

# Outdoor Oklahoma

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2019 – ONLY \$10 A YEAR



**Timberland  
Quail Hunt**

**Controlled  
Hunts:  
Up Your  
Odds**

**Cooper  
Site 25  
Years  
Later**

**2019 State  
Waterfowl  
Stamp Art  
Contest  
Winner**

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION



# Panoramas

**H**appy New Year! Here's looking forward to a 2019 full of great outdoor experiences!

As we contemplate our New Year's resolutions, or otherwise challenge ourselves to be better in 2019, we also take a moment to reflect on what we've been able to accomplish.

**RENOVATED HEADQUARTERS OPENS:** After 3.5 years of renovation, the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation's headquarters building re-opened to the public in mid-October. The virtually new building a block south of the State Capitol is designed to better serve hunters, anglers and other outdoor enthusiasts. It is a more energy efficient, safe, leak-proof, technologically advanced, modern, and fitness-oriented building. The renovation also brings the facility into ADA compliance.

As with the original 1966 headquarters construction, the funding for this \$16 million renovation project came from the revenues generated by hunting and fishing licenses. No state tax dollars were spent, and license fees have not and will not be raised to pay for the building renovation. The entire project was funded without the agency incurring any debt. It's really something our license holders can be proud of!

**WILDLIFE FOUNDATION AND BLAKE SHELTON:** The new Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Foundation officially launched in July to give added support for the Wildlife Department and its activities in managing the state's fish and wildlife resources and habitat. Wildlife departments in many other states have had similar charitable foundations assisting them for years. Country music star and native Oklahoman Blake Shelton serves on the Foundation's board of directors. "Healthy fish and wildlife, and the opportunities to get outdoors, make Oklahoma a special place to live." He said he "can't wait to help further conservation efforts here in our great state."

**NBA STAR KEEPS KIDS FISHING:** In October, Oklahoma City Thunder All-Star forward Paul George met 50 fourth-graders from Cesar Chavez Elementary School as a part of a class trip to experience the great outdoors. Last year, George signed on as a sponsor with the Wildlife Department's OKFITS (Oklahoma Fishing in the Schools) program and is continuing to give back to Oklahoma youths by sharing his favorite pastime. OKFITS is part of the Wildlife Department's suite of educational programs designed to introduce youths to various outdoor-related activities. George's foundation is sponsoring the participation of 13 local elementary schools in OKFITS.

**HUNTER EDUCATION GOES TO NRA:** The Wildlife Department is partnering with the National Rifle Association to offer an online hunter education course. The free course replaces the Department's previously offered online course. It allows the Department to maintain high-quality hunter education training at no cost to the Department or the state's hunters. The Department

still conducts in-person classroom hunter education statewide as various times listed on the website.

**ENDANGERED WOODPECKERS ARRIVE:** A partnership between the U.S. Forest Service, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation has boosted the number of federally endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers in Oklahoma. Ten juvenile woodpeckers – five males and five females – were relocated to southeastern Oklahoma from Louisiana. Eight birds were released at the Wildlife Department's McCurtain County Wilderness Area and two were released in the nearby Ouachita National Forest. Fewer than 100 of the woodpeckers live in Oklahoma. They roost and nest in mature pine forests.

**STARS & STRIPES LICENSE PROJECT:** A Wildlife Department program that provides hunting and fishing licenses at no cost to military veterans and select survivors of veterans who died while serving received a surge of support in September. The Central Oklahoma 89er Chapter of Quail Forever and Oklahoma Trout Unlimited and Indian Nations Council of Trout Unlimited donated \$8,000 altogether. Stars & Stripes is supported exclusively by donations, and hundreds of licenses have been provided through an application and selection process. The Department receives no state-appropriated funding, so this project allows the Department and the public to show appreciation to veterans and their families while maintaining revenue to support important fish and wildlife conservation activities in the state.

**OKLAHOMA YOUTHS SHINE:** Kiefer High School juniors Jeremy Tolle and Garrett Hale took home scholarship prizes of \$28,000 each to Bethel University after winning the 2018 The Bass Federation Inc. (TBF) High School Fishing World Finals on Alabama's Pickwick Lake in July.

Also, two Oklahoma student archers earned spots on the National Archery in the Schools U.S. All-Star Team of just 16 members that competed against the world's best in the NASP® World All-Star Championships in Calgary, Alberta, in July. They are Matthew Monroe, 11th grade, Locust Grove High School, and Jerod Aycox, 7th grade, Zaneis School. To put these young archers into perspective, they rose to the very top of some 2.2 million youths who participated in NASP® during the previous year.

2018! What a year! For 2019, let's resolve now to get outdoors, take someone along to share the experience with, and learn to appreciate more what nature provides in our amazing Outdoor Oklahoma!



Nels Rodefeld,  
Editor



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*THIS PAGE: A hunter's heart quickens when a flock of Canada geese flies by to check out the decoy spread. Oklahoma's 2018-19 dark goose hunting season is open statewide through Feb. 17.*

*ON THE COVER: The magnificent colors of the male wood duck are beautifully captured in this artwork by John Nelson Harris of Groveland, Fla., selected the winner of the 2019-20 Oklahoma Waterfowl Stamp Art Contest. See the other artworks selected as honorable mentions on page 6.*



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**CALL (800) 777-0019**

# Off the Beaten Path

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

## ODWC'S MELYNDA HICKMAN NAMED BIOLOGIST OF YEAR

Wildlife biologist Melynda Hickman with the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation was named 2018 Wildlife Biologist of the Year by the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) during the organization's annual meeting in Mobile, Ala., last week.

Hickman works in the Department's Wildlife Diversity Program. She began her career with the Department 28 years ago.

Oklahoma's Wildlife Department Director J.D. Strong said there is no one more deserving of this honor. "Melynda is a tireless worker, a tremendous ambassador for the ODWC and well respected among her peers and the public we serve," Strong said. "In a profession that's often focused on the hook-and-bullet crowd, Melynda has a unique ability to energize folks about bats, bluebirds, butterflies and the importance of conserving ecosystems as a whole."

SEAFWA President Chuck Sykes said Hickman was selected by her peers for her "clear dedication to promoting and conserving Oklahoma's natural resources. Her engagement in public education events and programs establish connections with future generations that all of our state agencies and the wildlife we manage depend upon."

Hickman is the Department's Watchable Wildlife Program leader. She has started and continues to lead several important conservation education efforts. One of those, now in its 23rd year, is the Selman Bat Cave Wildlife Man-



Melynda Hickman

agement Area bat watch program, which has enabled more than 10,000 people the unique opportunity to experience the nightly emergence of a million Mexican free-tailed bats.

Hickman was a driving force in developing a state-of-the-art multipurpose educational facility at Hackberry Flat Wildlife Management Area in southwestern Oklahoma. The center and its programs have given countless students the opportunity to immerse themselves in wetland education. She organizes seasonal events hosted by the Hackberry Flat Center, including a monarch butterfly watch and tagging program; shorebird, raptor and

grassland bird-viewing events; and an annual Hackberry Flat Day.

Hickman earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Appalachian State University. She was an educator in Norman schools and worked with the Oklahoma Museum of Natural History before beginning her Wildlife Department career.

Each year, SEAFWA presents Biologist of the Year Awards to two career biologists of state wildlife agencies, one each in wildlife and fisheries, who in the opinion of the SEAFWA Awards Committee have made outstanding contributions to fish and wildlife conservation.

Oklahoma's Wildlife Department is among the fish and wildlife agencies of 15 southeastern states and two U.S. territories that make up SEAFWA's membership. --x

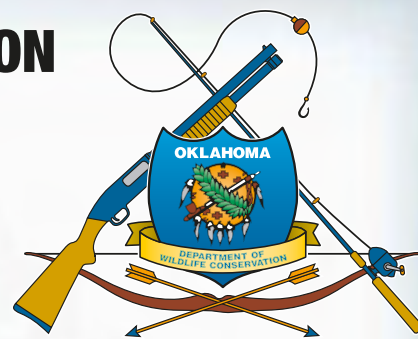
(Andi Cooper, SEAFWA, assisted with this article.)



# 2018 CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION

## "HUNTING IS A GREAT WAY TO BRING FAMILIES TOGETHER"

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Each year, the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and Oklahoma Station Chapter Safari Club International join to sponsor a creative writing competition for Oklahoma middle and high school students. A boy and a girl from two age divisions are selected winners. Students were required to 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 Senior Apprentice Hunter category receive a guided antelope hunt in the Texas Panhandle, and winners in the 11-14 age category receive a hunting trip at the Chain Ranch for either a hog or a ram, and a scholarship to the Outdoor Texas Camp. The Oklahoma Station Chapter of SCI will reimburse travel expenses up to \$500 per essay contest winner. In this issue, Outdoor Oklahoma honors Junior Program male winner Christopher Davis, 14, an 8th-grader from Owasso 8th Grade Center.



### HUNTING: SHARING THE HERITAGE

By Christopher Davis

Hunting has a long heritage in the United States and has been passed down from generation to generation. It is not only a personal hobby but is also a major industry. Hunting is important to me because of my family's history, the time it allows me to spend with family, and the benefits I get from spending time in the country. Along with being part of my heritage, hunting has many other benefits. Hunting has a long history in the United States. Native Americans hunted to provide food, clothing and tools for the tribe. Pilgrims and early settlers hunted as political defiance from the British Empire. Great men in our U.S. history proudly hunted such as Davy Crockett and even presidents like Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt. Throughout U.S. history, hunting was a vital part of the culture.

Over the years, the hobby of hunting has developed into a major industry. According to NHFD.org, there are 38 million hunters that spend an average of \$2,484 dollars per year on the sport. Hunting gear is one of the top-selling sporting goods. These statistics show how



important hunting is to the people of the U.S.

Hunting is a regular part of my family's history and can also be considered our heritage. Going back as far as we can remember, my family hunted dove, quail and deer in West Texas. My grandfather enjoyed hunting with his dad, and now I also enjoy hunting with my father and grandfather. I hope to pass down this heritage to my children and grandchildren someday. Hunting is important because it brings me closer to my family. We spend time talking and telling funny hunting stories. My dad and grandad teach me important lessons from their childhood. They taught me to remain calm and focused when hunting to avoid missing the shot. I am glad hunting is part of my family's heritage because it brings us closer together.

I like hunting because I am able to spend time in the country and take in nature. I like it because of how peaceful and quiet it is. Sometimes it's so quiet, you can hear a deer's hooves clicking on the rocks as they are walking near the blind. Also, being in the country makes me feel calm because I can get away from all the hustle and bustle of a school day. The stress of school and sports goes away when I am in the country. Hunting is great because it also lets me enjoy the country.

Hunting is a great way to bring families together and start a new tradition. Hunting has been around since the beginning of the United States and is an important part of our history. It is a great way to get out of the house and enjoy the peace and quiet of nature. I am glad that my family has given me an opportunity to go hunting! \*\*x





# 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 Wildlife Department,**

I was the lucky person to be selected for a controlled elk hunt in the Cookson Hills Wildlife Management Area. I scouted the area several times before my hunt dates of Oct. 27-28. Technician Colby Farquhar and Biologist Curt Allen provided encouragement for this novice elk hunter.

After applying for the elk hunt for the last several years, about 35 or 40 years, I wanted to have a good hunt. After all, this is a once-in-a-lifetime controlled hunt.

I saw several elk while scouting the area. I did both driving the management roads to see likely areas and a fair amount of boots on the ground. I basically discovered three locations in which I was confident to hunt. In all three locations I spotted elk and was able to ease out of the hunt area without disturbing the elk.

On the morning of the elk hunt, my son-in-law, Jared Sposato, and I started for my first hunt location. Then we saw a herd of elk away from where we were planning on hunting. We stalked them for about two hours before giving up on that herd. We returned to my first pick of locations, but we were curious about the other areas that I liked. After checking out the other areas, we returned to my first choice.

Slowly the elk started coming into a nearby field. Gradually some young elk and cows came very near us. I was fortunate enough to harvest a fine 6-by-6 bull elk.

I would like to thank the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation for having the controlled hunts. I would also like to thank Technician Farquhar and Biologist Allen for their help before and after the hunt. I would also like to thank my nonhunting helper, my son-in-law, Jared.

**Ralph Ward**

**Dear Wildlife Department and Oklahoma Station-Safari Club International,**

Thank you so much for your generosity and the opportunities you provide our youths through the Creative Writing Competition. This past weekend was the culmination of events offered to my daughter, Eva Aycock, as a contest awardee. In addition to being published in each respective organization's newsletter and magazine, honored at the annual Oklahoma Station-SCI Banquet, provided a membership to SCI and being sponsored for a week at the Outdoor Texas Camps, she finally made a cold and very wet hunt on the Circle P Pogue Ranch near Stringtown. She now has a nice ram that we will have finished as a European mount and memories of those experiences that will last a lifetime.

I would also be remiss if I did not thank Eva's teacher and essay contest school sponsor, coach Frank Blair at Owasso's Eighth-Grade Center. There is a special and powerful place that teachers and coaches have in the lives of our children, and we are lucky to have him.



As Eva's father, her essay was my reward. But beyond that, I hope that other dads and mentors will find encouragement from her essay and see the potential impact we can have in the lives of our kids. These kids, by the way, are our next hunters, conservationists, parents, teachers, and decision-makers. So it's our responsibility to train them in what's right.

Now coming full-circle, this weekend we'll head back to that same tree stand in Tillman County where her essay began and continue the story. I hope you will continue your story, too.

**Spencer Aycock**

**Dear Law Enforcement Chief Bill Hale,**

I would like to take this opportunity and express my sincere appreciation for the exceptional assistance I received from your Game Warden Joe Alexander. As a result of being relatively new to deer hunting, I contacted Alexander to obtain his assistance and guidance. Not only did he answer my flood of questions but took the time to meet with me in person to discuss hunting opportunities at Copan Lake. I was truly impressed with both his genuine desire to assist me in having a great hunting experience and his willingness to help in any way possible; such service oriented people are often difficult to find.

Alexander has certainly earned my profound respect and sincere appreciation, as I did not anticipate receiving such exceptional assistance and support. Though to him it may have seemed like a simple act or part of the job, it impacted my life and I now plan to introduce my two boys to hunting in the future.

**Nathan Cragun**  
**Manager, CEAT Online Learning**  
**Oklahoma State University**

**Dear Wildlife Expo Coordinator Rhonda Hurst,**

On behalf of Oklahoma State Parks, thank you and your agency so very much for welcoming our participation in the Wildlife Expo. The Expo is such a great event with both immediate and long-term benefits. The satisfaction that you receive is certainly one important measure of the event's significant impact.

For State Parks, the Expo is so very important as it provides us with an opportunity to acquaint Oklahomans with some of our state's ecological diversity. As well, there's no substitute for making face-to-face



contact with current and prospective outdoor enthusiasts.

You, HR Assistant Karla Beatty and all of your team do an amazing job. I know that it requires so much effort and time on your part. Thank you for all that you do. We look forward to being with all of you at the 2019 Expo!

**Tom Creider**  
**Oklahoma State Parks**

Dear Senior Information Specialist Michael Bergin,

The Youth Deer hunt was a fantastic experience. My son Logan reads about hunting and watches hunting videos on YouTube, but I did not have the experience and knowledge to take him hunting. My family were hunters, and I went with my father and grandfather several times when I was young. But circumstances changed before I was old enough to hunt myself, so the skills and tradition were not passed on to me. The youth hunt was a great experience for my son, but it was also a great experience for me.

I am extremely grateful to Darrell Noblitt and the Oklahoma Youth Hunting Program for providing this deer hunting opportunity to my son and me. All of people involved, from the landowners and guides to the volunteers who prepared the food, were outstanding. How remarkable these people are cannot be overstated and is really what makes the hunt so memorable.

Watching the youth hunters from diverse backgrounds bond and enjoy each other and getting to know their parents/guardians is another great part of this experience. It was a memorable experience on many levels, and I would strongly encourage anyone who has a child interested in hunting but who does not have the hunting experience to take them, to apply and take advantage of this tremendous program. Anyone who goes into it with an open mind and makes minimal effort to get to know the people will have an experience they will never forget.

I just wanted to write a short note to show my appreciation for everyone involved in the Oklahoma Youth Hunting Program.

**Bill Tibbett**

Dear Director J.D. Strong and Biologist Jeff Tibbits,

Just wanted to drop a quick note and say, for the second month in a row, that the Wildlife Department provided us with a great speaker at the Tulsa Bird Dog Association meeting. Wildlife Technician Kasie Joyner did an outstanding job filling our guys in (who are avid public land hunters and supporters) on the details of the OLAP program. Lots of them were already hunting walk-in land, but several expressed to me that they thought it was nothing more than a subsidy to farmers, which of course is the original impetus, but that they were really excited about the possibilities after hearing Kasie's talk.

Thanks again to her and you guys.

**Shane Bevel**

Dear Wildlife Department,

A big thanks to Wildlife Chief Alan Peoples and Game Warden Lt. Mark Walker who informed a group of young hunters about the importance of wildlife conservation at the ranches of Will and Jane Reagan, and Les Wald, who hosted eight young hunters for their first-time deer hunt, with all eight harvesting a big doe. About 65 kids ranging from 12 to 17 years old participated in the Oklahoma Youth Hunting Program recently, with many harvesting their first deer. Everyone had a great time. Various ranches throughout Oklahoma generously hosted the youths in the Oklahoma Youth Hunting Program, including Wildlife

Commissioners John Groendyke and Robert Hughes.

A certificate of accomplishment from the Wildlife Department was given to each hunter to help memorialize taking their first deer. Thanks also to Clayton Eubanks, who successfully guided his hunter to harvest her first deer.

On Sunday following the hunts, all youth hunters, parents/guardians, guides, staff and many host landowners gathered at Buffalo Rock Golf and Gun Club in Cushing to celebrate the 500th youth hunter to participate in the OYHP. All youth hunters had a chance for an Oklahoma lifetime hunting license in a drawing won by Logan Tibbett. Another big thanks to Senior Information Specialist Michael Bergin who represented ODWC at the event and helped Logan fill out his license application.

I encourage all Wildlife Commissioners to support the OYHP and host a hunt on their land. What a great way to introduce youths into hunting and enjoyment of the outdoors!

**James V. Barwick**  
**Oklahoma Wildlife Commissioner, District 5**



**James V. Barwick & Logan Tibbett**

Dear Wildlife Department,

I recently went to the re-opened target range at the Lexington Wildlife Management Area, and want to say thank you to those in charge of the changes made at this facility. The overall design, the covered shooting benches and target stands were very well thought-out and materials used and construction design assure a long-term place for us to go fire our weapons. Thank you all for a job well done!

**Dale Lee**

Dear Wildlife Department,

Although I have never met Game Warden Jay Harvey (selected as 2018 Wildlife Officer of the Year), I did want to say that all game wardens I have ever met are exemplary people and excellent at their jobs.

Just wanted pass that along to the state wildlife department that's the best in the USA.

**Jeff Cliburn**

Dear Wildlife Department,

Congratulations to Game Warden Jay Harvey (selected as 2018 Wildlife Officer of the Year)! Many grateful thanks for what you do for us all! Thank you to all of you at the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

**Robert Ford**  
**Oklahoma Lifetime Licensed Hunter**

## ERRATA

The Thanksgiving Day holiday appears incorrectly on the November 2019 page in the Outdoor Calendar (November/December 2018 issue). Thanksgiving will be Nov. 28, 2019. Outdoor Oklahoma readers are urged to make this correction in their copy of the magazine. We apologize for the error.

# FLORIDA ARTIST'S **WOOD DUCK** TO GRACE 2019-20 OKLAHOMA WATERFOWL STAMP

The winner of the 2018 Oklahoma Waterfowl Stamp art competition is Groveland, Fla., artist John Nelson Harris. His depiction of a wood duck drake earned him first place, and his artwork will be featured on Oklahoma's waterfowl stamp for the 2019-20 hunting seasons.

His entry was among 43 artworks submitted this year by hopeful artists from across the nation.

Artists who received honorable mention for their entries are Justin Madding of Danville, Ark.; James Basham of North Myrtle Beach, S.C.; and Buck Spencer of Junction City, Ore.

The subject for next year's contest will be the Canada goose. Entries must be received by 4:30 p.m. Aug. 1, 2019. For complete rules, go to [wildlifedepartment.com](http://wildlifedepartment.com) and search for "duck competition."

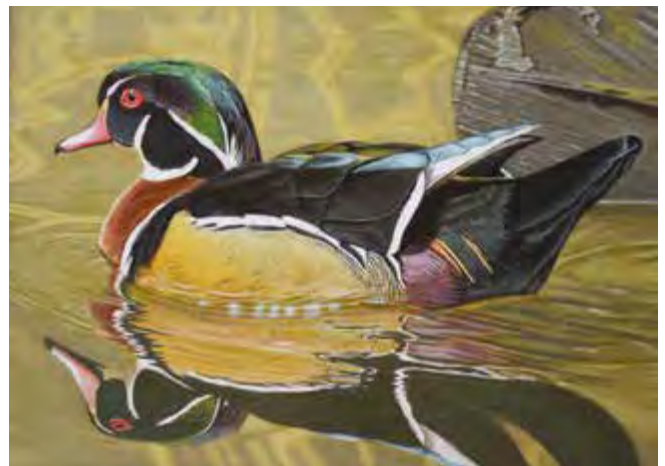
The Oklahoma waterfowl stamp program was designed to ensure quality habitat for the hundreds of thousands of ducks and geese that migrate through the state each year. The program, which began in 1980, features portraits of the state's diverse waterfowl species by the nation's best artists.

The program generates funding for waterfowl conservation projects through the sale of waterfowl licenses, which are required of waterfowl hunters, and stamp sales, many of which are purchased by collectors.

The program has funded the purchase of nearly 12,000 wetland acres along with the enhancement, creation, restoration and maintenance of thousands of additional acres of critical waterfowl habitat. Wetland development units such as Hackberry Flat Wildlife Management Area in southwestern Oklahoma and Red Slough WMA in McCurtain County have benefited from state duck stamp funds. --X



*Winner: John Nelson Harris, Groveland, Fla.*



*Honorable Mention: Buck Spencer, Junction City, Ore.*



*Honorable Mention: Justin Madding, Danville, Ore.*



*Honorable Mention: James Basham, North Myrtle Beach, S.C.*





# Game Warden's Journal

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



On Nov. 17, Game Warden Tell Judkins, based in Oklahoma County, was contacted by an Oklahoma City Police officer informing him of an arrest he had made the previous day. The officer said the subject had a spotlight, a rifle, two deer heads in the bed of the truck, and was "covered in blood" at the time.

Game Warden Tim Campbell, based in Oklahoma County, and Judkins went to the subject's home and interviewed the man's father. While at the residence, the wardens noticed two bucks that appeared to have been gutted near the house. The father said his son had taken them the week prior. The subject said in a telephone interview that the deer had been shot several days earlier with a crossbow at his home. The wardens' initial investigation showed no evidence a crossbow had been used. The deer were seized for X-rays.

Later, after a lengthy phone call, the man admitted to shooting the deer with a .22 caliber rifle at his home.

On Nov. 24, Judkins contacted the subject at his home and seized two additional deer heads, which the subject said were roadkill, and Judkins could find no evidence to dispute his claim.

The man was cited twice for possession of wildlife not legally taken and twice for hunting in a closed season with an illegal method.



A months-long investigation by Tulsa County-based Game Wardens Travis Garrett, Brandon Fulton and Carlos Gomez concluded the night before deer gun season opened. A man had been seen on trail cameras entering a north Tulsa property and night hunting for deer with a rifle. The man killed deer on at least two of his five documented crimes.

On the fifth hunt, the Game Wardens teamed with Tulsa Police and Tulsa County Sheriff's deputies to identify the suspect's vehicle and a pursuit ensued. The chase ended after nearly 5 miles when a tire on the suspect's vehicle shredded.

Wardens took an undocumented Honduran national into

custody without incident. The vehicle, a firearm, deer, and other evidence were seized. Following numerous wildlife charges and a felony eluding charge, a detainer for deportation was placed on the man.



No two days are the same for a Game Warden. Part of the excitement of the job is the diversity of what's around the next corner!

Game Warden Ryan Walker had an eventful opening day of youth deer gun season. He assisted stranded news reporter Sawyer Bucky from Tulsa's KOTV-6. A short time later, he met a hunter and his granddaughter Kaile, who were stuck at Hulah Wildlife Management Area. Walker was able to get them out so Kaile could get into the field to hunt. Then he

and Game Warden Paul Welch got to witness the famous "cactus doe" harvested by Kyndal LeFlore! Every day is an adventure, and all Game Wardens are proud to serve you!



*(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.

# OU'S MATTHEWS HONORED BY FISHERIES SOCIETY

Dr. William Matthews, University of Oklahoma professor emeritus of biology, received the Carl R. Sullivan Fishery Conservation Award at the 2018 American Fisheries Society (AFS) Annual Meeting in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The award, also known as the "Sully," is presented to a person or group for outstanding contributions to the conservation of fishery resources that may be political, legal, educational, scientific or managerial in scope.



"We applaud the distinguished contributions of Dr. Matthews and thank him for his continuous efforts to further the conservation of fishery resources," AFS President Steve L. McMullin said.

Matthews' influence on the conservation of stream fishes through dedicated research, service and mentoring of students has a span of over 40 years. His research, which has been disseminated in numerous peer-reviewed journal articles and books, has profoundly influenced many aspects of fisheries science.

Much of his research has focused on stream fishes in the central U.S. that are heavily impacted by land use, fragmentation and climate change. His early work described the key factors, such as physiological tolerances, of prairie fishes that are critical for their survival in those harsh environments. This work provided a foundation from which to assess how species respond to water extraction and deterioration of water quality associated with the growing human population.

Matthews' seminal article published in 1990 in Fisheries described how fishes in the Great Plains are at risk from increasing temperature. This work paved a way for thinking about how stream fishes are influenced by a warming environment. Equally important, he established long-term records of fish communities that continue to be used to assess temporal changes in species abundance and distribution.

His legacy extends to the numerous students and professionals who impact the field of fisheries conservation. He has served as president of the American Society of Ichthyologists and was recently recognized for his service with the Joseph S. Nelson Lifetime Achievement Award. Additionally, his conservation impact was recognized by the Southwestern Association of Naturalists with the George M. Sutton Conservation Award. --X

## Outdoor Calendar

FOR NEW UPDATES TO THE OUTDOOR CALENDAR,  
PLEASE VISIT THE DEPARTMENT'S  
WEBSITE: [WILDLIFEDEPARTMENT.COM/CALENDAR.HTM](http://WILDLIFEDEPARTMENT.COM/CALENDAR.HTM)

### JANUARY 2019

<b>1</b>	Entry period opens for 2019 Readers' Photography Showcase, click "Outdoor Oklahoma" at <a href="http://wildlifedepartment.com">wildlifedepartment.com</a> . New Years Day, state offices closed.
<b>3</b>	Public hearings on Title 800 rule change proposals, 7 p.m., Oklahoma City and McAlester, <a href="http://wildlifedepartment.com/public-meeting">wildlifedepartment.com/public-meeting</a> .
<b>5</b>	Oklahoma City free fishing day, no city permit required.
<b>6</b>	"Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, Cross Timbers WMA prescribed fire, 8 a.m., OETA.
<b>13</b>	"Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, Fishing With Nate, 8 a.m., OETA.
<b>14</b>	Okla. Wildlife Conservation Commission meeting, 9 a.m., Oklahoma City. Public Grand Opening Event, Wildlife Department Headquarters, 3-5 p.m., 1801 N. Lincoln, Oklahoma City.
<b>15</b>	Noble Research Institute Class: "How to Use Prescribed Fire for Wildlife and Livestock," Coffey Ranch, Marietta, (580) 223-5810.
<b>16</b>	Okla. Striped Bass Assn. meeting, 7 p.m., Zebco, Tulsa, (918) 639-8114.
<b>20</b>	"Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, Goose Hunt/Duck Hunt, 8 a.m., OETA.
<b>21</b>	Martin Luther King Jr. Day, state offices closed.
<b>27</b>	"Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, American Burying Beetle/Alligator Gar, 8 a.m., OETA.

- **Ducks Unlimited** events set in Chandler Jan. 5; Kingfisher, Jan. 26. Info: [www.ducks.org/events](http://www.ducks.org/events).
- **Friends of NRA** events info: [www.FriendsOfNRA.org](http://www.FriendsOfNRA.org).
- **National Wild Turkey Federation** events set in Shawnee, Jan. 12; Tulsa, Jan. 25; Wilburton, Jan. 26. Info: [www.nwtf.org/events](http://www.nwtf.org/events).

### FEBRUARY 2019

<b>2</b>	Oklahoma City free fishing day, no city permit required.
<b>3</b>	"Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, Timberland Quail Hunt, 8 a.m., OETA.
<b>4</b>	Okla. Wildlife Conservation Commission meeting, 9 a.m., Oklahoma City.
<b>10</b>	"Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, Using Fire With Jack Waymire, 8 a.m., OETA.
<b>12</b>	Sportsman's Day, Oklahoma State Capitol.
<b>13-14</b>	OKNASP West State Shoots, State Fair Park, Oklahoma City.
<b>17</b>	"Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, Taxidermy, 8 a.m., OETA.
<b>18</b>	President's Day, state offices closed.
<b>19</b>	Okla. Striped Bass Assn. meeting, 7 p.m., Zebco, Tulsa, (918) 639-8114
<b>20-21</b>	OKNASP East State Shoots, Expo Square, Tulsa.
<b>22-23</b>	Illinois River Fly Fishing School by Patton Fly Fishing, Tenkiller State Park, enroll at (405) 613-6520.
<b>24</b>	"Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, Lake Elmer Thomas/Trout, 8 a.m., OETA.
<b>28</b>	Oklahoma City trout season ends.

- **Friends of NRA** events info: [www.FriendsOfNRA.org](http://www.FriendsOfNRA.org).
- **Ducks Unlimited** events set in Edmond, Feb. 2; Mustang, Feb. 21; Enid, Feb. 23. Info: [www.ducks.org/events](http://www.ducks.org/events).
- **National Wild Turkey Federation** events set in Enid, Feb. 2; Arcadia, Feb. 9; Miami, Feb. 21; Elk City, Feb. 22; Tahleah, Feb. 22; Atoka, Feb. 23; Hydro, Feb. 23; Norman, Feb. 28. Info: [www.nwtf.org/events](http://www.nwtf.org/events).

**\*\* FOR HUNTING SEASON DATES, GO TO  
WILDLIFEDEPARTMENT.COM/HUNTING/SEASONS \*\***





# Join Our Mission

## THE OKLAHOMA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

**Our mission is to augment the state's efforts to ensure the conservation and enhancement of our fish and wildlife resources so they survive and thrive for current and future generations.**

Please join us in supporting the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and its responsibility for hunting, fishing, shooting sports, and conservation in our state. Your donation will be used in general support of the Foundation's efforts across the state. To find out more information on how you can contribute, send email to [OklaWild@gmail.com](mailto:OklaWild@gmail.com)

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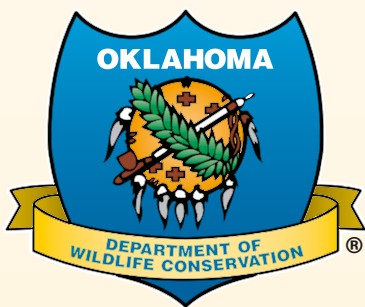
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# There's Quail in Them Thar Hills!



DON P. BROWN/OWIC

## Timberland Research Hunt Yields Clues on Bobwhite Behavior



By Don P. Brown, Information and Education Specialist

It's commonly thought that hunting for quail in heavily forested southeastern Oklahoma is pretty much a great way to waste time. But for the past several years, a dedicated group of quail hunting devotees has wasted no time getting after the elusive birds that are found amid the towering pines of the Ouachita Mountains.

For the past four years in January, a research/donor partnership between the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and Oklahoma Quail Forever (QF)





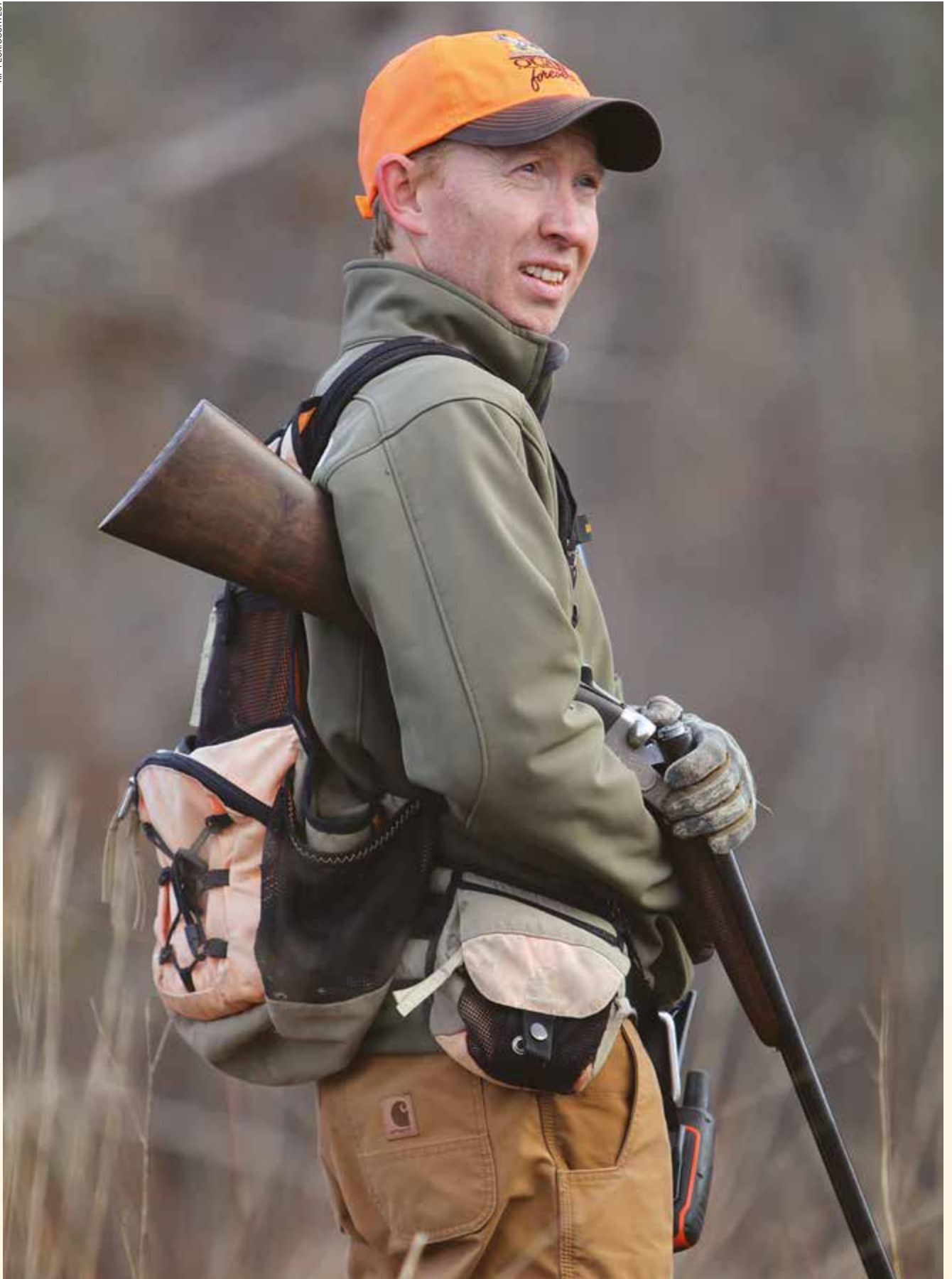
DON P. BROWN/COWIC

Attending last year's Timberland Quail Hunt are, front from left, Kyle Johnson, Carl Brown, Lacie Lowry, Laura McIver; back from left, Todd Craighead, Dakota Christian, Derek Wiley, Tommy Graham, Chance Phillips, James Dietsch, Weldon Gardner, Lucinda Gardner, Keith Lindsay, Dwayne Elmore and John Bellah.



DON P. BROWN/COWIC

Biologist Kyle Johnson and Laura McIver of Quail Forever chat as they set out in search of quail at Three Rivers Wildlife Management Area.



*Ready to venture into a pine forest clearcut is Dwayne Elmore, Oklahoma State University professor and volunteer quail hunter.*





DON P. BROWN/ODWC

*Keith Lindsey and Carl Brown of the Tulsa Tallgrass Chapter of Quail Forever hoping their dogs will find some birds during the timberland research hunt.*

chapters has generated something called the Timberland Quail Hunt. The weekend event brings together some avid quail hunters along with Department wildlife biologists and technicians to evaluate the effects of quail habitat improvement activities at Three Rivers Wildlife Management Area in McCurtain County.

Biologist Dakota Christian, biologist at Three Rivers and Honobia WMAs, has conducted whistle counts over the years and tracked incidental sightings of quail on the areas. The story was the same as it was across the bobwhite's range: populations were declining. He wanted to focus on trying to build bobwhite numbers.

"I'd like to see it back to what it was like in the early '90s, late '80s. It was nothing to find 10 to 15 coveys in those days."

John Bellah of Oklahoma City, president of the Central Oklahoma 89er Chapter of QF, was among the 10 hunters who participated in the 2018 hunt. He recalls how the Timberland hunt came about.

"The biologists were like "Hey, we need to get some people down here to hunt," because nobody was coming down here at the time. And they knew there were birds. So they came to us. We had some members from Tulsa and from our chapter come down."

Biologists wanted the bird hunters to report on how frequently they found coveys and where they found



DON P. BROWN/ODWC

*Quail Forever lifetime member Carl Brown of Sand Springs gives water to his German short-haired pointer John Doe.*





Biologists study harvested quail to determine age and diet, factors that can define the best habitat management practices.



## Watch the Hunt on TV!

Tag along with our timberland quail hunters as featured on the "Outdoor Oklahoma" television show. Watch anytime online by searching "Timberland" at [youtube.com/OutdoorOklahoma](https://youtube.com/OutdoorOklahoma).





them. In addition, they wanted to study harvested bobwhites to get information on age and diet. The information would then be used to development management strategies to promote quail populations on the area.

"We've got prime habitat where these clearcuts are 1 to 3 years old and still have plenty of grass and forage for the birds, and plenty of cover. But want to go into choked-out areas and clear it to see if that promotes more quail."

QF, whose tagline is "The Habitat Organization," jumped on board with the research and development efforts. The organization began donating money that has provided Three Rivers with a disk, brush-hog and some burning equipment.

Using the donated equipment, Christian said, "we started Quail Forever habitat projects where we go into young plantations where brush is starving out good seed. They get to come down and see project sites, and try to get some birds to analyze."

"Mowing and disking is mainly what we do to extend the life of a clearcut. We are starting to burn a little. But the majority of work being done is for brood-rearing habitat."

The overall goals are to create better habitat for bobwhites and to promote quail hunting and public use of the Three Rivers WMA.



KIP PECK/COURTESY



DON P. BROWN/ODWC

*Biologists Derek Wiley, Kyle Johnson and Dakota Christian examine the contents of a bobwhite's crop.*







Keith Lindsey and Carl Brown, both lifetime QF members with the Tulsa Tallgrass Chapter, spent the weekend trying to move some coveys.

"We've had people inquire what we are doing down here," Lindsey said. "And when we tell them we are here to hunt quail, they actually say, 'There's quail in this part of Oklahoma?'"

In fact, hunters are finding coveys with a healthy number of birds, Brown said.

"We're finding birds in the places that they are working, which is a fantastic thing. People can't believe that there's quail down here, but there are. And they are getting more and more with this habitat work they are doing. It's a great job"

But these hunters said they had not been able to take many shots after a day of hunting.

"This is a good opportunity to hunt a different habitat than we are usually hunting," Lindsey said. "It's a little bit tough hunting, and they don't give you much of a shot. But it's fun anyway just to get out and see the dogs work."

Brown said just finding some birds in the pine plantations is fantastic from a research standpoint. But even more exciting are the trends of the past four years.

"There's been a remarkable change in the number of birds found from last year to this year," he said. In 2015, the Timberland hunters found just one covey over the entire weekend. In 2018, the hunters moved eight coveys.

Christian said in three years of habitat work on the QF sites, "we have found disking is more beneficial in the

late winter and early spring, and mowing is more beneficial in late summer, early fall.

"Definitely since we started the habitat project, where we've done some of the sites, we have seen quite a few more birds." In one small QF research area that has been worked the past three years, Christian said a technician reported seeing five different coveys this past summer.

Of course, it is a different style of quail hunting than most bird hunters are used to in Oklahoma. And Christian said he always gives prospective hunters a heads-up about the rough terrain in the clearcuts and the thick forested areas where flushed birds usually disappear to. One of the more successful techniques is to hunt along roadsides, something vastly different than traditional open field hunting in western Oklahoma.

"This place doesn't get much pressure," Christian said with a chuckle. "In the first couple of months this season, I've seen about three quail hunters. ... But for the person who really likes to quail hunt, hunting in some of the pines I would think would be a 'must' on the list."

Brown agreed.

"It would definitely be worth it for anyone to come down here and give it a shot.

"For those hunters who got out of quail hunting a number of years ago because they weren't finding the birds, don't give up. They are here, and it's getting better." 🌿

**Editor's Note: Anyone interested in supporting Quail Forever's efforts to help quail management and promote habitat may visit [www.OklahomaQuailForever.org](http://www.OklahomaQuailForever.org).**



Hunting quail in the timberland clearcuts of the Three Rivers WMA in southeastern Oklahoma can be more of a physical challenge with rougher terrain than many bird hunters are used to.



# World-cla

## U.S. Youth Fly Fishing Team Visits Lower Mountain Fork River



By Don P. Brown, Information and Education Specialist



# ss Water



DON P. BROWN/ODWC

*U.S. Youth Fly Fishing Team members march to the river for a practice session.*

**For local anglers, the natural beauty and challenges of the Lower Mountain Fork River as it winds through Beaver's Bend State Park in southeastern Oklahoma create a fly-fishing gem. But for people from other parts of the country, this unlikely trout fishery in Oklahoma often comes as a big surprise.**





*Team USA Youth Fly Fishing Team members who visited the Lower Mountain Fork River are, front from left, Holden Price, 18, Port Matilda, Penn.; Evan Vanek, 17, Frisco, Texas; Nick Greenberg, 18, Allen, Texas; Ben Comfort, 17, Greensboro, N.C.; back row, Joey Pattee, 15, Bend, Ore.; Josh Kin, 17, Atlanta, Ga.; Eli Buchanan, 16, Silva, N.C.; Martin Dietz, 15, Needville, Texas; Ryder Sutton, 16, Silva, N.C.; Will McDonough, 15, Colorado.*

*In single file, youth team members navigate across the river near a waterfall.*



**T**hat was the case for several of the nation's best young fly fishermen who converged on the river last winter to hone their skills ahead of the 2018 national and world fly fishing championships.

Ryder Sutton, 16, of Silva, N.C., became a member of the U.S. Youth Fly Fishing Team in 2017 and was making his first visit to Oklahoma. "It's a lot different than what I expected," he said.

Fellow angler Ben Comfort, 17, of Greensboro, N.C., echoed his teammate.

"I was expecting a stream with less habitat for trout. I didn't really expect that Oklahoma would have a really good trout habitat. But I was thoroughly surprised with the amount of habitat, the amount of water, and the amount of fish here," Comfort said.

***"I like this river, honestly because I don't think there's any other river like it in the United States."***

Ten members of the 15-member U.S. youth team made the trip to the river that runs below the Broken Bow Reservoir dam in McCurtain County at the invitation of fellow angler Evan Vanek, 17, of Frisco, Texas, and his parents, Frank and Sue Vanek. They consider the Lower Mountain Fork as their "home waters."

"I like this river, honestly because I don't think there's





DON P. BROWN/OWC

*Team members become a tight-knit group and learn from each other as they fish up and down the stream.*

any other river like it in the United States,” Evan said. “I think the fishing here, it makes you a very good angler. The fish here are very picky, and you have to know what you’re doing.”

The Lower Mountain Fork River is one of two year-round trout fisheries managed by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. Rainbow and brown trout are stocked year-round in the designated trout areas stretching from Beavers Bend State Park for about 12 miles to the U.S. 70 bridge.

The U.S. youth team usually holds four or five clinics and several other informal practices during the year where team members will fish to learn from each other while also helping would-be team members build their skills. This Oklahoma trip was a practice session.

Sue Vanek said there is friendly competition among the anglers but also a great deal of mentoring.

“All of the kids, they are so nurturing and helpful. All of the older kids are helping the younger new kids get on board ... and bring them up to the next level. It’s a very positive environment.”

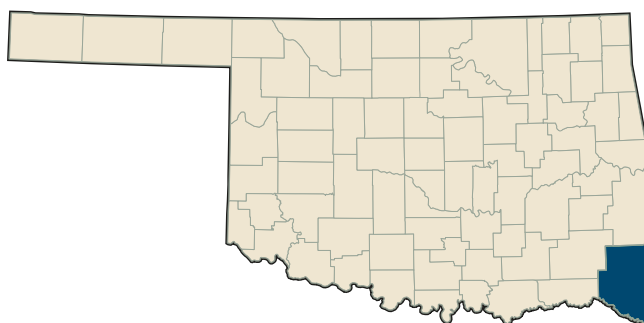
Frank Vanek said the parents volunteer to oversee the team practices and support their teen’s passion to become the best in the world.



DON P. BROWN/OWC

**Frank Vanek**

***“The thing that the kids on the team have in common is they have this drive to be the best and to compete against each other. And they develop a friendship.*”**



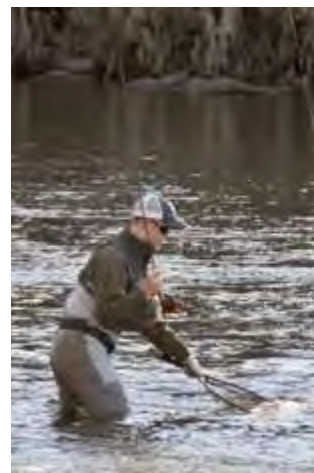
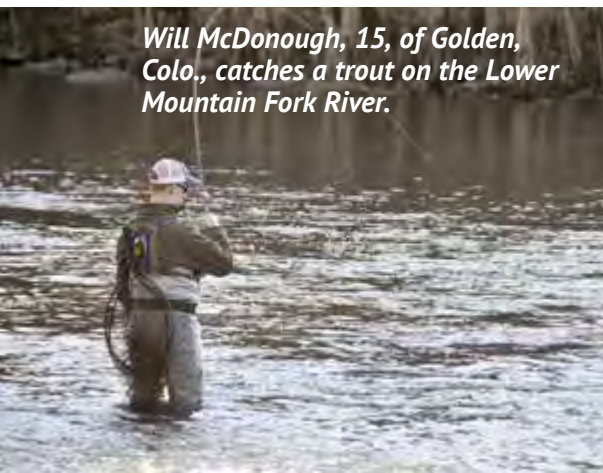
***The Lower Mountain Fork River is located in McCurtain County, just south of Broken Bow Lake in southeastern Oklahoma.***





*The Lower Mountain Fork River below Broken Bow Reservoir is one of two year-round trout stream fisheries in Oklahoma.*

*Will McDonough, 15, of Golden, Colo., catches a trout on the Lower Mountain Fork River.*





"The thing that the kids on the team have in common is they have this drive to be the best and to compete against each other. And they develop a friendship.

"It's completely different and a challenge for them," Frank said. "They were all really excited to get to fish a different type of water, and actually some of the lower sections of the Lower Mountain Fork River are very similar to the river they will be fishing in Poland.

"Most of them are used to the smaller, swifter streams in North Carolina. They don't get to fish this all the time.

***"Everybody wants to catch more fish, but I think it's fun whenever it's tough because you actually have to figure out the fish."***

"Oklahoma does have something very special here because it's not a regular trout stream. Some get very frustrated because it's not easy to catch fish here. The guides and the people that fish this river all the time will tell you it's one of the more challenging rivers out there.

"Most places we go to, you've got one type of water. Here on the Lower Mountain Fork, you've got three or four totally different types of water. I haven't been anywhere else in the country that offers such a diverse type of water for people to fish on."

Sutton added, "Everybody wants to catch more fish, but I think it's fun whenever it's tough because you actually have to figure out the fish. I just like being out here."

Elaine Dietz of Needville, Texas, whose 15-year-old son Martin is a team member, said fishing isn't the only purpose of the youth team.

"The U.S. youth fly fishing team is also involved in conservation. It's not just about competing to catch big fish and lots of fish, it's also there to teach these young people about the natural resource, these beautiful waters."

Martin's great-grandmother was the one who took the boy fishing. So when she died, Elaine took up the fly rod. "Martin was 13, and I wanted to kind of help him grieve the loss," Elaine said. "And I told him, 'I guess I'm going to have to start fishing with you.' And he said, 'No, it's different; Great-grandma would fish with me, and you just watch me fish.'"

DOH P. BROWN/OWWG



*The enjoyment of fly fishing is evident on the face of Josh Kin, 17, of Atlanta, Ga.*

DOH P. BROWN/OWWG





*Holden Price, 18, of Port Matilda, Penn., enjoys his time practicing on the Lower Mountain Fork.*



***“Fly fishing is a lot more than catching a big fish and posting it on your Instagram. It’s nourishing to your spirit.”***

“So I learned how to tie flies, how to make knots. I learned the equipment just as well as my son learned.”

Elaine now has fishing licenses from 10 states and has embraced the sport just as her son has.

“It’s really important to be outdoors with your kids. Our kids are connected with social media, and they are exposed to things we have no control over. ... It’s important to get them out for their brains to develop properly ... so they can become grounded.

“In my work, I’m indoors, and I’m in front of a computer. I can tell if my focus isn’t there because I haven’t been on the water in a while. And I just love everything about fly fishing. I like the gear. I like the planning of the trips. I like the adventure that fly fishing gives. I love the birds you see on the water. I love being in places where a dad is with his child, and they are fly fishing, and I get to take a picture of that.

“Fly fishing is a lot more than catching a big fish and posting it on your Instagram. It’s nourishing to your spirit.”

Frank said another fun part of being involved is getting to see many different places. “It’s unbelievable the places we get to go!”

Since the Vaneks live in north Texas, they are not only regular visitors to the Lower Mountain Fork, but they also travel to Lake Perry and to the Blue River Public Fishing and Hunting Area in Oklahoma, two sites where the Oklahoma Wildlife Department stocks trout seasonally.

They have also visited Colorado, North Carolina and Pennsylvania. The previous year, the team fished the world championships in Slovenia. This year, it would be Poland.

And like most of the parents of the youth anglers, Frank has also personally embraced the sport.

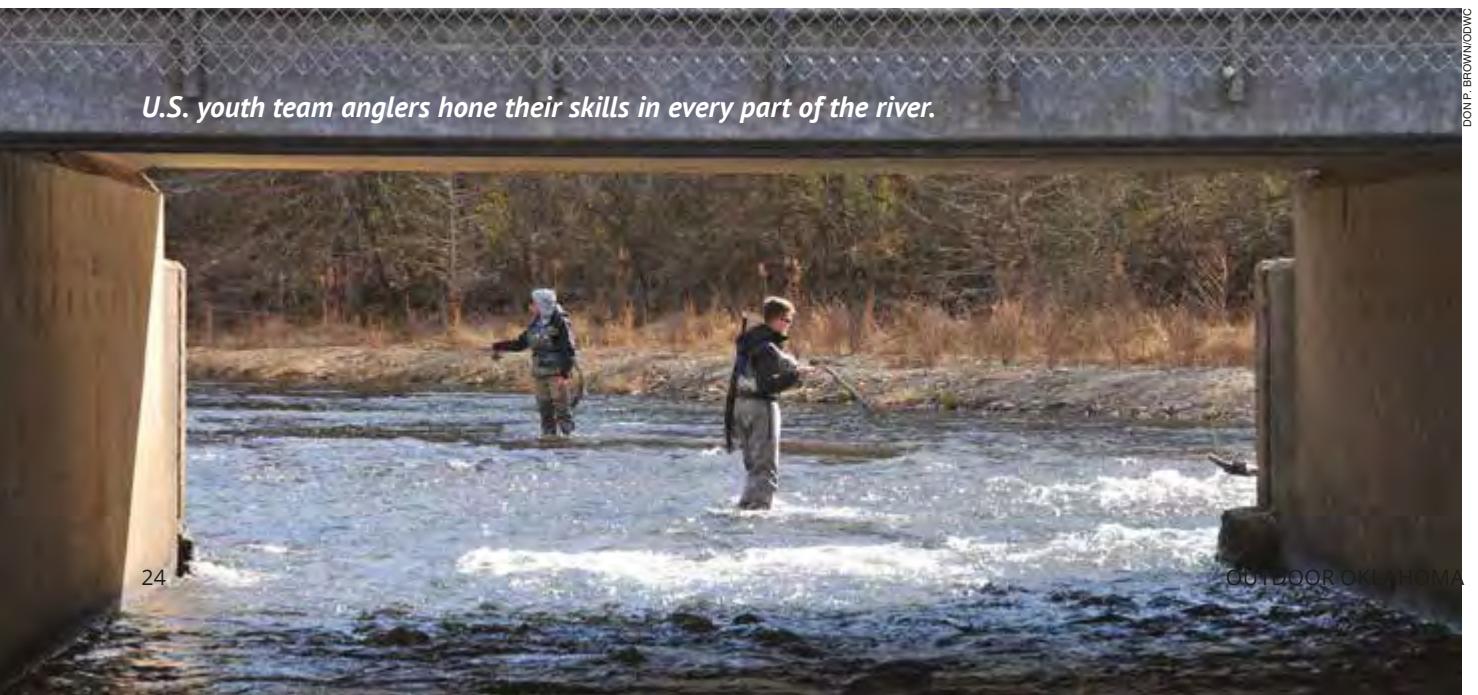
“I was a saltwater fisherman before. So I had to learn. Now, that’s all I ever pick up is a fly rod.”

He’s also noticing that fly fishing is becoming more popular this region.

“Several years ago, we might have seen 10 people fishing at the Lower Mountain Fork. On a nice day now, there are 50 people fishing.

“It seems to be a sport that’s on the rise for sure.” 🌿

*U.S. youth team anglers hone their skills in every part of the river.*

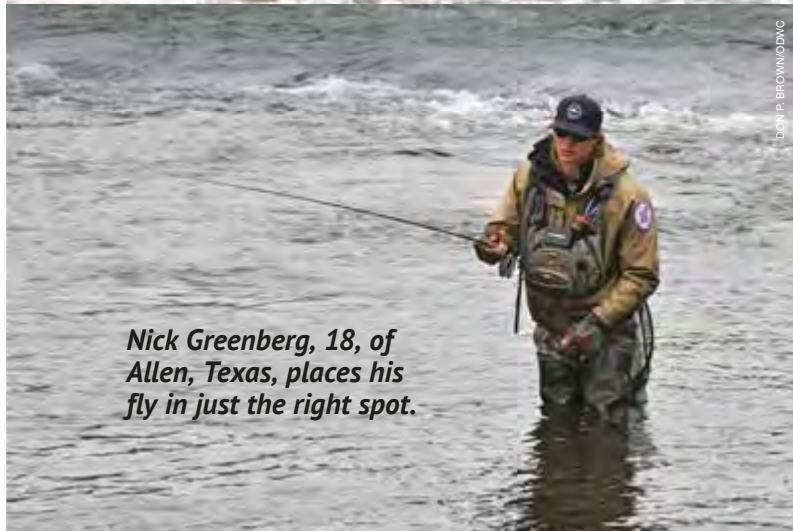






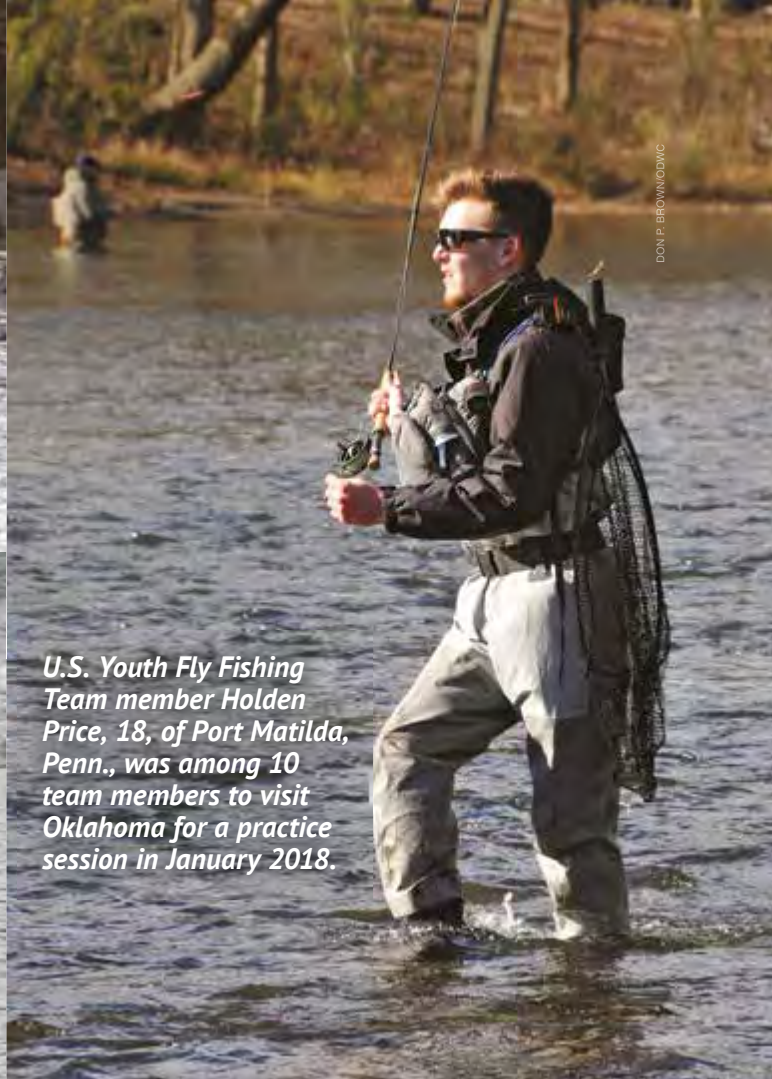
*Martin Dietz, 15, of Needville, Texas, takes a moment to put a different fly on his line.*

DOY P. BROWN/ODWC



*Nick Greenberg, 18, of Allen, Texas, places his fly in just the right spot.*

DOY P. BROWN/ODWC



*U.S. Youth Fly Fishing Team member Holden Price, 18, of Port Matilda, Penn., was among 10 team members to visit Oklahoma for a practice session in January 2018.*

DOY P. BROWN/ODWC



*Most of the youth team members said they did not expect to find such good trout habitat in Oklahoma.*

DOY P. BROWN/ODWC







# Hunters Lucky with These Odds

## Forget the Lottery! Controlled Hunts Drawings Offer Much Better Chances

Did you buy a lottery ticket this past year? Some record-breaking payouts probably enticed plenty of hopefuls to try their luck, even though the odds of winning the big prize were something like 1 in 300 million. Heck, you're more likely to be struck by lightning this year (1 in 700,000)!

But what if your odds were 1 in 24?

If you are a hunter, you ought to feel lucky when you consider those odds. That's the ratio of winners selected last year in the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation's controlled hunts program.

While getting your name selected for one of these hunts does depend on being lucky to some extent, that is not the only factor in winning one of these unique hunts. Many times, you can sway the odds in your favor if you know important details ahead of time and act on them to improve your chances.

This past year, about one application out of every 24 was selected for the various elk, deer, antelope and turkey hunts available in the controlled hunts program.

Hunters submitted 133,824 applications for the 5,573 individual hunt permits available across the state this year. Many of those applicants who weren't selected will apply again when the 2018-19 controlled hunts applications are made available this spring. And by doing so, they will increase their chances of being selected.

The most important thing an applicant can do to increase his or her chances is to submit an online application each year, and choose to apply for the specific hunts that historically have a higher draw ratio. This article will help you determine what strategy might result in your selection for a 2018-19 controlled hunt.

Controlled hunts applications usually become available around April 1 at [www.wildlifedepartment.com](http://www.wildlifedepartment.com). The deadline for submitting all applications will be May 15. The application

process is easily completed online. The online process will refuse to accept your application if it has not been completed correctly; in this way, you have the assurance that your application was successfully submitted and that your name will be included in the drawing.

So, besides the obvious of submitting an application, what else can you do to increase your chances of being selected for what possibly could be the hunt of a lifetime?

By reading this article and studying the statistics from last year, you'll likely gain some insights into how the controlled hunts program works, insights that could give you a slight edge in getting drawn for a hunt that you won't forget.

Applicants need to understand that the winners of controlled hunts are randomly selected through a computerized process that selects winners from the pool of all applications submitted.

With just one low application fee of \$5, all hunters who participate have the option to apply for several different hunts

across various categories. The more hunts applied for, the better your chances of being selected for a hunt.

What about those applicants who aren't selected? Within the hunt category for which you applied, you will gain a preference point toward future years' drawings. Not only that, but some hunt categories allow you to apply with a group of other hunters. Both of these features can increase your odds of being selected.

Oklahoma is rich in outdoor opportunities, and the Wildlife Department's controlled hunts program is just one more way hunters can add to a successful year afield. Don't miss the chance to take part in a hunt you won't forget. You can apply yourself, and you can gather a few friends to apply as a group with you. We all know that when it comes to hunting, the only thing that makes being in the woods better is being there with friends and family.

**2018-19  
Overall Odds Of  
Being Drawn:  
1 in 24**



## About Controlled Hunts

Controlled hunts are offered for deer, elk, antelope and turkey. These hunts are held in locations where unrestricted public hunting would pose safety concerns or where overharvest might occur. Hunters wishing to go on one of these controlled hunts must submit an application, which goes into the running with all other applications. Names are selected through a random computer drawing for a range of hunting opportunities across the state.

Several of the controlled hunt choices are highly sought after and often have many times more applicants than available permits. To date, many thousands of hunters have enjoyed unique adventures through the Controlled Hunts program, including youth hunters and people with disabilities.

Controlled hunt winners are chosen randomly, but if you continue to apply year after year, your odds of being chosen increase depending on the total number of applications for a particular hunt. Applicants who submit faithfully each year are likely to get at least one chance to enjoy a controlled hunt offered through the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

Participation is easy. You start by submitting a simple, easy-to-complete application online. This gives you a chance to be drawn for one of the hunts for which you applied. Choices include opportunities such as hunting for a bull elk at the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge, hunting for pronghorn antelope in the Oklahoma Panhandle, or hunting for deer at one of many wildlife management areas across the state, often with exclusive privileges not offered at other times of the year.

You can increase your chances of getting drawn by doing a little research first. And we've done a lot of the hard work for you in this article. All you have to do is study the data here and decide which hunts you want to apply for using the information provided.

When you apply year after year, each time you do not get selected, you earn a preference point for the next year. So, when you apply the next year, it's like getting your name put in the hat an extra time for the drawing. Therefore, your odds of being drawn improve if you apply again the next year.

By submitting an application year after year, you can build your chances far more than those who don't continue to apply and who eventually lose their preference points. Additionally, some hunt categories allow you to apply with a group of other hunters, so that if one of the group is drawn, the entire group gets to hunt.

## Helpful Tips

Increase your chances of being selected by applying each and every year like clockwork. Again, your odds of being drawn for a controlled hunt improve each year you apply because each preference point you earn acts like an extra application the next time you apply.

In other words, if you have been applying for the controlled hunt of your dreams for five years straight without having been drawn, you will have five "tickets in the hopper" compared to a first-time applicant, who will only have one. Those who say they have stopped applying because they never get drawn are actually giving you an advantage, as long as you just keep applying. Your chances only get better each year that you apply and the others don't.

Although hunters with more preference points have greater odds of being drawn for one of Oklahoma's controlled hunts, it is not guaranteed that those with the most points will be drawn

for a hunt. What is guaranteed is that their chances improve. First-time applicants with no preference points can and do get drawn over those with many points, because names are drawn randomly from the entire pool of applicants.

In some categories, hunters may apply in groups of up to four people. For group applications, the preference points of each hunter in the group will be averaged. If four hunters apply together — one with no points, one with two points, and the other two with three points each — the group's preference points will be two, which is the average of all four hunters on the application. If not drawn in that category, each applicant in the hunt group will be given a single preference point to carry forward.

Once you are selected for a hunt category, all preference points that you have built up in that category are cleared. That is why it is important when you fill out an application to ensure you are available to participate in your chosen hunt on the specified dates. If you cannot attend, you not only lose the chance to participate in a great hunting experience, but you also lose the preference points you earned by applying over the years.

You can begin building preference points with the next year's application again, but it would be disappointing to apply year after year only to be selected for a hunt that you cannot attend.

Regardless of whether you've been drawn, it's important to keep applying, if for no other reason than to gain preference points.

### Here are some other tips to consider:

- You can increase your odds of being drawn when you apply for hunts that happen on key dates of the regular statewide seasons, such as the opening weekend of muzzleloader or gun season. Many hunters may skip those dates because of previous plans.
- Rather than looking at the number of permits available for each hunt, it could be in your favor to consider the ratio of permits to applicants before making a decision on which hunts you think will give you the best chance.
- For those locations that offer multiple hunts in the same category, the second or third hunts (the later hunts) are often easier to draw than the first hunts offered at that location.
- By designating additional choices, you increase your overall odds of being selected for at least one of the choices, so make as many selections as a category allows (five in the deer category, for example), rather than just three, two or one.
- Hunts that are considered by some to be less desirable, such as antlerless deer hunts, may be just the right choice for a meat hunter looking to raise his chances at getting to hunt at a premier location.
- You cannot submit more than one application form per category. Since applications are completed and submitted online, you will receive confirmation that your application was processed correctly. This system will help you avoid mistakes, so make sure you receive confirmation of a successful application.

*By Wildlife Department Staff*

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *The tables with this article break down how applicants fared for the 2018-19 controlled hunt drawings. To see results of the 2017 controlled hunts, go to [wildlifedepartment.com/controlledhunts/2017-harvest-totals](http://wildlifedepartment.com/controlledhunts/2017-harvest-totals).*



2018-2019 Deer Hunts									
Hunt Location	Hunt Number	Hunt Type	Begin Date	End Date	Permit Type	Applicants	Permits Allowed	Draw Ratio	Rank
Atoka WMA	3001	Gun	11/2/2018	11/4/2018	Either Sex	1,445	50	1 in 28.9	52
Beaver River WMA, McFarland Unit	3006	Muzzleloader	10/27/2018	10/28/2018	Either Sex	348	10	1 in 34.8	61
Beaver River WMA, McFarland Unit	3007	Gun	11/17/2018	11/18/2018	Either Sex	447	5	1 in 89.4	76
Beaver River WMA	3008	Gun	11/17/2018	11/18/2018	Either Sex	451	15	1 in 30.1	54
Beavers Bend State Park (River Bend)	3015	Archery	1/4/2019	1/6/2019	Antlerless Only	236	15	1 in 15.7	39
Beavers Bend State Park (Golf Course)	3016	Muzzleloader	1/4/2019	1/6/2019	Antlerless Only	261	15	1 in 17.4	41
Candy Creek WMA	3020	Muzzleloader	10/27/2018	11/4/2018	Either Sex	232	12	1 in 19.3	43
Candy Creek WMA	3021	Gun	11/17/2018	12/2/2018	Either Sex	252	12	1 in 21	47
Canton WMA	3030	Gun	11/17/2018	11/18/2018	Either Sex	1,059	75	1 in 14.1	34
Cherokee GMA	3044	Gun	11/10/2018	11/10/2018	Either Sex	1,508	50	1 in 30.1	55
Cherokee GMA	3045	Gun	11/10/2018	11/10/2018	Antlerless Only	252	75	1 in 3.4	10
Cherokee GMA	3046	Gun	11/11/2018	11/11/2018	Either Sex	1,082	50	1 in 21.6	49
Cherokee GMA	3047	Gun	11/11/2018	11/11/2018	Antlerless Only	158	75	1 in 2.1	3
Cookson WMA	3060	Muzzleloader	11/10/2018	11/11/2018	Either Sex	1,075	18	1 in 59.7	72
Cookson WMA	3061	Muzzleloader	11/10/2018	11/10/2018	Antlerless Only	68	35	1 in 1.9	2
Cookson WMA	3062	Muzzleloader	11/11/2018	11/11/2018	Antlerless Only	61	35	1 in 1.7	1
Cookson WMA	3063	Gun	11/3/2018	11/4/2018	Either Sex	1,236	18	1 in 68.6	75
Cookson WMA	3064	Gun	11/3/2018	11/3/2018	Antlerless Only	116	35	1 in 3.3	9
Cookson WMA	3065	Gun	11/4/2018	11/4/2018	Antlerless Only	90	35	1 in 2.6	6
Cross Timbers WMA	3070	Muzzleloader	10/27/2018	10/28/2018	2 (1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex)	592	50	1 in 11.8	28
Cross Timbers WMA	3071	Gun	12/1/2018	12/2/2018	2 (1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex)	838	50	1 in 16.8	40
Deep Fork NWR	3080	Muzzleloader	10/19/2018	10/21/2018	Antlerless Only	156	50	1 in 3.1	8
Deep Fork NWR	3081	Muzzleloader	10/26/2018	10/28/2018	2 (Only 1 Antlered)	756	50	1 in 15.1	36
Four Canyon Preserve	3090	Muzzleloader	10/26/2018	10/27/2018	Antlerless Only	54	4	1 in 13.5	32
Four Canyon Preserve	3091	Muzzleloader	10/26/2018	10/27/2018	2 (Either Sex)	296	2	1 in 148	78
Four Canyon Preserve	3092	Gun	11/16/2018	11/17/2018	Antlerless Only	45	4	1 in 11.3	27
Four Canyon Preserve	3093	Gun	11/16/2018	11/17/2018	2 (Either Sex)	400	2	1 in 200	79
Fort Gibson WRP	3110	Archery	10/23/2018	10/23/2018	2 (Only 1 Antlered)	552	50	1 in 11	26
Fort Gibson WRP	3111	Muzzleloader	10/24/2018	10/24/2018	Antlerless Only	183	50	1 in 3.7	11
Fort Gibson WRP	3112	Muzzleloader	11/6/2018	11/6/2018	Antlerless Only	190	50	1 in 3.8	12
Fort Gibson WRP	3113	Muzzleloader	11/7/2018	11/7/2018	Either Sex	1,067	25	1 in 42.7	67
Fort Gibson WRP	3114	Muzzleloader	11/7/2018	11/7/2018	Antlerless Only	122	25	1 in 4.8	14
Grady County WMA	3120	Muzzleloader	10/27/2018	11/4/2018	Either Sex	280	10	1 in 28	51
Grady County WMA	3121	Gun	11/17/2018	11/25/2018	Either Sex	311	10	1 in 31.1	56
James Collins WMA	3140	Gun	11/17/2018	11/18/2018	Either Sex	1,712	50	1 in 34.2	58
Lexington WMA	3150	Gun	11/10/2018	11/10/2018	2 (1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex)	656	135	1 in 4.8	15
Lexington WMA	3151	Gun	11/11/2018	11/11/2018	2 (1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex)	399	135	1 in 2.9	7
Lexington WMA	3152	Gun	11/14/2018	11/14/2018	2 (1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex)	298	135	1 in 2.2	4
Lexington WMA	3153	Gun	11/15/2018	11/15/2018	2 (1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex)	297	135	1 in 2.2	5
Little River NWR	3160	Gun	11/2/2018	11/4/2018	Either Sex	616	30	1 in 20.5	45
Little River NWR	3161	Gun	11/9/2018	11/11/2018	Either Sex	627	30	1 in 20.9	46
McAlester AAP	3170	Archery	10/5/2018	10/7/2018	Either Sex	477	90	1 in 5.3	16
McAlester AAP	3171	Archery	10/12/2018	10/14/2018	Either Sex	1,614	275	1 in 5.8	18
McAlester AAP	3172	Archery	10/19/2018	10/21/2018	Either Sex	2,174	275	1 in 7.9	21
McAlester AAP	3173	Archery	10/26/2018	10/28/2018	Either Sex	3,276	275	1 in 11.9	29
McAlester AAP	3174	Archery	11/2/2018	11/4/2018	Either Sex	4,193	275	1 in 15.3	37
McAlester AAP	3175	Archery	11/9/2018	11/11/2018	Either Sex	4,261	275	1 in 15.5	38
McCurtain County WA	3190	Gun	11/2/2018	11/4/2018	Either Sex	555	16	1 in 34.7	60
McGee Creek WMA	3200	Muzzleloader	10/26/2018	10/28/2018	Either Sex	925	75	1 in 12.3	30
McGee Creek WMA	3201	Gun	11/2/2018	11/4/2018	Either Sex	1,388	75	1 in 18.5	42
Okmulgee GMA	3210	Gun	11/17/2018	11/17/2018	2 (Only 1 Antlered)	581	60	1 in 9.7	24
Okmulgee GMA	3211	Gun	11/18/2018	11/18/2018	2 (Only 1 Antlered)	317	60	1 in 5.3	17
Osage-Western Wall WMA	3220	Muzzleloader	11/8/2018	11/11/2018	Either Sex	1,139	25	1 in 45.6	68
Pushmataha WMA	3230	Muzzleloader	11/9/2018	11/11/2018	Either Sex	1,763	75	1 in 23.5	50
Salt Plains NWR	3240	Archery	12/3/2018	12/6/2018	2 (Only 1 Antlered)	525	25	1 in 21	48
Salt Plains NWR	3241	Archery	12/3/2018	12/6/2018	2 (Only 1 Antlered)	436	12	1 in 36.3	65
Salt Plains NWR	3242	Muzzleloader	11/5/2018	11/7/2018	2 (1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex)	895	25	1 in 35.8	63
Salt Plains NWR	3243	Muzzleloader	11/5/2018	11/7/2018	2 (1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex)	703	12	1 in 58.6	70
Salt Plains NWR	3244	Gun	11/12/2018	11/14/2018	2 (1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex)	1,515	25	1 in 60.6	73
Salt Plains NWR	3245	Gun	11/12/2018	11/14/2018	2 (1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex)	1,270	12	1 in 105.8	77
Salt Plains NWR	3246	Gun	11/26/2018	11/28/2018	2 (1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex)	895	25	1 in 35.8	64
Salt Plains NWR	3247	Gun	11/26/2018	11/28/2018	2 (1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex)	710	12	1 in 59.2	71
Sandy Sanders WMA	3270	Muzzleloader	10/29/2018	11/4/2018	Either Sex	984	50	1 in 19.7	44
Sequoyah NWR	3280	Archery	11/12/2018	11/16/2018	2 (Only 1 Antlered)	828	28	1 in 29.6	53
Sequoyah NWR	3281	Muzzleloader	10/31/2018	11/2/2018	2 (Antlerless Only)	231	25	1 in 9.24	23
Sequoyah NWR	3282	Muzzleloader	11/28/2018	11/30/2018	2 (Antlerless Only)	190	30	1 in 6.3	20
Sequoyah NWR	3283	Muzzleloader	12/5/2018	12/7/2018	2 (Antlerless Only)	223	25	1 in 8.9	22
Sequoyah Resort Park	3286	Archery	11/30/2018	12/2/2018	2 (1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex)	911	20	1 in 45.6	69



2018-2019 Deer Hunts (continued)									
Hunt Location	Hunt Number	Hunt Type	Begin Date	End Date	Permit Type	Applicants	Permits Allowed	Draw Ratio	Rank
Spavinaw GMA	3290	Gun	10/27/2018	10/28/2018	Either Sex	1,299	20	1 in 64.9	74
Spavinaw GMA	3291	Gun	10/27/2018	10/28/2018	Antlerless Only	186	30	1 in 6.2	19
Tishomingo NWR	3300	Gun	12/6/2018	12/7/2018	2 (1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex)	719	20	1 in 35.5	62
Washita NWR	3320	Gun	11/6/2018	11/7/2018	Antlerless Only	126	10	1 in 12.6	31
Waurika WMA & COE Public	3330	Muzzleloader	11/12/2018	11/14/2018	Either Sex	562	15	1 in 37.5	66
Waurika WMA & COE Public	3331	Muzzleloader	11/12/2018	11/14/2018	Antlerless Only	99	25	1 in 3.9	13
Wichita Mountains WR	3340	Gun	11/14/2018	11/16/2018	Antlered Only	6,512	30	1 in 217.1	80
Wichita Mountains WR	3341	Gun	11/14/2018	11/16/2018	Antlerless Only	583	40	1 in 14.6	35
Great Salt Plains State Park	3350	Archery	10/22/2018	10/25/2018	2 (Only 1 Antlered)	316	10	1 in 31.6	57
Great Salt Plains State Park	3351	Archery	12/10/2018	12/13/2018	2 (Only 1 Antlered)	343	10	1 in 34.3	59
Texoma COE (Burns Run)	3360	Gun	1/11/2019	1/13/2019	Doe Only	78	8	1 in 9.8	25
Texoma COE (Lakeside)	3361	Gun	1/11/2019	1/13/2019	Doe Only	111	8	1 in 13.9	33

2018 Deer Hunts—Physically Challenged									
Hunt Location	Hunt Number	Hunt Type	Begin Date	End Date	Permit Type	Applicants	Permits Allowed	Draw Ratio	Rank
Cherokee GMA	4001	Gun	10/27/2018	10/28/2018	Either Sex	48	40	1 in 1.2	1
Cookson WMA	4010	Gun	11/17/2018	11/18/2018	Either Sex	43	25	1 in 1.7	2
Copan COE Parks	4015	Gun	11/30/2018	12/2/2018	2 (Only 1 Antlered)	21	4	1 in 5.3	8
Hugo Lake COE	4030	Gun	12/7/2018	12/9/2018	2 (See Code P)	29	11	1 in 2.6	3
Oologah Lake COE	4040	Gun	11/9/2018	11/11/2018	2 (1 Doe, 1 Buck)	51	8	1 in 6.4	10
Salt Plains NWR	4050	Muzzleloader	11/5/2018	11/7/2018	2 (1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex)	14	2	1 in 7	11
Salt Plains NWR	4051	Gun	11/12/2018	11/14/2018	2 (1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex)	15	2	1 in 7.5	12
Salt Plains NWR	4052	Gun	11/26/2018	11/28/2018	2 (1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex)	11	2	1 in 5.5	9
Sequoyah NWR	4060	Archery	11/12/2018	11/16/2018	2 (Only 1 Antlered)	10	2	1 in 5	7
Sequoyah NWR	4061	Muzzleloader	11/28/2018	11/30/2018	Antlerless Only	8	3	1 in 2.6	4
Sequoyah Resort Park	4070	Muzzleloader	12/14/2018	12/16/2018	2 (1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex)	35	12	1 in 2.9	5
Tishomingo NWR	4080	Gun	11/7/2018	11/8/2018	2 (1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex)	44	10	1 in 4.4	6

2018 Youth Deer Hunts									
Hunt Location	Hunt Number	Hunt Type	Begin Date	End Date	Permit Type	Applicants	Permits Allowed	Draw Ratio	Rank
Arbuckle Springs WMA	5004	Gun	11/17/2018	11/18/2018	2 (1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex)	56	15	1 in 3.7	18
Beaver River WMA, McFarland Unit	5006	Gun	10/20/2018	10/21/2018	Either Sex	63	15	1 in 4.2	22
Camp Gruber Cantonment	5009	Muzzleloader	11/23/2018	11/25/2018	2 (1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex)	138	25	1 in 5.5	26
Cherokee GMA	5010	Gun	11/3/2018	11/4/2018	Either Sex	137	50	1 in 2.7	10
Cookson WMA	5020	Gun	10/27/2018	10/28/2018	Either Sex	141	45	1 in 3.1	14
Deep Fork NWR	5030	Muzzleloader	10/12/2018	10/14/2018	2 (Only 1 Antlered)	85	25	1 in 3.4	16
Fort Cobb WMA and State Park	5040	Muzzleloader/ Shotgun	10/20/2018	10/21/2018	Antlerless Only	39	40	1 in 0.9	1
Fort Gibson WRP	5050	Muzzleloader	11/10/2018	11/10/2018	2 (Only 1 Antlered)	106	20	1 in 5.3	25
Kaw Lake COE	5055	Gun	11/9/2018	11/11/2018	(2) 1 Either Sex, 1 Doe	98	4	1 in 24.5	36
Hugo WMA	5060	Gun	10/12/2018	10/14/2018	Either Sex	62	25	1 in 2.5	9
Hugo Lake COE	5061	Gun	10/12/2018	10/14/2018	Either Sex	57	8	1 in 7.1	30
James Collins WMA	5070	Gun	10/19/2018	10/21/2018	Either Sex	204	50	1 in 4.1	20
James Collins WMA	5071	Gun	10/26/2018	10/28/2018	Either Sex	190	50	1 in 3.8	19
Keystone COE	5080	Gun	12/7/2018	12/9/2018	2 (Only 1 Antlered)	112	9	1 in 12.4	33
Little River NWR	5085	Gun	10/26/2018	10/28/2018	2 (1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex)	28	1	1 in 28	37
McAlester AAP	5090	Shotgun	11/23/2018	11/25/2018	Antlerless Only	42	25	1 in 1.7	3
Okmulgee GMA	5110	Gun	11/3/2018	11/4/2018	2 (Only 1 Antlered)	59	24	1 in 2.4	6
Okmulgee GMA	5111	Gun	11/10/2018	11/11/2018	2 (Only 1 Antlered)	53	24	1 in 2.2	5
Pine Creek WMA	5130	Gun	11/9/2018	11/11/2018	Either Sex	38	12	1 in 3.2	15
Pushmataha WMA	5140	Gun	10/26/2018	10/28/2018	Either Sex	150	50	1 in 3	13
Pushmataha WMA	5141	Gun	11/2/2018	11/4/2018	Either Sex	144	50	1 in 2.8	11
Salt Plains NWR	5150	Gun	11/2/2018	11/4/2018	2 (1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex)	167	25	1 in 6.7	29
Sequoyah NWR	5160	Muzzleloader	10/19/2018	10/21/2018	2 (Only 1 Antlered)	131	30	1 in 4.4	23
Sequoyah Resort Park	5170	Muzzleloader	12/7/2018	12/9/2018	2 (1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex)	171	12	1 in 14.2	35
Spavinaw GMA	5180	Muzzleloader	11/3/2018	11/4/2018	Either Sex	98	40	1 in 2.4	7
Spavinaw GMA	5181	Gun	11/9/2018	11/11/2018	Either Sex	135	40	1 in 3.4	17
Tenkiller COE	5190	Gun	11/2/2018	11/4/2018	2 (Only 1 Antlered)	62	10	1 in 6.2	28
Texoma COE (Lakeside)	5200	Gun	11/2/2018	11/4/2018	2 (Only 1 Antlered)	66	8	1 in 8.2	31
Texoma COE (Burns Run)	5201	Gun	11/9/2018	11/11/2018	2 (Only 1 Antlered)	73	8	1 in 9.1	32
Tishomingo NWR	5210	Gun	10/18/2018	10/19/2018	2 (1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex)	95	20	1 in 4.7	24
USDA Grazinglands Research Lab	5220	Gun	11/9/2018	11/10/2018	2 (Antlerless Only)	39	20	1 in 1.9	4
Washita NWR	5240	Gun	10/12/2018	10/13/2018	Antlerless Only	41	10	1 in 4.1	21
Washita NWR	5260	Gun	11/2/2018	11/3/2018	Antlerless Only	29	10	1 in 2.9	12
Waurika Lake COE	5270	Gun	11/3/2018	11/4/2018	Antlerless Only	7	5	1 in 1.4	2
Oka'Yanahli Preserve	5280	Gun	11/9/2018	11/11/2018	2 (1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex)	58	10	1 in 5.8	27
Skiatook COE	5290	Gun	12/7/2018	12/9/2018	2 (Only 1 Antlered)	54	4	1 in 13.5	34



## 2018-19 Deer Controlled Hunts

- Total applicants (includes first, second, third, fourth and fifth choice preferences): 64,737.
- Total permits available: 4,120.
- Overall odds of getting drawn for any one permit: 1 in 15.7.

## 2018 Deer Controlled Hunts for Persons with Disabilities

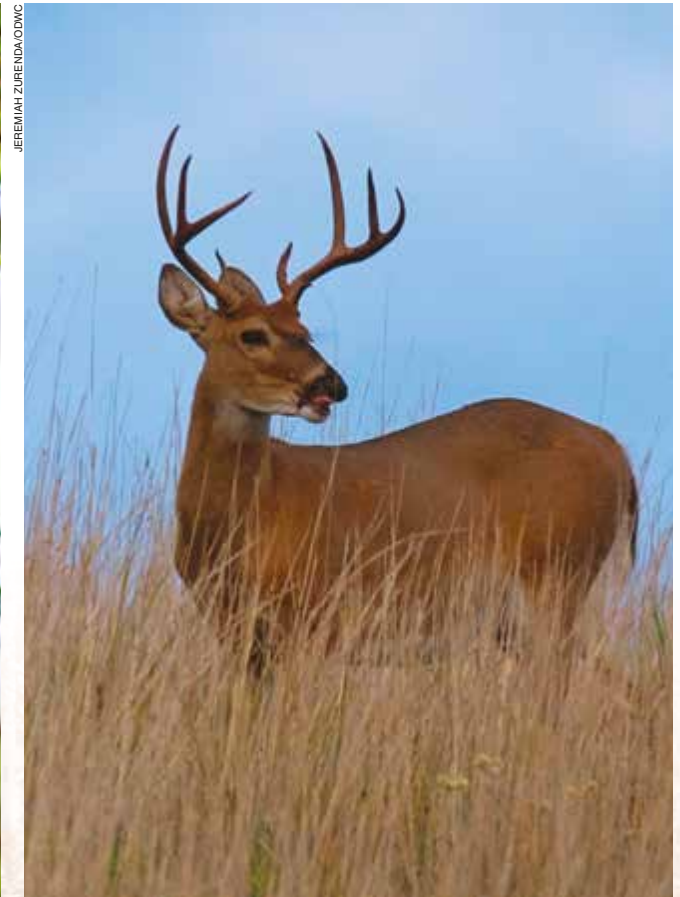
- Total applicants (includes first, second and third choice preferences): 329.
- Total permits available: 121.
- Overall odds of getting drawn for any one permit: 1 in 2.7.

## 2018 Deer Controlled Hunts for Youths

- Total applicants (includes first, second and third choice preferences): 3,228.
- Total permits available: 819.
- Overall odds of getting drawn for any one permit: 1 in 3.9.

## Application Tips for Deer Controlled Hunts

- Antlerless-only hunts traditionally see fewer applicants compared to buck-only or either-sex hunts.
- Areas in the northeast like Cherokee, Cookson Hills, Gruber and Spavinaw WMAs typically have higher numbers of applicants. Consider applying for hunts in other parts of the state.
- Archery hunts are historically easier to draw on average than muzzleloader or gun hunts.
- Controlled hunts held during the regular muzzleloader and gun seasons, especially those held during the opening weekends, often offer better odds of getting drawn than those held outside the regular statewide season dates since many would-be applicants already have their hunting plans in place for those dates.
- To increase your odds of getting drawn, steer clear of the most popular hunts, such as the Wichita Mountains buck gun hunt, the Sandy Sanders buck gun hunt and Salt Plains NWR hunts that allow either-sex hunting.
- Scouting is key to the success of a hunter in bringing home game.
- Finding sign such as tracks, rubs, scrapes or even heavily used trails and feeding areas help hunters locate areas where they may have the best chance of seeing game.





## 2018-19 Elk Controlled Hunts

- Total applicants (includes first, second and third choice preferences): 34,256.
- Total permits available: 271.
- Overall odds of getting drawn for any one permit: 1 in 126.

## Application Tips for Elk Controlled Hunts

- A controlled hunt for elk is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Ensure that you can attend on the hunt dates for which you apply because there is no second chance and hunts cannot be transferred.
- Consider applying for one of the cow hunts rather than a bull hunt to increase your odds of being drawn.



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2018-2019 Elk Hunts									
Hunt Location	Hunt Number	Hunt Type	Begin Date	End Date	Permit Type	Applicants	Permits Allowed	Draw Ratio	Rank
Cookson WMA	1001	Gun	10/27/2018	10/28/2018	Either Sex	2,194	1	1 in 2,194	7
Wichita Mountains WR	1020	Gun	12/11/2018	12/13/2018	Bull	10,560	20	1 in 528	6
Wichita Mountains WR	1021	Gun	12/11/2018	12/13/2018	Cow	1,212	70	1 in 17.3	3
Wichita Mountains WR	1022	Gun	1/8/2019	1/10/2019	Bull	10,072	20	1 in 503.6	5
Wichita Mountains WR	1023	Gun	1/8/2019	1/10/2019	Cow	697	70	1 in 9.9	2
Wichita Mountains WR	1024	Gun	1/23/2019	1/25/2019	Bull	8,907	20	1 in 445.3	4
Wichita Mountains WR	1025	Gun	1/23/2019	1/25/2019	Cow	614	70	1 in 8.8	1



JEREMIAH ZURENDA/OWWC



## Frequently Asked Questions

### Please explain what controlled hunts are?

These are hunting opportunities awarded to applicants who are selected by random drawings. Controlled hunts are held in places where overharvest could occur if open hunting were allowed, or where unrestricted hunting would pose safety concerns, such as in small wildlife management areas. Applications are accepted each spring at [www.wildlifedepartment.com](http://www.wildlifedepartment.com) in hunt categories for elk, pronghorn, deer and turkey. Several of the hunt choices are highly sought after, and nearly all controlled hunts attract many times more applicants than the number of hunting permits available.

### Who can enter the controlled hunts drawings?

Applications are accepted from any resident or nonresident who possesses a valid hunting license or who is otherwise exempt from needing the license. A full listing of valid hunting licenses is available at [www.wildlifedepartment.com](http://www.wildlifedepartment.com). Applicants who don't possess a license must buy a license prior to applying for controlled hunts. People who possess a valid apprentice-designated hunting license may also apply, although specific hunts require some hunters to become hunter education-certified by the date of the hunt.

### Can I apply with a group of friends for a hunt?

Yes, but all of the group information must be correct or the group could be disqualified.

### If I keep applying long enough, am I guaranteed to be drawn?

No, but your odds get better every year you submit an application because you earn preference points for future drawings in the same hunt category.

### When do my preference points expire?

An applicant forfeits all preference points in a given category when his or her name is drawn or when the applicant doesn't apply in that category for five consecutive years. Otherwise, all preference points earned stay with applicants who continue to submit applications.

### If I apply with a group of four for a hunt, how are our preference points calculated?

Example: One person has 4 preference points, one has 3, one has 2 and one has 1. The total for the group is 10 preference points. The group total is averaged for each member, which equals 2.5 points each, which is then rounded to 3 points. The group is then assigned 3 preference points.

### Why not use a true preference point system for the controlled hunts?

There are too many hunters applying for too few hunts for that sort of system to work.

### How much does it cost?

A \$5 application fee is charged to all applicants to enter the controlled hunts drawing. This fee is paid only once per person

per year, even though the applicant might choose to enter several different hunt categories, such as deer and elk. The application fee can be paid online with a Visa or MasterCard debit or credit card. Hunters selected for a controlled hunt may be responsible for additional license and user fees that are required for some hunts, such as those held on federal areas.

### Something came up and I missed my hunt. What now?

Once your name is selected, your preference points in that category are reset to zero and cannot be restored if you miss the hunt. Controlled hunt permits are assigned to only the selected hunter. Hunt permits cannot be transferred. Some controlled hunts are limited to once-in-a-lifetime selections, and hunters selected for these hunts will not be eligible to apply for them again in the future.

### What if I have an address change after I apply?

Information about the hunt is mailed to selected hunters. Notify the Wildlife Department's License Section of mailing address changes by calling (405) 521-3852.

## Thank You, Partners!

Oklahoma's controlled hunts program is greatly enhanced by valuable partnerships with the following state, federal and private organizations:

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
USDA Grazinglands Research Lab  
Oklahoma State Parks  
Beaver's Bend State Park  
Camp Gruber Cantonment  
Fort Cobb State Park  
Great Salt Plains State Park  
Sequoyah Resort Park  
McAlester Army Ammunition Plant  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Copan COE  
Hugo Lake COE  
Kaw Lake COE  
Keystone Lake COE  
Oologah Lake COE  
Skiatook Lake COE  
Tenkiller Lake COE  
Texoma Lake COE  
Waurika Lake COE  
The Nature Conservancy  
Four Canyon Preserve  
Oka'Yanahli Preserve  
National Wildlife Refuge System  
Deep Fork NWR  
Little River NWR  
Salt Plains NWR  
Sequoyah NWR  
Tishomingo NWR  
Washita NWR  
Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge





2018 Pronghorn Hunts									
Hunt Location	Hunt Number	Hunt Type	Begin Date	End Date	Permit Type	Applicants	Permits Allowed	Draw Ratio	Rank
Cimarron County	2001	Gun	9/6/2018	9/9/2018	Either Sex	4,302	20	1 in 215.1	3
Cimarron County	2002	Gun	9/10/2018	9/19/2018	Doe Only	1,041	50	1 in 20.8	2
Texas County	2010	Gun	9/6/2018	9/9/2018	Either Sex	3,831	10	1 in 383.1	4
Texas County	2011	Gun	9/10/2018	9/19/2018	Doe Only	383	25	1 in 15.3	1

## 2018 Antelope Controlled Hunts

- Total applicants (includes first and second choice preferences): 9,557.
- Total permits available: 105.
- Overall odds of getting drawn for any one permit: 1 in 91.

## Application Tips for Antelope Controlled Hunts

- The controlled hunt for pronghorn is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Ensure you can attend on the hunt dates for which you apply because there is no second chance and hunts cannot be transferred.
- Submit applications for buck and doe hunts and you will increase your odds of going pronghorn hunting.

## Need Help?

The following Wildlife Department phone numbers are staffed from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Or you may use the contact form online at [www.wildlifedepartment.com/controlledhunts](http://www.wildlifedepartment.com/controlledhunts).

- For general information regarding the controlled hunt application process or to report an address change for successfully drawn hunters, call (405) 521-3852 or write to Wildlife Department License Section, P.O. Box 53465, Oklahoma City, OK 73152-3465.
- For difficulties using the online application and technical assistance, call the Information Technology Section at (405) 522-6829.
- For information about specific areas and specific controlled hunts, call the Wildlife Division at (405) 521-2739.
- For information about required licenses and permits, or to make corrections to online applications, please call the License Section at (405) 521-3852.



## 2019 Spring Turkey Controlled Hunts

- Total applicants (includes first, second and third choice preferences): 10,426.
- Total permits available: 105.
- Overall odds of getting drawn for any one permit: 1 in 99.

## Application Tips for Spring Turkey Controlled Hunts

- In areas where two hunts will be held, applying for the later-season hunt will usually increase your chances of being selected.
- Application rates for hunts at the McAlester Army Ammunition Plant are usually high and are among the toughest spring turkey hunts to be drawn for. Consider applying for other areas to increase your odds.

## 2019 Spring Turkey Controlled Hunts for Youths

- Total applicants (includes first, second and third choice preferences): 865.
- Total permits available: 32.
- Overall odds of getting drawn for any one permit: 1 in 27.

## Application Tip for Spring Turkey Controlled Hunts for Youths

- Hunts offering fewer permits will likely have lower odds of being drawn than other hunts, even though more youngsters applied for hunts in the other areas.

2019 Spring Turkey Hunts									
Hunt Location	Hunt Number	Hunt Type	Begin Date	End Date	Permit Type	Applicants	Permits Allowed	Draw Ratio	Rank
Cross Timbers WMA	6000	Shotgun	4/6/2019	4/10/2019	Tom	1,307	10	1 in 130.7	6
Cross Timbers WMA	6001	Shotgun	5/1/2019	5/5/2019	Tom	714	10	1 in 71.4	3
Deep Fork NWR	6010	Shotgun	4/19/2019	4/21/2019	Tom	790	5	1 in 158	8
Four Canyon Preserve	6020	Shotgun	4/5/2019	4/6/2019	Tom	483	2	1 in 241.5	9
Four Canyon Preserve	6021	Shotgun	4/12/2019	4/13/2019	Tom	315	2	1 in 157.5	7
Little River NWR	6040	Gun	4/12/2019	4/14/2019	Tom	1,089	20	1 in 54.5	1
McAlester AAP	6050	Shotgun	4/12/2019	4/14/2019	Tom	2,532	20	1 in 126.6	5
McAlester AAP	6051	Shotgun	4/19/2019	4/21/2019	Tom	2,226	20	1 in 111.3	4
McCurtain County WA	6060	Gun	4/12/2019	4/14/2019	Tom	970	16	1 in 60.6	2

2019 Spring Youth Turkey Hunts									
Hunt Location	Hunt Number	Hunt Type	Begin Date	End Date	Permit Type	Applicants	Permits Allowed	Draw Ratio	Rank
Washita NWR	7010	Shotgun	4/12/2019	4/14/2019	Tom	143	5	1 in 28.6	3
Deep Fork NWR	7020	Shotgun	4/5/2019	4/7/2019	Tom	237	7	1 in 33.9	4
James Collins WMA	7030	Shotgun	4/13/2019	4/14/2019	Tom	259	10	1 in 25.9	2
McGee Creek WMA	7070	Shotgun	4/13/2019	4/14/2019	Tom	226	10	1 in 22.6	1







The Cooper Skull is highlighted in a permanent exhibit at the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History in Norman.

# Cooper WMA: Where Buffalo Roamed 12,000 Years Ago

By Jena Donnell, Wildlife Diversity Information Specialist

***“I’ve got a spot you might want to come see. But you ought to come soon.”***

That cryptic telephone message from now-deceased Oklahoma Game Warden Dick James to Oklahoma Archaeological Survey researcher Leland Bement that came in 1992 turned out to be the beginning of an incredible archaeological discovery. Since that simple message 26 years ago, thousands of ancient bison bones left by Paleo-Indian hunters have been discovered at the present-day Hal and Fern Cooper Wildlife Management Area in northwestern Oklahoma.

When Bement first arrived at the recently purchased conservation area, James pointed out a group of exposed bison bones in an eroded bank near the Beaver River. Later, Bement returned to find a broken but distinctive Folsom projectile point dated to more than 12,000 years ago. These surface artifacts eventually led to the excavation of three filled-in gullies or arroyos that has fundamentally increased our awareness of the hunting strategies of the second-oldest culture known in North America.

It was during initial excavation efforts in 1993 that Bement and fellow archaeologists found clues ruling out the possibility the bones had been washed into the gully over time.

“We took a cross section of the gully and found a lot of animals at the very end of that gully,” Bement said during





LELAND BEMENT/COURTESY

*The Cooper site is being excavated in this photo from 1993.*

a recent public lecture. "Amongst these bones we found more projectile points, many of which were embedded in the bison's intact vertebrae and ribs. We believe all of these bison were run into a dead-end gully where they were trapped and killed by a group of Folsom hunters."

As the excavation continued, a second and third layer of bones that had been kicked, smashed and stomped were found underneath the top layer of bones.

"These were trample marks. The bones found in the lower layers were already in the arroyo and got trampled by live animals being run into this arroyo."

When archaeologists finished the excavation of the first site, they had uncovered 78 animals and 33 projectile points from three distinct layers – representing three distinct kill events – within the arroyo. Sharp flake knives used to butcher the animals were also found among the bones.

Excavations of two additional arroyos within a half-mile of the first site have revealed similar, though independently intriguing, results.

"But we haven't found evidence of extensive meat processing or of an encampment nearby."

Based on the age and positioning of the bones, and an examination of the tooth enamel, a model of the Folsom hunting strategy has formed. It is believed the bison killed at the three excavation sites were migrating from New Mexico calving grounds to eastern Oklahoma wintering grounds. Groups of 30 to 60 bison cows, calves and young bulls foraging in the fall along the Beaver River

***We believe all of these bison were run into a dead-end gully where they were trapped and killed by a group of Folsom hunters."***



LELAND BEMENT/COURTESY





Leland Bement

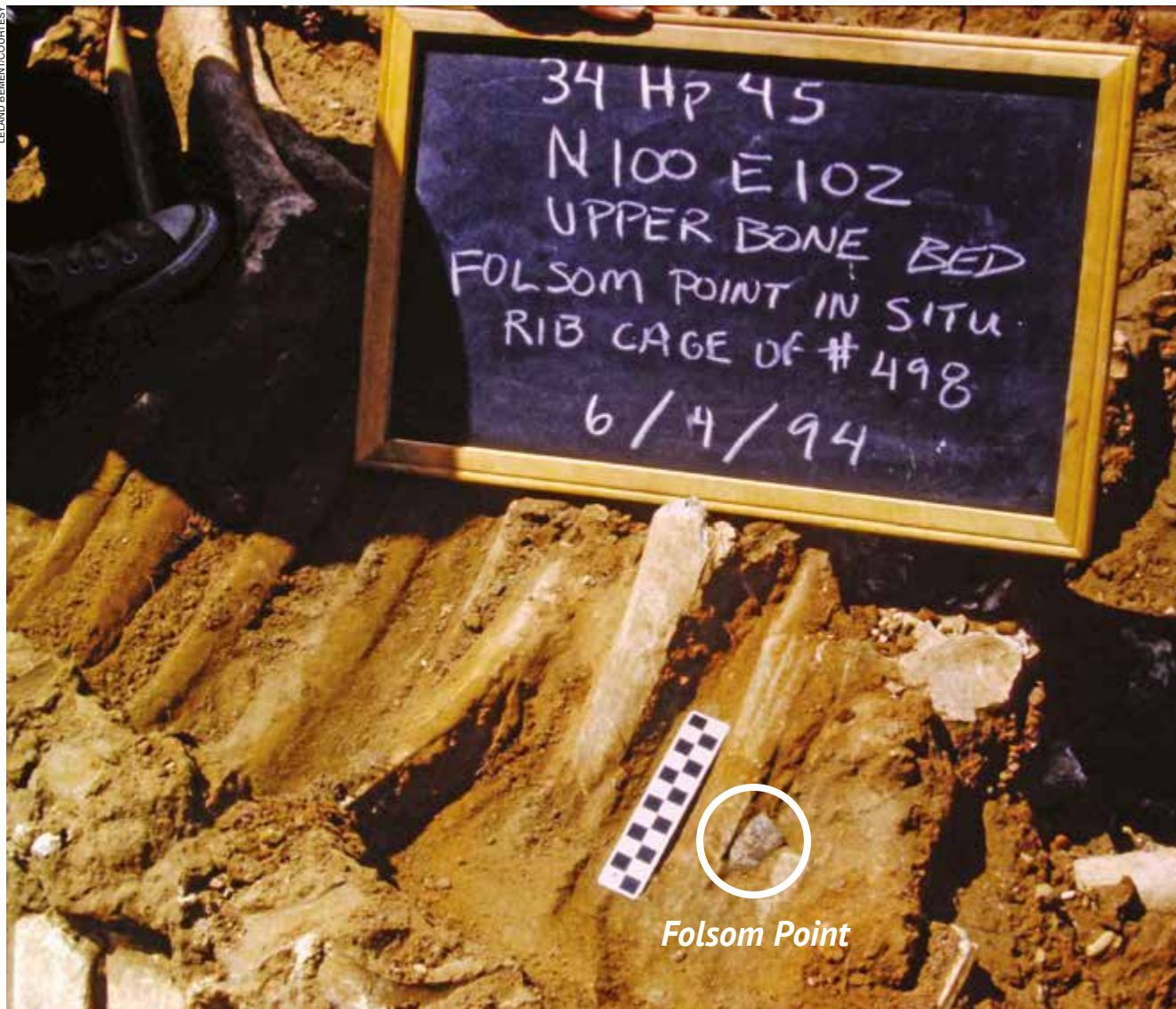
were selected by the Folsom hunters and driven into a dead-end gully. When the lead animal reached the end of the gully and attempted to turn around, it and the rest of the herd became trapped. Hunters positioned at a safe vantage point along the upper rim of the gully then used spears to kill the animals. The bison were butchered within the arroyo. Cutting marks on the bones indicate butchering of the hump, ribs and tenderloins.

"We believe the animals were butchered while in the prone position, and the hunters were able to process about 50 percent of the meat. But it was the best 50 percent of the meat they could possibly get."

Beyond deciphering this hunting and butchering strategy, Bement found an artifact that strongly indicates a social aspect of the kills.

"I was uncovering a partially crushed skull and noticed a red zigzag line that looked like it was painted. I couldn't believe what I was looking at."

The skull, now believed to be the oldest painted object in North America, had been placed at the end of the arroyo, positioned as if looking at the incoming animals.

*Folsom Point*



*"I was uncovering a partially crushed skull and noticed a red zigzag line that looked like it was painted. I couldn't believe what I was looking at."*

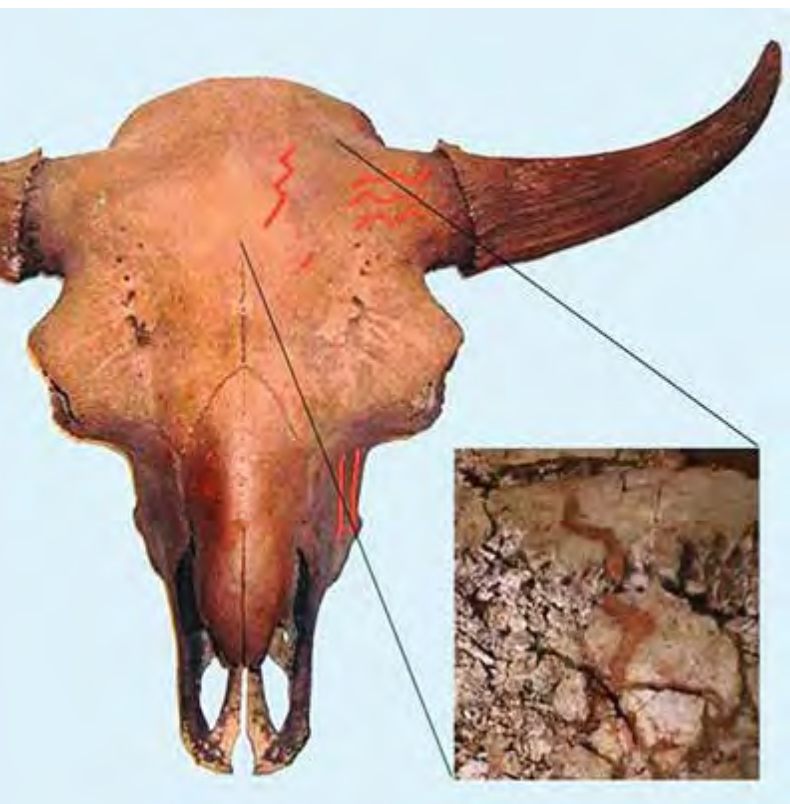
"This hints that this culture had hunting rituals and ceremonies that are associated at least with the hunting and probably other aspects of their gathering. The incoming herd trampled this skull, but the piece with the paint survived."

After 25 years of discovery at the Cooper site, where do the archaeologists plan to go from here?

"For me, I'm taking this scenario and moving it one step closer in time. Instead of the Folsom time period, I'm looking at what happened 9,000 years ago in the Oklahoma Panhandle where we have large-scale kills. Let's see if we can rebuild this same sort of information out there."

Fascinated with this discovery? Learn more in a series of posts to the Oklahoma Archaeological Survey's Facebook page, listen to the full public lecture at [www.tinyurl.com/CooperLecture](http://www.tinyurl.com/CooperLecture), or visit the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History's Hall of the People of Oklahoma.

Visitation to the Hal and Fern Cooper Wildlife Management Area requires a valid hunting or fishing license or a conservation passport. The unauthorized removal of historical, cultural or archaeological artifacts from this or other lands managed by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation is unlawful. 🌿



The Cooper site yielded a crushed bison skull with a red zigzag (see inset), which is recognized as the oldest painted object in North America.

## Hal and Fern Cooper Wildlife Management Area

The Hal and Fern Cooper Wildlife Management Area covers 16,080 acres of northwestern Woodward and south central Harper counties. Situated east of State Highway 270 northwest of Woodward, the area is primarily upland rolling sand hills with around 4,500 acres of river bottom.

Mixed-grass prairie and sagebrush is found on upland sites, interspersed with sand plum thickets. The river bottom is fairly open and contains cottonwood, American elm, hackberry and eastern redcedar trees interspersed with sand plum thickets, salt cedar and mixed grassland. The Beaver River joins Wolf Creek to create the North Canadian River on the area. The average annual precipitation for the area is about 20 inches.

Management practices include prescribed grazing of cattle, strip disking, strip mowing and prescribed burning. Management efforts focus on producing native wildlife foods such as ragweed, croton and sunflower. About 100 acres of agricultural food plots are planted annually in river bottom areas.

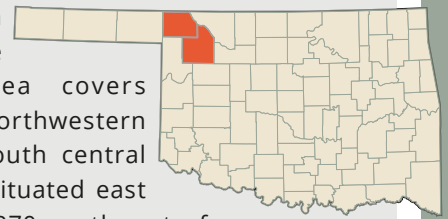
Wildlife watchers can find several bird species, including many grassland sparrows.

Hunters can pursue game species including deer, turkey, quail, dove, pheasant, rabbit and furbearers. Hunting regulations for the WMA may vary from general statewide rules.

Seasonal fishing opportunity exists on Beaver River, Wolf Creek and the North Canadian River. But rivers can go dry during summer. There are no permanent ponds on Cooper WMA capable of sustaining a reliable fishery. Fishing opportunity exists at Fort Supply Lake 2 miles west of the Cooper WMA headquarters.

Recreational shooting is not permitted on the WMA. However, a public gun range is located nearby at the south end of Fort Supply WMA. Also, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has a public gun range north near the Corps office 2 miles south of Fort Supply. Both ranges offer 50- and 100-yard shooting opportunities.

The WMA has five designated primitive camping areas. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers offers campsites with facilities and recreational vehicle hookups at nearby Fort Supply Lake. Lodging and dining are available in Woodward. 🌿







*Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig stand with a hefty game bag.*

# When Nearly **EVERYONE** Was a Hunter

**There was an era in which Main Street, Hollywood and pro athletes all came together in the game fields of America. Will it ever come again?**

**By Tom Keer, From Sporting Classics Daily**

I stopped by my local high school this past August. School here begins after Labor Day, so the parking lot was quiet. There were no cars or trucks driven by either teachers or students, and no buses picked up or dropped off underclassmen. Yet vehicles were everywhere over by the tennis courts at the east end. Two-a-days were in full swing, and that's why I was there. I wanted to see pigskin fly.

A sweet smell of freshly cut grass lingered in the 95-degree, 100-percent-humidity air. It reminded me of the days when I used to tighten my cleats and button up a chinstrap. I heard the familiar sound of hands clapping in unison as a huddle broke. Following that were audibles





*Stan Musial and Branch Rickey after a successful hunt.*

called by first- and second-string quarterbacks. Then there was the unmistakable sound of smacking pads and whistles blowing. Now and again a guard that held during a block or a linebacker that missed a tackle paid the price in push-ups until he was green. ...

... Back in the day, there was a subtle difference between an athlete and a sportsman. During a season, any season, just about all of us played sports. In the fall, it was football. In the winter, it was basketball or wrestling. And in the spring, some of us ran track while others played baseball. In between practice and games we were sportsmen. Some days we'd hunt upland birds, waterfowl or big game. If we weren't hunting, we'd go fishing.

We'd hit the salt and sweet waters, and we'd use spinning, conventional and fly tackle. No one complained of boredom, for there was none to be had. Life was great.

Did we mirror our heroes, or were they an extension of us? When professional athletes weren't working, they hunted and fished. No one blinked an eye when they saw pictures of Babe Ruth, Ted Williams and Lou Gehrig hunting pheasants or waterfowl. They were sportsmen following their passions in the offseason. Others, like Ty Cobb, Stan Musial and Branch Rickey, hunted, too, and they even captured some of their hunts on film. Their pictures would appear in newspapers and magazines, and readers enjoyed seeing their favorite big leaguers at play.





*Babe Ruth showing he could put the "bam" in Bambino.*

**Sophia Loren loved Brittany spaniels and side-by-sides for bird hunting, while Bridgett Bardot owned English field cockers.**

It was no different in Hollywood, as actors and actresses did the same. Clark Gable and Gary Cooper knew the working end of a side-by-side and were the frequent hunting guests of Ernest Hemingway in Sun Valley, Idaho. Humphrey Bogart kept his 20-gauge L.C. Smith at his friend David Nivens' house so they could shoot trap in Nivens' backyard. Fred McMurray was a hunter. Women were, too. Sophia Loren loved Brittany spaniels and side-by-sides for bird hunting, while Bridgett Bardot owned English field cockers.

But these days there is a shortage of notable folks posing for hunting advertisements like Catfish Hunter did in 1976. Today political correctness rules the roost. I am all-ears if someone can explain why a consistently outstanding Olympic medal winner like shooter Kim Rhode is overlooked for endorsements while Ryan Lochte gets the nod. Evidently hunting is no longer palatable for mainstream America. That said, Bob Svetich, the owner of The Outdoor Group Inc., works with celebrity sportsmen and had this explanation for the change.

"The Industrial Revolution consistently changed our society from rural to urban," he said. "And in many ways, the need to harvest wild game has been replaced by well-stocked supermarkets. Today, people look to the





*Sophia Loren with a Brittany spaniel and her gun.*





*Ted Williams squaring off for a wingshot.*





BOB SVETICH/OUTDOOR GROUP INC.

Bob Svetich and Bo Jackson kneel with a bison they took.

outdoors for recreation instead of sustenance, and as a result, their choices are becoming tamer. Car camping, hiking, kayaking and bird watching increase regularly, while fishing and hunting decline. It's odd, but in many circles even catch-and-release fishing is considered cruel.

"We are a technologically connected generation, with over 95 percent of Americans having cell phones. Connectivity to the Internet, with its newsfeeds and social media, means that information travels at an unprecedented rate of speed. That combination means that celebrity sportsmen have become more discreet. Their concern is that they will be unemployable due to their personal life choices. You don't need to think about that fact for too long before you realize there is a position of reverse discrimination.

"But the truth is that I work with a tremendous number of celebrities on a regular basis who are avid sportsmen. Most people suspect professional athletes are sportsmen, but I guarantee you this: You would be shocked at the number of sportsmen there are in Hollywood.

"I'm respectful of their decision to maintain their public versus private personas. As they wind down their careers, they reach out to us to help promote traditional sporting activities. Some that are comfortable are showcased on my website and regularly make public appearances without fear of retaliation (theoutdoorgroupinc.com/celebrity-sporting-lifestyle-ambassadors). Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee recently joined my group. Gov. Huckabee is an avid waterfowler, and we look forward to working with him on a variety of new projects.



BRIAN PRAHL/SPLOSH NEWS

Kim Kardashian

The folks I work with today are similar to the Babe Ruths and Gary Coopers of the past. I'm hopeful that the trend will continue."

Who knew that Kim Kardashian was a shotgunner? Perhaps she represents our newest legion of celebrity sportsmen. 🦋

*(Reprinted with permission from the author and Sporting Classics Daily. For a free e-mail subscription, go to [www.sportingclassicsdaily.com/subscribe](http://www.sportingclassicsdaily.com/subscribe).)*



# The Outdoor Store



## Oklahoma Wildlife Management Area Atlas

This updated edition has topographical maps of Wildlife Management Areas and now includes Department-owned fishing lakes across Oklahoma. At almost 100 pages, the atlas presents maps showing where to access areas, adds lands that have been acquired since 2010, and shows special features at each area such as parking sites, camping areas and food plots. The WMA Atlas is a longtime best-seller; get a copy while supplies last. Your atlas purchase comes with a one-year

subscription to the award-winning "Outdoor Oklahoma" magazine.

Item OS-8 — \$25



## Oklahoma Waterfowl Hunting Stamp

Oklahoma "duck stamps" are always popular with collectors and hunters, although for different reasons. 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. Please specify when ordering. (2018-2019 stamp is shown).

Item OS-7 — \$10



## Outdoor Oklahoma Caps

These sharp, colorful fabric caps feature the "Outdoor Oklahoma" logo. Available color selections may vary.

Item OS-11 — \$18



## Oklahoma Habitat Donor Window Decals

Show your support of the Wildlife Department's Land Acquisition Fund with these striking window decals. All proceeds are earmarked to help provide hunting and fishing access to the public.

Item OS-13 — \$10 each



**GIVE THE GIFT THAT KEEPS  
ON GIVING ALL YEAR LONG!**

## "Outdoor Oklahoma" Magazine

Start enjoying a full year (six big issues) of hunting, fishing, natural history, camping and much more when you subscribe to "Outdoor Oklahoma" magazine. Subscribe for yourself, or a friend.

Item OS-10 1 year — \$10, 2 years — \$18, 3 years — \$25





## Habitat Donor Caps

Top-quality, American-made caps display the Habitat Donor Patch of your choice, which designates you as a contributor to the Department's Land Acquisition Fund. Wearing this hat means you care about future generations and the great hunting and fishing tradition. Specify hat style on order form.

Item OS-6 — \$18

## Donate to the Wildlife Diversity Program

Your tax-deductible donation to the Wildlife Department's Wildlife Diversity Program can help wildlife for years to come. Just indicate the amount you wish to donate in the "subtotal" column on the order form on this page.



## 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 \$38 (original or replacement) or \$36.50 (renewals) above your regular annual registration fee with proceeds going to Oklahoma's Wildlife Diversity Program. For a free application form, check Item WD-13. The forms are also available at local tag agencies, or online at [tinyurl.com/WildTags](http://tinyurl.com/WildTags).

Item WD-3 Application Form — FREE

## Outdoor Store Order Form

Item	Description	Price (Includes s/h)	Quantity	Subtotal
OS-5	<b>Habitat Donor Patches (check patch choices)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 1986-Quail and Bass <input type="checkbox"/> 1987-Deer <input type="checkbox"/> 1988-Turkey <input type="checkbox"/> 1989-Raccoon <input type="checkbox"/> 1990-Wood Duck <input type="checkbox"/> 1991-Squirrel <input type="checkbox"/> 1992-Dove <input type="checkbox"/> 1993-Elk <input type="checkbox"/> 1994-Bass <input type="checkbox"/> 1995-Quail <input type="checkbox"/> 1996-Bobcat <input type="checkbox"/> 1997-Crappie <input type="checkbox"/> 1998-Canvasback <input type="checkbox"/> 1999-Deer <input type="checkbox"/> 2000-Brown Trout <input type="checkbox"/> 2001-Antelope <input type="checkbox"/> 2002-Pheasant <input type="checkbox"/> 2003-Wild Turkey <input type="checkbox"/> 2004-Mallard Duck <input type="checkbox"/> 2005-Striped Bass <input type="checkbox"/> 2006-Scaled Quail <input type="checkbox"/> 2007-Bobwhite Quail <input type="checkbox"/> 2007-Rainbow Trout <input type="checkbox"/> 2008-Canada Goose <input type="checkbox"/> 2009-Mule Deer <input type="checkbox"/> 2010-Paddlefish <input type="checkbox"/> 2011-Northern Pintail <input type="checkbox"/> 2012-Pronghorn Antelope <input type="checkbox"/> 2013-White Bass <input type="checkbox"/> 2014-Black Bear	\$10 each		
OS-6	<b>Habitat Donor Caps — check choice of color and design:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Camo Bass <input type="checkbox"/> Camo Deer <input type="checkbox"/> Orange Bass <input type="checkbox"/> Orange Deer	\$18		
OS-7	<b>Current Waterfowl Hunting Stamp</b>	\$10		
OS-8	<b>Oklahoma Wildlife Management Area Atlas</b>	\$25		
OS-10	<b>"Outdoor Oklahoma" Magazine</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 1-Year Subscription <input type="checkbox"/> 2-Year Subscription <input type="checkbox"/> 3-Year Subscription	\$10 \$18 \$25		
OS-11	<b>Outdoor Oklahoma Caps (check style and size where applicable)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Lime/Mesh Back   One size fits all <input type="checkbox"/> Pink/Mesh Back   One size fits all <input type="checkbox"/> Weathered Olive Unstructured   One size fits all <input type="checkbox"/> Weathered Navy Unstructured   One size fits all <input type="checkbox"/> Orange Camo   One size fits all <input type="checkbox"/> Camo/Mesh Back   One size fits all <input type="checkbox"/> Olive/Mesh Back   One size fits all	\$18 \$18 \$18 \$18 \$18 \$18 \$18		
OS-13	<b>Oklahoma Habitat Donor Decal</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 2015-Whitetail Buck <input type="checkbox"/> 2016-Largemouth Bass	\$10 each		
WD-13	<b>Wildlife Conservation Plates Application Form</b>	FREE	—	
	<b>Your Donation to the Wildlife Diversity Program</b>			

Name \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Amount Enclosed** \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

All prices include postage and handling. Make checks payable to ODWC, fill out form, clip and mail to ODWC, P. O. Box 53465, Oklahoma City, OK 73152. Or call (405) 521-3852 to order with a credit card. Please allow three to four weeks for delivery.

### To pay with credit card:

Payment Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard	Card Number: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____
Cardholder Name: _____	Expiration Date: _____ / _____
	Billing Zip Code: _____





# Watchable Wildlife

## THE NORTH AMERICAN BEAVER

BY WHITNEY JENKINS, INFORMATION AND EDUCATION TECHNICIAN

The North American beaver (*Castor canadensis*) is common across Oklahoma. It is one of two extant beaver species; the other is the Eurasian beaver.

The beaver is the largest rodent in North America. They live a semiaquatic life, meaning they inhabit the land and water equally.

Beavers are dark brown mammals with webbed hind feet to help them swim. They have a broad, scaly flat tail. They have poor eyesight, but have keen senses of hearing, smell and touch. Many people are aware of the beaver's large teeth, a characteristic for which they are recognized. A beaver's teeth grow continuously, so as they chew wood their teeth will not be worn down. Beavers have long, strong claws used for digging and have great dexterity for folding leaves and twisting small twigs off trees.

Beavers are also known for their natural activity of building dams on rivers and streams. These dams, constructed of downed trees and brush, serve as a way to maintain the water level in their living areas. They use their ever-growing teeth to chew down smaller trees and other plants for building and for food. They create large piles of sticks and trees, called lodges, for their living quarters.

Beavers are slow on land but are great swimmers and can stay underwater for some time. Beavers do not hibernate. They store sticks and logs in piles in their habitat and eat the underbark throughout the winter months.

Beavers continue to grow throughout their lives. An adult beaver can weigh from 35 to 65 pounds. Females are as large or larger than males of the same age, which is not common among mammals. Beavers can live more than 20 years in the wild.

Favorite foods of the beaver that are found in Oklahoma include cottonwood, willow, and Johnson grass roots. But they will eat almost any type of bark, leaf or root.

When a beaver is in danger or frightened, it will give an alarm signal. When swimming, the frightened beaver forcefully slap the water with its paddlelike tail before diving deep. The slapping tail makes a loud noise that is heard above and below the water, alerting other beavers in the area. Nearby beavers will then dive into the water.

Beavers are monogamous and produce one litter each year, usually in spring. A typical litter contains up to four newborns called "kits." Families usually grow to consist of two adults and three or four kits altogether.

Here are some interesting facts about beavers:

- They are Canada's national animal.
- They can hold their breath up to 15 minutes during a dive.
- Their dams create wetland habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife.
- They secrete a thick liquid called castoreum from organs called castor sacs near the anus. Castoreum smells like musky vanilla and is used for artificial flavoring and perfumes.
- They have ear and nose valves that shut to keep out water when submerged.
- Their lips close behind their teeth, allowing the beaver to swim with building materials and food without drowning.

North American beavers like to keep to themselves and seem to constantly be working, which gave rise to the popular phrase "busy as a beaver." 🌿









DON P. BROWN/DWIC

Volunteer hunters from Oklahoma Quail Forever chapters team with Wildlife Department biologists to assess quail habitat management techniques in the pine forests of southeastern Oklahoma. Tag along inside this issue of Outdoor Oklahoma.

# Outdoor Oklahoma

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