

# Outdoor Oklahoma

JULY/AUGUST 2021 – ONLY \$10 A YEAR

In This Issue:

## 2021 Readers' Photography Showcase

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION





# Panoramas

**C**urrent trends paint a lean picture for the future of hunting in America. The number of hunters is steadily decreasing, and participation is declining. And that's bad for wildlife conservation in general.

To combat the problem, state agencies and nongovernmental conservation groups have embarked on efforts to recruit, retain and reactivate hunters.

An exciting Wildlife Department program called **Learn to Hunt (L2H)** is set to kick off next month after a yearlong delay because of COVID-19. It's a true recruitment program that will pair a volunteer instructor with a novice and his or her family member for 12 months of activities supporting the great tradition of hunting.

L2H was supposed to begin last summer, but it became a casualty of the pandemic. Several volunteer instructors who were lined up have since dropped out. So, we are now hoping to grow our pool of volunteers to instruct the next generation.

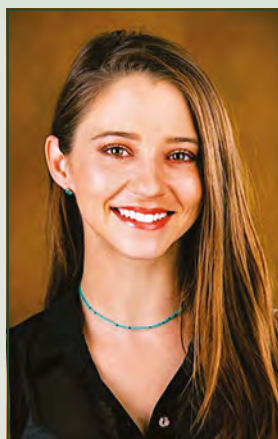
Most instructors have joined the effort from conservation groups such as National Wild Turkey Federation, Pheasants/Quail Forever, and Ducks Unlimited.

Current instructors are going through regional training sessions with topics including how to be an effective outdoors instructor, L2H course details, activity expectations, gear kit overview, and hunting regulations. Instructors receive curriculum course guides and supplemental materials.

Novice participants will be required to become a member of a nongovernmental conservation organization, for liability purposes. And each L2H group will have the option to charge a nominal fee to cover the cost of expendables such as clay targets, ammo, etc.

For this first year of L2H, five groups meeting one day each

month will be the goal. Areas where these initial groups are forming include Tulsa, Oklahoma City, and Tahlequah. The search for instructors is now focusing on the Elk City, Enid and Ponca City areas. Hopefully, by January, there will be 10 L2H groups up and running.



**Kasie Harriet**

A yearlong course schedule of suggested monthly activities has been created to give L2H novices a well-rounded experience with many aspects of hunting. Suggested activities include firearms safety and skeet shooting in August; dove hunt in September; deer archery hunt in October; deer gun hunt in November; turkey hunting basics in March; squirrel hunt in May; and upland game bird basics and trap shooting in July. Instructors may customize their courses and

meeting days as they desire.

Unless something is done now, most of today's hunters will have dropped out of the sport within 15 years. They are "aging out" while younger hunters are not replacing them. That's why it's so very important to retain, reactivate and recruit whenever we can. Without hunting, conservation suffers.

ODWC, NWTf and all our partners are very optimistic about the Learn to Hunt program. We believe that multiple exposures to outdoor activities, combined with the local social support of an instructor and family member, will help ignite a passion and establish a tradition for the outdoors that can last a lifetime!

Please consider getting involved. Contact me for more information at [kharriett@nwtf.org](mailto:kharriett@nwtf.org) or (918) 629-4991.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kasie Harriet".

Kasie Harriet, Learn to Hunt Coordinator,  
ODWC R3 Hunting Specialist

## Inside

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**Fishing Partnership with OG+E**  
**Profile: Raegen Siegfried, Board of Directors**

**ON THE COVER:** "WOW!" This yellow-crowned night heron nestling seems to be amazed at all the outstanding images featured in the 2021 Outdoor Oklahoma Readers' Photography Showcase. See the other amazing selections for yourself, starting on page 12. (Photo by Mark Bright of Oklahoma City)

**RIGHT:** "A female Wilson's phalarope in its breeding plumage at Hackberry Flat WMA." (Photo by Jeremiah Zurenda of Indianhomia)

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Published by the Oklahoma Department of  
Wildlife Conservation  
1801 N. Lincoln Blvd, Oklahoma City, OK 73105  
P.O. Box 53465, Oklahoma City, OK 73152

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**Don P. Brown**, Associate Editor

**CONTRIBUTING STAFF**  
Wade Farrar, Rick Grundman, Whitney  
Jenkins, Smokey Solis.

**PHONE**  
(405) 521-3856

**WEBSITE**  
[www.wildlifedepartment.com](http://www.wildlifedepartment.com)

**E-MAIL**  
[donald.brown@odwc.ok.gov](mailto:donald.brown@odwc.ok.gov)




Art direction by Stroud Design, Inc.  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

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Outdoor Oklahoma (ISSN 0030-7106) is published  
bimonthly by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife  
Conservation, P.O. Box 53465, Oklahoma City, OK  
73152. Periodicals postage paid at Oklahoma City,  
OK, and additional mailing offices. Notification  
of address change must include both old and  
new addresses and ZIP codes, with six weeks'  
notice. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to  
Outdoor Oklahoma, P.O. Box 53465, Oklahoma  
City, OK 73152.

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 Printed on recycled, recyclable paper.

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for online credit card orders

Subscriptions are \$10 per year; \$18 for  
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Production and distribution costs not covered  
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# Off the Beaten Path

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

## ALVA STUDENT WINS ODWC SPECIAL AWARD FOR ART



A three-dimensional artwork titled "Oklahoma Opossum" by Hannah Mason of Alva Schools won the **Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation Special Award** in this year's Sutton Student Art Award contest.

A 12th-grader, Mason received a special cash prize for the best depiction of an Oklahoma-related conservation subject. Her sculpture depicts a mother opossum tending to her squirming litter of baby joeys.

The first-place Sutton Award winners in each category for this 17th annual contest are:

- 2-D Art: Rebekah Springer, Victory Christian School, "Reflection of Reality."
- 3-D Art: Emma Plunkett, Union High School, "Ghostly Anthozoa."
- Photography: Jackson Morgan, "Preserving Land and Life."

Established in 2003, the Sutton Student Art Award recognizes high school students who demonstrate the ability to communicate current conservation topics in compelling ways. The show is free to enter and open to all Oklahoma high school students grades 9-12. The award is funded up to \$20,000, which is distributed to winning student participants and their instructors as determined by a selection committee. Sponsors include the Wildlife Department, Nature-Works, American Heritage Bank, and Nothing Bundt Cakes.

"From honeybees to Texas horned lizards, through sculptures to pastels, these students have intriguing stories to tell," said Audra Fogle, development director for the Sutton Avian Research Center in Bartlesville. "It is exciting to be able to connect our conservation mission with schools to provide significant scholarships for students and the teachers who work so hard to run their programs on shoestring budgets."

Fogle said more than 2,600 students have been encouraged to express themselves through this art competition.

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

## SEEKING ADVENTURE? RAFFLE TICKET DEADLINE SOON

Time is running out to get your name in the drawings for the first **Outdoor Oklahoma Adventures!** raffle.

Tickets are on sale through Aug. 6, 2021. Some of these prizes are likely once-in-a-lifetime outdoor experiences, so don't miss out.

Fourteen raffles are being held, with Adventures ranging from hunting and fishing opportunities to wildlife viewing excursions and youth opportunities. Just a few examples: fishing with Jimmy Houston; cow elk hunt; black bear research trip; stream snorkeling; and many more.

Anyone can enter, whether or not you have a hunting or fishing license. Tickets are \$10 each or a bundle of five tickets for \$30 for each of the Adventure raffles. Or get an Ultimate Bundle for \$50, which enters you into all 14 raffles. There is no limit to the number of tickets that you can buy.

See all the details of each Adventure along with the rules at [www.wildlifedepartment.com/outdoorok/adventures](http://www.wildlifedepartment.com/outdoorok/adventures). All raffle proceeds go directly to the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation to fund fish and wildlife conservation, and public hunting and fishing opportunities for everyone to enjoy. ♦♦✕



## Outdoor Calendar

FOR THE LATEST UPDATES, GO ONLINE TO LICENSE.  
GOOUTDOORSOKLAHOMA.COM/EVENT/EVENTS.ASPX

**NOTICE: Events listed were scheduled at press time; events are subject to change.**

### JULY 2021

<b>3</b>	Oklahoma City free fishing day; no city permit required.
<b>4</b>	"Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, 8 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., OETA.
<b>5</b>	Independence Day (observed); state offices closed.
<b>6</b>	Ask an Angler: Virtual Fishing Course (Summer Stream/Wading Tips), 1-3 p.m., YouTube Live. Register: <a href="https://license.gooutdoorsoklahoma.com/Event/EventsHome.aspx">license.gooutdoorsoklahoma.com/Event/EventsHome.aspx</a> . Free Family Fishing Clinic, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Zebco Pond, Jenks Aquarium. Register: <a href="https://license.gooutdoorsoklahoma.com/Event/EventsHome.aspx">license.gooutdoorsoklahoma.com/Event/EventsHome.aspx</a> .
<b>10</b>	Youth Hooked on Fishing, ages 5-15, 8-10 a.m., Metro Tech pond, Oklahoma City. Register: <a href="https://www.okc.gov/departments/parks-recreation/calendar">www.okc.gov/departments/parks-recreation/calendar</a> .
<b>11</b>	"Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, 8 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., OETA.
<b>13</b>	Free Family Fishing Clinic, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Zebco Pond, Jenks Aquarium. Register: <a href="https://license.gooutdoorsoklahoma.com/Event/EventsHome.aspx">license.gooutdoorsoklahoma.com/Event/EventsHome.aspx</a> .
<b>18</b>	"Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, 8 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., OETA.
<b>20</b>	Free Family Fishing Clinic, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Zebco Pond, Jenks Aquarium. Register: <a href="https://license.gooutdoorsoklahoma.com/Event/EventsHome.aspx">license.gooutdoorsoklahoma.com/Event/EventsHome.aspx</a> .
<b>25</b>	"Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, 8 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., OETA.
<b>27</b>	Free Family Fishing Clinic, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Zebco Pond, Jenks Aquarium. Register: <a href="https://license.gooutdoorsoklahoma.com/Event/EventsHome.aspx">license.gooutdoorsoklahoma.com/Event/EventsHome.aspx</a> .

- **Ducks Unlimited** events set in Miami, OK, July 12; Oklahoma City, July 16; Edmond/OKC, July 30. Info: [www.ducks.org/Oklahoma/events](https://www.ducks.org/Oklahoma/events).
- **Friends of NRA** events set in Ada, July 15; McAlester, July 17; Ardmore, July 24. Info: [www.FriendsOfNRA.org](https://www.FriendsOfNRA.org).
- **National Wild Turkey Federation** events set in Stroud, July 10; Elk City, July 17; Duncan, July 29; El Reno, July 30; Oklahoma City, July 31. Info: [www.nwtf.org/events](https://www.nwtf.org/events).

### AUGUST 2021

<b>1</b>	"Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, 8 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., OETA.
<b>2</b>	Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission meeting, 9 a.m., Oklahoma City.
<b>7</b>	Oklahoma City free fishing day; no city permit required. Youth Hooked on Fishing, ages 5-15, 8-10 a.m., South Lakes Park, Oklahoma City. Register: <a href="https://www.okc.gov/departments/parks-recreation/calendar">www.okc.gov/departments/parks-recreation/calendar</a> .
<b>8</b>	"Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, 8 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., OETA.
<b>15</b>	"Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, 8 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., OETA.
<b>17</b>	Okla. Striped Bass Assn. meeting, 7 p.m., Zebco, Tulsa, (918) 639-8114.
<b>22</b>	"Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, 8 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., OETA.
<b>29</b>	"Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, 8 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., OETA.

- **Hunter Education Classes:** Marietta, Aug. 6; Ada, Aug. 7; Durant, Aug. 14; McAlester, Aug. 21; Owasso, Aug. 21; Altus, Aug. 21; Bristow, Aug. 21; Dewey, Aug. 22; Pryor, Aug. 24; Broken Bow, Aug. 28; Walters, Aug. 28; Edmond, Aug. 28; Ponca City, Aug. 28; Marlow, Aug. 28. Register: [license.gooutdoorsoklahoma.com/Event/EventsHome.aspx](https://license.gooutdoorsoklahoma.com/Event/EventsHome.aspx).
- **Ducks Unlimited** events set in Earlsboro, Aug. 6; Wagoner/Coweta, Aug. 7; Sand Springs, Aug. 13; Perry, Aug. 14; Bartlesville, Aug. 21; Idabel, Aug. 21. Info: [www.ducks.org/Oklahoma/events](https://www.ducks.org/Oklahoma/events).
- **Friends of NRA** events set in Oklahoma City, Aug. 5; Shawnee, Aug. 14; Info: [www.FriendsOfNRA.org](https://www.FriendsOfNRA.org).
- **National Wild Turkey Federation** event set in Tulsa/Glenpool, Aug. 27. Info: [www.nwtf.org/events](https://www.nwtf.org/events).

\*\* HUNTING SEASON DATES: [www.wildlifedepartment.com/hunting/seasons](https://www.wildlifedepartment.com/hunting/seasons) \*\*

## JESS M. KANE JOINS WILDLIFE COMMISSION

Bartlesville attorney Jess M. Kane, 39, began serving an eight-year term July 2, 2021, representing District 1 on the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission, the eight-member board that oversees the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

Kane, the current Bartlesville city attorney, was appointed in January to succeed Commissioner Robert S. Hughes II of Bartlesville, whose appointment expired on July 1, 2021.

Gov. Kevin Stitt said, "Jess Kane is an experienced attorney and rancher from rural Oklahoma who understands the importance of our land and wildlife. I look forward to him bringing his strong agriculture perspective to the Commission to help foster wildlife conservation efforts across our state."

Kane is a fifth-generation rancher, having grown up on his family's diversified cow/calf, stocker and grain-farming operation headquartered in Bartlesville.

"The joy of observing and hunting game is one of the greatest dividends of successful farm and ranch management," Kane said.

"In an industry not known for prodigious profits, this return is of high value to farmers and ranchers. I hope to add this perspective to the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission and will be honored to help preserve Oklahoma's long heritage of wildlife conservation."

Kane is a partner with his brother, Richard, in Clover Leaf Cattle Co. LLC, a stocker enterprise with operations on owned and leased land in Washington and Rogers counties in Oklahoma and Kiowa County, Kansas. Additionally, Jess and his wife, Ashley, are partners in a cow herd based in Tillman County, Oklahoma.

He is active with the Oklahoma Beef Council, the Federation of State Beef Councils, and the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association, where he served as a former director.

Kane holds a bachelor's degree from the University of the South (Sewanee, Tenn.), a Certificate of Ranch Management from the Texas Christian University Ranch Management Program, and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Oklahoma College of Law. He has practiced law with the firm Robinett, King, Elias, Buhlinger, Brown & Kane with offices in Bartlesville and Pawhuska since 2009, and he was named a partner in that firm in 2015.

The Kanes have two children: Sammy, 9, and Bobby, 6. ❧❧❧







# Welcome to the Dock!

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



## STATE RECORD HYBRID SUNFISH

Dixie Lee of Vinita caught the new state record hybrid sunfish on private property in Craig County on May 31, 2021. The fish weighed 2 pounds, 5.7 ounces, and measured 12 1/4 inches in length and 14 inches in girth.



## STATE RECORD RIVER CARPSUCKER

Jaci Williams of Meeker shot the new unrestricted state record river carpsucker while bowfishing at Fort Cobb Lake on May 30, 2021. The fish weighed 9 pounds, 7 ounces, and measured 24 1/8 inches in length and 20 1/4 inches in girth.

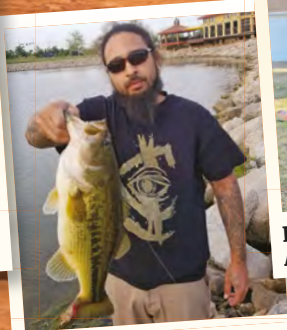


## STATE RECORD SPOTTED SUCKER

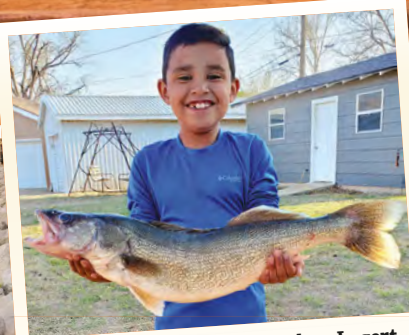
Noah Smith of Elmore City shot the new unrestricted state record spotted sucker while bowfishing at Lake Lawtonka on April 10, 2021. The fish weighed 2 pounds, 8 ounces, and measured 18 3/8 inches in length and 10 3/8 inches in girth.



Jonathan Washington, largemouth bass, Stephens County, April 17, 2021



Chris Jones, largemouth bass, Lake Hefner, May 7, 2021.



Ryker Killian, saugeye, Lake Altus-Lugert, April 10, 2021.



Robin S., striped bass hybrid, Keystone Lake, May 27, 2021.





# 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](mailto:donald.brown@odwc.ok.gov).*

Dear Director J.D. Strong,

I want to take the opportunity to thank you and the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife for being an integral part of the Oklahoma Highway Patrol's Captain Merit Promotion Process. By accommodating our request and allowing your officer to participate, the Promotion Board was a success. **Lt. Col. Wade Farrar** (ODWC Assistant Chief, Law Enforcement) was an excellent choice who performed his assignment with utmost diligence and professionalism. My sincere appreciation for a job well done.

**Col. Brent A Sugg III**, Chief of Patrol, OHP



**Lt. Col. Wade Farrar**

Dear Director J.D. Strong

It was my pleasure to hunt turkeys in your great state last week. I was able to harvest one on April 10 in Custer County and one in Roger Mills County the following morning. When I returned to camp, I tried unsuccessfully on my phone to register them online, so I called the help line and a very courteous lady gave me the number for Game Warden **Tucker Blackburn**.

I called him and he could not have been more helpful and more courteous. He told me he would come to the camp, near Wheeler, Texas, and help me if I needed him to. I told him I would try again. He assured me it would not be an inconvenience and to call him if I still needed help.

As a former chairman of the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission, I know well how important it is for the wildlife agencies to have courteous, competent and helpful wildlife officers,



**Game Warden Tucker Blackburn**

and you can be proud of Blackburn. He did everything a wildlife officer could do to be helpful (to a resident no less) and left a lasting good impression of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

**William C. Bridgforth**, Pine Bluff, Ark.

Dear Wildlife Department,

I recently had Upland Game Biologist **Tell Judkins** out to my property in Pittsburg County to look at quail habitat improvements. My father-in-law and I couldn't be more impressed with Tell. It was nice seeing somebody really into their job! Thank you for the valuable resource!

**Kyle Thomson**, Pittsburg County

Dear Wildlife Department,

I started hunting in northeast Oklahoma in 1938, and it was only rabbits, squirrels and quail — no turkey or deer. I'm so grateful that nowadays, there are turkeys in good numbers statewide most every year. I had the chance to bag the biggest tom of my life this spring near Woodward, and I got the biggest buck whitetail I've ever harvested last fall. I



just wanted to thank the ODWC and its wildlife biologists who knew what they were doing in managing wild turkeys and deer. At 90 years old, I look at where we are today compared to how things used to be, and the efforts of the Wildlife Department have been a great success! I plan to keep hunting as long as I can, and I just want to thank ODWC for making it possible.

**Jack Keeling**, Muskogee

**ERRATA:** In the May/June 2021 issue, an author of an article titled "Kayak Fishing Primer: Getting Started Right" was misidentified. The authors are Danny Bowen, Fisheries Biologist (retired) and Bruce Burton, Wildlife Biologist (retired).

# Wild About

## ◆ COOKING ◆



### HONEY BBQ TURKEY JERKY STICKS

We all love the snap of a jerky stick while sitting in the blind, driving in the truck, or watching a ballgame. But we dislike looking at the labels and not knowing how to pronounce half the ingredients. Here's a simple Honey BBQ Jerky recipe that will turn your wild turkey, or any other game meat, into a delicious and quick snack stick.

#### Ingredients

- 2 pounds (or more) wild turkey (thighs and legs preferred) or other wild game meat
- 3 Tbsp granulated honey
- 1 tsp sugar
- 1 Tbsp garlic powder
- 1 tsp cracked pepper
- 1 tsp smoked paprika
- 1 Tbsp onion powder
- 1/2 tsp celery salt
- 1/2 tsp molasses
- 1/2 Tbsp of liquid smoke if not using a smoker to dry.
- 1 Tbsp quick cure

#### Directions

- Start by grinding your turkey meat through the largest grind plate available.
- Mix in all ingredients. Once fully mixed, place in sealed plastic bag and refrigerate for 12 to 24 hours. This allows all the flavors to meld and the meat to firm up with the sugar and honey.
- Preheat smoker or oven to 150-160 degrees.
- Using a jerky gun or piping bag (like those used for cake decorating), dispense even lines on the grill grate.
- Insert meat thermometer into one jerky stick.
- Smoke on low until temperature reaches 145 degrees, about 2 to 3 hours. Lower the temperature and smoke until meat reaches 155 degrees. Remove meat and let rest 10 minutes.
- Put jerky in a clean plastic bag, seal and refrigerate. This is a key step as it stops the cooking process.
- After an hour in fridge, the jerky is ready to eat and enjoy.

Jerky sticks will last four to five days unrefrigerated, about three weeks refrigerated, and six to eight months in the freezer. ♦♦✕

— Jeremiah Doughty  
From NWTF.org



# 2020 CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION

## "HUNTING WITH MY FAMILY"

**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 category receive a guided antelope hunt in the Texas Panhandle, and winners in the 11-14 age category receive a hunting trip with Rack Attack Outfitters (or similar) and a scholarship to the Outdoor Texas Camp. In this issue, Outdoor Oklahoma honors junior category female winner Taryn McCaa, 14, from Elmore City Pernell Middle School.



### HUNTING WITH MY FAMILY

By Taryn McCaa

Were you excited when you shot your first deer? Was your heart beating a million times a minute?

When I killed my first deer, I was so happy. I had just killed a buck, and I was only 9 years old! He was about 30 yards away, and I dropped him on the first shot! I was jumping up and down with excitement and trying to run over to him, I realized that he only had one horn. He had broken off the other, and he would have been a nice little 8-point, but he was an amazing 5-point in my eyes!

Hunting is one of the most exciting hobbies that I have in my life. It has taught me respect for wildlife and the outdoors.

When I was 6, I started squirrel hunting with my poppie in Alabama over Christmas vacation. When packing the truck to leave, I would never let my dad forget to pack my pink .22 rifle. When we got there, after everyone said "Hi," I would ask when we could go squirrel hunting. I loved it! We would go with Poppie, Dad, Brother, my uncle, and two friends, Paul and Landon!

After, we hunted, we would always go up to the house and skin them on the back porch. Dad had to



teach me what to do, but it was fun. Eventually I did it all by myself. We would always eat the squirrels in dumplings, which my nanny would make. Now, we continue to squirrel hunt every year and eat those squirrel dumplings together, but it's not the same since Poppie passed away.

I hunt deer in Oklahoma every year during youth days, muzzleloader, and regular deer season. I absolutely love hunting, even if I used to fall asleep every morning when I was little, and dad had to wake me up when a deer came by our stand!

Now, I can't wait until I get married, have kids of my own, and take them hunting! I also pray all the time that they will be able to go hunting with their "pop" like I got to hunt with my poppie! My poppie showed me so much about hunting and life, taught me more than I could imagine, and helped grow the love I have for hunting!

Finally, I love hunting, and will continue to enjoy it for the rest of my life. I hope that my legacy and knowledge for hunting is passed on for generations through my children and grandchildren. From hunting squirrels in Alabama to killing my first deer, hunting is a hobby that makes me appreciate the wildlife and its surroundings. I'm excited to take my own kids one day. I understand the importance of hunting in my life and my family's lives. I want to keep that heritage alive for years to come. ...x



## KENNY LAWSON SELECTED '21 GAME WARDEN OF YEAR

Game Warden **Kenny Lawson** was selected as the 2021 Oklahoma Game Warden of the Year. Lawson has served all of his 32-year career with the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation's Law Enforcement Division in McCurtain County.

Lawson is the epitome of a game warden and dedicated officer, said Lt. Col. **Wade Farrar**, Assistant Chief of Law Enforcement for ODWC. He has dedicated his career to apprehending illegal fish shockers, netters, road hunters, and seemingly countless spotlighters. He takes pride in the fact that he continues to protect the wildlife and natural resources for the younger generations.

The veteran Game Warden was the 2020 National Wild Turkey Federation Game Warden of the Year and has been recognized many times from various organizations for his dedication to protecting natural resources.

"Kenny has proudly served the hunters, fishers, and wildlife resources of Oklahoma as a Game Warden for 32 years," Farrar said. "In those years, he has acquired a vast knowledge of patrol and arrest procedures. He has been instrumental in making countless first hunting or fishing trips a success.

"Kenny's skills involving public outreach are excellent, conducting wildlife-related programs with the intention of recruiting our next generation of sportsmen. Kenny has shown throughout his career the positive outcomes of wildlife law enforcement and what can truly be accomplished by one officer with both hard work and dedication."

Lawson has numerous stories to tell of the many long nights and early mornings spent catching poachers with a decoy



*Game Warden Kenny Lawson*

deer, working cases, and the humorous occurrences that he has encountered on the backroads of southeastern Oklahoma. Anyone who gets an opportunity to visit with Lawson will better understand why he was selected by his peers as the 2021 Oklahoma Game Warden of the Year.

Game Warden **Stephen Paul**, based in Noble County, was selected 2021 runner-up. He exemplifies the knowledge, dedication, professionalism, and positive attitude, making him very deserving of the runner-up honor.

Other Game Wardens nominated for 2021 Game Warden of the Year by their Law District colleagues were **Austin Jackson** (Craig County), **Allen Couch** (Haskell County), **Brad Magby** (Creek County), **Emily Long** (Payne County), **Michael Zimmerman** (Grady County), and **Tucker Blackburn** (Roger Mills County). ❧❧❧



*Game Warden Stephen Paul*





## HALL OF FAME TAPS PAST ODWC FISH ASSISTANT CHIEF

A former Assistant Chief of Fisheries with the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, **Gene Gilliland** of Norman, will be inducted into the Bass Fishing Hall of Fame (BFHOF) on Sept. 30, 2021.

Gilliland is known for his extensive work in fisheries management and bass conservation efforts and continues that involvement as conservation director for B.A.S.S. He is a tireless advocate for bass fishing on numerous national boards and councils.

The induction ceremony, reception and banquet will be held at Johnny Morris' Wonders of Wildlife National Museum & Aquarium in Springfield, Mo., site of the Bass Fishing Hall of Fame. Tickets and information about the Hall of Fame and its mission are available at [www.Bassfishinghof.com](http://www.Bassfishinghof.com).

"On behalf of our entire Board, we're thrilled that we'll be able to honor Gene Gilliland and Trip Weldon in person, along with Jason Lucas posthumously, when the bass fishing world comes together to celebrate in Springfield this fall," said BFHOF Board President John Mazurkiewicz. "Each of them has made lasting contributions to the sport and we're excited to see them take their rightful place in the Hall of Fame."

Serving as B.A.S.S. National Conservation Director since 2013, Gilliland is regarded as the voice of bass fishing on numerous



**Gene Gilliland of Norman, former Fisheries Division Assistant Chief with the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, will be inducted into the Bass Fishing Hall of Fame later this year.**

national boards and councils, including the Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership, the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council and the American Sportfishing Association's Government Affairs Committee.

During his 32-year ODWC career as a research biologist, fisheries management supervisor and Assistant Chief of Fisheries, Gilliland developed a national reputation as an advocate for angler involvement in fisheries decision-making. It earned him prestigious national awards from the American Fisheries Society and induction into its Fisheries Management Hall of Fame.

Throughout his career, he was actively involved with B.A.S.S. Conservation and was a regular contributor on black bass biology and management for B.A.S.S. Times

magazine and other fishing publications. He co-authored (with Dr. Hal Schramm) the booklet "Keeping Bass Alive, A Guidebook for Tournament Anglers and Organizers," which has become the defining document for modern tournament fish care.

Nomination Chairman Todd Hamill thanked past inductees for their nominations, and the 30-member selection panel for "identifying the qualified nominees who deserve a place in the Hall." ❧❧❧

## SIGN UP TO RECEIVE FREE E-NEWSLETTERS FROM ODWC

Would you like to keep up to date on topics in wildlife diversity, upland wildlife conservation or landowner wildlife management information? It's easy with several free e-newsletters produced by the Wildlife Department.

To get these periodic emails, go to [www.wildlifedepartment.com](http://www.wildlifedepartment.com) and enter your email address in the left-hand column under "Sign-up for all the latest news!" You will then be able to select what communications you would like to receive from the Wildlife Department.

The Department's e-newsletters include:

**Wild Side:** This e-newsletter, a project of the Department's Wildlife Diversity Program, provides interesting articles each month about varied topics in the natural world. The Wildlife Diversity Program monitors, manages and promotes rare, declining, and endangered wildlife, as well as common wildlife not fished or hunted. It is funded in part by sales of Wildlife Department license plates, publication sales, and tax checkoff dollars. To see previous editions, go to [www.wildlifedepartment.com/wildlife/wildlife-diversity/wildside](http://www.wildlifedepartment.com/wildlife/wildlife-diversity/wildside).

**Your Side of the Fence:** Produced twice a year for Oklahoma

landowners, this newsletter's mission is to provide practical information for managing wildlife on private property and address issues that affect the landowner. Nowhere else can you receive helpful, in-depth information from experienced biologists and law enforcement officers who work in all areas of the state. With so much knowledge and insight, Department experts strive to provide information valuable to landowners. To see previous editions, go to [www.wildlifedepartment.com/lands-and-minerals/ysof](http://www.wildlifedepartment.com/lands-and-minerals/ysof).

**Upland Update:** Usually sent about once a month, these reports focus on the latest research and insights into upland game conservation and management. See what's going on in Northern bobwhite studies or lesser prairie-chicken updates, among other topics. Landowners and hunters will see useful information about management practices that can give all upland wildlife a boost.

And while you are signing up, you might also be interested in receiving other Wildlife Department communications, which you can easily select from the checklist. Whether it's fishing, hunting or other topics of interest, you'll be in the loop when it comes to happenings with the Wildlife Department. ❧❧❧

# OUTDOOR OKLAHOMA MAGAZINE **ARCHIVE NOW ONLINE**

It was 75 years in the making, and now it's here! Now you can view every issue of Outdoor Oklahoma magazine online!

The Outdoor Oklahoma Digital Archive beginning with the very first issue in 1945 is available on the Wildlife Department's website. Go to [www.wildlifedepartment.com/outdoor-oklahoma/outdoor-oklahoma-magazine-archive](http://www.wildlifedepartment.com/outdoor-oklahoma/outdoor-oklahoma-magazine-archive) to peruse the entire catalog of the Wildlife Department's official magazine.

On the webpage, the magazine archive is split in two sections: Pre-1970 and Post-1970. Viewers may enter keywords to search through the magazines for items of interest. Issues from the most recent years are found on the main magazine webpage and will be added to the digital archive periodically.

Take a trip into the past and enjoy the interesting things you'll find in the new Outdoor Oklahoma Magazine Digital Archive. ✨



## VIEW CREATIVE ODWC VIDEOS ON **INSTAGRAM REELS**

The Wildlife Department has added a new, fun way to share information with everyone. Now appearing on the Department's Instagram account are short videos called Reels, and we invite everyone to check them out.

Reels gives the Department a new opportunity to reach out to potential hunters, anglers, and outdoor recreationists. A major goal will be to show fish and wildlife management activities and how they are accomplished, and to share this information in a fun, creative way.

A recent ODWC Reel featured a former fisheries intern struggling to hold onto a thrashing paddlefish. The humorous segment has gathered almost 170,000 views and has been widely shared by our followers.

So, we invite you take a few minutes and go online to [instagram.com/okwildlifedep/reels/](https://www.instagram.com/okwildlifedep/reels/) and hopefully learn a thing or two in a light-hearted way. Enjoy! ✨







# Game Warden's Journal

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



Game Warden **Brad Magby**, based in Creek County, recovered a stolen state vehicle in Heyburn Wildlife Management Area in May.

The pickup belonging to the Oklahoma Conservation Commission was stolen from Bristow several weeks before. Around that time, Wildlife Biologist **Matt Mattioda** found some litter dumped on Heyburn WMA that originated from the stolen vehicle.

During the investigation, Mattioda was able to provide information he found along with a Vehicle Identification Number, which allowed Magby to positively identify the vehicle.

The Department thanks the Creek County Sheriff's Office for help with the investigation.



Game Warden Brad Magby

Game Wardens **Austin Jackson** and **Riley Willman** attended the Green Country Giggers Association annual giggering tournament on Eucha Lake on April 9-10. Saturday night, some unlucky contestants found themselves on the wrong side of a log in swift water. This caused their boat to sink about 4 miles upstream from the lake on Spavinaw Creek.

Game Wardens boarded their jet-drive flat-bottom boat to reach the stranded boaters. They waded through waist-deep water at times to drag their boat over shallow portions of the creek.

They found one of the giggers on shore, cold and wet. The other gigger was still straddling the log in the middle of the creek. He told the Game Wardens that he had not attempted to swim for shore because the water was well over his head and he couldn't swim.

Both men were returned to the tournament weigh-in location safely.

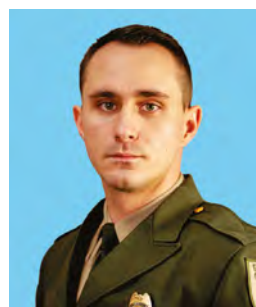
This incident serves as a reminder for everyone to use caution and wear life jackets while on the water.

(Reports from the Oklahoma 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. ♦♦✕



Game Warden Austin Jackson



Game Warden Riley Willman



Oklahoma residents 65 years old, or those turning 65 during the current calendar year, may buy a **senior citizen fishing license** that is valid for the rest of their life. The current price for this license is \$15. Senior citizen license applications are available online at [wildlifedepartment.com](http://wildlifedepartment.com), at Wildlife Department headquarters, field installations and license vendors. Applications must be submitted to Department headquarters for processing.

Although most people are aware of the great deal they get for a senior citizen license, many senior anglers don't realize they can go south of the Red River and fish in Texas without needing a non-resident license! Any Oklahoma resident 65 or older can take advantage of a decades-old **reciprocal agreement** between Oklahoma and Texas. This agreement allows anyone 65 and older to fish in the other state without having to buy a license. You only need proper ID to prove your residency. ♦♦✕

—Smokey Solis, Communication Specialist





**American bison:** Glen Archer of Lawton

# *Readers' Photography Showcase 2021*

Outdoor Oklahoma readers consistently agree the July/August issue is their favorite of the entire year. And the reason is easy to see: the annual collection of stunning images known as the Readers' Photography Showcase. On display are captured moments in time, illustrating the beauty, drama, detail and intrigue that is Outdoor Oklahoma.

Hundreds of photographers shared their best work, but only the cream of the crop can end up on the magazine's limited pages. In this issue are the top 100 images, from the stunning to the sublime, for your viewing enjoyment. We congratulate and thank those whose photos appear here, and we extend our gratitude to all who submitted entries.

— Don P. Brown, Communication and Education Specialist



*"This is a male Northern harrier (gray ghost) at the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve in Osage County. The males are less common to see and photograph, but I was blessed to get a lot of pictures of them this year."*



**Northern harrier:** Harry Burkhalter of Oologah

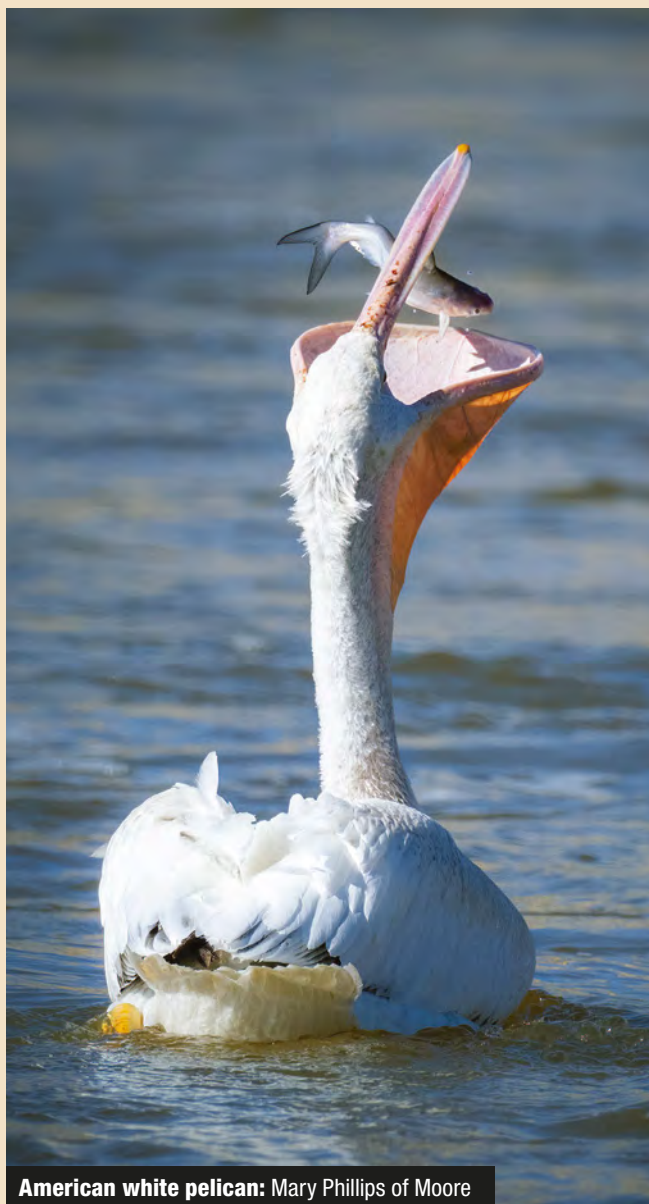


**American alligator:** Jake Pruett of Rocky Creek, Tenn.

*“Red Slough WMA during the cold snap in February 2021.”*



**Bald eagle:** Paul Hood of Piedmont



**American white pelican:** Mary Phillips of Moore



*"In my backyard, while sitting on my newly built wildlife deck."*



**Barred owl:** David R. Morris of Mead



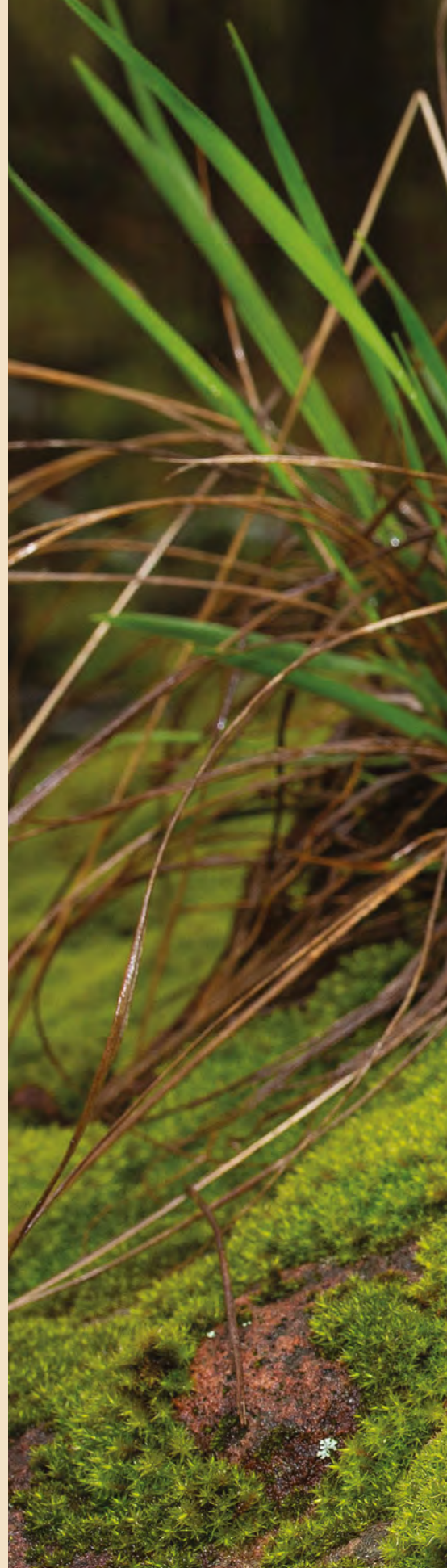
**Retriever and green-winged teal:** Brady Walker of Mulvane, Kan.

*"This guy is toad-ally posing for this photo after a springtime rain."*



**American toad:** Holly Lackey of Checotah







*"A Western milksnake found on a cold and drizzly spring day in southeastern Oklahoma."*



**Western milksnake:** Kyle Hutchison of Broken Arrow





***"It was a bitterly cold day, and it was hard not to shake from the cold while taking this picture!"***

**American bison:** Michi White of Lawton



**Bobcat:** Wes Edens of Ada



**White-tailed deer:** Ty Scherman of Perry





**Red-tailed hawk:** Mark Robinson of Tulsa



**Black-tailed prairie dog:** Mary Phillips of Moore



**Carolina wren:** David McGowen of Lawton



**Elk:** David McGowen of Lawton





**Northern cardinal:** Brian B. Berry of Oklahoma City



**Uhler's sundragon:** Alex Harman of Stillwater

*"This rarely-seen dragonfly was known in Oklahoma from a single specimen collected in 1956. That was until last April when I photographed this mating pair on the Ozark Plateau in Adair County, rediscovered in the state after 64 years!"*



*"I had about two-and-a-half seconds to take this shot before he flew off!"*



**American kestrel:** Michi White of Lawton

*"I found this rare Hurter's spadefoot toad on the road on a rainy spring night in Tulsa County."*



**Hurter's spadefoot:** John Wilson of Tulsa



**Morel mushroom:** Brandon Pafford of Choctaw





**Tenkiller Ferry Lake:** Kaylee Mitchell of Bixby



**Black vulture:** Bogdan N. Michka of Broken Arrow



**Tiger swallowtail:** Kellie Carter of Newcastle





**White-tailed deer:** Jeremiah Zurenda of Indianoma



**Rio Grande wild turkey:** Brandon Pafford of Choctaw



**Elk:** Michi White of Lawton





**Retriever and wood duck:** Hunter Little of Broken Arrow



*"A father and daughter on a summer squirrel hunt in Seminole County."*

Andrea McCreight of Earlsboro

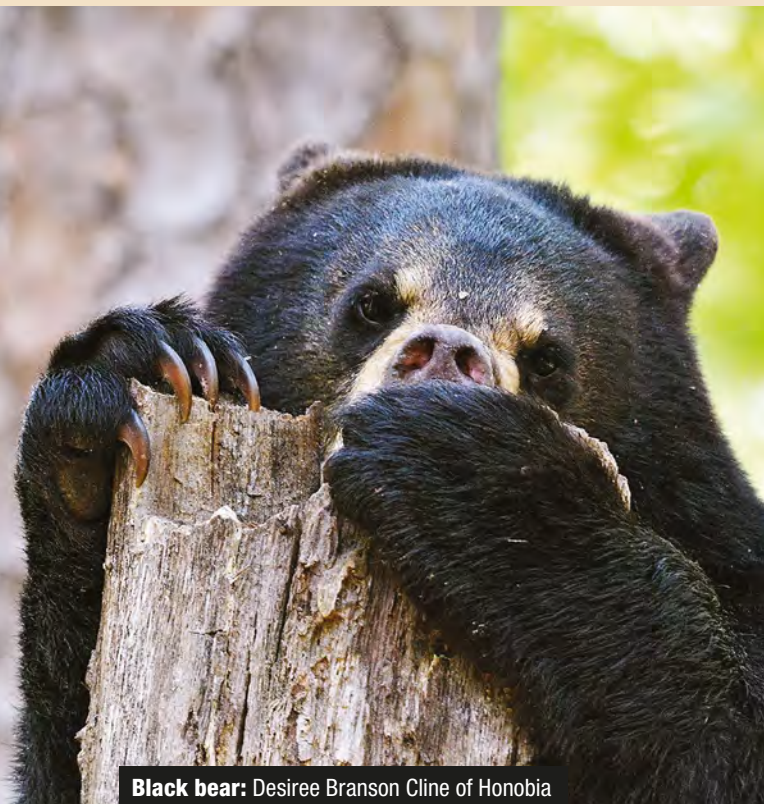
**White-tailed deer fawn:** Greg Silva of Owasso



*"A fawn bedded down out at Oxley Nature Center. They will stay still for hours waiting on their mom's return."*



**Northern cardinal:** Debbie Peck of Fort Cobb



**Black bear:** Desiree Branson Cline of Honobia



*"She never  
complained  
once."*

**Retriever:** Hunter Little of Broken Arrow





**Luna moths:** Glenda Tange of Blanchard



**Harvester butterfly:** James Arterburn of Tulsa



**Lady beetles:** John Wilson of Tulsa



**Sub-adult hummingbird:** Kevin Flanagan of Stillwater



**Wildflowers:** Ashley Lancaster of Grove



**Giant swallowtail:** Terry Brunholtz of Owasso





**Oak treehopper:** John Wilson of Tulsa



**Jumping spider:** Taylor McFarling of Catoosa



**Blue dasher immature male:** Kay Williams of Yukon



**Bumblebee:** Bob Chance of Tulsa



**Hummingbird moth:** Pam Whitley Taylor of Owasso



*"Wister Lake, and  
the teal were on  
fire this morning!  
We thought the  
heavy fog was  
going to make for a  
bust hunting, but it  
turned out great."*

Aaron Iker of Allen

**Canada geese:** Daniel LeGrange of Tulsa







**Canada goose:** Susan Hemphill of Edmond



**Northern pintails:** Jim Bradford of Woodward



**Labrador retriever:** Louden Akin of Sperry



**Decoys in fog:** Eric Brown of Tulsa





**Broad-headed sharpshooter:** Eric Brown of Tulsa



*"When I was about ready to fall asleep on the patio, a lizard walked by my chair. It continued on its way right past this snake hiding behind some planters."*



*"A great egret celebrating  
spring near Lake Overholser."*

**Great egret:** Jeff Fitzgerald of Moore

*"A male Eastern bluebird perches on an Oklahoma redbud limb.  
They can spot insects on the ground from 60 feet away."*

**Eastern bluebird:** Mark Alexander Shibley Trainor of Nida





**Painted bunting:** Wes Edens of Ada





*"Braving a cold winter day."*

**Northern cardinal:** Michael Bryan of Bartlesville



**Least flycatcher:** Mark Alexander Shibley Trainor of Nida



**Northern saw-whet owl:** Kevin Flanagan of Stillwater





Stephen Ofsthun of Norman



*"A sunset from Mount Scott in the  
Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge."*







**Red-winged blackbird:** Chase Moxley of Oklahoma City



*"A male  
dickcissel was  
singing on its  
territory near  
Leonard. I used  
my car as  
a blind."*

**Dickcissel:** James Arterburn of Tulsa



**Scissor-tailed flycatcher:** David McGowen of Lawton



**Cecropia silkmoth:** Diane Adams of Blanchard



**Short-eared owl:** Mark Robinson of Tulsa



**Turkey vulture:** David Strozdas of Edmond





**Red-headed woodpecker:** Mary Phillips of Moore





**Eastern bluebird:** Mark Bright of Oklahoma City



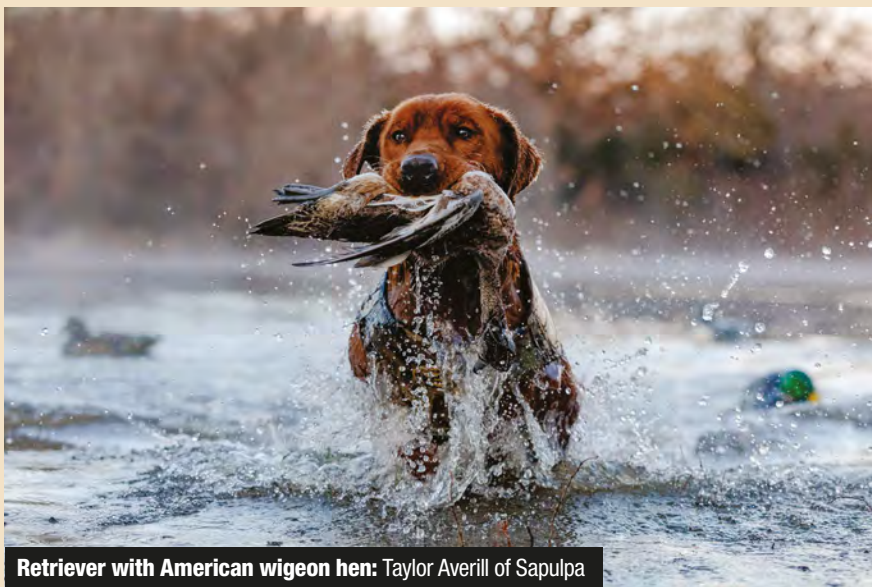
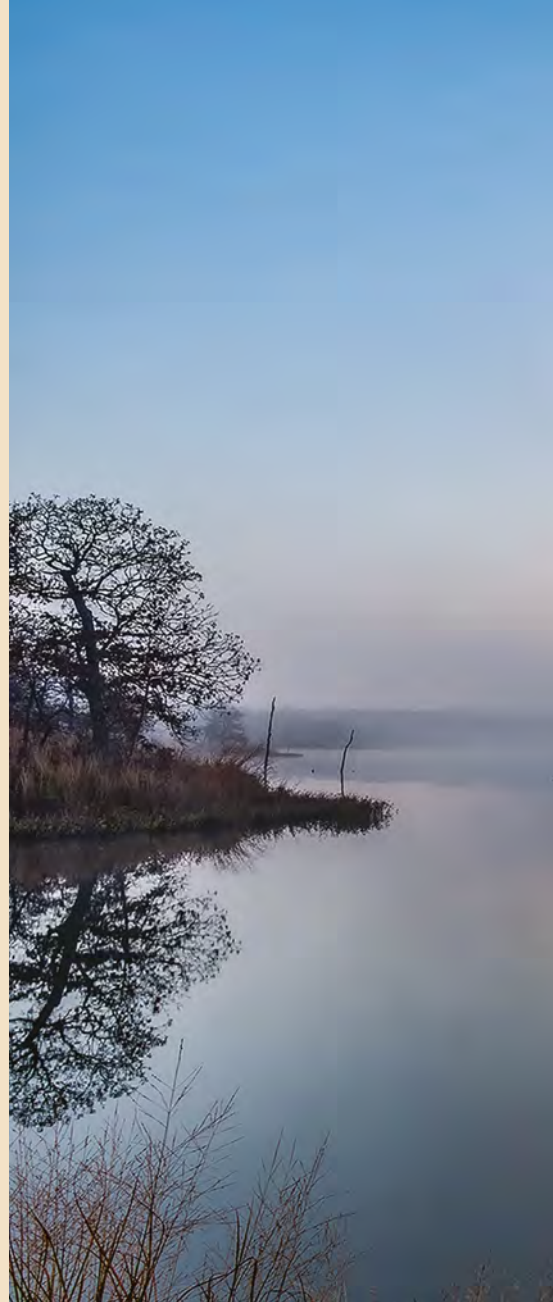
**Bald eagle:** Mark Robinson of Tulsa



**Eastern phoebe:** Seth Schubert of Moore



**Skiatook Lake:** Joel Pritchard of Tulsa



**Retriever with American wigeon hen:** Taylor Averill of Sapulpa



**Eastern tiger swallowtail:** Cheryl Welch of Broken Arrow

**Greater scaup:** Gary Henry of Oklahoma City





*“A foggy sunrise at Sportsman Lake in Seminole County.”*



Daryle Presley of Seminole



**American white pelican:** Kay Williams of Yukon



**Striped bark scorpions:** Christian Ream of Owasso



**White-cloaked tiger beetle:** Alex Harman of Stillwater



**Elk:** Holly Lackey of Checotah



**White-tailed deer:** David Strozdas of Edmond



**Greater roadrunner:** David Strozdas of Edmond





**Eastern coachwhip:** Kyle Hutchison of Broken Arrow

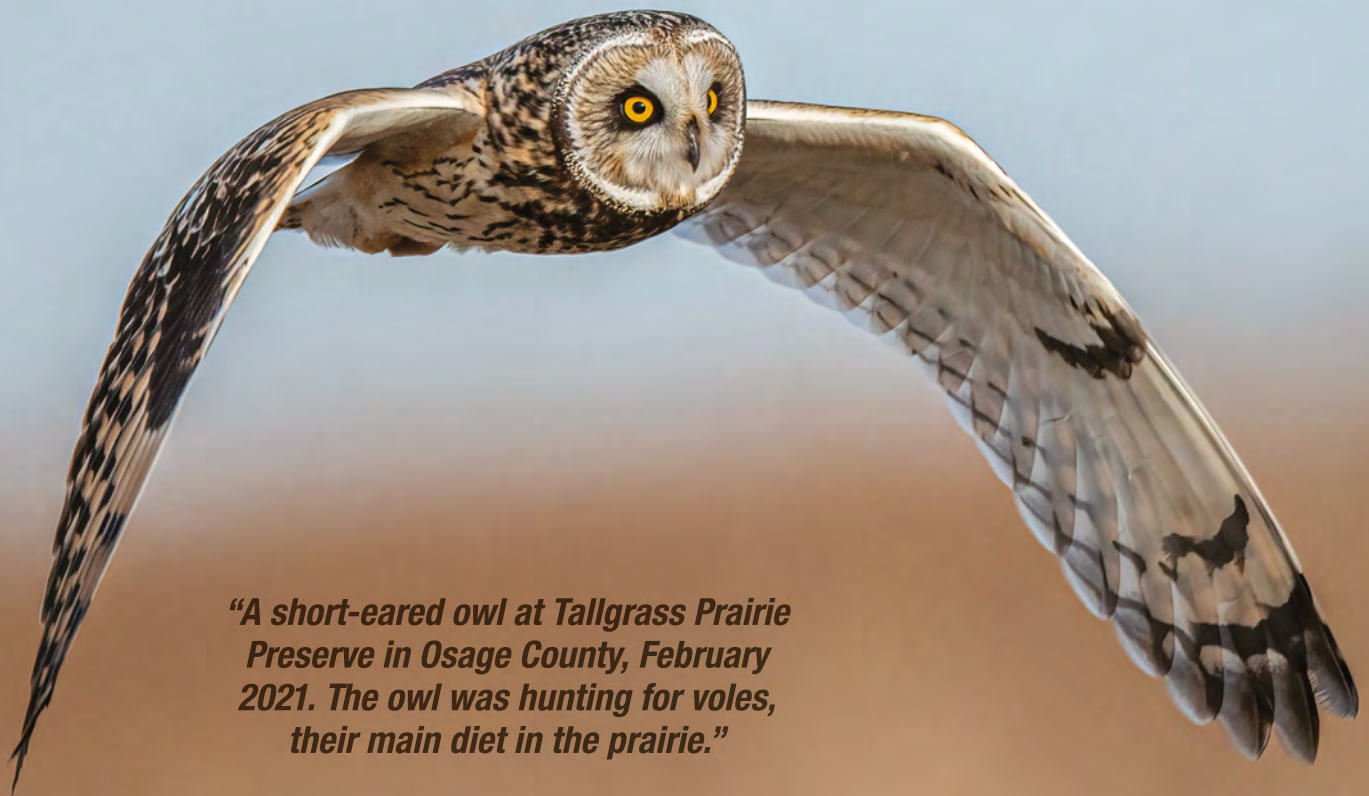


**Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge:** Darren Hill of Prague



**Western diamond-backed rattlesnake and Eastern collared lizard:** Richard Taylor of Lawton





*"A short-eared owl at Tallgrass Prairie Preserve in Osage County, February 2021. The owl was hunting for voles, their main diet in the prairie."*

**Short-eared owl:** Harry Burkhalter of Oologah



**Northern cottonmouth:** James Arterburn of Tulsa





**Rio Grande wild turkey:** Brian Richter of Meridian



**Monarch:** Erika Jo Breit of Lawton



**Red-headed centipede:** Blanca Wiedel of Prague



**Rio Grande wild turkey:** Paul Hood of Piedmont



**Ring-billed gull:** Kay Williams of Yukon





**Pronghorn:** Jacob Miller of Arnett



***“Staring into the fog at The Narrows in the  
Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge.”***

**Derrick Baker of Altus**





***"I spot a vole!"***



**Short-eared owl:** Kevin Wilson of Stillwater

***"Sunrise in southern Ellis County over fog-flooded canyons."***



**Corey Rex Miller of Arnett**



# Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Foundation Update



Some lucky anglers recently got the rare chance to fish an Oklahoma lake that's usually closed to the public.

OG+E's power plant in Harrah opened up its Horseshoe Lake to host about 70 people for a free Family Fishing Day. It was the first event of a new partnership between OG+E, the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC), and the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Foundation.

The Wildlife Department organized and conducted training for about 40 OG+E employees to become certified fishing instructors/mentors for the event. The OWCF gave all the kids fishing rods. OG+E provided everyone with lunch and the great fishing hole, of course.

One man said he'd waited more than 50 years to fish at Horseshoe Lake.

All the anglers signed up for the event through the Wildlife Department. It went so well, the Foundation is hoping to conduct more events like this in the future.

The Foundation is the non-profit organization formed to work exclusively alongside and provide support for the ODWC. It provides supporters an outlet to show their passion for the outdoors by investing their time and money in projects that will make a difference for generations to come.

## Raegen Siegfried, OWCF Board of Directors

Reagen Siegfried is from Tulsa, but he has lived on four continents before he moved back to Oklahoma five years ago. He is vice president of HushWorks at the NORDAM Group. He earned his bachelor's degree in entrepreneurial management and international business from Notre Dame University and earned his master's degree from Arizona State University. He and his wife, Amy, have one son. He joined the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Foundation in 2018.

While he was growing up, Siegfried spent a lot of time in the woods with his dad and their dogs, Donner and Lucky, outside of Verdigris. "In a duck blind, I got the birds-and-the-bees talk and learned so many other things about the world.

"It is essential to protect these resources and memories for generations to come.

"Also, being part of a large manufacturing company based in Oklahoma with over 1,500 stakeholders, most of whom enjoy the outdoors in Oklahoma, protecting those resources for everyone to enjoy is a major motivation for being part of the Foundation and wildlife issues in our state," Siegfried said.

He is eager to assist the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation in executing its strategic plan through outreach, connections and fundraising. "The Foundation allows projects and programs to be implemented outside of traditional state government constraints, which allows the same amount of dollars to have a larger impact," Siegfried said.



*Ann and Raegen Siegfried both enjoy the outdoors.*



## OWCF SPOTLIGHT

Specific areas or projects that he wants to focus on include anything to bring more ducks to Oklahoma. He is an avid duck hunter and believes that Hackberry Flat Wildlife Management Area in southwestern Oklahoma will bring more migratory birds to our state and is great for other birds, monarch butterflies, and a host of other types of wildlife.

"I also strongly support programs that encourage kids to get outside, be it archery, fishing or hunting. These programs are great ways to develop the next generation and start teaching young kids about the benefits of being outside and wildlife conservation."

Siegfried likes to spend as much time as he can outdoors, hiking, hunting, climbing, skiing, fishing, diving and boating. His favorite outdoor activity is sitting in a duck blind with his dad. "He taught me almost everything that I know about hunting — and life — and it is a great time for the two of us to catch up on everything," he said.

Among Siegfried's favorite memories is when he was able to participate in black bear research taking place in southeastern Oklahoma. He was amazed at what the research team was doing to monitor and



*Raegen Siegfried enjoys fishing as well as hunting and many other outdoor activities.*

manage the state's bear population.

"If you were to ask my wife, I think that she would say that hunting takes up a disproportionate amount of my non-work time," he said. "But our 2-year-old son loves to be outside in the woods and riding on the hunting buggy. Not to mention, my wife has a great appreciation for hunting and fishing, and even has a deer much larger than mine — he measured 205 inches."

Besides serving on the OWCF board, Siegfried is a life member of the National Deer Association, Delta Waterfowl, and Safari Club International; member of Ducks Unlimited, Shikar Safari Club International, and Leadership Oklahoma Class 30; and a board member of Flight Night.

Summing up the importance of the OWCF's work and partnership with the ODWC, Siegfried emphasized the opportunity to leverage dollars to "get the best bang for the buck."

"We were only given one Earth, and we must protect the wild spaces and wildlife for future generations. The Foundation allows for tax-free donations that can be better leveraged to get the best bang for the buck to help the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation programs and preserve the great resources that the State of Oklahoma has to offer."



*Raegen Siegfried is an avid waterfowler and wants to help bring more ducks into Oklahoma.*

**OWCF**  
www.okwildlifefoundation.org

THE OKLAHOMA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION (OWCF) was created to support the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and its activities in managing the state's fish and wildlife resources and habitats. The Wildlife Department receives no general state tax appropriations; ODWC operates primarily with license sales and federal matching grants. The Foundation provides added financial support for ODWC's mission.

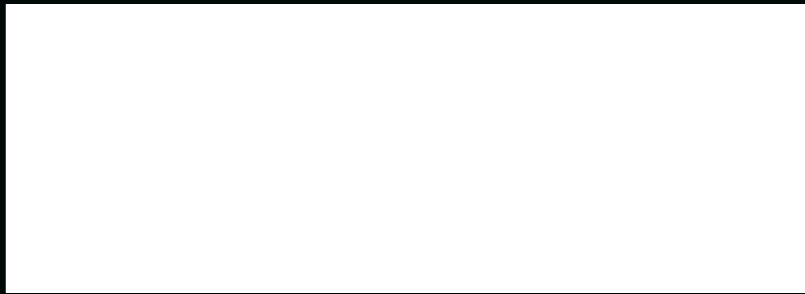
All donations are tax-deductible. For more information, go to [www.OKwildlifefoundation.org](http://www.OKwildlifefoundation.org) or [www.facebook.com/OKWildlifeFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/OKWildlifeFoundation).

**amazon**smile

The Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Foundation is now set up as a charitable organization through AmazonSmile.

AmazonSmile is a program that donates 0.5 percent of your eligible purchases on Amazon to a charity of your choice. All you need to do is start your shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). The donation will be made at no extra cost to you, and you can choose from nearly a million public charitable organizations.





MARK ALEXANDER SHIBLEY TRAINOR/READERS' PHOTO SHOWCASE 2021

This image of a male scissor-tailed flycatcher looking for prey near Nida, Okla., is among 100 photos in this year's Readers' Photography Showcase. Photographer Mark Alexander Shibley Trainor said Oklahoma's state bird is an aerobatic predator, one of the state's most distinct and entertaining avian visitors. Feast your eyes on more remarkable images inside this issue of Outdoor Oklahoma.

# Outdoor Oklahoma

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

