

Outdoor Oklahoma

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2023 — ONLY \$10 A YEAR

Controlled Hunts

Pronghorn, Elk Draws Enhanced



INSIDE

**Outdoor Gals:
Connecting On the Web**

**Grasping All The Benefits
Of Trapping**

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION



PANORAMAS



Kelly Adams

A lack of diversity in hunting and shooting is seldom mentioned at deer camp, in the local archery shop or online hunting forums. But it is one of many threats faced by fish and wildlife conservation agencies. To ensure the future of our outdoor heritage and also conservation itself, state fish and wildlife agencies are finding ways to support and grow a fully inclusive hunting and shooting community.

That's why we're excited to celebrate a recent report, "The 2022 Special Report on Hunting and the Shooting Sports," from the Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports, and the Outdoor Foundation. It shows hunting and target shooting participation diversity has increased in the United States over the past decade.

Some findings from the report:

Hunting

- 4.6 percent of the U.S. population 6 and older went hunting at least once.
- 27 percent of participants were female, up from 16 percent a decade ago.
- Black and Hispanic hunters increased 4 percent and 1 percent, respectively, on average during the past three years.
- "For food/meat" was the No. 1 motivation for hunting.
- 49 percent of hunters first participated before age 18.
- 68 percent of hunters were introduced to hunting by a family member.

Firearms Target Shooting

- 6.2 percent of the U.S. population 6 and older participated in target shooting.
- 32 percent of participants were female, up from 25 percent a decade ago.
- Black or Hispanic target shooters increased 5 percent and 4 percent, respectively, on average during the past three years.

- "For recreation" was the No. 1 motivation for target shooting.
- "High cost" was the No. 1 barrier cited for target shooting.

Archery Target Shooting

- 2.4 percent of the U.S. population 6 and older participated in archery.
- 39 percent of participants were female, the highest since 2016.
- Archers are slightly more diverse than firearms target shooters.
- "For recreation" was the No. 1 motivation for target shooting.
- 19 percent of participants shot solely on public property/ranges.

Although we have a ways to go, these results are encouraging. Diversity and inclusion are critical in securing the future of conservation. The quantity of voices and the diversity of perspectives will result in more hunters and anglers, and more support for conservation. By embracing diversity and doing what we can to support it, we can strengthen the shooting sports, ensure their longevity, create a stronger voice in voting booths, and bring more ideas and minds to the table to advocate for conservation issues. ♡

To view the report, scan this code:



Kelly Adams

Kelly Adams,
Communication Supervisor, ODWC

Outdoor Oklahoma

JANUARY/FEBRUARY • VOLUME 79 • NUMBER 1

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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Art direction by Stroud Design, Inc.
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Subscriptions are \$10 per year; \$18 for 2 years; \$25 for 3 years. Single copies \$4. Production and distribution costs not covered by subscription fees are borne by Oklahoma sportsmen and sportswomen through hunting and fishing fees.

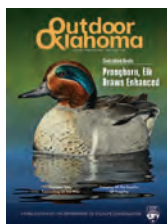
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ON THE COVER:

This terrific artwork of a green-winged teal drake will grace the 2023-24 Oklahoma Waterfowl Stamp. Artist Scott Calpino of Bernville, Pa., created this painting that eclipsed 17 other entries to win Oklahoma's annual waterfowl stamp design competition. Check out the runner-up entries on page 4.

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OKLAHOMA



OFF THE BEATEN PATH

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

TIM DIEHL OF MCALESTER JOINS WILDLIFE COMMISSION



Tim Diehl

Appointed in October 2022 by Gov. Kevin Stitt, Tim Diehl will complete the unexpired term of the late Bill Brewster of Marietta, who had served as District 3 representative on the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission since July 2016.

"I am very pleased to have been given the opportunity to serve on the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission," Diehl said. He is an avid hunter and has a passion for encouraging youths to get involved in hunting and fishing. He has coordinated and hosted youth events through the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

"My father was an avid deer hunter and exposed me to hunting in southeast Oklahoma, and I have been hunting in the same area for over 40 years. It's unbelievable the job the Wildlife Department has done in improving our wildlife resources since I was

a kid hunting in southeast Oklahoma."

Diehl is broker/owner of Southeastern Oklahoma Realty LLC in McAlester. He also serves on the board of directors for Bank NA in McAlester.

Diehl graduated from Lindsay High School and attended Oklahoma State University, earning a bachelor's degree in marketing. He is a lifetime member of the NRA and member of the Oklahoma Wildlife Management Association.

Stitt also appointed Diehl to a regular eight-year term beginning in July 2023, which will require state Senate approval.

"I look forward to serving on the Commission, and protecting and growing our wildlife resources through good management practices," Diehl said.

He and his wife, Shelley, have two daughters and two grandsons. ♥

TY SCHERMAN/READERS' PHOTO SHOWCASE 2021



PHOTO SHOWCASE ENTRY PERIOD OPENS JAN. 5

Imagine the pride you will feel when you open the July/August issue of Outdoor Oklahoma and point out to your friends the remarkable photograph that you took! If you would like a chance for your outdoors-related photo to appear in a high-quality magazine, we invite you to enter the annual Readers' Photography Showcase competition!

Entries will be accepted online starting Jan. 5. We ask you to share up to three of your best original photos, preferably all taken in Oklahoma in recent years.

April 15 is the deadline for entries, so there's plenty of time to share your images with Outdoor Oklahoma.

The Readers' Photo Showcase issue is always the most popular Outdoor Oklahoma magazine of the whole year! And you can be a part of it just by going online, uploading your best digital photos, and hitting the "submit" button. It's easy!

Go to the entry page online at www.tinyurl.com/enterRPS, or scan the code. ♥



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 Skylar,

I'm a local resident from Shawnee. I want to thank you for the Trout Angler Guide, your YouTube virtual course, and the other resources on the ODWC's Fishing Resources webpage. My 7-year-old son and I had a very successful four-day weekend at the Blue River recently, and it wouldn't have been possible without your articles and videos. I've been to Blue River several times, and all my past trips were unsuccessful and my son was becoming restless and starting to lose interest in fishing. But that all changed with this trip.

Thanks again so much for your help. Your guides were invaluable and literally changed my son's attitude toward fishing. Now when I tell people we're fisherman, he won't respond with, "But Dad, were not fisherman. We don't ever catch any fish!"



Skylar St. Yves

Marcus Johnson

Dear Director J.D. Strong,

I wanted to thank you, your agency, and specifically Game Wardens **Kenny Lawson**, based in McCurtain County, and **Chad Strang**, based in Cleveland County, for assisting CLEET Academy with firearms and Law Enforcement Driver Training in Ada.

As you know, we are a small state agency but have a major imprint across the state of Oklahoma regarding training and rely heavily on adjunct instructors.

Our mission, which is to provide law enforcement training, could never be met without personnel from your Department helping us. I am grateful for your leadership and vision when it comes to training associated at CLEET,

Please pass along my sincere appreciation to your staff, and I look forward to seeing them again in the future.

Preston Draper, Interim CLEET Director



Kenny Lawson



Chad Strang

Dear Director Strong,

I took my son to a Hunter Education course recently in Edmond, and I just wanted to let you know your folks did a great job. They kept our attention, kept the class moving and involved, were very professional and very knowledgeable. Also, my son has dyslexia so he was a little nervous. But it wasn't a problem. He was the last one to finish the test, but he only missed one.

Anyway, I'm sure you get a few complaints every now and then like we do, so I wanted to send you something positive. You all are doing a great job, so keep up the good work.

Sheridan, Oklahoma Highway Patrol

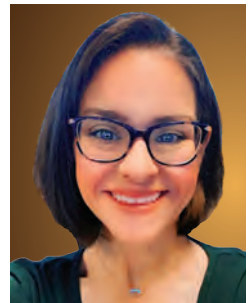
Editor's Note: The class mentioned above was taught by Game Warden Dylan King, based in Oklahoma County; Hunter Education Coordinator Lance Meek; Hunter Education Technician Jennifer Bengé; and Education Section intern Cameron Cranford. Every year, dozens of ODWC staff members along with volunteer citizens teach Hunter Education classes across the state.



Dylan King



Lance Meek



Jennifer Bengé

Thank you ODWC! We watched the Outdoor Oklahoma this morning before church. My 12-year-old daughter watched the young lady deer hunting and asked if I could take her deer hunting this afternoon.

She harvested her first deer this afternoon!

Our great memories of today will last a lifetime. Thank you again.

Proud Parent, message via Facebook

Dear Wildlife Department,

As an out-of-state falconer, I recently reached out to Administrative Assistant Becky Rouner for a last minute trapping permit. She went above and beyond to make sure I had what I needed when I needed it! She even helped me work through some errors on my end. She is an asset to your Department. Please pass along my thanks to her.

Spence Wise



Becky Rouner

GREEN-WINGED TEAL TO GRACE 2023-24 WATERFOWL STAMP

The smallest of North America's dabbling ducks, the green-winged teal, was the selected subject for this year's Oklahoma waterfowl stamp art competition.

A painting created by Scott Calpino of Bernville, Pa., was selected the winner, and it will be featured on Oklahoma's waterfowl stamp for the 2023-24 hunting seasons. Calpino's creation appears on the cover of this magazine. His win earned him a \$1,200 award.

Calpino's artwork was among 18 entries submitted this year by hopeful artists from across the nation.



Winner: Scott Calpino of Bernville, Pa.


Artists who received honorable mention are Shea Meyer of Stratford; Jeffrey Klinefelter of Etna Green, Ind.; and Dennis Arp of Box Elder, S.D.

The Wildlife Department has held the Oklahoma waterfowl stamp art contest annually for 42 years. The program was designed to fund activities to ensure quality habitat for the hundreds of thousands of ducks and geese that migrate through the state each year. Oklahoma's art contest features portraits of the diverse waterfowl species that migrate through the state by some of the best wildlife artists from across the nation.

The program generates funding for waterfowl conservation projects through the sale of waterfowl licenses, required of most waterfowl hunters, and the sale of stamps, many of which are purchased by collectors. The state duck stamp formerly served as Oklahoma's waterfowl hunting license.

The program has helped the Wildlife Department acquire about 12,000 wetland acres and to enhance, create, restore and maintain critical waterfowl habitat. Wetland development units such as Hackberry Flat Wildlife Management Area in southwestern Oklahoma and the Red Slough Wildlife Management Area in McCurtain County have benefited from state duck stamp funding.

To support waterfowl habitat conservation in Oklahoma, buy an Oklahoma duck stamp in the online Outdoor Store at <https://license.gooutdoorsoklahoma.com/Shop/Inventory>.

Next year's art contest will feature the gadwall. Entries will be due Aug. 1, 2023. For complete rules, scan the code. 



Honorable mention: Dennis Arp of Box Elder, S.D.



Honorable mention: Jeffrey Klinefelter of Etna Green, Ind.



Honorable mention: Shea Meyer of Stratford.



SWANS TO GRACE FEDERAL DUCK STAMP FOR 2023-24

Joseph Hautman of Plymouth, Minn., emerged as the winner from 187 entrants in the 2022 Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest with his painting of three tundra swans flying over a wetland. This is his sixth win of the prestigious contest.

Hautman's acrylic painting will be made into the 2023-2024 Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, or "duck stamp", which will go on sale in late June 2023. The Service produces the federal duck stamp, which sells for \$25 and raises about \$40 million in sales each year. These funds support critical conservation to protect wetland habitats in the National Wildlife Refuge System for the benefit of wildlife and the enjoyment of people.

This year, the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission approved the allocation of more than \$105 million through the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and funds from the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund. The fund, made up partly of duck stamp dollars, supports the acquisition of lands from willing sellers for the wildlife refuge system.

Since it was established in 1934, sales of the duck stamp have raised more than \$1.1 billion to conserve over 6 million acres of habitat for birds and other wildlife and provide countless opportunities for hunting and other wildlife-oriented recreation on our public lands.

Waterfowl hunters 16 and older are required to purchase and carry the current federal duck stamp. Many non-hunters, including birdwatchers, conservationists, stamp collectors, and others also purchase the stamp in support of habitat conservation. Also, a current federal duck stamp can be used for free admission to any national wildlife refuge that charges an entry fee. 🦆

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.

JANUARY 2023

- 1** "Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, 8 a.m., OETA.
 - 2** New Year's Day observed; state offices closed.
 - 3** Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission meeting, 9 a.m., Oklahoma City.
 - 4** Learn to Hunt Squirrel and Rabbit free online seminar. Register: license.gooutdoorsoklahoma.com/Event/EventsHome.aspx.
 - 5** Entry period opens for Outdoor Oklahoma Readers' Photo Showcase contest; www.tinyurl.com/enterRPS.
 - 7** Oklahoma City Free Fishing Day, no city permit required.
 - 8** "Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, 8 a.m., OETA.
 - 15** "Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, 8 a.m., OETA.
 - 16** Martin Luther King Jr. Day; state offices closed.
 - 21** Trout fishing clinics, four time slots, Route 66 Park pond, Yukon. Register: license.gooutdoorsoklahoma.com/Event/EventsHome.aspx.
 - 21-22** ODWC trapping workshop, Fort Gibson WDU. Register: license.gooutdoorsoklahoma.com/Event/EventsHome.aspx.
 - 22** "Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, 8 a.m., OETA.
 - 29** "Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, 8 a.m., OETA.
- **Ducks Unlimited** events set in Chandler, Jan. 7; Lawton, Jan. 27; Weatherford, Jan. 28. Info: www.ducks.org/Oklahoma/events.
 - **Friends of NRA** event info: www.FriendsOfNRA.org.
 - **National Wild Turkey Federation** event info: www.nwtf.org/events.

FEBRUARY 2023

- 4** Oklahoma City Free Fishing Day, no city permit required. Oklahoma Station-Safari Club International banquet, 5-10 p.m., Oklahoma History Center, <https://tinyurl.com/kfbyjp9c>.
 - 5** "Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, 8 a.m., OETA.
 - 6** Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission meeting, 9 a.m., Oklahoma City. Livestream: [YouTube.com/OutdoorOklahoma](https://www.youtube.com/OutdoorOklahoma).
 - 11** Trout fishing clinics, four time slots, Edwards Park Pond, Oklahoma City. Register: license.gooutdoorsoklahoma.com/Event/EventsHome.aspx.
 - 11-12** ODWC trapping workshop, Packsaddle WMA. Register: license.gooutdoorsoklahoma.com/Event/EventsHome.aspx.
 - 12** "Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, 8 a.m., OETA.
 - 19** "Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, 8 a.m., OETA.
 - 20** Presidents Day; state offices closed.
 - 24** Rack Madness scoring event, TBA, John D. Groendyke Wildlife Conservation Building, Oklahoma City.
 - 25** Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Tulsa banquet. Tickets: email tulsaburnside@netscape.net. Trout fishing clinics, four time slots, Veterans Park pond, Jenks. Register: license.gooutdoorsoklahoma.com/Event/EventsHome.aspx.
 - 26** "Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, 8 a.m., OETA.
- **Ducks Unlimited** events set in Collinsville, Feb. 3; Kingfisher, Feb. 4; Edmond (OKC), Feb. 11. Info: www.ducks.org/Oklahoma/events.
 - **Friends of NRA** event info: www.FriendsOfNRA.org.
 - **National Wild Turkey Federation** events set in El Reno, Feb. 3; Edmond, Feb. 4; Idabel, Feb. 25. Info: www.nwtf.org/events.
- ** FOR HUNTING SEASON DATES, GO TO
www.wildlifedepartment.com/hunting/seasons **

GAME WARDEN'S JOURNAL

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



While Game Wardens spend most of their time working fishing and hunting violations, they also work hard to protect our public lands and waters from being abused.

District 1 Game Wardens responded to a serious case of trash dumping on Oologah Wildlife Management Area in late October. Reports started weeks before with public complaints about a large amount of trash from apparent partying. Beer cans, liquor bottles, burned tires and more were found around an illegal burn pile and for several hundred yards down both sides of the road going to a bonfire location.



Wildlife Department personnel teamed with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Rangers and local volunteers to pick up the trash, which took several hours and resulted in dozens of trash bags full of empty beer cans and other waste.

The following weekend, District 1 Game Wardens waited at the location until 11 p.m., when partygoers began showing up. Within 30 minutes, more than 100 people had arrived. That night, Game Wardens wrote 42 citations for illegal assemblage on a wildlife management area.

Game Wardens also worked with the Nowata County District Attorney's Office on additional charges including underage drinking, providing alcohol to minors, and contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

IT'S THE LAW: POSTING OF TRAPS

Anyone delving into the rich heritage of trapping will need to know when notification signs are required to be posted. Signs must be posted at all entrances from public roads and highways when smooth-jawed, double-spring or coil-spring offset, no less than 1/8 inch, traps are used. Signs must be 5-by-8-inches in size or larger, and the word "Traps" must be included, printed in letters at least 2 inches tall and be conspicuous on the signs. However, anyone trapping on their own property or private property is not subject to the posting requirement, unless requested by the landowner or lessee. 🐾

When visiting public lands, please leave it better than you found it.



Game Wardens **Cody Youngblood**, based in Cherokee County, and **David Garrett**, based in Adair County, recently participated in the Keys Fall Festival at Keys Elementary School. They set up the Wildlife Department's fishing simulator and letting the youngsters figuratively fight a fish. The simulator was a hit among the kids coming through the festival, which was full of other activities and games. 🐟

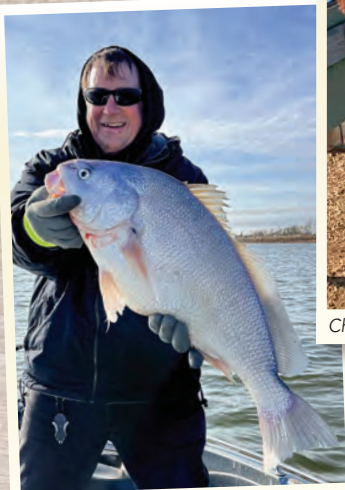
(Reports from the Oklahoma Game Wardens Facebook page.)

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.

WELCOME TO THE DOCK!

ARE THE FISH BITING? YOU BET!

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 or scan the code:



Zac Taylor, drum, Lake Hefner,
Dec. 4, 2022.



Chad K., blue catfish, Lake Ellsworth, Oct. 22, 2022.



Terry Taylor, saugeye, Arcadia Lake,
Nov. 20, 2022.



Lindsay M., striped bass, Lake Texoma,
Oct. 13, 2022.



Jonah Bigbey, rainbow trout, Medicine Creek,
Nov. 22, 2022.



Karen Allen, smallmouth bass, Foss Lake,
Nov. 15, 2022.

2022 CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION

"PART OF THAT FAMILY HERITAGE"

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



HUNTING: SHARING THE HERITAGE

By Madison Patswald

Hunting is a part of my family's heritage. From deer and antelope to turkey, geese, and wild hogs, we have always loved the thrill of the hunt. Hunting is something that has been passed down from generation to generation. I learned how to hunt from Dad and Grandpa, and they both learned from their parents. What an amazing opportunity hunting can be for a child to make memories with those they love. From the very beginning, hunting has been a way of life. ... Of course, hunting has evolved over the years. Now we have specialized guns and realistic decoys, but the culture still remains. People still love and appreciate the outdoors and all that hunting is able to provide.

One of my earliest memories of shooting was when I was 8. My dad had refurbished my great-grandpa's old rifle for me to use. We went to the shooting range, and he taught me how to shoot and handle firearms safely. As I grew older, he taught me all about different types of guns, and he built my first hunting rifle. Through my childhood, I had been exposed to various types of hunting because my dad and grandpa were avid hunters. It was something I was always interested in doing when I was older. When I got that first hunting rifle, I felt so excited finally getting to be a part of that family heritage I had heard so much about. My dad would set up deer-shaped targets and show me where to hit the deer. I was taught a lot about the anatomy of animals and how to ethically and humanely harvest them. He taught me how to hunt with rifles, bows, crossbows and even muzzleloaders. These are some of my favorite memories.

When I started hunting, my parents made sure that I understood the importance of hunting. ... Hunting is used as a critical wildlife management tool. For example, without deer hunting, the population of deer would explode. They would overgraze and cause harm to other wildlife and to the land. ... I've learned that I should always respect nature and help to conserve its natural beauty.

Oklahoma is an amazing place to live. ... I consider myself so fortunate to live in this great hunting state!

My first hunting season is one I'll never forget. My grandpa took me deer hunting. We would go out into the field on the weekends and after school. For the longest time, I never saw a deer. ... I continued to go out but wouldn't see anything in person. At this point, it was getting late in the season, and we had only a few days left of rifle season. On the last day of Thanksgiving break, my grandpa and I had gone out with low expectations when all of a sudden, a buck walked out in the clearing. I lined up my sights and slowly pressed the trigger. It was a good-sized, healthy, six-point buck. Back then I didn't care about getting a trophy buck. I was so excited that I had finally accomplished my goal. It was also a great teaching moment because I learned a lot about patience and perseverance.

Shooting the deer wasn't the end of the experience that night. My grandpa taught me how to field dress the deer. He and my dad showed me how to harvest all of the deer meat from the carcass. It was important to them that I understood shooting a deer was about so much more than just the hunt. I had to know how to make use of the whole deer. These were building blocks for developing an appreciation of the hunt and the harvest. That memory with my grandpa is one that I know I will cherish for my entire life.

The memories that I make every year during this four-month season are the kind that will last forever. I will always remember how my grandpa puts in so much time and effort to take me deer hunting each year. He wakes up way before the sun comes up and goes to bed long after the sun has set just to go sit in the biting cold with me. I can see how much time he invests in the land and the wildlife every year to ensure that we have a good hunting spot for years to come. One day, I look forward to getting to share these experiences with my children and their children, as my family has done for me. ... Many years from now, when he's gone from this Earth, I will be able to reminisce on these wonderful memories that I have made with him. For now, I will be thankful for every opportunity we have and continue to make and cherish these memories of my hunting heritage. 🦌



WILD ABOUT COOKING

QUAIL AND WILD RICE CASSEROLE

Savory quail, earthy wild rice, a rich and creamy sauce — this casserole is a hit with anyone who tries it. A packaged wild/white rice blend does just fine in this dish. To help prevent the quail from overcooking and drying out, leave them whole. Halved quail will work, but cut the browning time in the skillet accordingly. Use skin-on or skin-off birds, either works well. Use your favorite variety of fresh mushrooms. Serves 6-8.

— Michael Pendley, via National Shooting Sports Foundation website



INGREDIENTS

8 whole quail
2 Tbsp. butter
1/4-cup vegetable oil
8 ounces fresh mushrooms, sliced
1 can condensed cream of mushroom with roasted garlic soup
1 cup heavy cream
1 cup chicken broth
4 cups wild/white rice mix, prepared
Salt and pepper, to taste

DIRECTIONS

- Prepare wild/white rice mix following package directions.
- As rice is cooking, heat 1/4-inch vegetable oil in skillet over medium-high heat. Add butter to oil for extra flavor.
- Season quail well with salt and pepper. Brown the birds, not touching, in batches until golden but not fully cooked, about six to eight minutes per batch. Flip birds several times while browning.
- Remove quail from pan. Drain most of oil.
- Add mushrooms to pan and sauté for six to eight minutes until they begin to soften and release moisture.
- Add soup, cream, and chicken stock to pan and simmer. Salt and pepper to taste.
- Assemble casserole: Fluff rice with fork and transfer to 13-by-9-inch baking dish. Pour sauce over rice and stir well to blend. Nestle browned quail into rice and sauce, with breasts facing up and exposed.
- Bake casserole in preheated 350-degree oven for 25 to 30 minutes. ▢

CON MI FAMILIA

Traditional Culture, Outdoor Heritage Blend on Duck Hunt

By Sarah Southerland, Communication Specialist

"It's really cool that we can all sit here and have something in common."

Everyone smiled, agreeing with the sentiment.

Heritage is a big word. It can refer to anything passed on to us, or it can encompass what we choose to weave into our daily lives. For Hispanics and Latin Americans, the outdoors is becoming a more common addition to an already family focused culture.



Smokey Solis and Erika Diaz set out decoys.

The day began at 4:30 a.m. for the Diaz family. Eric, his wife, Erika, and his father, Luis, all piled into the vehicle to begin their trip from metropolitan Edmond to the far reaches of western Oklahoma. Smokey Solis accompanied them to assist in what would be the family's first duck hunt.

Erika, in the dim dark blue before the sun began to rise, struggled to put on waders for the first time, but she was confident about venturing into the water to help set out decoys that cold morning.

Eric and Luis stayed at the blind and militantly began to cover it with tall grass and whatever else laid bare near the pond's muddy shoreline. No one would have ever guessed that this was the enthusiasm of beginners but rather the habits of seasoned veterans. This gaggle of new waterfowlers moved with purpose, and seemingly hardly noticed the frigid conditions.

This was the day they all tried something new.

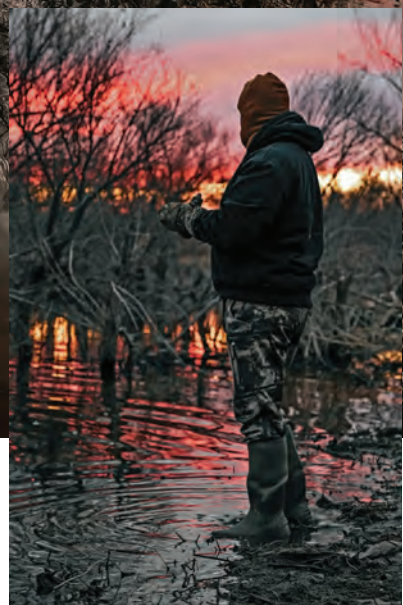
The sun rose hot pink, and that's when the calling began. Solis whispered instructions like, "Don't look straight up at the sky. Try to look from the side."

More duck calls rang out.


Half past the hour, ducks began to fly overhead. And it wasn't long before Luis shot his first duck. The group cheered and scrambled out of the blind. Erika quickly waded into the pond to get the American wigeon. The whole group gathered around, buzzing with excitement.

They were now officially duck hunters.

Smokey explained the biology of the bird in Erika's soaking-wet hands. Everyone discussed the architecture of its feathers, the species, its colors, migration patterns, and where it fits into the ecosystem.



Eric Diaz is ready to hunt.

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a black beanie, a blue quilted jacket, and camouflage waders, stands in shallow water. She is holding a yellow string and looking down at several duck decoys floating in front of her. The background shows a calm body of water and a distant shoreline under a cloudy sky.

**"Each person there
was both proudly
Hispanic and now
proudly part
of Oklahoma's
outdoor heritage."**

For Solis, it was his first experience as a hunting coach, and he was eager to show the Diaz family his love for hunting.

"This has really been the first chance I have had to teach someone about what I love to do. The more I thought about the opportunity, the more I was hoping that they would fall in love with the experience as much as I did on my first hunt.

"From watching the sunrise to watching a group of ducks commit to the decoy spread, the whole experience is what I really wanted them to be a part of. Duck hunting is so much more than just harvesting some ducks. It's frigid mornings and hot coffee. Sometimes breakfast in the blind, or the comfort of unwrapping your favorite snack cake.

"The conversations and camaraderie that happen in a duck blind are truly what make duck hunting so special."

Find more features like this on the Outdoor Oklahoma Journal weblog; just scan the code:





SARAH SOUTHERLAND/ODWC

Smokey Solis and Erika Diaz make their way into the water to deploy the decoys.

Luis was extra proud to talk about his accomplishment.

"To me, hunting as a family gives me the feeling of unity," he said.

"To be able to learn and teach my sons and daughter the respect and responsibility that comes with hunting an animal and caring for nature is a great feeling."

When the hunt concluded, the group hung out, talking and laughing. Everyone shared their family history and personal stories of how they started pursuing the outdoors. Solis talked about growing up in snowy Colorado. Eric told about his time as a soldier. Erika, a former Los Angeles kid, is a filmmaker and soon-to-be mother. Luis came to the United States and quickly took to the outdoors and has encouraged his family to do the same. Obviously, his prompting paid off for the Diaz family.

Each person there was both proudly Hispanic and now proudly a part of Oklahoma's outdoor heritage. A love for Outdoor Oklahoma is what took them all there that day, and everyone looks forward to doing it all over again. ♡



SARAH SOUTHERLAND/ODWC

Erika Diaz shows the American wigeon that her brother Eric bagged.



SARAH SOUTHERLAND/ODWC

Eric and Luis worked on blending in the duck blind.

VIE FOR CONTROLLED HUNTS ARMED WITH KNOWLEDGE

**STUDYING LAST YEAR'S STATS
CAN INCREASE SELECTION ODDS**

Arm yourself with knowledge based on last year's numbers, and you could increase the likelihood that your name will be drawn as a winner of an Oklahoma controlled hunt permit. But doing so will require some homework.

This article is designed to give controlled hunts applicants some insights into how the program works, insights that might give you an edge to having your name drawn for perhaps the hunt of a lifetime.

In last year's controlled hunts program, about one out of every 25 applicants had his or her name drawn. This represented a sizable increase in the odds for everyone who applied compared with previous years.

Hopeful hunters turned in 135,018 applications for one of the 5,307 individual hunt permits available last year. Many of those applicants will apply again this year when the 2023-24 controlled hunts application submission period opens online. Of course, the most important thing a hopeful hunter can do is to apply each year.

Controlled hunts application period will open April 3, 2023, on the Go Outdoors Oklahoma website at gooutdoorsoklahoma.com. The deadline to submit applications will be May 22. The application process is easy, and applications will not be accepted by the online system unless they are completed correctly, assuring you that your application was successful and that your name will be in the drawings.

Winners of controlled hunts are randomly selected through a computerized process that draws applications from the entire pool of those who applied. Hunters have the option to apply for several hunts within each category, which increases one's chances of being selected for a hunt.

Those not drawn in a hunt category will gain a preference point for the drawings held in future years, as long as you apply in the same hunt category. Not only that, but some hunt categories allow you to apply with a group of other hunters, which boosts chances of being drawn.

Don't miss your chance to win one of these special hunts that often create lifelong memories.

ABOUT CONTROLLED HUNTS

Controlled hunts are offered for deer, elk, antelope and turkey. They are held in areas 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 for that hunt. Hunters are selected through a random drawing.

Many controlled hunt choices are highly sought-after and

have many times more applicants than available permits. Getting drawn for a controlled hunt is a matter of odds. If you keep applying year after year, it's likely you'll get a chance to enjoy a controlled hunt.

How do I participate? Simply submit an easy-to-complete application online through your GoOutdoorsOklahoma account. Applications are not accepted in person.

You can increase your chances by first doing some research. This article provides statistics from the most recent controlled hunts drawing cycle. Anyone who plans to apply this coming year is urged to study the data here to help determine which hunts you should apply for if you

want the prospect of higher odds that your name will be drawn.

For example, you might see that two controlled hunts will be held in the WMA you are hoping to hunt. You notice the selection odds were greater last year for one of the hunts, so you might decide to apply for that hunt in anticipation that this year's numbers remain about the same as last year's.

Every time you apply and do not get selected, you earn a preference point in that category for the drawings

in the future. So, when you apply the next year, it's like getting your name put into the drawing that many extra times. So, your odds of being drawn improve if you apply again year after year.

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.

**2022-23 OVERALL
ODDS OF
BEING DRAWN:
1 IN 25.4**

WHAT'S THE COST?

A \$5 application fee allows multiple applications in controlled hunt categories (elk, pronghorn, deer, spring turkey) and includes the Preference Point Only option. PointGuard insurance is available for an additional \$5 fee.

New this year: Applicants may buy extra hunt choices for \$3 each, beyond the limit normally allowed in the basic application fee.

If you are selected, you will receive your hunt instructions at the email address attached to your online GoOutdoorsOklahoma account.

HELPFUL TIPS

New for 2023 will be the chance to buy **extra hunt choices** at \$3 apiece, which will be in addition to the basic \$5 application fee. This is yet another way hunters will be able to increase their individual chances of getting drawn for a hunt permit.

If you want extra assurance of not losing your preference points just in case something unexpected comes up, you might consider adding **PointGuard** to your application. This “insurance” option is designed to protect your points in the event you are drawn but for some reason you won’t be able to go on your hunt. PointGuard will cost an additional \$5 over the basic application fee.

Each preference point you earn acts like an extra application for the next year. But if you know you cannot hunt this year and still want to earn a preference point, you can now choose to mark your application as **Preference Point Only**. This allows you to earn a point this year that carries over to next year, but will keep your name out of the hunt drawings for this year. The PPO option is available as part of the applicant’s \$5 initial application fee.

Your chances of selection only get better each year you apply. If you’ve applied for the controlled hunt of your dreams for five years straight without having been selected, then you will have five “tickets in the hopper” compared to a first-time applicant, who will have one.

Although preference points increase your odds of selection, they do not guarantee that applicants with the most points will get drawn. What is guaranteed is that their odds of selection improve. First-time applicants with no preference points can and do get drawn for popular hunts, while hunters who have many preference points can miss out being selected. The pool size related to the number of hunt permits also affects one’s chances of being selected.

New this year, applicants holding **20 or more preference points** in the once-in-a-lifetime elk and pronghorn hunt categories will have a higher likelihood of winning a permit, as the drawing procedure has been enhanced for those categories. An initial drawing for half of the elk hunt permits and half of the antelope hunt permits will be conducted from a pool of only those applicants having 20 or more preference points in the category. The winners for the remaining half of hunt permits in each category will be

drawn from the pool of all applicants (excluding those who won hunts in the initial drawing).

In some categories, hunters may **apply in groups** of up to four people. An average of the total preference points of all hunters is used for each hunter in the group. If not drawn in that category, each applicant in the group will earn a single preference point that carries forward with the rest of their points to future drawings.

Once you are drawn for a hunt, all preference points that you have built up in that hunt category are cleared. You can begin building preference points again with your application next year in the deer and turkey categories. (Elk and pronghorn controlled hunts are once-in-a-lifetime draws; previous winners are not allowed to apply again.)

Here are some **other tips** for increasing your chances of winning a controlled hunt:

- 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 already-planned hunts.
- 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 of getting to hunt at a premier location.
- Consider the ratio of permits to applicants to help you decide which hunts might give you the best chance of selection. A selection ratio of 1-in-25 is better odds than a ratio of 1-in-80.
- 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 earliest hunts.
- You cannot submit more than one application per category. Since applications are completed and submitted online, you will receive confirmation that your application was completed correctly. This system helps to minimize mistakes, so make sure you receive confirmation of your application. If you do have any issues, call the toll-free help line listed at the bottom of the webpage, (833) 457-7285, or send email to HelpDesk@gooutdoorsoklahoma.com.

(Compiled by the Outdoor Oklahoma Staff)



2022-23 DEER HUNTS

- Total applicants (includes first, second, third, fourth and fifth choice preferences): 68,212
- Total permits available: 3,680
- Overall odds of getting drawn for any one permit: 1 in 18.5
- **NOTE:** Your odds go up if you 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.

2022 DEER HUNTS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

- Total applicants (includes first, second and third choice preferences): 309
- Total permits available: 112
- Overall odds of getting drawn for any one permit: 1 in 2.75
- **NOTE:** Areas in the northeast like Cherokee, Cookson Hills, Gruber and Spavinaw WMAs typically have higher numbers of applicants. Consider hunts in other parts of the state.

ENHANCEMENTS PROVIDE MORE HUNT CHOICES, BETTER ELK, PRONGHORN ODDS FOR 20+ POINTS

Two notable changes to Oklahoma's controlled hunts program were approved for this year by the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Extra Hunt Choices for Everyone

After applicants have reached the maximum number of hunt choices allowed in a category (up to 14 hunt choices across four categories for \$5 application fee), applicants will then be allowed to buy additional hunt choices at \$3 per choice. There is no limit to how many extra hunt choices can be purchased, but applicants can only select a specific hunt once. Also, applicants will be able to add PointGuard insurance to each category, a safeguard against losing preference points in case the hunter cannot attend any of the hunts he wins.

Elk/Pronghorn Allocated Draws

For these once-in-a-lifetime hunt categories, an initial drawing for half of all hunt permits will be taken from the pool of only those applicants having 20 or more preference points. The remaining half of all hunt permits will be drawn from the pool of everyone who applied (excluding hunt winners from the initial drawing). 🍀

CONTROLLED HUNTS SITE

Learn more about the controlled hunts process online; scan the code:



2022 YOUTH DEER HUNTS

- Total applicants (includes first, second and third choice preferences): 3,585
- Total permits available: 852
- Overall odds of getting drawn for any one permit: 1 in 4.2
- **NOTE:** 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.

2022-23 DEER HUNTS								
Hunt Location-Permit Type	Hunt Type	Begin Date	End Date	Hunt Number	Applicants	Permits Allowed	Draw Ratio	Rank
Atoka WMA - Either Sex	Gun	11/18/2022	11/20/2022	3001	1,400	50	28	51
Beaver River WMA McFarland Unit - Either Sex	Muzzleloader	10/22/2022	10/23/2022	3006	593	10	59.3	69
Beaver River WMA McFarland Unit - Either Sex	Gun	11/19/2022	11/20/2022	3007	907	5	181.4	80
Beaver River WMA - Either Sex	Gun	11/19/2022	11/20/2022	3008	913	15	60.87	70
Candy Creek WMA - Either Sex	Muzzleloader	10/22/2022	10/30/2022	3020	287	12	23.92	46
Candy Creek WMA - Either Sex	Gun	11/19/2022	12/4/2022	3021	446	12	37.17	60
Canton WMA - Either Sex	Gun	11/19/2022	11/20/2022	3030	1,109	75	14.79	33
Cherokee GMA - Either Sex	Gun	11/12/2022	11/12/2022	3044	1,344	50	26.88	49
Cherokee GMA - Antlerless Only	Gun	11/12/2022	11/12/2022	3045	124	25	4.96	15
Cherokee GMA - Either Sex	Gun	11/13/2022	11/13/2022	3046	1,027	50	20.54	42
Cherokee GMA - Antlerless Only	Gun	11/13/2022	11/13/2022	3047	97	25	3.88	11
Cookson WMA - Either Sex	Muzzleloader	11/5/2022	11/6/2022	3060	1,231	12	102.58	76
Cookson WMA - Antlerless Only	Muzzleloader	11/5/2022	11/5/2022	3061	88	23	3.83	9
Cookson WMA - Antlerless Only	Muzzleloader	11/6/2022	11/6/2022	3062	49	23	2.13	2
Cookson WMA - Either Sex	Gun	11/12/2022	11/13/2022	3063	1,717	12	143.08	78
Cookson WMA - Antlerless Only	Gun	11/12/2022	11/12/2022	3064	108	18	6	16
Cookson WMA - Antlerless Only	Gun	11/13/2022	11/13/2022	3065	75	18	4.17	12
Cross Timbers WMA - (2) 1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex	Gun	12/3/2022	12/4/2022	3071	1,009	50	20.18	41
Deep Fork NWR - (2) Only 1 Antlered	Muzzleloader	10/10/2022	10/16/2022	3080	805	50	16.1	36
Deep Fork NWR - (2) Only 1 Antlered	Archery	10/31/2022	11/30/2022	3081	634	300	2.11	1
Four Canyon Preserve - Antlerless Only	Muzzleloader	10/21/2022	10/22/2022	3090	18	4	4.5	13
Four Canyon Preserve - (2) Either Sex	Muzzleloader	10/21/2022	10/22/2022	3091	188	2	94	75
Four Canyon Preserve - Antlerless Only	Gun	11/11/2022	11/12/2022	3092	26	4	6.5	18
Four Canyon Preserve - (2) Either Sex	Gun	11/11/2022	11/12/2022	3093	364	2	182	81
Fort Gibson WRP - (2) Only 1 Antlered	Archery	10/18/2022	10/18/2022	3110	539	50	10.78	28
Fort Gibson WRP - Antlerless Only	Muzzleloader	10/19/2022	10/19/2022	3111	184	50	3.68	8
Fort Gibson WRP - Antlerless Only	Muzzleloader	11/15/2022	11/15/2022	3112	148	50	2.96	7
Fort Gibson WRP - Either Sex	Muzzleloader	11/16/2022	11/16/2022	3113	1,074	25	42.96	65
Fort Gibson WRP - Antlerless Only	Muzzleloader	11/16/2022	11/16/2022	3114	96	25	3.84	10
Grady County WMA - Either Sex	Muzzleloader	10/22/2022	10/30/2022	3120	155	10	15.5	35
Grady County WMA - Either Sex	Gun	11/19/2022	11/27/2022	3121	317	10	31.7	54
Hugo WMA (Lyndol Fry WRP)	Gun	12/9/2022	12/11/2022	3131	414	10	41.4	64
Lexington WMA - (2) 1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex	Gun	11/12/2022	11/12/2022	3150	646	135	4.79	14
Lexington WMA - (2) 1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex	Gun	11/13/2022	11/13/2022	3151	382	135	2.83	5
Lexington WMA - (2) 1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex	Gun	11/16/2022	11/16/2022	3152	365	135	2.7	4
Lexington WMA - (2) 1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex	Gun	11/17/2022	11/17/2022	3153	302	135	2.24	3
Little River NWR - Either Sex	Gun	11/4/2022	11/6/2022	3160	882	30	29.4	52
Little River NWR - Either Sex	Gun	11/11/2022	11/13/2022	3161	696	30	23.2	45
McAlester AAP Physically Challenged - (2) Only 1 Antlered	Archery	10/7/2022	10/9/2022	3170	176	60	2.93	6
McAlester AAP - (2) Only 1 Antlered	Archery	10/14/2022	10/16/2022	3171	1,827	240	7.61	21
McAlester AAP - (2) Only 1 Antlered	Archery	10/21/2022	10/23/2022	3172	2,304	240	9.6	25
McAlester AAP - (2) Only 1 Antlered	Archery	10/28/2022	10/30/2022	3173	3,529	240	14.7	32
McAlester AAP - (2) Only 1 Antlered	Archery	11/4/2022	11/6/2022	3174	4,580	240	19.08	40
McAlester AAP - (2) Only 1 Antlered	Archery	11/11/2022	11/13/2022	3175	4,484	240	18.68	39
McCurtain Co. WA - Either Sex	Gun	11/4/2022	11/6/2022	3190	880	16	55	67
McGee Creek WMA - Either Sex	Muzzleloader	10/21/2022	10/23/2022	3200	761	50	15.22	34

2022-23 DEER HUNTS (CONTINUED)								
Hunt Location-Permit Type	Hunt Type	Begin Date	End Date	Hunt Number	Applicants	Permits Allowed	Draw Ratio	Rank
McGee Creek WMA - Either Sex	Gun	11/18/2022	11/20/2022	3201	1,349	50	26.98	50
Neosho WMA - Either Sex	Muzzleloader	11/12/2022	11/13/2022	3203	199	6	33.17	55
Oka'Yanahli Preserve - (2) Antlerless Only	Gun	12/10/2022	12/10/2022	3206	67	7	9.57	24
Oka'Yanahli Preserve - (2) Antlerless Only	Gun	12/11/2022	12/11/2022	3207	50	7	7.14	20
Okmulgee GMA - (2) Only 1 Antlered	Gun	11/12/2022	11/13/2022	3210	1,075	30	35.83	59
Osage-Western Wall WMA - Either Sex	Muzzleloader	11/10/2022	11/13/2022	3220	1,182	10	118.2	77
Pontotoc Ridge Preserve - (2) Antlerless Only	Gun	10/1/2022	10/9/2022	3223	70	6	11.67	29
Pontotoc Ridge Preserve - (2) Antlerless Only	Gun	1/7/2023	1/7/2023	3224	59	5	11.8	30
Pontotoc Ridge Preserve - (2) Antlerless Only	Gun	1/8/2023	1/8/2023	3225	47	5	9.4	23
Pushmataha WMA - Either Sex	Muzzleloader	12/2/2022	12/4/2022	3230	1,306	50	26.12	48
Salt Plains NWR - (2) Only 1 Antlered	Archery	12/5/2022	12/8/2022	3240	449	25	17.96	37
Salt Plains NWR Wilderness Area - (2) Only 1 Antlered	Archery	12/5/2022	12/8/2022	3241	399	10	39.9	61
Salt Plains NWR - (2) 1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex	Muzzleloader	11/7/2022	11/9/2022	3242	1,018	25	40.72	63
Salt Plains NWR Wilderness Area - (2) 1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex	Muzzleloader	11/7/2022	11/9/2022	3243	866	10	86.6	73
Salt Plains NWR - (2) 1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex	Gun	11/14/2022	11/16/2022	3244	2,006	25	80.24	72
Salt Plains NWR Wilderness Area - (2) 1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex	Gun	11/14/2022	11/16/2022	3245	1,653	10	165.3	79
Salt Plains NWR - (2) 1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex	Gun	11/28/2022	11/30/2022	3246	1,088	25	43.52	66
Salt Plains NWR Wilderness Area - (2) 1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex	Gun	11/28/2022	11/30/2022	3247	928	10	92.8	74
Sans Bois WMA - Either Sex	Muzzleloader	11/4/2022	11/6/2022	3275	346	15	23.07	44
Sans Bois WMA - Either Sex	Gun	10/21/2022	10/23/2022	3276	454	15	30.27	53
Sequoyah NWR - (2) Only 1 Antlered	Archery	11/7/2022	11/11/2022	3280	1,050	30	35	57
Sequoyah NWR - (2) Antlerless Only	Muzzleloader	10/26/2022	10/28/2022	3281	246	30	8.2	22
Sequoyah NWR - (2) Antlerless Only	Muzzleloader	11/16/2022	11/18/2022	3282	288	30	9.6	26
Sequoyah NWR - (2) Antlerless Only	Muzzleloader	11/30/2022	12/2/2022	3283	199	30	6.63	19
Sequoyah NWR (Refuge Islands) - (2) Only 1 Antlered	Archery	11/7/2022	11/11/2022	3284	41	4	10.25	27
Sequoyah Resort Park - (2) 1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex	Archery	12/3/2022	12/4/2022	3286	904	16	56.5	68
Spavinaw GMA - Either Sex	Gun	10/22/2022	10/23/2022	3290	1,237	20	61.85	71
Spavinaw GMA - Antlerless Only	Gun	10/22/2022	10/23/2022	3291	183	30	6.1	17
Tishomingo NWR - (2) 1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex	Gun	12/8/2022	12/9/2022	3300	706	20	35.3	58
Washita NWR - Antlerless Only	Gun	11/8/2022	11/9/2022	3320	120	5	24	47
Wichita Mountains WR - Antlered Only	Gun	11/15/2022	11/17/2022	3340	7,242	20	362.1	82
Wichita Mountains WR - Antlerless Only	Gun	11/15/2022	11/17/2022	3341	572	40	14.3	31
Great Salt Plains SP - (2) Only 1 Antlered	Archery	10/17/2022	10/20/2022	3350	405	10	40.5	62
Great Salt Plains SP - (2) Only 1 Antlered	Archery	12/12/2022	12/15/2022	3351	347	10	34.7	56
Texoma COE (Burns Run) - Antlerless Only	Gun	12/16/2022	12/18/2022	3360	109	6	18.17	38
Tishomingo NWR - (2) Only 1 Antlered	Archery	11/16/2022	11/18/2022	3370	652	30	21.73	43

2022 YOUTH DEER HUNTS								
Hunt Location-Permit Type	Hunt Type	Begin Date	End Date	Hunt Number	Applicants	Permits Allowed	Draw Ratio	Rank
Arbuckle Springs WMA - (2) 1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex	Gun	11/19/2022	11/20/2022	5004	63	15	4.2	24
Beaver River WMA McFarland Unit - Either Sex	Gun	10/14/2022	10/16/2022	5006	139	15	9.27	33
Camp Gruber Cantonment - (2) 1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex	Muzzleloader	11/25/2022	11/27/2022	5009	101	40	2.53	10
Cherokee GMA - Either Sex	Gun	11/5/2022	11/6/2022	5010	149	50	2.98	13
Canton WRP	Gun	11/5/2022	11/13/2022	5014	44	2	22	44
Canton WRP	Gun	12/10/2022	12/18/2022	5015	21	2	10.5	36
Cookson WMA - Either Sex	Gun	10/22/2022	10/23/2022	5020	130	30	4.33	25
Cross Timbers WMA - Antlerless Only	Gun	11/19/2022	11/27/2022	5025	19	30	0.63	1
Deep Fork NWR - (2) Only 1 Antlered	Muzzleloader	10/17/2022	10/23/2022	5030	55	25	2.2	8
Eufaula Lake COE	Gun	11/4/2022	11/6/2022	5035	51	5	10.2	34
Fort Cobb WMA and SP - Antlerless Only	Muzzleloader/ Shotgun	10/15/2022	10/16/2022	5040	28	40	0.7	3
Fort Gibson WRP - (2) Only 1 Antlered	Muzzleloader	11/12/2022	11/12/2022	5050	82	20	4.1	23
Heyburn COE - (2) Only 1 Antlered	Gun	12/9/2022	12/11/2022	5053	38	2	19	42
Kaw Lake COE - (2) 1st Either Sex, 2nd Antlerless	Gun	11/4/2022	11/6/2022	5055	136	6	22.67	45
Hugo WMA - Either Sex	Gun	10/7/2022	10/9/2022	5060	72	30	2.4	9
Hugo Lake COE (Kiamichi Park) - (2) Only 1 antlered.	Gun	10/7/2022	10/9/2022	5061	102	10	10.2	35
Hugo Lake COE (Kiamichi Park) - Either Sex	Gun	12/9/2022	12/11/2022	5062	70	10	7	30
James Collins WMA - Either Sex	Gun	10/14/2022	10/16/2022	5070	155	40	3.88	22
James Collins WMA - Either Sex	Gun	10/21/2022	10/23/2022	5071	200	40	5	26
Keystone COE - (2) Only 1 Antlered	Gun	12/9/2022	12/11/2022	5080	105	8	13.13	38
Keystone State Park - Either Sex	Muzzleloader	12/9/2022	12/11/2022	5081	36	2	18	41
Little River NWR - (2) 1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex	Gun	10/28/2022	10/30/2022	5085	25	15	1.67	5
McAlester AAP - Antlerless Only	Shotgun	11/25/2022	11/27/2022	5090	44	25	1.76	6
Neosho WMA - Either Sex	Muzzleloader	10/22/2022	10/23/2022	5095	8	6	1.33	4
Neosho WMA - Either Sex	Gun	11/5/2022	11/6/2022	5096	19	6	3.17	18
Okmulgee GMA - (2) Only 1 Antlered	Gun	10/29/2022	10/30/2022	5110	59	20	2.95	12
Okmulgee GMA - (2) Only 1 Antlered	Gun	11/5/2022	11/6/2022	5111	71	20	3.55	19
Pine Creek WMA - Either Sex	Gun	11/11/2022	11/13/2022	5130	71	20	3.55	20
Pushmataha WMA - Either Sex	Gun	10/21/2022	10/23/2022	5140	107	35	3.06	16
Pushmataha WMA - Either Sex	Gun	11/4/2022	11/6/2022	5141	128	35	3.66	21
Salt Plains NWR - (2) 1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex	Gun	11/4/2022	11/6/2022	5150	186	25	7.44	31
Sequoyah NWR - (2) Only 1 Antlered	Muzzleloader	10/14/2022	10/16/2022	5160	157	30	5.23	27
Sequoyah Resort Park - (2) 1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex	Muzzleloader	12/10/2022	12/11/2022	5170	135	12	11.25	37
Skiatook COE - (2) Only 1 Antlered	Gun	12/9/2022	12/11/2022	5175	79	4	19.75	43
Spavinaw GMA - Either Sex	Muzzleloader	10/29/2022	10/30/2022	5180	26	40	0.65	2
Spavinaw GMA - Either Sex	Gun	11/4/2022	11/6/2022	5181	108	40	2.7	11
Tenkiller COE - (2) Only 1 Antlered	Gun	11/4/2022	11/6/2022	5190	63	10	6.3	29
Texoma COE (Burns Run) - (2) Only 1 Antlered	Gun	11/4/2022	11/6/2022	5200	99	6	16.5	40
Texoma COE (Lakeside) - (2) Only 1 Antlered	Gun	11/11/2022	11/13/2022	5201	94	6	15.67	39
Tishomingo NWR - (2) 1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex	Gun	10/13/2022	10/14/2022	5210	110	20	5.5	28
USDA Grazinglands R.L. - (2) Antlerless Only	Gun	11/11/2022	11/12/2022	5220	36	20	1.8	7
USDA Grazinglands R.L. - (2) 1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex	Gun	12/9/2022	12/10/2022	5221	88	10	8.8	32
Washita NWR - Antlerless Only	Gun	10/7/2022	10/8/2022	5240	31	10	3.1	17
Washita NWR - Antlerless Only	Gun	11/4/2022	11/5/2022	5260	30	10	3	14
Waurika Lake COE - Antlerless Only	Gun	11/5/2022	11/6/2022	5270	15	5	3	15

2022 DEER HUNTS (NONAMBULATORY, VEHICLE)								
Hunt Location-Permit Type	Hunt Type	Begin Date	End Date	Hunt Number	Applicants	Permits Allowed	Draw Ratio	Rank
Cherokee GMA - Either Sex	Gun	10/29/2022	10/30/2022	4001	48	40	1.2	1
Cookson WMA - Either Sex	Gun	10/29/2022	10/30/2022	4010	34	12	2.83	6
Copan COE Parks - (2) 1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex	Gun	12/2/2022	12/4/2022	4015	24	5	4.8	10
Deep Fork NWR - (2) Only 1 Antlered	Muzzleloader	10/24/2022	10/30/2022	4020	11	5	2.2	4
Fort Gibson WRP - (2) Only 1 Antlered	Muzzleloader	12/3/2022	12/4/2022	4025	27	10	2.7	5
Oologah Lake COE - (2) 1 Antlerless, 1 Antlered	Gun	11/11/2022	11/13/2022	4040	60	8	7.5	13
Salt Plains NWR - (2) 1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex	Muzzleloader	11/7/2022	11/9/2022	4050	10	2	5	11
Salt Plains NWR - (2) 1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex	Gun	11/14/2022	11/16/2022	4051	14	2	7	12
Salt Plains NWR - (2) 1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex	Gun	11/28/2022	11/30/2022	4052	8	2	4	8
Sequoyah NWR - (2) Only 1 Antlered	Archery	11/7/2022	11/11/2022	4060	8	2	4	8
Sequoyah NWR - (2) Antlerless Only	Muzzleloader	11/16/2022	11/18/2022	4061	4	2	2	2
Sequoyah Resort Park - (2) 1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex	Muzzleloader	12/17/2022	12/18/2022	4070	25	12	2.08	3
Tishomingo NWR - (2) 1st Antlerless, 2nd Either Sex	Gun	11/3/2022	11/4/2022	4080	36	10	3.6	7

SAFEGUARDS FOR PREFERENCE POINTS RETURN THIS YEAR

Again this year, controlled hunts applicants will have two ways to protect their valuable preference points and their future eligibility for drawings.

The **PointGuard** and **Preference Point Only** options are available when hunters apply online for controlled hunt drawings from April 3 through May 22. These options are not available after the controlled hunt application period closes.

Last year, several applicants who added PointGuard ended up claiming the insurance when they found out they could not participate in the hunt they had won.

PointGuard


This insurance protects a winning hunter's preference points and eligibility for controlled hunt drawings in future years in case the hunter cannot attend the hunt he or she wins. For example, a hunter submits applications for controlled hunts in the categories of deer, youth deer, and elk. The hunter pays \$5 total to apply in all three categories. When applying, the hunter is given the chance to add PointGuard insurance at a cost of \$5 additional. If the hunter is later unable to attend the hunt, the insurance will preserve his preference points in that hunt category that would normally have been cleared. The insurance can be claimed anytime before midnight on the day before the winner's scheduled hunt. PointGuard also allows the hunter to remain eligible for future drawings for once-in-a-lifetime controlled hunts since the hunter wasn't able to attend the current year's hunt.

When hunters apply as a group, each hunter will be given the option to buy PointGuard individually; all group members are not required to choose the option. But those who do buy PointGuard and end up missing the hunt will have their individual points protected for future drawings.

Preference Point Only (PPO)

This option is for hunters who do not want to put their name in a hunt drawing but still want to obtain an additional preference point for future drawings. It is only available during the online controlled hunt application period from April 3 to May 22. To choose the PPO option, the hunter will begin submitting an application as he or she normally would for the standard \$5 fee. The hunter will then see an option for Preference Point Only in each category.

In lieu of the hunter's name going into the drawings, the hunter will get one additional preference point in that hunt category, and all of their preference points will carry over for next year's drawing. Hunters may purchase only one point per year per category. The PPO is designed for hunters who already know when they apply that they will not be able to attend hunts during certain times of the year if they are drawn for those hunts.

Controlled hunt applications are submitted through a hunter's personal account at GoOutdoorsOklahoma.com, the Wildlife Department's online licensing and customer service site. 



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

If I apply for controlled hunts long enough, am I guaranteed to be drawn?

No; drawings are random from the entire pool of applicants. But your odds get better every year you submit an application because you earn preference points in future drawings.

2022-23 ELK HUNTS

- Total applicants (includes first, second and third choice preferences): 37,807
- Total permits available: 409
- Overall odds of getting drawn for any one permit: 1 in 92.4
- **NOTE:** Elk controlled hunts are once-in-a-lifetime draws.

2022-23 ELK HUNTS								
Hunt Location-Permit Type	Hunt Type	Begin Date	End Date	Hunt Number	Applicants	Permits Allowed	Draw Ratio	Rank
Cookson WMA - Either Sex	Gun	10/22/2022	10/23/2022	1001	3,755	1	3755	11
Wichita Mountains WR - Bull	Gun	11/29/2022	12/1/2022	1020	8,468	25	338.72	10
Wichita Mountains WR - Cow	Gun	11/29/2022	12/1/2022	1021	945	65	14.54	5
Wichita Mountains WR - Bull	Gun	12/6/2022	12/8/2022	1022	8,144	25	325.76	9
Wichita Mountains WR - Cow	Gun	12/6/2022	12/8/2022	1023	566	65	8.71	4
Wichita Mountains WR (walk-in only) - Either Sex	Gun	11/21/2022	11/25/2022	1030	5,307	20	265.35	8
Wichita Mountains WR (walk-in only) - Cow	Gun	11/21/2022	11/25/2022	1031	354	56	6.32	1
Wichita Mountains WR (walk-in only) - Either Sex	Gun	12/12/2022	12/16/2022	1040	5,030	20	251.5	7
Wichita Mountains WR (walk-in only) - Cow	Gun	12/12/2022	12/16/2022	1041	404	56	7.21	2
Wichita Mountains WR (walk-in only) - Either Sex	Gun	1/9/2023	1/13/2023	1050	4,421	20	221.05	6
Wichita Mountains WR (walk-in only) - Cow	Gun	1/9/2023	1/13/2023	1051	413	56	7.38	3



2022 ANTELOPE HUNTS

- Total applicants (includes first and second choice preferences): 12,740
- Total permits available: 105
- Overall odds of getting drawn for any one permit: 1 in 121.3
- **NOTE:** Pronghorn controlled hunts are once-in-a-lifetime draws.

2022-23 PRONGHORN HUNTS								
Hunt Location-Permit Type	Hunt Type	Begin Date	End Date	Hunt Number	Applicants	Permits Allowed	Draw Ratio	Rank
Cimarron County - Either Sex	Gun	9/1/2022	9/4/2022	2001	5,681	20	284.05	3
Cimarron County - Doe Only	Gun	9/5/2022	9/14/2022	2002	1,267	50	25.34	2
Texas County - Either Sex	Gun	9/1/2022	9/4/2022	2010	5,171	10	517.1	4
Texas County - Doe Only	Gun	9/5/2022	9/14/2022	2011	621	25	24.84	1



2023 SPRING TURKEY HUNTS

- Total applicants (includes first, second and third choice preferences): 11,348
- Total permits available: 115
- Overall odds of getting drawn for any one permit: 1 in 98.6
- **NOTE:** Odds are tougher for hunts at McAlester Army Ammunition Plant.

2023 YOUTH TURKEY HUNTS

- Total applicants (includes first, second and third choice preferences): 1,017
- Total permits available: 34
- Overall odds of getting drawn for any one permit: 1 in 29.9
- **NOTE:** Better odds come with later-season hunts.

2023 SPRING TURKEY HUNTS

Hunt Location-Permit Type	Hunt Type	Begin Date	End Date	Hunt Number	Applicants	Permits Allowed	Draw Ratio	Rank
Cross Timbers WMA - Tom	Shotgun	4/16/2023	4/20/2023	6000	1,643	10	164.3	7
Cross Timbers WMA - Tom	Shotgun	4/29/2023	5/3/2023	6001	947	10	94.7	5
Deep Fork NWR - Tom	Shotgun	4/24/2023	5/16/2023	6010	1,362	10	136.2	6
Four Canyon Preserve - Tom	Shotgun	4/1/2023	4/2/2023	6020	1,190	2	595	10
Four Canyon Preserve - Tom	Shotgun	4/7/2023	4/8/2023	6021	890	2	445	9
Little River NWR - Tom	Shotgun	4/28/2023	4/30/2023	6040	780	20	39	1
McAlester AAP - Tom	Shotgun	4/14/2023	4/16/2023	6050	1,218	20	60.9	3
McAlester AAP - Tom	Shotgun	4/21/2023	4/23/2023	6051	1,044	20	52.2	2
McCurtain Co. WA - Tom	Shotgun	4/7/2023	4/9/2023	6060	1,141	16	71.31	4
Tishomingo NWR - Tom	Shotgun	4/20/2023	4/21/2023	6080	1,133	5	226.6	8

2023 YOUTH SPRING TURKEY HUNTS

Hunt Location-Permit Type	Hunt Type	Begin Date	End Date	Hunt Number	Applicants	Permits Allowed	Draw Ratio	Rank
Hugo COE (Kiamichi Park) - Tom	Shotgun	4/1/2023	4/2/2023	7000	155	4	38.75	4
Washita NWR - Tom	Shotgun	4/14/2023	4/16/2023	7010	156	2	78	6
Deep Fork NWR - Tom	Shotgun	4/8/2023	5/16/2023	7020	182	10	18.2	2
James Collins WMA - Tom	Shotgun	4/1/2023	4/2/2023	7030	184	10	18.4	3
Little River NWR - Tom	Shotgun	4/21/2023	4/23/2023	7040	86	5	17.2	1
Salt Plains NWR - Tom	Shotgun	4/14/2023	4/23/2023	7075	94	2	47	5
Wichita Mountains WR (walk-in only) - Tom	Shotgun	4/3/2023	4/5/2023	7096	160	1	160	7

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who can apply?

Any resident or nonresident who possesses a valid hunting license or who is otherwise exempt may apply for controlled hunts. A list of which hunting licenses are valid is available at www.wildlifedepartment.com. Applicants must purchase the license prior to applying for controlled hunts. Applicants who are eligible for, and possess, apprentice-designated hunting licenses may also apply (although some hunts require hunter education certification by the date of the hunt.) Check the website for more information.

Conservation

Fun Outdoors!

Help our feathered friends this winter with a natural bird feeder. Find a pinecone on the ground and attach a string to the top. Spread peanut butter over the pinecone, then roll it in bird seed mix. Hang it outside from a tree limb that you can see from a window, and see what shows up for a healthy snack.

for Kids!

Word Search: In Field and Forest

Hunting Tip

Clean your firearm after every use to ensure safe and efficient function. The basics: Make sure the firearm is unloaded. Check for barrel obstructions. Soak a patch or bristle brush with cleaning solvent and run it down the barrel. Run dry follow-up patches down the barrel. Inspect and when clean, run a patch with a light coat of gun oil down the barrel. Clean all exposed parts of the action. Clean and oil all exterior metal parts.

Fishing Tip

Want to catch trout? Go to www.wildlifedepartment.com and search "trout" for a list of sites where trout are stocked statewide. Scan the code to learn more about trout fishing!



Z	M	M	V	K	H	F	V	V	S	J	F	N	W	X	W
K	P	C	M	K	I	W	O	U	B	K	N	L	A	D	Y
O	R	N	C	E	Q	F	L	N	R	R	C	P	N	L	C
D	L	I	C	H	E	N	D	J	O	N	I	A	F	O	V
A	C	M	W	M	L	Q	S	C	F	Z	J	R	R	C	F
F	N	E	T	N	O	E	A	A	I	I	E	L	H	T	G
Q	F	T	J	S	Q	L	C	C	T	T	Z	O	L	W	C
M	M	Z	H	P	F	P	S	E	T	K	R	O	L	A	D
M	M	L	X	I	I	E	T	U	U	T	Y	T	G	U	I
B	B	B	K	D	L	L	B	F	W	D	W	S	Q	A	I
U	D	I	E	E	S	L	I	L	E	G	V	D	G	O	H
R	N	U	A	R	E	P	P	O	H	S	S	A	R	G	H
R	T	M	Z	W	N	W	W	N	K	O	O	H	Y	K	
O	N	I	W	E	I	I	Q	E	X	N	U	T	E	E	H
W	Z	G	N	B	V	R	K	R	X	V	B	D	W	C	E
W	Z	I	K	S	H	A	K	P	U	V	K	A	R	S	E

Find and circle these words related to things you might see in a field or a forest.

Acorn
Anthill
Tracks
Flower

Forbs
Toadstool
Vines
Butterfly

Grasshopper
Lichen
Burrow
Spiderweb

Some COOL FACTS About Rainbow Trout:

TRISTAN HEIMBACH/THE DOCK



- In Oklahoma, trout are not a native species.
- The Wildlife Department stocks rainbow trout in several Oklahoma fishing sites during colder months, and at two sites year-round.
- Natural spawning of rainbow trout has been documented in the Lower Mountain Fork River below Broken Bow Lake.
- Rainbow trout are native to the cold streams west of the Continental Divide.
- Coloring on a rainbow trout includes black spots on the



CALEB OAKS/THE DOCK



- tail, a white belly, and a pink stripe on each side.
- Anglers know that larger rainbow trout are often found in deep pools.
- They feed on a variety of living organisms including insects, crustaceans, mollusks, and fish.
- Females lay eggs in shallow nests in gravel when water temperature is about 55 degrees.
- Oklahoma anglers are permitted to keep three trout per day.

Color a Critter: Rainbow Trout



WORLD CLASS

State Archer Humbly Takes His Spot Among All-time Best

By Don P. Brown, Communication Specialist

It's easy to brag if it's true. But to be humble when you're one of the world's best is a different matter.

Shiloh Butts, 35, of Sulphur has many reasons to brag when it comes to his accomplishments in competitive archery:

- 2014 International Bowhunters Organization longbow world champion.
- 2015 IBO selfbow world champion.
- 2017 IBO longbow world champion.
- 2021 IBO selfbow world champion.

And on Sept. 10, 2022, competing with the best archers from 28 nations around the world, Butts reached a new high by bringing home a bronze medal from the 2022 World Archery 3D Championships in Terni, Italy.

Even after all that, Butts is probably among the humblest of people you'll ever meet.

"I truly believe the great Lord above blessed me with a gift and planted the seed deep down in me, and all of those who've crossed my path in this great sport have helped to water that seed and keep me pushing on.

"Having the privilege of shooting on the world stage against the best of the best, knowing I had support from so many folks, both far and near, absolutely helped propel me to where I ended up."

Butts started in archery as a youngster in 4H.

"Archery has been a part of me since I was a little boy making bows out of cedar trees from the pasture, using steak knives from the kitchen — because that's how they did it on 'Robin Hood.' Throughout my teenage years, driving home on my lunch period just to shoot my bow for 25 or so minutes before my next class, and then return in the evening after work to shoot until I couldn't see the target anymore.

"I eat, sleep and dream every second of the day shooting my bow.

"And now, having the privilege of shooting on the world stage against the best of the best," Butts said of the path he's traveled.

His home range is the Stratford Sportsmen's Club, and he credits his buddies there for helping him reach the world-class status he enjoys now.



A thumbs-up after winning the bronze medal in Italy.

"Archery has been a part of me since I was a little boy making bows out of cedar trees from the pasture, using steak knives from the kitchen — because that's how they did it on 'Robin Hood.'"



PROVIDED



Father and son with matching jerseys.

"Having a good group of archers there has helped me to excel. They set the tone way back when."

This past June, Butts went to Kentucky for the USA Archery 3D Team tryouts. "This is the highest you can compete in 3D archery. It's like the Olympics of 3D." In fact, it's USA Archery that selects Team USA for the Olympic Games.

After two days, Butts and two others were selected to represent the United States in the longbow category. He said it really wasn't until weeks later, when he received the team shirt, that the honor truly sunk in. "Until the jersey arrived, it didn't really hit fully. No words could describe seeing that. It was a defining moment."

"It's a very humbling and truly speechless experience to open up a package and see a USA jersey with your name on the back of it."

"It's a very humbling and truly speechless experience to open up a package and see a USA jersey with your name on the back of it. And the realization of this whole journey really set in when I put it on for the first time."

His 5-year-old son, Traeger, is following in his dad's footsteps as an accomplished archer. When the boy saw his dad's Team USA jersey, he said he needed one of those, too. Butts was a step ahead; he managed to have a small version of the jersey made for his son.

"My little coach and biggest fan was just a little excited to get a matching one, too. To see his eyes light up, it was just priceless."

DON P. BROWN/ODWC





Practice took up much of Butts' time for the next six weeks, and then it was off to Italy for him and his wife, Sahara. "Never in my wildest of dreams would I ever have imagined that I'd go halfway around the world to just shoot my bow in a tournament, much less do it on a stage this big, all the while representing the USA."

Competition began Sept. 5. He didn't shoot as well as he'd wanted and ended the day in second place. The next day's round was held on a different course. It was "a chance to step up and see if the first day was a fluke or not, all while shooting with the top longbow shooters from the first day."

"Right out of the gates, they all came out 'guns blazing,' and I felt like and shot like I'd never touched a bow compared to how they were shooting. After the first half of the targets had been shot, I was the bottom man in my group and could not get myself together.

"One of the gentleman in my group, Alfred (the No. 1-ranked shooter after day one) from Austria, who spoke no English, tapped me on the shoulder and pointed at me then smiled really big, so of course I

"Right out of the gates, they all came out 'guns blazing,' and I felt like and shot like I'd never touched a bow compared to how they were shooting. After the first half of the targets had been shot, I was the bottom man in my group and could not get myself together."



smiled back. Unbeknownst to me, he could tell I was struggling, and he knew I needed to smile and have fun—and that was what he was trying to get me to do.

"Once I realized what he was trying to do and I gave him a genuine smile back, he winked and gave me a thumbs up. No words exchanged, just a couple of gestures and I understood that I just needed to smile and have fun.

"That one unselfish gesture from him changed my whole demeanor and flipped the switch inside. From there till the final target, we were not only competitors vying for a top position, but also each other's cheering squad, pushing one another on each target with smiles and fist bumps."

At the conclusion of the second day, Butts found himself in first place, with the final matches to follow in a few days. "Just seeing my name on the leader board, much less in the No. 1 position after the two qualification days, was a win in my mind and a true honor, proving to myself I did represent everyone who's helped me along the way to the fullest of my abilities.

"No matter how it shakes out, I now know for a fact it doesn't matter where you're from or what language you speak, friendships built through this great sport are what the real prize is."

Then came the championship rounds. As reported by USA Archery:

"Shiloh Butts went head-to-head with Italy's Giulano Faletti, losing the match 36-31. He then went on to face Austria's Alfred Muhlburger in the bronze-medal match. It was a tough match as Butts found himself three points behind after the first target. He then made an incredible shot on target 2, scoring a 10 to close the gap to only 1 point. On the third target, Butts again was able to make a strong shot to take the lead. On the final target, at close to the maximum distance for the longbow division, Butts found himself in a position to win the match. All he had to do was shoot a 5, and he did to win the bronze medal, 28-26!"

Butts said his chance to represent the U.S. was an incredible journey with lots of twists and turns. "Knowing I had support from so many folks, both far and near, absolutely helped propel me to where I ended up. My goal from day one was to go out, shoot my best and see where I stood.

ODWC ARCHERY PROGRAMS AVAILABLE

Teachers or students who are inspired by Shiloh Butts to become involved in archery are invited to learn about the Wildlife Department's **Oklahoma National Archery in the Schools (OKNASP)** Program, **Varsity Archery** program, and **Explore Bowhunting** program.

OKNASP is a part of the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP), a coordinated effort and partnership between schools, state wildlife agencies and the nation's archery industry.

In Oklahoma, OKNASP promotes physical education by providing archery target training to state youths. Designed as an introductory program for

grades 4-12, the curriculum covers archery history, safety, techniques, equipment, mental concentration, and self-improvement. The Wildlife Department has part-

nered with almost 700 schools in Oklahoma to introduce archery education to students.

ODWC recently started an exciting new archery education opportunity in the schools with the Varsity Archery program. Using more challenging and sophisticated equipment, Varsity Archery is designed to take archery education to the next step to help propel prospective archers into the world of archery after school. This program is now offered only to grades 9-12 and promotes target shooting, hunting, and many more archery opportunities.

OKNASP gives students the chance to excel today, tomorrow and throughout a lifetime in the sport of archery. To learn how to bring this exciting program to your school, contact OKNASP Coordinator Kelly Boyer at (405) 919-1623 or e-mail kelly.boyer@odwc.ok.gov.

To learn more, scan the code.





WORLD ARCHERY VIA FACEBOOK

Taking shots in competition with the best archers from around the world.

"Winning the bronze medal was without question the high point of this trip, but the friendships made and the memories gained alongside all of my teammates, coaches and family will be what I remember the most about it all."

To anyone interested in taking up archery, Butts has some advice: Go out and have fun with it, because if you stop having fun, there's not much point in going further. Find a coach or a longtime archer who can help set you up for success. "I had a lot of great mentors along the way, and that means the world to me."

"I can't say thank you enough to so many folks that have poured their support behind me for so many years pursuing my dreams in this sport, and for the good Lord above for blessing me with a gift of shooting bows that I love to do so much.

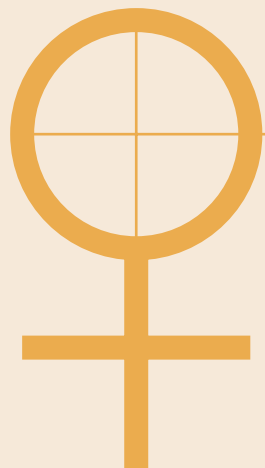
"Archery has afforded me many opportunities to go to a lot of great places. But all the people I've been lucky enough to meet along the way are the real reason why enjoy it so much and why it's the best sport on Earth!" 🏹

"Winning the bronze medal was without question the high point of this trip, but the friendships made and the memories gained alongside all of my teammates, coaches and family will be what I remember the most about it all."

To see world-class archer Shiloh Butts in action on Outdoor Oklahoma TV, scan the code.



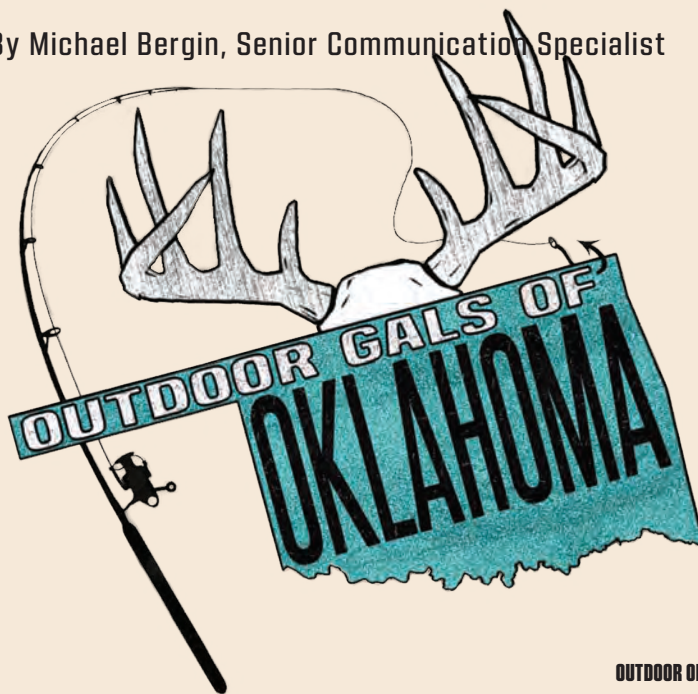
DON P. BROWN/ODV



BY WOMEN, FOR WOMEN

Outdoor Gals of Oklahoma Group Offers Connection

By Michael Bergin, Senior Communication Specialist



For hunters and anglers, social media has become much like a worldwide version of bulletin boards that hung on the walls of old-time general stores during hunting and fishing seasons. This online phenomenon allows sportsmen and sportswomen to easily share about their latest outdoor conquests. But it goes one step further by also helping them to connect with each other.

It can mean the world to have a photo of your harvest validated by a community of other sportsmen and sportswomen, especially if you're a newcomer or working to build new outdoor skills. This kind of support can go a long way to inspire an outdoor community of hunters and anglers.

In fact, there's a growing cohort of wildlife professionals known as hunter/angler recruitment, retention and reactivation (R3) practitioners who go so far as to call this type of community support an integral stage in creating new outdoor recreationists.

But while social networks have helped outdoor enthusiasts meet like-minded people, others who are interested in outdoor pursuits can still feel like fish out of water in these environments. That's where groups geared especially for certain users can have a positive effect on those looking for an online community to join.

Lifelong hunter and angler Jessica Posey runs just such an online platform: the Outdoor Gals of Oklahoma group on social media platform Facebook.

An Okmulgee resident, Posey is a wife, a mother of two, and a bonus mom of two more.



Callie Jo P. smiling proudly after a successful deer hunt.



Amber L. tagged this big buck in 2020 in Woods County.

She created the Outdoor Gals group in 2015 and serves as the group administrator along with a team of other admins and moderators.

Even with a busy social media page to run and family to wrangle, Posey finds spare time to pursue her outdoor passions. From snagging paddlefish to deer hunting with a muzzle-loader, she loves it all.

"My favorite thing about hunting is the disconnection from everything that is going on," she said. "It's peaceful, quiet and relaxing."

Posey has been hooked on the outdoors since she was a little girl, begging her dad to take her on adventures with him anytime she saw him gearing up or lacing his hunting boots. She harvested her first deer at her grandparents' place, where she still hunts today.

"Every weekend, we were hunting, fishing or doing something fun outside," she said about

growing up. "To this day, every opportunity I get to go out with my Dad, I take it. I have so many memories of hunting and fishing with my family. Even on the days we came home empty-handed, I never considered them a disappointment. I took it as a learning experience."

Posey wants her children to have those memories as well, so she and her husband have introduced them to the outdoors.

"We enjoy the time spent together," Posey said.

But Posey isn't only sharing the outdoors with her children. The Outdoor Gals group has become a popular place for more than 2,000 female hunters and anglers to connect and communicate about all things outdoors.

We asked Posey about her group and how it enriches the experiences of this vibrant community of sportswomen:

Q: Before you created Outdoor Gals of Oklahoma, did social media influence how you felt about hunting or hunters?

When it comes to social media or an online forum, female hunters don't feel equal. You constantly feel like you don't know what you're talking about because it is a man's world. I have people that are close to me who respect that I hunt and fish, but before making the group I didn't have any friends who hunted or fished. I couldn't call anybody up to go hunting or fishing. People are shocked when they meet me in public and find out I hunt. I like to have my nails done; it never fails we go fishing on the same day!



Layla is getting an early start as an Outdoor Gal.



Erika B.-J. took this great buck in 2021.



Michelle M. shared this shot of her wild turkey hunt in 2021.

Q: Why did you decide to create the Facebook group?

I wanted to meet or get to know other women who I could relate to. If I had questions about hunting or fishing, I wanted to be able to turn to people who support and empower me.

Q: What is your hope for the group, or how do you see it in the future?

I really want to have some kind of event where we can all come together and have a fishing event and go spend time together.



An ecstatic Mandy M. with her first mule deer, taken in Wyoming in October 2022.

Q: Why might an all-female group like yours be appealing for women both interested and already experienced in the outdoors? What dynamic does it bring?



Peggy W.C., right, hosted some family friends on a fishing trip.

Being a group made up of only women, it makes it easier to ask questions or seek advice from other women comfortably. We have members who are extremely experienced, and some that are not. However, there is always someone willing to help those who need it. It is a comfortable, positive, upbeat and safe way to express ourselves and receive nothing but positive feedback.

Q: How can this group help women engage more in the outdoor community?

Our group helps women to realize that they are not alone. There are several of us out there. The more we can engage and introduce other women, the more the female hunting/fishing statistic increases. Oklahoma has free fishing days, so I hope to one day have events where women can meet up to learn to fish. Also, it's a way for our members to meet in person all while engaging with the community to show that there are women who love the outdoors. We hunt. We fish. We will empower each other!



Peggy W.C. enjoys fishing for crappie and catfish on Lake Eufaula. "We share all of the catfish that we catch. However, we are pretty stingy with our crappie!"



Paula W. took a buck on a controlled hunt this past season. "This Facebook group of women are very helpful, supportive, and it is great to have the different perspectives on various outdoor activities. ... Out of all the Facebook groups I am a part of, this one I treasure the most because it supports Oklahomans."



VIA FACEBOOK

VIA FACEBOOK

Candace C. wrote, "Never even got this guy on trail cam. Never picked up a gun in Oklahoma in 10 years, and I officially got me an archery buck. ... Tonight was phenomenal!"

Right: Adrienne M. with a heavy blue catfish she caught at Three Forks in Muskogee.

Q: How would someone go about visiting or joining the group?

Women interested in joining can search for Outdoor Gals of Oklahoma on Facebook. It is a private group with a few questions to answer in order to be added. There is no age requirement. Only requests from women are accepted. We have found having all female members that there is more engagement. You can expect to find a fun, positive, clean and comfortable atmosphere.



Women interested in Outdoor Gals of Oklahoma may scan the code:



VIA FACEBOOK

Pamela S.-K. shows off the tom she bagged.



ANNE SPERS/NATURALIST CC-BY-NC4

TRAPPING COULD BE A CATCH-ALL FOR LAND MANAGEMENT GOALS

By Jerrod Davis, ODWC Furbearer Biologist

Top: Beavers have been prized over the years by trappers for their pelts.

Right: American beavers can cause major damage by chewing on trees. Regulated trapping is an effective method to mitigate the damage.



PIXHERE/CCO



BILL CARRELL/NATURALIST CC-BY-NC-ND4

Regulated trapping is one method to keep predator and prey numbers more in balance. Coyote trapping is a prime example.



GRRR/NATURALIST CC-BY-NC4

The striped skunk is an abundant species sought after by trappers.



DIRRACK/DACTYL/NATURALIST CC-BY-NC4

When wild animals conflict with people, like this bobcat in a backyard, trapping is an ideal way to address the problem.



PNHERE/CCO

Trapping has been instrumental in helping the population and range of river otters rebound across the country.

Managing the land, and the wildlife that inhabits it, is a worthwhile pursuit for private landowners and public land managers alike. Whether a landowner has a half-acre or 150 acres, regulated trapping can be a vital tool in managing a property.

Whatever a landowner has in mind for a property, regulated trapping can play an important role in achieving those goals.

Trapping has a long and oftentimes controversial history in North America. The practice can be documented in the area that would become Oklahoma as early as 1719.

Overexploitation of resources and a lack of regulatory guidelines led to a decline in many species of furbearing animals until the 1930s, when modern wildlife management began to take shape.

Through science-based management decisions and proper enforcement, regulated trapping has become one of the best ways to manage wildlife populations and maintain a balance that is both beneficial to people and wildlife.

Wildlife professionals and research biologists use information gathered from the sportsmen and sportswomen of Oklahoma to more effectively monitor wildlife population health, distribution, and densities. Private animal control businesses deal with nuisance complaints and wildlife conflicts in the urban and suburban areas.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services has a focus on resolving wildlife damage conflicts on livestock and property. These professionals have played a large role in maintaining the health and safety of peo-

TRAPPING BENEFICIAL IN MULTIPLE WAYS

According to the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the public is highly uninformed about trapping.

Trapping is used by private landowners and sportsmen and sportswomen for many purposes including fur harvesting, food, and habitat and depredation management.

Regulated trapping is a tool used by state, federal and tribal agencies to manage wildlife and their habitats. Some of the benefits of regulated trapping include:

- Reintroducing populations (e.g., river otters; gray, red and Mexican wolves; beavers).
- Providing relief to the public from property damage (livestock, agriculture, forestry, infrastructure, etc.).
- Protecting public health and safety (rabies, flooding, etc.).

People who participate in trapping are required to have a trapping or hunting license. Education for trappers is provided in all states. Here are some key points about regulated trapping.

The kinds of wildlife that are trapped are abundant. Regulated trapping does not cause wildlife to become endangered. No animal populations in the U.S. have become endangered or extinct due to regulated trapping.

Trapping is managed through scientifically based regulations that are strictly enforced by conservation officers. Anyone who traps must follow very strict rules established and enforced by state fish and wildlife agen-

cies. Some of the ways in which trapping is regulated include restrictions on species, seasons, types of traps, areas where trapping is permitted, and the fact that only licensed trappers are allowed to participate.

Agencies are continually reviewing and developing rules, regulations, education programs, and capture methods to ensure the humanness of trapping. Experts from all 50 state fish and wildlife agencies and other conservationists who care about natural resources and animal welfare are working together to improve and modernize the technology of trapping through scientific research. They have developed Best Management Practices for trapping of several dozen species to improve the efficiency and humanness of traps.

Regulated trapping provides many benefits to wildlife and people, especially in helping maintain a healthy balance between wildlife and people. Trapping can help keep urban and suburban residents safe from potential problems caused when wildlife and people live in close proximity to one another, assist experts in relocating species to areas where animals can better thrive, and help restore threatened and endangered species by controlling predators and other animals that would otherwise have killed these sensitive animals or destroyed their habitats. ♡



A trapper is setting a silver pan trap designed to target raccoons.



Trappers often target raccoons and sell the fur to dealers.



DON F. BROWN/OWDC

Various types of traps are available, such as this enclosed trigger-style trap being held by a trapping instructor.



WILDLIFEDEPARTMENT.COM

A trapper places a trap on the bank of Lake Eufaula.

ple, wildlife, livestock, and property on a broad scale.

The private landowner can fill each of the previously mentioned roles and manage a property just as effectively at the ground level, achieving a multitude of goals by using regulated trapping.

Since most of Oklahoma's land is privately owned, landowners become very important in a statewide wildlife management program.

People put up fences and hedgerows to limit access to properties, but those boundaries are meaningless to this state's abundant wildlife. Most everyone enjoys seeing wildlife out in wide-open spaces. But few people will tolerate skunks under the front porch or raccoons in the chicken coop.

When boundaries have been crossed, regulated trapping presents itself as a very effective solution.

Producers of livestock, from poultry to cattle, can use reg-



DON P. BROWN/ODWC

Attention to detail when setting traps is very important.

ulated trapping to reduce the impact that predators can have on their animals and pocketbooks. The focus will be on what type of predator is needing to be managed depending on the type of livestock, what type of depredation-prevention measures have already been taken, and the property's location in the state. Free-range poultry producers will have more variables to consider than pen-raised poultry. A stocker cattle operation will have different concerns than a cow-calf outfit.

Crop producers can reduce the amount of live crop damage on their agricultural fields, stored grains/crop loss at their granaries, and field/irrigation damage by conducting a program of regulated trapping for problematic species.

Landowners who manage their property for recreation, fishing, or hunting can benefit greatly from regulated trapping on their acreage. Fishing or recreational bodies of water are susceptible to fish predation, impoundment, or infrastructure damage from wildlife. Using regulated trapping as a management tool to reduce or eliminate the monetary cost and labor needed in resolving such issues can be worth the effort for the property owner.

Managing a property for big game and upland gamebird hunting primarily has a focus on habitat quality and diver-



DON P. BROWN/ODWC

An instructor demonstrates how to set a trap.



DON P. BROWN/ODWC

Many trappers will use a sieve to shake soil over the top of a set trap in order to hide it better.

sity. While this is a necessity, so is managing the predator load that having a quality and diverse habitat brings with it.

It is possible, with the selectivity of trap types and placements, to target individual species that would be key to a landowner's management goals. Using an enclosed trigger-style trap to target raccoons in an area where nest predation is severe can be extremely beneficial to ground-nesting birds while not interfering with dog running activities on the property.

Adjusting pan tension on a foot-hold-style trap along with proper trap placement and species-specific lures can be very selective for attracting coyotes in an area where white-tailed deer recruitment has been an issue.



KALIE MEYER/OWMC

Trappers often look for natural elements that can aid in success when picking out a site.

Homeowners in all areas of Oklahoma who simply enjoy nature can also benefit from regulated trapping. While people enjoy their vegetable gardens, fruit trees, flowerbeds and bird feeders, there is always some critter out there waiting to enjoy them even more.

Live traps, or cage traps, are a style of trap that is easy to set, check, relocate (after obtaining proper permission on the new area), and release problematic wildlife in, and around, your home. These problematic wildlife species can cause damage outside and inside the home. With the use of regulated trapping and with an understanding of trap types, homeowners can maintain the boundaries they desire with the wildlife while still promoting the diversity in the landscape that people enjoy so much.

There are so many ways that well enforced, regulated trapping can positively impact the landscape around you. Whether you choose to practice these methods yourself, employ a private business or federal agency, or grant access to your property for use by a resident trapper, you can access the benefits of regulated trapping in your surrounding environment. We Oklahomans use our land in a



WILDLIFE/DEPARTMENT.COM


Pelts like these are prepared by trappers and sold to the fur market.



USFWS

A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employee prepares to collect a beaver from a live trap to relocate the animal.

variety of ways, and regulated trapping supports them all.

Learn more about furbearer management and best management practices for trapping from the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. 

Sponsors Ensure Success of 2nd Call of the Wild Gala



The generous support of individual and corporate sponsors was key in making the 2022 Call of the Wild Gala a rousing success. The fund-raising event drew hundreds of patrons to the Omni Hotel and Convention Center in Oklahoma City on Oct. 6 to enjoy a wonderful dinner, live auction, and the induction of J. Larry Nichols into the Oklahoma Conservation Hall of Fame.

The funds raised by the Foundation are in turn donated to support the important activities of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, a state agency that receives no general tax appropriations from the state but is charged with overseeing Oklahoma's fish, wildlife and natural habitat for this generation and those to come.

OWCF Executive Director Rick Grundman praised all of the patrons who contributed during the event and especially the Gala's sponsors. "Their generosity enables us to support the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation by providing much-needed state match funds for federal grants.

"We are humbled by this year's Gala sponsors. We are proud these Oklahoma businesses share the same passion and dedication to fish and wildlife as we do. Their contributions will make a significant impact for Oklahoma's fish and wildlife species and the habitats where they live. And we are excited for the future of Oklahoma's outdoors!"



OWCF Executive Director Rick Grundman and Board Member Ethan House welcome honoree J. Larry Nichols to the podium.



The bids kept rising for some of the items in the live auction at the 2022 OWCF Call of the Wild Gala.

OKLAHOMA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION SPOTLIGHT

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THE OKLAHOMA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION (OWCF) is engaged in a five-year program to raise \$5.2 million to further the strategic mission of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

Since the Wildlife Department has operated on a limited budget for more than 100 years and doesn't receive appropriated state tax dollars, funds raised by the Foundation are among the best methods to more rapidly advance the Department's strategic plan. Because many ODWC projects qualify for a 3-to-1 or 9-to-1 federal dollar match, donations to OWCF can be multiplied and bring more and better projects to Oklahoma more quickly.

Funds raised by OWCF support wildlife research and management, multi-year conservation projects, community outreach programs, and outdoor recreation projects. OWCF's mission cannot be achieved without the support of community partners, philanthropic foundations, and donations from individuals who want to make a difference for future generations.

All donations are tax-deductible. To learn more about OWCF and how to help, go to www.OKwildlifefoundation.org, www.facebook.com/OKWildlifeFoundation, or email Grundman at rgrundman@okwildlifefoundation.org, or call (918) 323-5566.



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



NEW ODWC LOGO DRINKWARE

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



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. — \$10 each



NEW OUTDOOR OKLAHOMA CAPS

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



OKLAHOMA WATERFOWL HUNTING STAMP

Oklahoma "duck stamps" are always popular with collectors and hunters. While each year's stamp features a different handsome design sure to add appeal to any stamp collection, funds from stamp sales are used for many kinds of waterfowl management projects. Specify year when ordering. — \$10



WILDLIFE LICENSE PLATES

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



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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. — \$20



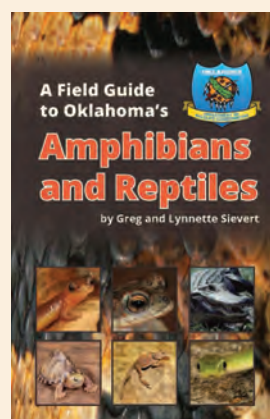
OKLAHOMA WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA ATLAS

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

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PILEATED WOODPECKER

WATCHABLE WILDLIFE • BY OUTDOOR OKLAHOMA STAFF

Among the woodland residents of Oklahoma's eastern half, perhaps none is more prominent or dashing than the pileated woodpecker (*Hylatomus pileatus*). This giant of the woodpecker family is known by a variety of names such as logcock, cock of the woods, wood hen, great god woodpecker, wood cock, and many others local in nature and origin.

The pileated woodpecker is impressive in appearance, nearly the size of a crow. It averages from 15 to 19 inches long and has a

wingspread of 25 to 30 inches. Its body, face and wings are flashily patterned in black and white. In flight, the white undersides of the wings are visible. The top of its head is emblazoned with a conspicuous fiery red crest. The sexes differ only in facial markings.

"Pileated" refers to the bird's prominent red crest, from the Latin pileatus meaning "capped."

The male sports a red mustache, and its entire crest from forehead to nape is red. The female's mustache and forehead are black. The young birds resemble the parents in color and markings.

Superior in size and strength, the pileated's voice and wood-pecking activities can be heard at greater distances through the woods than those of its woodpecker cousins. Its ringing-call notes are similar to those of the common flicker.

This species maintains a large territory, often in excess of 200 acres, and roams over that area in singles or pairs, looking for food.

Its ability to survive in many wooded habitat types has allowed the species to survive human habitation in North America much better than the more specialized ivory-billed woodpecker. Pileated woodpeckers have a large population, and despite being nonmigratory, are protected under the U.S. Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

The pileated's food preferences are confined entirely to the woods. The bird probably does its share of timber conservation, however, by destroying countless numbers of wood-boring larvae, carpenter ants, beetles and caterpillars. Wild fruits and acorns are apparently the only vegetable food eaten.

Huge holes and quantities of large wood chips at the base of a dead tree are often the first signs that the pileated woodpecker inhabits a given area. During the period of spring courtship, the logcock's tongue is loosened up considerably and males can most often be located by their calls.

Its nest is hollowed out of a dead tree or tall stump. Occasionally a living tree is used. Height of the hole from the ground varies from 10 to 75 feet, averaging about 40 feet. The hole itself measures about 3 1/2 inches in diameter at the entrance and is often as deep as 3 feet.

The cavity is unlined except for wood chips. Nesting begins around mid-April. Both parents incubate three to five plain white eggs for 12 to 16 days. The average clutch size is four per nest. Pileated woodpeckers have been observed to move to another site if any eggs fall out of the nest — a rare habit in birds.

Once the brood is raised, the birds abandon their nest hole and do not reuse it. Abandoned holes are eagerly taken over by squirrels, owls, sparrow hawks and wood ducks. The oldest known pileated woodpecker was 12 years and 11 months old. ♡

The bird probably does its share of timber conservation by destroying countless numbers of wood-boring larvae, carpenter ants, beetles and caterpillars.



To hear what a pileated woodpecker sounds like, scan the QR code.



Quail hunting is a cherished Outdoor Oklahoma tradition that continues to draw sportsmen from across the nation to the Sooner State. Quail season runs through Feb. 15 for hunters who want to chase some birds. The season closes Jan. 31 for nonresidents on most public lands west of Interstate 35.

Outdoor Oklahoma

