](http://tinyurl.com/wildlifetag).



## OUTDOOR OKLAHOMA T-SHIRTS

Show that you support ODWC's magazine and TV show with these logo tees! These Bella unisex soft shirts are machine-washable and come in two designs: white with logo, and black with angler and logo. — \$25.

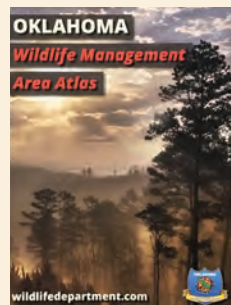
## ODWC LOGO WATER BOTTLE

Made of high-grade 18/8 (304) stainless steel, this ODWC-logo 32-ounce bottle is highly durable and corrosion-resistant. With copper plate insulation and double-wall vacuum seal, it keeps beverages cold for 24 hours or hot for up to 6 hours. Includes Sip 'n Chug Leakproof Lid. — \$27



## 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



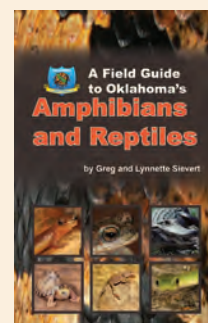
## OKLAHOMA WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA ATLAS

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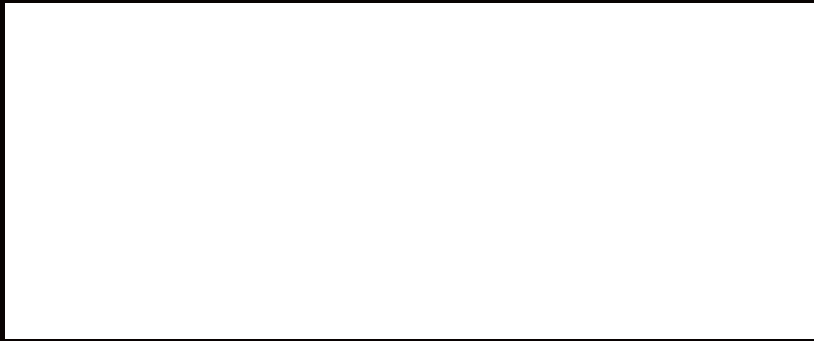
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SHARI VICK/RPS 2023



A dainty Carolina chickadee scores a juicy morsel in this outstanding capture by Shari Vick of Edmond. It is among 83 photos that rose to the top in this year's Readers' Photography Showcase contest and won a spot in this issue. Anyone who just likes "looking at the pictures" will love the visual celebration of the natural world inside this issue of Outdoor Oklahoma!

# Outdoor Oklahoma

