

QUWF



Quail & Upland Wildlife Federation

Making a Difference for Wildlife and Clean Streams, One Acre, One Stream, at a Time

THE HABITAT GUIDE

Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation

Notes from the Dashboard: Crazy weather - don't overdo it!

In this issue:

Waterfowl survey: In early January, aerial survey teams of pilots and biologists from the [Maryland Department of Natural Resources](#) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conducted their annual population estimates of ducks, geese and swans along the state's Chesapeake Bay, tidal Potomac River and Atlantic coast shorelines. This year, the teams counted about 593,200 waterfowl which was lower than the 632,200 birds observed in 2023 but consistent with the most recent five-year average of 596,500 birds. *Read more on Page 9.*

Recruiting new wardens:

Interested in becoming a Pennsylvania game warden? Become part of the team that has been protecting Pennsylvania's wildlife resources for 129 years. *Read more on Page 15.*

For all your chapter needs, please call Leslie Casanova [direct](#) at Sportsman Insurance Agency at 1-800-925-7767.

In most cases, Leslie can have your insurance the same day!

Also, any questions concerning banquets and/or vendor programs, please call the QUWF National Office at (417) 345-5960.



By Craig Alderman — First, let's start off with great news! *Rocky Boot* continues as a conservation partner with QUWF. As a current member of QUWF, our ability to provide great boots and footwear continues. Please see your local chapter for the discount options. Rocky understands the real work it takes by QUWF on the ground to provide the right habitat for wildlife.

Now to the crazy weather. Flash freezes, 70 to -24 in 24 hours, then yesterday and today in Missouri, 82 degrees to 20 in six hours. The very early summer weather — we seem to have blown by spring — is causing early reactions. **DO NOT succumb to the temptations.** DO NOT de-winterize your sprayers, nothing is growing to the point spraying would be effective. Wait until late March or April; soil samples now are winter oriented (guidance from our chief biologist). Wait until spring to get a much better sample. I have had zero opportunity to over-seed with no freezing and thawing over several days this winter to even try it. **DO NOT plant anything yet,** the ground is not ready and it will be a costly mistake.

DO buy your chemicals and seed now. The supply is better and prices have come down a little. However, just like other retail items, the containers are smaller and *cost more*, so do not be fooled. Calculate what you need and only buy that amount. As with all chemicals, Read the Label, Read the Label and Read the Label.

Check on lime prices, bulk and pelletized. *If bulk, always, always check the purity of the lime.* You are buying it by the ton, if 45% of it is just white dust (55% purity), you are wasting your money, find another dealer. A rule of thumb, apply 600 pounds of pelletized lime per acre for most food plots. Fertilizer has come down a little and seems to be in better supply.

DO fix and repair your equipment. Check all equipment and service (got enough hi-grade grease cartridges), check all fluid levels (Do you have spare hydraulic oil, engine oil and coolant?), change or replace filters, grease all fittings and clean things up a bit. Clean and sharpen all blades, cutters, saws and their mounts, shafts, check all nuts and bolts on everything.

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Continued from Page 1 — Crank the welder up if you need to. Check your tires and inflation on all equipment, especially trailers that do not see as much use. Hauling a tractor to service is stopped when you discover the trailer is not ready for the trip. Check all your trailer lighting, grease the lift jacks, and what I always forget, the tongue locks and hitch locks. **TIP: Put label tags on all your keys. TIP: Check all your jacks, floor, wagon or bottle.**

Need to replace boards? Now is the time to do it.

DO check that your fire extinguishers on all equipment and the barn, shops, and UTVs are in the green. If not, have them serviced and ready to go.

DO Check your first aid kits. Check all supplies, and restock and review expiration dates on first aid creams, common medications, etc. Don't overlook this; there will be accidents so be ready. **We also highly recommend you have and use a GMRS radio as a base unit (40 or 50 watt) with handhelds** to always, always be in communication with anyone working on the farm and the office or house. **TIP: Use your Garmin to get the Lat/Lon numbers in case you need a medic helicopter.**

DO put waterproofing and sealant on all your wooden decked trailers. When you have these crazy warm days, get them ready.

DO CHECK your parts supplies. Make sure you have all the nuts, bolts, washers, hitch pins, shear pins, spare grease fittings, wire, connectors, and spare fuses you need. The farmer's best friends are zip ties in assorted sizes; the large ones will hold up an axle — ask me how I know! Have electrical tape and of course duct tape and orange flagging tape on every tractor and vehicle. Orange flagging is great for danger markers.

FINALLY, check yourself. Do you have good gloves, boots, shirts, pants, etc. for the season? If handling chemicals, do you have all the safety equipment specified on the label? Remember, 90% of exposure can be mitigated by wearing chemical resistant long-sleeve gloves. **DO you wear hearing protection regularly? Look for earmuffs that provide 28 to 30 DB reduction. DO you wear a face filter mask with replaceable filters if in dusty or heavy pollen areas? I have to.**

I'm sure you can think of more, but you get the idea. Make a checklist and get ready the right way. Being prepared is not nearly as expensive as waiting until an accident or major breakdown occurs because you put the equipment away without service and started using it without service the next year because you were in a hurry.

Catch you across the creek.

Craig Alderman is the Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation executive director.

MI DNR announces \$100,000 available for deer habitats

The application period for the Upper Peninsula's Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Initiative competitive grant program is now open. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources initiative is a cooperative grant program designed to enhance deer habitat on private lands in the U.P.

"There are three primary goals applicants should strive to meet," said Bill Scullon, DNR field operations manager and administrator for the grant initiative. "The projects should produce tangible deer habitat improvements, build long-term partnerships between the DNR and outside organizations and showcase the benefits to the public."

Now in its 16th year, the initiative is supported by the state's Deer Range Improvement Program, which is funded by a portion of deer hunting license revenue. More than 132 projects in nearly all U.P. counties have improved thousands of acres of deer habitat.

The DNR has announced a total of \$100,000 in U.P. deer habitat improvement grant funding for 2024. Scullon said the maximum amount of individual grants is \$15,000 and the minimum is \$2,000.

Project applications must be received electronically or postmarked by Monday, March 18 and successful applicants will be notified by Friday, April 5. The complete grant application package is available on the DNR website at Michigan.gov/DNR-Grants.

Want to gather shed antlers? Take DWR's mandatory ethics course

Editor's Note: This is an interesting angle to over winter pressure from antler hunters on applicable wildlife. Learning about the effort is important.

SALT LAKE CITY — Collecting shed antlers from many big game species, including deer, elk and moose, is a popular pastime in Utah. But before you head outdoors to collect shed antlers during the next few months, you are required to complete the [2024 Utah Division of Wildlife Resources' Antler Gathering Ethics course](#).

After dropping their antlers each winter, male deer, elk and moose will grow a new set of antlers starting in spring. Looking for the shed antlers is a fun activity that many Utah families enjoy. However, late winter and early spring are a tough time of year for deer, elk and moose, which is why the educational ethics course is required if you want to go “shed hunting” between Feb. 1 and April 15.

“During winter, big game animals, especially deer, often have a difficult time finding food,” DWR Once-In-A-Lifetime Species Coordinator Rusty Robinson said. “As a result, they often survive on fat reserves they have built up prior to winter. If the animals [receive constant pressure from people](#) and repeatedly have to run or move, they use up the fat reserves and energy they need to make it through the winter. Being disturbed briefly once or twice isn't too significant, but we have over 20,000 people who routinely shed hunt in Utah each year, so ongoing, repeated disturbances can be detrimental to deer.”

From late winter through early spring, the habitat that big game animals rely on is usually wet, which means it's more at risk for damage. The free antler gathering ethics course can help you learn how to minimize stress to wildlife and also how to avoid damaging their habitats during this critical time of year.

Completing the course is mandatory if you want to gather shed antlers from Feb. 1 through April 15, and the course must be completed each year. However, if you wait until after April 15 to gather antlers, you don't need to complete the course. You can find the [free 2024 course on the DWR website](#). About 20,000 people take the mandatory course each year in order to go look for shed antlers in Utah.

After you finish the course, you must either:

- Store the certificate of completion in the [DWR Hunting and Fishing app](#)
- Print your certificate of completion and carry it with you in the field while “shed hunting”

Completing the course and having the certificate of completion with you allows you to gather antlers in many locations across Utah. However, some notable exceptions include:

- **Wildlife management areas:** Many of the state's wildlife management areas are closed in the winter and spring to protect animals and their habitat. Make sure to double check for any closures before entering a WMA to gather shed antlers. You can find a list of [Utah's wildlife management areas](#) and any seasonal closures on the DWR website.
- **Private property:** You must [have written permission](#) from the landowner before gathering antlers on private land.
- **Native American lands, national parks and many national monuments** are also closed to antler and horn gathering.

Reporting “deadheads”

If you find a skull with the antlers or horns still attached (often referred to as a “deadhead”), it's possible the animal was poached. Do not pick up or move the skull or disturb footprints or other evidence at the scene.

Instead, you should report it through the [Utah Deadhead Reporter app](#), which was [released last year to increase the efficiency](#) of those reports.

You will need to download the app when you have cellphone service, but once it is downloaded, a report can be submitted from the field even without cellphone service.

In 2023, 665 reports were submitted through the Utah Deadhead Reporter app.

The DWR recently formed a committee to examine shed antler gathering in Utah. The DWR's official proposals for the shed antler gathering rules will be presented at future public meetings later this year to gather public comments.



Ask Alexa to play 101.3 Real Country or AM 560 in the Morning, or go online and download the **free app**.

Hornady honored with NSSF achievement award

Grand Island, NE — Steve Hornady has been awarded the NSSF® Ken Sedleky Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2024 SHOT Show in Las Vegas, Nevada.

“I have dedicated my life to the preservation of hunting and shooting,” said Steve Hornady. “The recognition from the NSSF with this prestigious award is humbling and I am incredibly honored,” he added.

The NSSF® Ken Sedleky Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes individuals who have distinguished themselves by their long-term commitment to the success of the industry and by their support of NSSF’s mission to promote, protect and preserve hunting and the shooting sports.

Founded in 1949, Hornady® Manufacturing Company is a family-owned business headquartered in Grand Island, Nebraska. Proudly manufacturing products that are made in the USA, Hornady® Manufacturing is a world leader in bullet, ammunition, reloading tool, accessory and security product design and manufacturing.

For further information regarding Hornady® products, visit the company website at <http://hornady.com>.



NSSF-adjusted NICS background checks for January 2024

The **January 2024 NSSF-adjusted National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS)** figure of 1,197,294 is a decrease of 5.6 percent compared to the January 2023 **NSSF-adjusted NICS figure** of 1,268,236. For comparison, the unadjusted January 2024 FBI NICS figure 2,180,262 reflects a 16.6 percent decrease from the unadjusted FBI NICS figure of 2,612,736 in January 2023. January 2024 marks the 54th month in a row that has exceeded 1 million adjusted background checks in a single month.

Please note: Twenty-four states currently have at least one qualified alternative permit, which under the Brady Act allows the permit-holder, who has undergone a background check to obtain the permit, to purchase a firearm from a licensed dealer without a separate additional background check for that transfer. The number of NICS checks in these states does not include these legal transfers based on qualifying permits and NSSF does not adjust for these transfers.

The **adjusted NICS data** were derived by subtracting out NICS purpose code permit checks and permit rechecks used by states for CCW permit application checks as well as checks on active CCW permit databases. NSSF started subtracting permit rechecks in February 2016.

Though not a direct correlation to firearms sales, the NSSF-adjusted NICS data provide an additional picture of current market conditions. In addition to other purposes, NICS is used to check transactions for sales or transfers of new or used firearms.

It should be noted that these statistics represent the number of firearm background checks initiated through the NICS. They do not represent the number of firearms sold or sales dollars. Based on varying state laws, local market conditions and purchase scenarios, a one-to-one correlation cannot be made between a firearm background check and a firearm sale.

For additional information on NICS or to view a complete set of the current monthly reports, please visit the **NICS website**.



Rocky continues conservation support of ‘Turnin’ the Dirt’

Support of veteran private landowners and private landowners in general, continues with the strong support of Rocky Boot.

“We are habitat workers, true knuckle-busting conservationists who are in the woods, fields and pastures of the 95% of our wildlife habitat that is owned by private landowners in the U.S.,” reflects Craig Alderman of QUWF. “To accomplish this work, year in and year out, our members and sponsors alike, have to have the right footwear, it is a critical component of what wildlife habitat work is.

“We are very grateful for Rocky Boot sharing the very same ideals and support QUWF and all its members with a great work and hunting boot selection. They understand conservation work is not an easy task, and it has to be long term with good equipment, our boots, that hold up.”

“We know QUWF works in the harshest of conditions, we see the pictures of timber stand improvement, assisting landowners with access and egress roads, fencing and culverts, boundary marking, floods, tornadoes, snow and ice storms as well as the normal field preparations, planting for crops and livestock,” said Mickey Cozart of Rocky Boot. “We know our boots can and will do the job and have earned the Green Badge of a Conservation Partner with QUWF.”

“I have been buying and using Rocky Boots very hard for decades, as a forester, working in the woods and fields, the safety toe loggers’ boot is my go-to pair,” Alderman said. “I have separate hunting boots and heavily insulated boots for winter plowing and equipment work.

“What makes it all worthwhile is knowing, Rocky Boot gets it. They know unless we help the small private landowners, wildlife habitat and populations are in trouble. We are proud they invest in QUWF for our wildlife and habitat future.”

“My Rocky boots enable me as the QUWF chief biologist along with our chapter teams to climb hills and hollows multiple times every year to obtain wildlife counts, monitor and research predator numbers and effects then finally, monitoring the millions of dollars we have invested in our wildlife coops around the country,” said Nick Prough. “It’s hard work and does take its toll on boots. Some routes would challenge a mountain goat, they are that rough and steep. Rocky comes through with great performance.”



New York AG issues statement on trial win against NRA

Editor's Note: There are many sides to the NRA story, but all agreed, significant change was needed and it was not happening through the organization itself who tended to protect themselves versus the members and the organizational goals. Let's hope a new beginning can be structured for a great organization.

NEW YORK – New York Attorney General Letitia James announced Feb. 23 that the jury in her case against the National Rifle Association (NRA) and three current and former senior leaders has found the defendants liable for violating the law. The jury found that Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre and former Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Wilson “Woody” Phillips were liable for financial misconduct and corruption in managing the organization. The jury concluded that LaPierre abused his position for his personal benefit and steered lucrative contracts to friends and relatives, including spending millions of organization dollars on lavish travel, private planes, expensive clothing, and more. LaPierre was found to have caused the NRA \$5.4 million in damages and must pay \$4.35 million. The jury also determined that Attorney General James has shown cause for removal of LaPierre from the NRA based upon his violations.

The jury also found that the NRA failed to properly administer charitable funds and violated state laws that protect whistleblowers. Phillips and the current General Counsel and Corporate Secretary John Frazer were found liable for failing to uphold their duties as nonprofit executives. Phillips was ordered to pay \$2 million in damages. Frazer and the NRA were also found liable for making false statements on the NRA’s regulatory filings.

“This verdict is a major victory for the people of New York and our efforts to stop the corruption and greed at the NRA,” said **Attorney General James**. “For years, Wayne LaPierre used charitable dollars to fund his lavish lifestyle, spending millions on luxury travel, expensive clothes, insider contracts, and other perks for himself and his family. LaPierre and senior leaders at the NRA blatantly abused their positions and broke the law. But today, after years of rampant corruption and self-dealing, Wayne LaPierre and the NRA are finally being held accountable. We will not hesitate to pursue justice against any individual or organization that violates our laws or our trust, no matter how powerful they are.”

Over the course of a six-week trial, the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) presented evidence revealing the extent of the NRA and its senior leaders’ violations of the law and misuse of NRA funds. **The evidence presented included:**

- Invoices of repeated private flight trips to the Bahamas taken by Wayne LaPierre with friends and family and paid for by the NRA, including some invoices which concealed passengers and destinations;
- Invoices of helicopter trips to NASCAR races to avoid being stuck in traffic;
- Expense reports submitted by Wayne LaPierre and paid by the NRA for reimbursement of outdoor mosquito treatment at his house, landscaping for his house, and gifts for friends and family;
- A no-show post-employment contract between the NRA and Woody Phillips to pay him \$360,000 annually in addition to \$3,500 in monthly office rent;
- Invoices worth more than \$4 million dollars from the NRA’s then-largest vendor, Ackerman McQueen, for “out-of-pocket” expenses that had no detail and were used as a pass through for other expenses incurred by NRA Executives, including high end travel expenses for Wayne LaPierre and hair and makeup expenses for LaPierre’s wife; and
- Testimony from whistleblowers detailing harassment, intimidation, or other forms of retaliation by the NRA for raising concerns about the misuse of funds.

Following the jury determination of liability against the NRA and the individual defendants, a separate court proceeding before Justice Cohen, sitting without a jury, will be held to determine whether to award non-monetary relief, including:



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- Whether an independent compliance monitor, which would report to the Court, should be appointed to ensure the proper administration of the NRA's charitable assets.
- Whether an independent governance expert should be appointed to advise the Court on reforms necessary to the NRA's governance to ensure the proper administration of the NRA's charitable assets.
- Whether Wayne LaPierre and Woody Phillips should be permanently barred from re-election or appointment as an NRA officer or director, or from any other New York state not-for-profit corporation.
- Whether the NRA and John Frazer should be barred from soliciting or collecting funds on behalf of any charitable organization operating in New York.

Attorney General James thanks the jury for their time and service.

Attorney General James [filed a lawsuit against the NRA, LaPierre and the other current and former senior officers](#) in August 2020. In January 2021, Judge Joel Cohen [ruled in Attorney General James' favor and denied](#) motions to dismiss the case and change the court venue. In January 2021, [the NRA filed for bankruptcy](#) in an attempt to avoid accountability by trying to reorganize in Texas.

In May 2021, a federal bankruptcy court in Texas [rejected the NRA's bankruptcy petition](#), stating, "that the NRA did not file the bankruptcy petition in good faith."

In September 2022, Judge Joel Cohen [rejected another attempt](#) by the NRA to challenge the Attorney General's claims and affirmed that Attorney General James can seek an independent monitor to ensure the proper administration of the NRA's charitable assets as part of her lawsuit.

In December 2023, the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, First Department affirmed that decision. In January 2024, a final effort to delay the trial was [rejected by the Appellate Division, First Department](#).

On the eve of the trial, Wayne LaPierre [stepped down](#) as Executive Vice President and CEO of the NRA, a role he held for more than 30 years. Also days before the trial, the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) [reached a \\$100,000 settlement](#) with the NRA's former Executive Director of Operations and Chief of Staff Joshua Powell in which he admitted wrongdoing.

The OAG's litigation and trial team was led by Assistant Attorney General and Special Counsel Monica Connell and Chief of the Enforcement Section Emily Stern, with a team of attorneys and legal assistants, including Bureau Chief James Sheehan, Assistant Attorneys General Jonathan Conley, Erin Kandel, Jonathan Lester, Alexander Mendelson, Steve Shiffman, Daniel Sugarman, Stephen Thompson, and William Wang, and legal assistant Nyna Sargent — all of the Charities Bureau. Additional assistance was provided by Jacqueline Sanchez, Sophia Friedman, Luz Ceballos-Lopez and Imani Saddler.

The Charities Bureau is part of the Division for Social Justice, which is overseen by Chief Deputy Attorney General Meghan Faux and led by First Deputy Attorney General Jennifer Levy.



Midwinter 2024 waterfowl survey results released

In early January, aerial survey teams of pilots and biologists from the [Maryland Department of Natural Resources](#) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conducted their annual population estimates of ducks, geese and swans along the state’s Chesapeake Bay, tidal Potomac River and Atlantic coast shorelines. This year, the teams counted about 593,200 waterfowl which was lower than the 632,200 birds observed in 2023 but consistent with the most recent five-year average of 596,500 birds.

“Waterfowl are continually responding to environmental cues like weather and food availability as they seek resources necessary to ensure their survival,” said Wildlife and Heritage Director Karina Stonesifer. “The standardized survey protocols associated with the Mid-Winter Survey allow our biologists to assemble a long-term picture of waterfowl abundance and distribution in Maryland, and this survey represents one of the department’s many contributions to state, regional, and continental waterfowl data collection efforts used to manage this valuable resource.”



Overall, dabbling duck numbers (91,300) were similar to the 2023 count of 93,600 birds. While the number of mallards (45,100) and black ducks (24,200) were close to their respective 5-year averages (50,800, and 21,760), the number of green-winged teal counted in 2024 (17,500) was much higher than recent years.

The 2024 mid-winter survey was conducted during the first two weeks of January, just prior to the cold weather that occurred later in the month. The timing of the survey flights likely led to lower diving duck counts than in 2023 (190,300). Biologists counted 350,500 Canada geese in the 2024 survey effort which was slightly higher than both the 320,800 geese counted in 2023 and the 5-year average (321,960).

The Midwinter Waterfowl Survey has been conducted annually since the early 1960s and covers most of the tidal shorelines and near-shore waterfowl habitat in Maryland (see below for survey results from the last 5 years).

Midwinter Waterfowl Survey Results 2019-2024* (figures rounded to the nearest hundred)

| Species | Mallard | Black Duck | Gadwall | Widgeon | Green-winged teal | Shoveler | Pintail | Total Dabblers |
|-------------|---------|------------|---------|---------|-------------------|----------|---------|----------------|
| 2019 | 39,000 | 17,200 | 4,800 | 1,200 | 1,500 | 100 | 600 | 64,400 |
| 2020 | 56,000 | 21,000 | 10,800 | 1,100 | 2,000 | 300 | 1,800 | 93,000 |
| 2022 | 53,500 | 24,600 | 6,800 | 300 | 6,900 | 900 | 4,600 | 97,600 |
| 2023 | 56,800 | 21,800 | 3,400 | 1,900 | 6,200 | 200 | 3,300 | 93,600 |
| 2024 | 45,100 | 24,200 | 2,600 | 500 | 17,500 | 100 | 1,300 | 91,300 |

| Species | Redhead | Canvasback | Scaup | Ring-necked duck | Goldeneye | Bufflehead | Ruddy duck | Total Divers |
|-------------|---------|------------|--------|------------------|-----------|------------|------------|----------------|
| 2019 | 20,600 | 46,000 | 72,100 | 1,100 | 100 | 13,200 | 28,900 | 182,000 |
| 2020 | 10,600 | 46,900 | 59,000 | 3,000 | 300 | 11,400 | 18,500 | 149,700 |
| 2022 | 10,600 | 7,700 | 29,500 | 2,100 | 100 | 10,600 | 22,400 | 79,400 |
| 2023 | 12,800 | 57,800 | 74,000 | 6,200 | 400 | 16,800 | 22,300 | 190,300 |
| 2024 | 10,000 | 18,800 | 28,400 | 7,000 | 300 | 16,300 | 39,500 | 120,300 |

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| Species | Scoters | Long-tailed duck | Mergansers | Total Ducks |
|-------------|---------|------------------|------------|----------------|
| 2019 | 27,800 | 300 | 2,000 | 276,500 |
| 2020 | 5,700 | 200 | 2,300 | 250,900 |
| 2022 | 1,300 | 100 | 1,400 | 179,800 |
| 2023 | 3,400 | 100 | 1,700 | 289,100 |
| 2024 | 1,800 | 100 | 1,900 | 215,400 |

| Species | Brant | Snow Goose | Canada Goose | Tundra Swan | Total Waterfowl |
|-------------|-------|------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 2019 | 900 | 34,700 | 250,200 | 4,000 | 566,300 |
| 2020 | 900 | 40,900 | 327,200 | 7,100 | 627,000 |
| 2022 | 200 | 13,600 | 361,100 | 7,400 | 563,800 |
| 2023 | 400 | 12,500 | 320,800 | 7,300 | 632,200 |
| 2024 | 1,100 | 16,100 | 350,500 | 9,600 | 593,200 |

**The survey was not conducted in 2021 due to the Covid pandemic. Photo by State Park Ranger Elena Gilroy, Maryland Department of Natural Resources.*

Indiana barn owls take residence at Goose Pond FWA

A pair of barn owls have found love this Valentine’s Day at Goose Pond Fish & Wildlife Area (FWA).

The owls have made a home in the property’s nest box, and you can watch this couple via a live webcam by going to on.IN.gov/goosepondfwa, then scrolling to the middle of the page to the link that says “view live feed from the Visitors Center.”

Barn owls are an endangered species in Indiana due to grassland habitat loss. Fewer than 50 nests are found annually in Indiana. To provide barn owls with secure nesting sites that are protected from predators, the DNR has built more than 400 nest boxes and erected them in barns and other structures with suitable habitat over the last 30 years.

The barn owl nest box at Goose Pond FWA was completed in March 2022 and is located next to its Visitors Center. This is the first nesting pair that has decided to call it home. The Friends of Goose Pond group helped provide funding for the camera and box, which has marine-grade plywood to keep the residents dry. It was painted the same color as the Visitors Center and looks like a house.

State ornithologist Allisyn Gillet said barn owls are typically beginning to look for a nest this time of year. The couple at Goose Pond FWA will probably spend the next few weeks getting used to their new home and creating a nest from regurgitated food they could not digest, like bones, fur, and teeth, called pellets. When they have enough pellets, the owls will create a depression in them in which to lay their eggs.

Their laying season can begin as early as March, and their clutch usually contains four to seven eggs. They usually lay once every two to three days and start incubating their eggs right away. After 29-34 days, the eggs hatch. A male will bring in small mammals that the female then tears into small pieces to feed their owlets.

Because the hatching doesn’t happen all at once, the older owlets that hatch first are usually stronger. If there are plenty of resources, all the owlets in a clutch have a good chance at survival, but if resources are scarce, only the stronger, older owlets may survive. DNR does not interfere in such routine natural events.



Notes from the Road:

What worked last year and what didn't



By Nick Prough — Well, we often say that just when we think the weather has begun to change for the season and spring is about to arrive, wait a day and yet another arctic cold front can and will hit a majority of the country overnight. And bam, many of us went from singing songbirds and turkeys gobbling, to wildlife and mankind scrambling around for food/cover and just where they put their winter Carhartt coat again.

Here in western Missouri, we went from 82 degrees to 18 in less than six hours time yesterday evening, so to say it was a drastic drop in temperatures is an understatement, and actually one of the top five fastest drops in recorded history for western MO.

I am sure many of you have had similar experiences with this almost nationwide-scale front crossing the country as you read this. With that said, whether you're outside braving the elements once again or staring into your computer screen now, it is an excellent time to figure out what best worked for your habitat practices and projects and what truly didn't. Some of these will vary year after year either by timing-related issues, weather (extreme drought or flooding), installation of practice issues, or whatever else may have been the cause; either try to find a better way to implement those specific habitat practices or convert them over to one of your more successful tried and true techniques you have used in the past.

Often this time of year, during early springtime of March/April, landowners call with many new ideas for habitat projects or new things they may have seen online (the latest YouTube sensation with 10,000 likes) or one that another landowner has done that they told them about this winter. That is a good way to learn new practices and can add to your toolbox that may or may not work for you, but staying with some of the time-tested and known habitat successes that you have had work well for your habitat efforts over the years is also a very good idea to keep as a core concept on any farm.

Whether that be edge-feathering habitat for quail and other species such as rabbits, brood-rearing habitat for turkeys and quail, light disking of old fields that have become monocultures over time, timber stand improvement (TSI) a older tract of timber, or creating new wildlife openings in the woodlands, all of these practices have been time tested and proven to be excellent habitat practices for many species of wildlife over many years and many different landscapes.

Take a close look at just where the wildlife you most commonly see are located at during different times of the year, why and when are they there. Then, what management activities were done or not done to have them utilizing this specific tract of land? When you answer those simple couple questions, you are well on your way to either mimicking those practices or doing a similar or improved management on another tract of land or area of your farm to help expand their usable space available to that species you would like to enhance.

As I mentioned above it may be the lack of some practice even such as not recreationally mowing a farm every couple months to "make it look nice from the road" or the lack of haying a field to just hay it because it has always been hayed since I was a kid, that can make a big difference in wildlife using or not using a specific tract as well. Additionally, take a look at what didn't work — did you plant your native grass buffers too early? Too deep? Too late? Did you spray your invasives with the correct chemical at the right time window? All of these questions will help you immensely in planning your plan of attack for this spring and the upcoming habitat management season.

Keep up all the great work out there that each of you, your landowners, your chapters and conservation partners are doing on crucial wildlife habitat projects, youth field day events, as well as all your other conservation outreach efforts, you are working on in your local communities each and every day, as you are definitely ... **"Making a Difference for Wildlife One Acre at a Time!"**

Nick Prough is the QUWF chief wildlife biologist and landowner liaison.

ODNR hosts Field to Table: Venison Week

COLUMBUS, Ohio — As Ohio's white-tailed deer hunting season came to an end, hunters were invited to celebrate their success by joining the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Wildlife at Field to Table: Venison Week. Free classes on cooking venison were held in February.

One deer can provide as much as 60 pounds of venison that can be served in a variety of ways. The classes focused on venison preparation and cooking, including pressure canning, jerky and snack stick making, and family friendly dinners. The classes were held throughout the state at wildlife district headquarters and select education centers. All classes were free.



Classes included:

- Making venison summer sausage (northwest Ohio)
- Cooking family friendly meals with venison (central Ohio)
- Pressure canning venison (central Ohio)
- Venison jerky making (northeast Ohio)
- Pressure canning venison (southwest Ohio)
- Venison snack stick making (southwest Ohio)

The [Wild Ohio Harvest Community](#) is your path to wild food. The Division of Wildlife can help with all the information and resources needed to safely and responsibly fish, hunt, and harvest your own local food.

If you were not able to attend a class but are still looking for great ways to prepare your venison, check out the [Wild Ohio Harvest Cookbook](#) for great recipe ideas for a variety of wild game species.

The mission of the Division of Wildlife is to conserve and improve fish and wildlife resources and their habitats for sustainable use and appreciation by all. Visit wildohio.gov to find out more. In 2024, join ODNR as we celebrate 75 years of protecting Ohio's natural resources and providing outstanding and award-winning recreational opportunities.

Camp Woodie summer camp registration halfway full

PINEWOOD, S.C. — If you have a 7- to 16-year-old (male or female) looking for a fun-filled week learning about hunting and fishing skills and wildlife conservation, consider registering them to attend a week at Camp Woodie in Pinewood, SC.

Our week-long (Sunday-Friday) residential summer camp runs from the beginning of June to mid-August at the South Carolina Waterfowl Associations' 1,375-acre Wildlife Education Center. Campers participate in shotgun and rifle shooting, outdoor skills training, archery, fishing, canoeing, team building, and much more! Local professionals and instructors are on-site to ensure the highest level of safety and quality of our camp activities.

“Over the years, not only has Camp Woodie helped instill the qualities, skills, and ethics of a respectful sportsman, but the camp family he's developed among his fellow campers has created a tight-knit group of boys and girls that stay connected and grow together both as outdoor enthusiasts and also the young men and women that one day too will be responsible for carrying on that tradition of sportsmanship,” - Camp Woodie Parent

We are also looking for passionate staff to join our team this summer to fulfill our mission of passing on the love of the outdoors to the next generation. We are currently seeking counselors (18+), shooting, fishing, and archery instructors (21+) to provide a safe and fun learning environment for campers.

Camp Woodie is already halfway full so please register today to save your spot! Tuition is \$1075 a week, and includes all food, lodging, and activities. Please note financial assistance is available if eligible.

For more information and to register, visit wildlifeeducationcenter.org

CMP offers long range rifle match at Camp Perry

The Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) will host a Long Range Rifle Match, June 29-30, 2024, at Camp Perry in Ohio. Rifle categories offered during the event include Match (Any and Iron Sights), Service, Palma, AR Tactical, F-Open and F T/R. The event is open to any adult or junior with a Long Range rifle, regardless of experience.

“We’re trying to add Long Range opportunities to as many events as possible, with the hopes of growing our program and bringing new competitors and Long Range interest to the CMP,” said Sara Rozanski, CMP highpower rifle coordinator.

For the first time, the 1,000-yard event will be fired on CMP’s line of outdoor electronic targets. The targets include monitors at each firing point that instantly display accurate shot scores, creating a more leisurely experience for individuals on the firing line.

“We would like to start using our line of electronic targets for the annual National Long Range events at Camp Perry in the near future, and these smaller matches are a great way to slowly work out any issues we may encounter,” Rozanski added. “With the addition of electronic targets, we’re hoping to encourage more individuals to give Long Range a try.”

Register for the June Long Range Match at <https://ct.thecmp.org/CPJuneLongRange24>. Questions?

Contact competitions@thecmp.org.

Unsure if your rifle qualifies for Long Range competition? Email Sara Rozanski at srozanski@thecmp.org.

More Long Range Electronic Target Opportunities! Prior to the match in June, the CMP will be testing its outdoor electronic target line for Long Range use at the 2024 Eastern CMP Games in North Carolina. The Eastern Games event is set to be held April 24-May 5 at Camp Butner. Learn more by visiting <https://thecmp.org/cmp-matches/eastern-cmp-games-cmp-hp-rifle-matches/>.

National Long Range Matches: If you can’t make it to the Long Range event in June, be sure to check out the CMP’s National Long Range series – featuring 10 individual and team events in Service, Match and Palma rifle classes on Camp Perry’s 1,000-yard Viale Range. Like the June event, the National Long Range matches are open to Match Rifle, Service Rifle, Palma, F-Open, F T/R or AR Tactical categories. The National Long Range series, which also includes a Mid-Range match, is part of the CMP’s annual National Matches, held annually at Camp Perry, Ohio. Learn more at <https://thecmp.org/cmp-matches/national-long-range-matches/>.

The Civilian Marksmanship Program is a federally chartered 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation. It is dedicated to firearm safety and marksmanship training and to the promotion of marksmanship competition for citizens of the United States. For more information about the CMP and its programs, log onto www.TheCMP.org.

Restricted 18+ in CA in compliance with CA State Assembly Bill 2571 prohibiting the marketing of firearms to minors in the State of CA.



CMP



WY introduces hunter ed endorsement for teachers

Editor's Note: Well done, Wyoming!

Joint efforts by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and the Professional Teaching Standards Board have resulted in a new license endorsement for teachers interested in teaching hunter education in Wyoming classrooms.

“The Professional Teaching Standards Board is pleased to partner with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department in offering hunter education as an endorsement that teachers can add to their licenses,” said Brendan O’Connor, PTSB executive director. “Hunting, fishing and natural resource conservation is embedded in Wyoming's culture. Providing this opportunity allows qualified teachers to teach these foundations to students across the state during the school year so they will become good stewards of the state's bounty.”



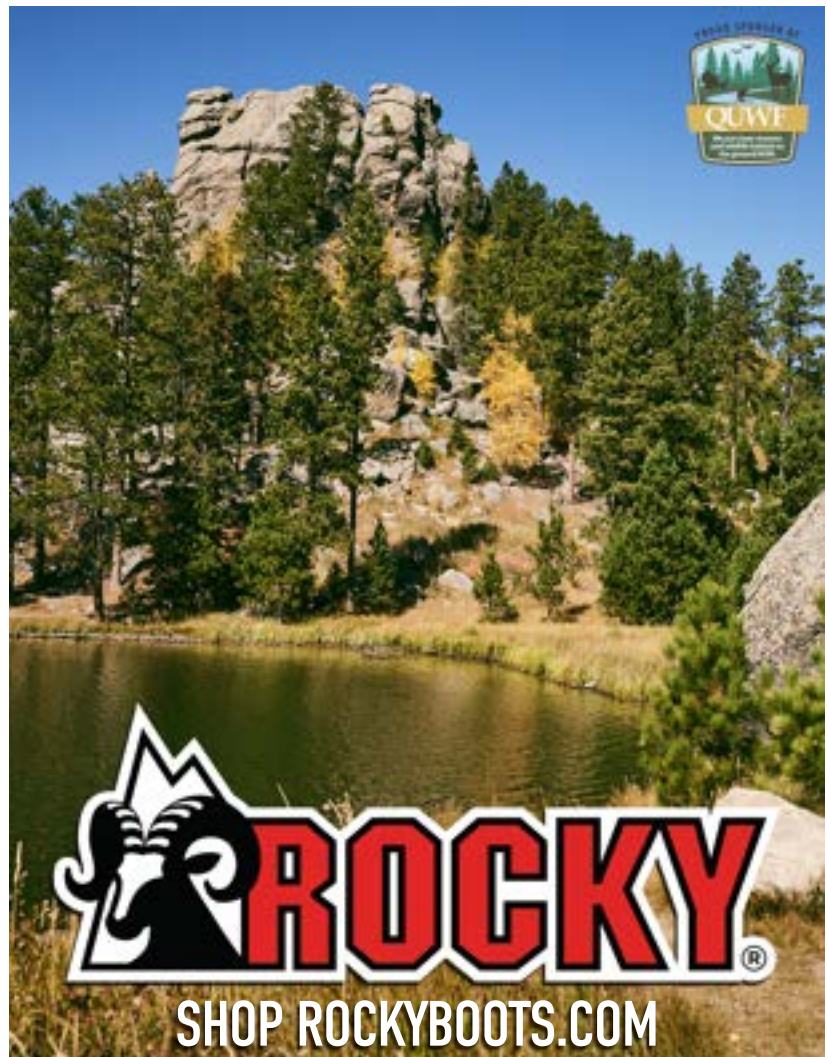
The hunter education teaching license endorsement is the final step in a three-year, joint effort by the Wyoming State Board of Education and State Superintendent of Public Instruction to provide hunter education in schools as recommended by the [Firearm and Hunter Education Joint Resolution](#).

The endorsement allows educators who have been approved by their school administration to teach students hunter education. Hunter education classes can be offered during class hours or in after-school programs, allowing students to receive their hunter education certification. Endorsed teachers are certified by Game and Fish to instruct hunter education and must comply with Wyoming regulations.

“Bringing hunter education into schools is about more than just teaching students how to hunt. It is about instilling a conservation ethic in our students, teaching wildlife identification, fostering recognition and application of wilderness and firearm safety in and out of the field, and cultivating a legacy of responsible conservationists for generations to come,” said Nish Goicolea, Game and Fish chief of education and communications. “This endorsement would not have been possible without the collaboration of multiple state agencies and a shared vision of what conservation education should look like in Wyoming.”

Teachers interested in earning an [endorsement](#) in hunter education must meet and maintain [Game and Fish hunter education instructor certification](#) requirements and submit the proper documentation to PTSB.

Becoming a hunter ed instructor is not limited to teachers — anyone can become a [volunteer instructor](#).



PA game commission recruiting new wardens

Interested in becoming a Pennsylvania game warden? Become part of the team that has been protecting Pennsylvania’s wildlife resources for 129 years.

The application window for the 37th Cadet Class will be open until March 7, 2024. Cadets will report for training in March 2025 and graduate in February 2026.

Cadet application no longer requires 60 college credits. Applicants must have a high school diploma or GED, and must either have completed Hunter-Trapper Education or do so by March 7.

“We’ve now streamlined the process for those who want to serve the Commonwealth as a game warden and would like to see more individuals take advantage of this opportunity,” said Game Commission Executive Director Bryan Burhans. “If applicants are willing to work hard to protect our wildlife resources, and possess the qualities we value, college credits will not stand between them and a rewarding career with the Game Commission,” he added.



To begin a rewarding career where no two days on the job will ever be the same, or for additional details or answers to questions, contact the Game Commission’s team at PGCcareers@pa.gov.

To learn more and apply now, visit the PGC website, or click directly to: <https://www.pgc.pa.gov/InformationResources/CareersandVolunteers/Pages/GameWardenCareers.aspx>.

QUWF welcomes All veterans. All the time.

The Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation was formed to focus on and help veteran landowners, veteran sportsmen, and all veterans who are interested in the great outdoors.

QUWF staff will help all veterans find and get benefit assistance through the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) or other resources.

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We are the ONLY VETERAN FORMED and managed national wildlife and conservation organization in the U.S. QUWF and our chapters support veteran businesses as well. Let us know.



Application period open for MI habitat grant

Now through March 18, 2024, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Habitat Grant Program is accepting applications.

“Healthy, abundant wildlife habitats not only benefit wildlife, they also provide value to Michigan residents by offering more opportunities for hunting, trapping and wildlife viewing, improved soil conservation and support for critical ecosystems,” said DNR Wildlife Division Chief Sara Thompson.

“Through the productive partnerships that make such works possible, the Wildlife Habitat Grant Program helps create food plots, build wintering deer complexes, plant native grasses, regenerate aspen and other tree species, and do many other things that yield benefits long after the initial projects are completed,” Thompson said.

Funding is available for local, state, federal and tribal governments, profit and nonprofit groups, and individuals through an open, competitive process. Minimum grant amounts will be set at \$15,000, with the maximum being the amount of funds available for that grant cycle. The 2024 overall available grant amount is approximately \$1 million.

The Wildlife Habitat Grant Program began in October 2013 and is funded from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses. The DNR administers the program with the main objective to enhance and improve the quality and quantity of wildlife species habitat in support of the [Wildlife Division’s strategic plan](#).

Applications open Jan. 31 and must be submitted through the [MiGrants system](#) no later than March 18 to be considered for funding. Successful grant applications will be announced in early summer 2024.

The [detailed program handbook](#) and more information are available at Michigan.gov/DNR-Grants.



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AR survey sheds light on outdoor participation

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has followed trends in the outdoors since 1955 by conducting the National Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation Survey about every five years. It’s a massive, continuous effort.

Public conservation and wildlife agencies across the U.S. – including the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission – and commercial enterprises rely on the survey to reveal peaks and valleys in the numbers of hunters, anglers and others who participate in outdoor-related endeavors. [The latest version, the 2022 edition](#), marks a departure from methods used in the past.

“Though the intent of the survey remains the same, because of changes in the sampling design and how questions were asked, the USFWS is adamant that we not compare the results from the 2022 survey to previous iterations,” Jessica Feltz, an AGFC conservation social scientist, said. “The 2022 survey is now serving as the new baseline for estimates of outdoor recreation in the United States.”

The survey is paid for by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies’ [Multistate Conservation Grant Program](#).

“Starting with the 1985 survey, individual state-level reports became available,” Feltz said. “On top of the national survey, every state automatically got results of a subsample from those who took the survey from their state.”



Continued on Page 19

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Continued from Page 17 — These state reports were no longer automatic with the 2022 survey, although Arkansas was one of 15 states that opted for a state-specific report. Fighting the urge to make comparisons with previous surveys isn't easy, although changes in the way the latest survey was conducted make a clear case that such comparisons would not be valid.

According to the latest survey, about 15 percent of Americans 16 and older fished an average of 20 days during 2022. Sixty-seven percent of them were male, seventy-five percent were White and 36 percent were in the 25-44 age group.

“The average expenditure per angler in 2022 was about \$2,500,” Feltz said. “This could have been trip expenditures, equipment, license fees or other expenses.” Feltz pointed out that among ethnic groups, Asian-Americans had the highest rate of fishing participation at 20 percent.

In Arkansas, 516,000 people 16 and older fished, or about 28 percent of residents 16-34. Thirty percent of men and 15 percent of women in Arkansas fished; they spent \$3.8 billion in 2022. Hispanics led all ethnicities in participation rate at 28 percent. About 391,000 people came to Arkansas to go fishing.

About 5.5 percent of Americans hunted in 2022, and 80 percent of those pursued big game such as elk, deer, bear or wild turkey. They averaged 12 days hunting big game and eight days chasing migratory birds, and spent an average of \$857 on hunting-related costs. Seventy-seven percent of hunters were male and 35 percent were 55 or older. About 270,000 Arkansans hunted, or 19 percent of residents 16-34. Eighteen percent of men and 6 percent of women hunted; they spent about \$1.7 billion. About 127,000 people came from other states to pursue game in Arkansas.

The survey defined wildlife watching as “closely observing, feeding or photographing wildlife, visiting public spaces to view wildlife, and maintaining plantings and natural areas around the home for the benefit of wildlife.” Trips were captured as either being done around the home or greater than one mile away from the home.

Fifty-seven percent of Americans fit the definition. Birding was the most popular activity among wildlife watchers; birders averaged 78 days in 2022, and 44 percent of them traveled to observe birds. Each wildlife watcher spent an average of \$2,188.

Sixty-four percent (1.5 million) of Arkansans 16 and older were wildlife watchers, including 69 percent of men and 60 percent of women. About 1.2 million people came to see wildlife in Arkansas. Wildlife watchers in the state spent \$7.1 billion during the year. Sport-shooting statistics were included in the survey for the first time, revealing that 47 million Americans participated in target shooting in 2021 (579,000 Arkansans). Nineteen million people participated in target archery (248,000 Arkansans) and 48 million (499,000 Arkansans) took part in motorized pleasure boating (not fishing). These figures are just a glimpse of the statistics captured within the revamped national and state surveys, which will stand up to comparison in the future.

Visit the [USFWS survey site](#) to learn more about the results of the survey on a national level.

Find QUWF Online!

QUWF has four landowner coops: The Grouse Coop and the Niangua Coop in Missouri, and the Catskill Mountains Wildlife and Oregon Joint Wildlife coops. Interested in forming a coop? Email Craig Alderman at admin@quwf.net.

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ALPS OutdoorZ introduces waterproof rifle case

NEW HAVEN, Mo. – ALPS OutdoorZ, the premiere manufacturer of extreme-duty hunting packs and outdoor gear, takes gear protection and transportation to the next level with the all-new Waterproof Rifle Case. Developed for backcountry hunters yet ideally suited for anyone who demands maximum protection and portability for their firearm, the Waterproof Rifle Case is a must-have addition to any serious hunter’s gear portfolio.

Constructed of a waterproof 500D welded PVC outer shell, the case integrates high-density closed-cell flotation foam that not only protects your rifle from the inevitable bumps and dings when horse packing or transporting in a vehicle or ATV, but also ensures your rifle stays dry during inclement weather. The dry bag-style roll-top closure system provides a tight seal to keep water out and offers an adjustable fit for rifles up to 53 inches long and up to 10.5 inches in height.



The case’s rugged construction includes three external compression straps on the side that allow you to further secure the rifle in the case for a snug, protective fit. These straps can also be used to secure a tripod or other shooting support system, so you have everything you need when it is time to make the shot. To assist in field transport, the case comes with an integrated top carry handle and a padded and adjustable removable shoulder strap. A D-ring is also added to the end of the case so it can be conveniently hung to dry or for storage when not in use.

The Waterproof Rifle Case measures 57" L x 11" W with a roll length of 49" to 53" and weighs 2lbs. 9 oz. MSRP is \$99.99. For more information about this and other innovative products from ALPS OutdoorZ, visit <https://alpsoutdoorz.com/>.

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Forestry education opportunity available to teachers

Indiana educators are encouraged to apply for the 2024 Natural Resources Teacher Institute (NRTI), which will be held June 24-28 at the Forestry Training Center at Morgan-Monroe State Forest.

Hosted by the Indiana DNR Division of Forestry and Purdue University Forestry and Natural Resources Extension, this week-long immersive professional development program will provide educators with the knowledge, skills, and tools to effectively teach their students about forest ecology, research, and management in Indiana. There is no cost to participants, and meals and housing are also provided. Daily activities include visiting public and private forest sites, touring forest industry facilities, and exploring forestry research through the [Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment](#).



Up to 18 educators will be accepted to participate. Participants must be available to attend all days of the program and fully participate in activities.

Participants will earn 30+ Professional Growth Points, as well as receive Project Learning Tree and Leopold Education Project curriculum materials, a forestry tool kit, Indiana-specific field guides, and a stipend for developing and implementing a lesson plan.

Learn more at dnr.IN.gov/forestry/programs/education/nrti. To request an application, contact Lexi Eiler, forestry education specialist, at leiler@dnr.IN.gov or 317-234-5143.

Hornady family inducted into NE Business Hall of Fame

Grand Island, NE — The Hornady family has been inducted into the Nebraska Business Hall of Fame at the annual NE Chamber Hall of Fame Banquet on Thursday, February 1, 2024, in Lincoln, Nebraska.

“Building off of our family legacy, we are a family-owned business now in our second and third generation located in Grand Island, Nebraska and celebrating our 75th anniversary,” said Steve Hornady. “We are honored to be recognized by the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry” he added.



The NE Chamber is the largest statewide business association, proudly serving as the voice of

Nebraska’s business community since 1912. The organization promotes and protects Nebraska’s free enterprise system by ensuring a competitive business climate, economic growth and greater prosperity for all Nebraskans. Each year, nominations for the Nebraska Business Hall of Fame are solicited from the general business community, statewide associations, and from academia.

Founded in 1949, Hornady® Manufacturing Company is a family-owned business headquartered in Grand Island, Nebraska. Proudly manufacturing products that are made in the USA, Hornady® Manufacturing is a world leader in bullet, ammunition, reloading tool, accessory and security product design and manufacturing.

For further information regarding Hornady® products, visit the company website at <http://hornady.com>.



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Campground hosts needed for upcoming rec season

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is seeking people who enjoy the outdoors, camping and meeting new people, to consider becoming volunteer campground hosts for the upcoming recreation season.

Volunteer campground hosts live in state parks from one to five months assisting DNR staff with light maintenance duties, checking in campers, and being a resource for visitors enjoying state parks and forests.

Campground hosts are provided a free campsite while they are actively hosting during the camping season. Hosts volunteer 20–40 hours per week, including weekends and holidays, while living on site in their own camper.

Campground hosts general duties include greeting visitors, assisting campers checking in and with reservations, cleaning bathrooms, light maintenance and administrative duties, acting as a liaison between campers and DNR staff and answering questions and disseminating information to campers.

Host positions are available at:

- Backbone
- Brushy Creek
- Clear Lake
- George Wyth
- Lake Anita (Labor Day Weekend)
- Lake Wapello (Part time)
- Maquoketa Caves
- McIntosh Woods
- Nine Eagles
- Pikes Peak
- Pine Lake
- Springbrook
- Yellow River



Volunteer information is available at www.iowadnr.gov/volunteer. Information about campgrounds and state parks is available at www.iowadnr.gov/stateparks. To discuss the host position, contact the state park directly, or call 515-443-2533.

Ruger sponsors LIVinOutdoors lifestyle show

“Homesteading is: Being self-sufficient, living simply, getting back to our roots, breaking away from commercialism, growing your own food.”

If the last 4 years has taught us anything, it’s that it is crucial to be self-sufficient and to stand boldly in our convictions about what is right for our families. LIVinOutdoors, the newest outdoor lifestyle show presented by Ruger®, the arms maker for responsible citizens®, and Jen O’Hara, co-founder of the iconic outdoor fashion line Girls with Guns Clothing®. It focuses on the adventures of an armed American Momma on her quest to teach her daughters what it means to truly live off of the land.



Continued on Page 23

Continued from Page 22 — Episode 1 of LIVinOutdoors is now streaming on CarbonTV with a new episode dropping every month. Each episode of LIVinOutdoors follows Jen and her family, including her two daughters, 4 year old Olivia, “Liv” the inspiration behind naming LIVinOutdoors, and 20 month old Chloe, as they tackle everyday living in rural Northern California. From homesteading to homeschooling, the O’Hara’s do it all - while armed and in style. Catch them in the garden, harvesting homegrown veggies, or in the kitchen, canning their crops and cooking up wild game. Hop in the side by side with Jen and the girls while they explore their property, feeding animals, checking trail cameras, and enjoying the beautiful Northern California sunshine. Traditional family values and a strong faith in God guide the O’Hara family in all that they do, and they are excited to share the ins and outs of their daily life through LIVinOutdoors.

Paying homage to her country roots, LIVinOutdoors will also feature two of Jen’s favorite pastimes - hunting and shooting. One day she’s on the hunt to fill her family’s freezer with healthy, nutritious wild game with one of her Ruger® American rifles, and the next, she’s teaching CCW class at her local range with her Ruger® Max-9. No matter where she goes, she’s guaranteed to be packing.

Jen's passion for self-defense and personal protection led her to co-found Girls with Guns Clothing® with her best friend-turned-sister-in-law, Norissa "Eggie" Harman. Since 2009, they have been on a mission to educate and empower women to be safe and stylish, both in the field and on the range, and LIVinOutdoors perfectly captures what it means to be a modern-day momma, business owner, homesteader, and proud Second Amendment advocate.

Join the LIVinOutdoors movement [here](#), and be sure to follow LIVinOutdoors on [CarbonTV](#) so you don’t miss the latest episode and on our social media platforms [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).



ALPS OutdoorZ introduces dialed-in rifle vest

ALPS OutdoorZ, the premiere manufacturer of extreme-duty hunting packs and outdoor gear, rolls into the 2024 hunting season with the all-new Dialed-In Rifle Vest.

Presented in high-visibility blaze orange, the Dialed-In Rifle Vest is a far step away from the floppy, flappy, and often ill-fitting safety vests of decades past. Made from a comfortable and trim 4-way stretch fabric to prevent movement restrictions, this vest is offered in six different sizes to ensure a sleek, non-obstructive fit. No more snagging rifle scopes and branches or hanging up the firearm buttstock like the old-school universal-fit vests.

The Dialed-In Rifle Vest also delivers a high degree of function and convenience. There is one zippered chest pocket ideally positioned for quick access to a lens wipe or other small items, so you don't need to unmount from the gun when waiting in the prone position.

Left- and right-side zippered hand pockets are oversized to store larger items, including water bottles, rangefinders, gloves, and more. For tree stand hunters, the vest includes a safety harness pass-through port on the upper back panel.

Another benefit of the Dialed-In Rifle Vest is that it is built to meet the challenges of the field.

A microfleece interior lining provides an added layer of warmth as well as elevated wind resistance to maintain comfort.

The inner lining is also ultra-quiet, minimizing or eliminating shifting noises, even when wearing over a coat or other outer garment with "loud" nylon shells.



The Dialed-In Rifle Vest is offered in the following sizes:

- **Small:** Chest Range 39" - 42"; Weight 12 oz.
- **Medium:** Chest Range 42" - 45"; Weight 12.75 oz.
- **Large:** Chest Range 45" - 48"; Weight 13.5 oz.
- **XL:** Chest Range 48" - 51"; Weight 14.25 oz.
- **2XL:** Chest Range 51" - 54"; Weight 15 oz.
- **3XL:** Chest Range 54" - 57"; Weight 15.75 oz.

For more information about this and other innovative products from ALPS OutdoorZ, visit alpsoutdoorz.com.

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Bear & Son Cutlery 4-1/4" D2 Rancher Sideliner

Jacksonville, Alabama –Bear & Son Cutlery proudly introduces the Rancher Sideliner pocketknife, the latest addition to their line of Alabama-made cutlery products. With its sleek design, super smooth action and premium finish, the Rancher Sideliner might be the new modern standard in the world of pocketknives.

The [Bear & Son Cutlery Rancher Sideliner](#) embodies the perfect combination of modern design and classic materials. The cutting performance delivers outstanding durability and strength thanks to the 3 3/8-inch blade made of D2 tool steel, a high-carbon, high-chromium steel popular for its outstanding hardness, wear resistance, and edge retention. The blade smoothly deploys with a flip of the finger, riding on ball bearings, and locks open with a liner lock that is simple to operate and reliable.

Polished bolsters and accompanying Genuine India Stag Bone™, G10, cocobolo wood, or Titanium handles display elegance and sophistication in a size that is comfortable and easy to fit in a pocket. The new knife is also constructed with strong Torx screws, ensuring it is built to withstand the rigors of everyday use. Overall weight is 3.0 oz., and the knife includes a robust pocket clip.

The sleek design, well-balanced weight, and effortless action of the Rancher Sideliner make it a pleasure to use while its premium finish adds a touch of style. Whether you're a seasoned outdoorsman or a weekend explorer in need of a reliable tool, the Rancher Sideliner offers optimal control and operational precision.

Bear & Son Cutlery 4 1/4" Rancher Sideliner Specifications

Blade Length: 3 3/8"

Blade Material: D2 Tool Steel

Blade Grind: Flat

Handle Material: G10, Genuine India Stag Bone™, Cocobolo Wood, or Titanium

Locking Mechanism: Liner Lock

Weight: 3.0 oz

Closed Length: 4 1/4"

Overall Length: 7 5/8"

Additional Features: Flipper, Torx Screw Construction, Deep Carry Pocket Clip

Country of Origin: Jacksonville, Alabama

MSRP: \$95.99 - \$125.49

To learn more about Bear & Son Cutlery's 2024 pocketknives, visit www.bearandsoncutlery.com or call 256-435-2227.



ALPS OutdoorZ offers Impact Pro Turkey Vest

ALPS OutdoorZ, the premiere manufacturer of extreme-duty hunting packs and outdoor gear, has done it again. Just when you think there were no more innovations to be introduced into the ubiquitous turkey vest design, ALPS OutdoorZ says, "Hold our shotguns!"

We are all familiar with folding, portable stadium seats that provide stand-alone back support so you can sit comfortably anywhere...even on flat, open ground. Now, ALPS OutdoorZ designers have incorporated the stadium seat concept into the most comfortable turkey hunting vests on the market.

Called the Impact Pro, this turkey vest does away with the bulky and floppy fold-up seats often attached to the back of many conventional turkey vests. Instead, the Impact Pro starts with a stadium seat design made of a high-density, molded foam bottom cushion and backrest to minimize bulk while ensuring maximum comfort and protection from cold, wet ground.

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Continued from Page 25 — Merged with this is a cut-out, breathable shoulder harness design and a sternum strap for optimal load management. To deploy, simply drop the seat cushion and sit. The system is ideal for any turkey hunting scenario, but especially for the run-and-gun hunter who may need to set up for an extended wait on open ground.

Of course, the Impact Pro is more than a high-function stadium seat with a wearable harness. Molded front pockets keep diaphragm calls from being crushed or damaged, while removable and adjustable box call and ThermoCELL® pockets ensure you have everything you need within easy reach.

In the back, the Impact Pro integrates an oversized game bag so you can haul that big tom on the long haul back to the truck or camp. For those needful field supplies, a large cargo pocket with adjustable strap-and-buckle closures is the perfect place for carrying water, knife, flashlight, snacks, or poncho. Additionally, included MOLLE webbing allows for further customization.

The new Impact Pro turkey vest comes in Mossy Oak® Original Bottomland® camo and weighs 5 lbs. **MSRP is \$149.99.**

For more information about this and other innovative products from ALPS OutdoorZ, visit ALPSOutdoorZ.com.



ALPS OutdoorZ announces Nomad vehicle organizer

NEW HAVEN, Mo. – ALPS OutdoorZ, premiere manufacturer of extreme-duty hunting packs and outdoor gear, understands that the “common denominator” for most hunters is the vehicle that supplies the means to adventure. And as every hunter knows, a hunting truck can devolve into a disorganized mess in short order.

To help keep your truck functional and your gear safely and conveniently stowed, ALPS OutdoorZ has developed the Nomad vehicle organizer.

The Nomad is a panel system that hangs from the back of your vehicle’s front seats. Offered in Mossy Oak® Original Bottomland® or stylish two-tone charcoal and black, the

Nomad features a universal mounting design that easily secures to the headrest and seat bottom. Both panels (Nomad comes in a set of two) feature two large, zippered pockets across the top — one with an outer mesh pocket and the other featuring a hook-and-loop patch. An expansive open pocket on the bottom third of the panel is suitable for storing large items. Additionally, two magnetic closure pockets integrated onto the outside of the bottom pocket are perfect for stowing small items you need quickly. Three MOLLE webs allow you to further customize storage options.

To keep soft-cased long guns secure, the Nomad includes a drop-down slot-style scabbard. Simply unbuckle the scabbards on both panels and insert the cased long guns through the scabbard loops. This keeps guns off the floorboard and makes room for additional gear or rear seat passengers.

In addition to soft-cased long gun storage, the Nomad’s lower pocket will also accommodate most contemporary compound bows. This keeps your uncased bow safely secured and easily accessible while preventing impact damage to the sights and arrow rest.

Each Nomad organizer panel measures 21" L x 18.5" W and the combined set weighs 5 lbs., 8 oz. MSRP for the two-panel set is \$99.99.

For more information about this and other innovative products from ALPS OutdoorZ, visit alpsoutdoorz.com.



SAAMI announces acceptance of two new cartridges

The Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute®, Inc., (**SAAMI**®) has announced the acceptance of two new rifle cartridges for SAAMI standardization. SAAMI is the organization at the forefront of promoting firearm safety by creating standards that ensure safety, reliability and interchangeability of firearms, ammunition and components.

Click on the cartridge name to open the introduction package.

22 Advanced Rifle Cartridge – The 22 ARC was introduced by the Hornady Manufacturing Co. with a 75-grain bullet traveling at a velocity of 3,075 fps and a Maximum Average Pressure of 52,000 psi.

22 Creedmoor – The 22 CM was introduced by the Hornady Manufacturing Co. with an 80-grain bullet traveling at a velocity of 3,250 fps and a Maximum Average Pressure of 62,000 psi.



Forbes: 'Dorsey covers historic Austrian gunmaker'

From The Outdoor Wire — “Bringing a modern vision to an ancient craft is the mission of Daniela and Patrick Fanzoj who, like their father Johann ‘Hans’ Fanzoj, have pioneered new markets for their bespoke firearms. They see yet another mission, however, in the company’s future. It is to blend the story of craftsmanship and artistry at the center of their productions with the role that hunters have played in conservation across the globe. The seed of the idea has grown organically from well-traveled clients who want their firearms to share personal stories of the hunt and the creatures—many of them non-game animals—that are emblematic of the places and the experiences they’ve accumulated over a lifetime of hunting.

While the world’s hunters may know that sportsmen and women have funded the lion’s share of global conservation efforts, Daniela is determined that mainstream audiences should come to understand the vital role they have played in saving scores of species and the habitats that the wildlife depends upon. She’s concerned that few people comprehend that all wildlife benefits from hunter-funded habitat work—including hundreds of non-game species.



To read the rest of this column [click here.](#)"

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