

CONTENTS

- Annual Western States Meet for Wild Turkey Workshop
- R3 Case Study: ODWC's Shooting Range Construction and Renovations
- Everyone at ODWC Plays a Role
- New Game Wardens Welcomed with 2024 Badge Pinning
- Twins!
- A Gray Kind of Day
- Controlled Hunts and Raffle Sales
- ODWC Employees Journey to Santa Fe for Regional Federal Aid Coordinators Meeting
- Long-Running "Wildlife Articles in the News" All-User
 Emails to Cease
- Investigator Long Praised for Assisting in Canadian Wildlife Case Resolution
- Retirement Spotlight: An Interview with Bruce Burton
- Shout Outs
- Game Bag
- ODWC New Employees
- HR Corner
- Directors Report & Commission Summary
- Birthdays
- Reelin' in the Years



Annual Western States Meet for Wild Turkey Workshop

Eric Suttles (W) and Marcus Thibodeau (W) recently hosted the annual WAFWA Western States Wild Turkey Workshop. Biologists specializing in turkeys from various Western states and Canada gathered to dive into all aspects of turkeys and visit restoration projects at Packsaddle and Black Kettle WMAs. Marcus notes that "a highlight from the meeting was a demonstration of new compressed air net cannons for turkey capture, and that a special thanks goes out to Kristen Gillman for her crucial role in making this meeting a success!" You can read more about this meeting by clicking the button below.

<u>NWTF PRESS</u> <u>RELEASE</u>



Video provided by Marcus Thibodeau (W)

R3 Case Study: ODWC's Shooting Range Construction and Renovations

The Council to Advance Hunting and Shooting Sports (CAHSS) recently published a case study featuring ODWC's efforts to improve public shooting access. "This initiative, exemplified by a recent grant, underscores ODWC's commitment to enhancing shooting facilities across 23 WMAs and establishing cooperative shooting ranges with various partners," said Lance Cherry, communications and marketing manager for the Council. Download the case study to learn more. Contact Amanda Thomas (C&E) for questions.



Everyone at ODWC Plays a Role

Growing participation in hunting, shooting, fishing, and boating is essential for the ODWC's conservation goals, as it increases funding from the Sport Fish Restoration Fund. To support recruitment, retention, and reactivation (R3) efforts, everyone in the agency contributes. Below is only a small sample of some of the ways we all play a role:

- Biologists/Technicians: Improve habitat, support wildlife and fish management
- Education: Teach and promote OKFITS, OKSSSP, OKNASP, hunter education, etc.
- Communication: Highlight the benefits of outdoor sports, keep constituents up to date on laws and wildlife information via social media and our website
- Licensing: Welcome customers, encourage license sales, and provide information
- Law Enforcement: Ensure positive interactions and legal participation
- IT: Implementation and maintenance of computer systems, equipment and software
- Boating/Shooting Range Coordinators: Create user-friendly access points for outdoor activities
- HR: Recruit new employees, provide training and development opportunities, manage employee relations, ensure compliance with labor laws
- Property: Supply branded clothing and vehicles helping maintain a recognizable public brand presence
- Finance: Support the agency's financial operations to enable R3 efforts.
- Federal Aid: Interpret federal regulations and guidance for grant projects
- Executive Leadership: Promote R3 initiatives, build relationships with lawmakers and publicize opportunities for participation.

New Game Wardens Welcomed with 2024 Badge Pinning

It was an emotional and joyful morning as five new game wardens were ceremoniously pinned following several weeks of rigorous training, which encompassed defensive tactics, firearms proficiency, wildlife forensics, investigative techniques, and defensive driving. Marni Loftis (LE) delivered an exceptional presentation, followed by remarks from Nathan Erdman (LE), Wade Farrar (LE), and director Wade Free, who warmly welcomed the new wardens into the ODWC family.



Texas Co. Game Warden Tracer Wagner with wife Courtney and son Oaks.



Nowata Co. Game Warden Dartanion Tilley with wife Clarissa and daughters Arisceli and Lela.



Coal Co. Game Warden Lydia Gearhart with aunt Renae Cochran; uncle Stan Cochran; mother Robbie Gearheart; and father Roy Gearhart.



Woods Co. Game Warden Tristian Leonard with brother Colby Leonard; grandmother Debra Robbins; mother Charlotte Leonard; daughter Hazel Leonard; and wife Hailey Leonard.



Dewey Co. Game Warden Andrew Vaughan with his brother Tim and aunt Melody.

Twins!





"The first mule deer fawns (twins!) for the mule deer research project were captured and collared by the crew at Packsaddle WMA. These fawns were from gps collared does caught earlier this winter by helicopter. The fawns are equipped with gps collars that grow with them. This will give us information for the population modeling we are doing with information like habitat selection and survival."

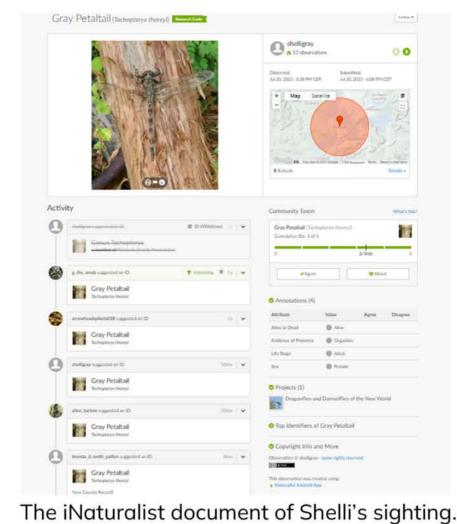
A Gray Kind of Day

By: Heather Del Moral (C&E)



Gray petaltail, Shelli's first sighting.

It all began with an article in The Wild Side that was sent in an email from Jena Donnell (C&E). A passionate nature photographer, Shelli Gray (F), stumbled upon a piece about iNaturalist, an online platform for sharing and identifying nature sightings. This article sparked a curiosity in Shelli that soon became an exciting adventure. "I love nature photography, and when I read about sharing nature sightings through iNaturalist, I thought it might be fun and interesting," Shelli recalls. "I also thought it might be a way to help ID some of my sightings."



Since that moment, Shelli has embarked on a journey to document the natural world around her, submitting 25 observations to date. You never know when it might be a record sighting! Indeed, Shelli experienced this firsthand when her first observation was a gray petaltail dragonfly that bore her name and set a new county record! "Having my name was cool, but finding out I discovered a county record on my very first observation was what really excited me," she admits. Each submission tells a story of perseverance and discovery. For example, Shelli spent a week chasing the gray petaltail dragonfly before finally capturing it on camera. Another elusive subject, a black and white-winged dragonfly, has kept her on her toes, rarely perching long enough for a photo. Though plants have yet to grace her gallery, Shelli has successfully observed and photographed various birds. "I've observed a male and female painted bunting, and I've been trying to get a good picture of a summer tanager who's visited my feeder a few times," she shares. Her enthusiasm is palpable, particularly when discussing her more intriguing finds, like the Virginia giant hover fly and predatory stink bug nymphs.



Balancing her passion with her daily life, Shelli seizes every opportunity to venture

outdoors. "When the weather and my schedule cooperate, I head out for nature walks after work and on weekends. I don't always see something to photograph, but I enjoy being outdoors." Shelli's adventures are sometimes solitary, offering a peaceful retreat into nature. Other times, friends join her, adding a social element to her excursions. Regardless of the company, her mission remains the same: to capture the beauty and wonder of the natural world.



For new iNaturalist users, Shelli has simple yet heartfelt advice: "Be patient and just enjoy being outdoors. Even if you think an observation isn't extraordinary, it's still worth uploading. Looking to the future, Shelli is set on capturing the elusive indigo bunting and various woodpecker's native to her area. Her journey with iNaturalist is far from over, and her enthusiasm continues to inspire others. "You never know when you might have a

record sighting," she encourages. "Grab your cell phone, take a walk, snap a pic, and upload it."

Through her lens, Shelli Gray invites us all to explore and appreciate the wild side of life.

Ready to start sharing your sightings? We've highlighted four popular sites in our Outdoor Oklahoma Journal below.



Controlled Hunts and Raffle Sales

By: Michael Bergin (C&E)

The report below highlights over \$335,000 in revenue for the ODWC from Controlled Hunts and Outdoor Oklahoma Adventure raffle sales. In addition to an increase in the Controlled Hunts application cost and a host of added product offerings, there were a range of marketing, promotional and sales tools and tactics employed this year, including:

- Cross-selling raffle tickets on Controlled Hunt applications.
- Promoting the Controlled Hunts login and webpages in various ways.
- Sending multiple marketing emails to hunters and anglers, with some emails focused on Hunts and raffles, and others paired with seasonal content.
- Publishing and promoting blogs on the Outdoor Oklahoma Journal via email and the homepage.
- Targeting specific audiences, such as females and successful turkey hunters, with promotions.
- Offering extra preference points to elk and antelope applicants.
- Conducting the first "post-application flash sale" on PointGuard to eligible applicants after the application period closed.
- Trading promotional efforts with the Tennesee Wildlife Resource Agency, who promoted our raffles in exchange for ODWC doing the same for TWRA

		· versusers and	
10		Licenses	Total
ID	License Antalana Controlled Hunt Application	Sold	Amount
2277	Antelope Controlled Hunt Application	1,586	\$7,930
2277 2278	Antelope Controlled Hunt Application Deer Controlled Hunt Application	5,921 7,277	\$0.00 \$0.00
2278	Deer Controlled Hunt Application	9,563	\$47,815
2278	Deer Controlled Hunt Application	0	\$0.00
2270	Deer Controlled Funt Application	U	\$31,840
2279	Elk Controlled Hunt Application	6,368	00
2279	Elk Controlled Hunt Application	7,796	\$0.00
2280	Spring Turkey Controlled Hunt Application	2,583	\$0.00
2280	Spring Turkey Controlled Hunt Application	2,807	\$14,035
2280	Spring Turkey Controlled Hunt Application	0	\$0.00
2281	Youth Deer Controlled Hunt Application	874	\$4,370
2281	Youth Deer Controlled Hunt Application	545	\$0.00
2282	Youth Spring Turkey Controlled Hunt Application	188	\$0.00
2282	Youth Spring Turkey Controlled Hunt Application	396	\$1,980
	Deer Hunts for Motor Vehicle and Non-Ambulatory Permitees		
2283	Controlled Hunt Application	85	\$425
	Deer Hunts for Motor Vehicle and Non-Ambulatory Permitees		
2283	Controlled Hunt Application	54	\$0.00
2415	Youth Private Lands Deer Hunt Application	96	\$0.00
		46,139	108,395
2524	Additional Elk Hunt Choice	6,294	\$18,882
2525	Additional Antelope Hunt Choice	181	\$543.00
2526	Additional Deer Hunt Choice	3,100	\$9,300
2527	Additional Motor Vehicle Deer Hunt Choice	3	\$9.00
2528	Additional Youth Deer Hunt Choice	325	\$975
2529	Additional Turkey Hunt Choice	441	\$1,323
2530	Additional Youth Turkey Hunt Choice	33	\$99.00
		10,377	\$31,131
2567	PointGuard - Resident	2,026	\$20,260
2567	PointGuard - Resident	2,026	\$20,260
2567 2567	PointGuard - Resident PointGuard - Resident (Flash Sale)	2,026 109	\$20,260 \$1,090
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2567 2568 2568	PointGuard - Resident (Flash Sale) PointGuard - Nonresident PointGuard - Nonresident (Flash Sale)	109 59 2	\$1,090 \$2,950 \$100
2567 2568 2568 2569	PointGuard - Resident (Flash Sale) PointGuard - Nonresident PointGuard - Nonresident (Flash Sale) Elk Preference Point - Resident	109 59 2 3,429	\$1,090 \$2,950 \$100 \$34,290
2567 2568 2568 2569 2570	PointGuard - Resident (Flash Sale) PointGuard - Nonresident PointGuard - Nonresident (Flash Sale) Elk Preference Point - Resident Elk Preference Point - Nonresident	109 59 2 3,429 228	\$1,090 \$2,950 \$100 \$34,290 \$11,400
2567 2568 2568 2569 2570 2571	PointGuard - Resident (Flash Sale) PointGuard - Nonresident PointGuard - Nonresident (Flash Sale) Elk Preference Point - Resident Elk Preference Point - Nonresident Antelope Preference Point - Resident	109 59 2 3,429 228 884	\$1,090 \$2,950 \$100 \$34,290 \$11,400 \$8,840
2567 2568 2568 2569 2570	PointGuard - Resident (Flash Sale) PointGuard - Nonresident PointGuard - Nonresident (Flash Sale) Elk Preference Point - Resident Elk Preference Point - Nonresident	109 59 2 3,429 228 884 50	\$1,090 \$2,950 \$100 \$34,290 \$11,400 \$8,840 \$2,500
2567 2568 2568 2569 2570 2571	PointGuard - Resident (Flash Sale) PointGuard - Nonresident PointGuard - Nonresident (Flash Sale) Elk Preference Point - Resident Elk Preference Point - Nonresident Antelope Preference Point - Resident	109 59 2 3,429 228 884	\$1,090 \$2,950 \$100 \$34,290 \$11,400 \$8,840
2567 2568 2568 2569 2570 2571	PointGuard - Resident (Flash Sale) PointGuard - Nonresident PointGuard - Nonresident (Flash Sale) Elk Preference Point - Resident Elk Preference Point - Nonresident Antelope Preference Point - Resident	109 59 2 3,429 228 884 50	\$1,090 \$2,950 \$100 \$34,290 \$11,400 \$8,840 \$2,500 \$81,430
2567 2568 2568 2569 2570 2571	PointGuard - Resident (Flash Sale) PointGuard - Nonresident PointGuard - Nonresident (Flash Sale) Elk Preference Point - Resident Elk Preference Point - Nonresident Antelope Preference Point - Resident	109 59 2 3,429 228 884 50 6,787	\$1,090 \$2,950 \$100 \$34,290 \$11,400 \$8,840 \$2,500 \$81,430
2567 2568 2568 2569 2570 2571	PointGuard - Resident (Flash Sale) PointGuard - Nonresident PointGuard - Nonresident (Flash Sale) Elk Preference Point - Resident Elk Preference Point - Nonresident Antelope Preference Point - Resident	109 59 2 3,429 228 884 50 6,787 Total Revenue	\$1,090 \$2,950 \$100 \$34,290 \$11,400 \$8,840 \$2,500 \$81,430
2567 2568 2569 2570 2571 2572	PointGuard - Resident (Flash Sale) PointGuard - Nonresident PointGuard - Nonresident (Flash Sale) Elk Preference Point - Resident Elk Preference Point - Nonresident Antelope Preference Point - Resident Antelope Preference Point - Nonresident	109 59 2 3,429 228 884 50 6,787 Total Revenue	\$1,090 \$2,950 \$100 \$34,290 \$11,400 \$8,840 \$2,500 \$81,430 • 220,956
2567 2568 2569 2570 2571 2572	PointGuard - Resident (Flash Sale) PointGuard - Nonresident PointGuard - Nonresident (Flash Sale) Elk Preference Point - Resident Elk Preference Point - Nonresident Antelope Preference Point - Resident Antelope Preference Point - Nonresident License	109 59 2 3,429 228 884 50 6,787 Total Revenue	\$1,090 \$2,950 \$100 \$34,290 \$11,400 \$8,840 \$2,500 \$81,430 Total Amount
2567 2568 2569 2570 2571 2572 ID 2454	PointGuard - Resident (Flash Sale) PointGuard - Nonresident PointGuard - Nonresident (Flash Sale) Elk Preference Point - Resident Elk Preference Point - Nonresident Antelope Preference Point - Resident Antelope Preference Point - Nonresident License Win a Lifetime Hunting and Fishing License - Single Ticket	109 59 2 3,429 228 884 50 6,787 Total Revenue Licenses Sold 781	\$1,090 \$2,950 \$100 \$34,290 \$11,400 \$8,840 \$2,500 \$81,430 Total Amount \$7,810
2567 2568 2569 2570 2571 2572 ID 2454 2455	PointGuard - Resident (Flash Sale) PointGuard - Nonresident PointGuard - Nonresident (Flash Sale) Elk Preference Point - Resident Elk Preference Point - Nonresident Antelope Preference Point - Resident Antelope Preference Point - Nonresident License Win a Lifetime Hunting and Fishing License - Single Ticket Win a Lifetime Hunting and Fishing License - 5 Ticket Bundle	109 59 2 3,429 228 884 50 6,787 Total Revenue Licenses Sold 781 303	\$1,090 \$2,950 \$100 \$34,290 \$11,400 \$8,840 \$2,500 \$81,430 • 220,956 • Total Amount \$7,810 \$9,090
2567 2568 2569 2570 2571 2572 ID 2454 2455 2462	PointGuard - Resident (Flash Sale) PointGuard - Nonresident PointGuard - Nonresident (Flash Sale) Elk Preference Point - Resident Elk Preference Point - Nonresident Antelope Preference Point - Resident Antelope Preference Point - Nonresident License Win a Lifetime Hunting and Fishing License - Single Ticket Win a Lifetime Hunting and Fishing License - 5 Ticket Bundle Fishing with Jimmy Houston - Single Ticket	109 59 2 3,429 228 884 50 6,787 Total Revenue Licenses Sold 781 303 125	\$1,090 \$2,950 \$100 \$34,290 \$11,400 \$8,840 \$2,500 \$81,430 * 220,956 Total Amount \$7,810 \$9,090 \$1,250
2567 2568 2569 2570 2571 2572 ID 2454 2455 2462 2463	PointGuard - Resident (Flash Sale) PointGuard - Nonresident PointGuard - Nonresident (Flash Sale) Elk Preference Point - Resident Elk Preference Point - Nonresident Antelope Preference Point - Resident Antelope Preference Point - Nonresident License Win a Lifetime Hunting and Fishing License - Single Ticket Win a Lifetime Hunting and Fishing License - 5 Ticket Bundle Fishing with Jimmy Houston - Single Ticket Fishing with Jimmy Houston - 5 Ticket Bundle	109 59 2 3,429 228 884 50 6,787 Total Revenue Licenses Sold 781 303 125 270	\$1,090 \$2,950 \$100 \$34,290 \$11,400 \$8,840 \$2,500 \$81,430 * 220,956 Total Amount \$7,810 \$9,090 \$1,250 \$8,100
2567 2568 2569 2570 2571 2572 ID 2454 2455 2462 2463 2563	PointGuard - Resident (Flash Sale) PointGuard - Nonresident PointGuard - Nonresident (Flash Sale) Elk Preference Point - Resident Elk Preference Point - Nonresident Antelope Preference Point - Nonresident Antelope Preference Point - Nonresident License Win a Lifetime Hunting and Fishing License - Single Ticket Win a Lifetime Hunting and Fishing License - 5 Ticket Bundle Fishing with Jimmy Houston - 5 Ticket Bundle Rio Rojo Outfitters Spring Turkey Hunt - Single Ticket	109 59 2 3,429 228 884 50 6,787 Total Revenue Licenses Sold 781 303 125 270 214	\$1,090 \$2,950 \$100 \$34,290 \$11,400 \$8,840 \$2,500 \$81,430 \$2,500 \$81,430 Total Amount \$7,810 \$9,090 \$1,250 \$8,100 \$2,140
2567 2568 2569 2570 2571 2572 ID 2454 2455 2462 2463 2563 2564	PointGuard - Resident (Flash Sale) PointGuard - Nonresident PointGuard - Nonresident (Flash Sale) Elk Preference Point - Resident Elk Preference Point - Nonresident Antelope Preference Point - Resident Antelope Preference Point - Nonresident Antelope Preference Point - Nonresident License Win a Lifetime Hunting and Fishing License - Single Ticket Win a Lifetime Hunting and Fishing License - 5 Ticket Bundle Fishing with Jimmy Houston - Single Ticket Fishing with Jimmy Houston - 5 Ticket Bundle Rio Rojo Outfitters Spring Turkey Hunt - Single Ticket Rio Rojo Outfitters Spring Turkey Hunt - 5 Ticket Bundle	109 59 2 3,429 228 884 50 6,787 Total Revenue Licenses Sold 781 303 125 270 214 211	\$1,090 \$2,950 \$100 \$34,290 \$11,400 \$8,840 \$2,500 \$81,430 \$2,500 \$81,430 \$7,810 \$9,090 \$1,250 \$8,100 \$2,140 \$6,330
2567 2568 2569 2570 2571 2572 ID 2454 2455 2462 2463 2563 2564 2565	PointGuard - Resident (Flash Sale) PointGuard - Nonresident PointGuard - Nonresident (Flash Sale) Elk Preference Point - Resident Elk Preference Point - Nonresident Antelope Preference Point - Resident Antelope Preference Point - Nonresident Antelope Preference Point - Nonresident License Win a Lifetime Hunting and Fishing License - Single Ticket Win a Lifetime Hunting and Fishing License - 5 Ticket Bundle Fishing with Jimmy Houston - Single Ticket Fishing with Jimmy Houston - 5 Ticket Bundle Rio Rojo Outfitters Spring Turkey Hunt - Single Ticket Rio Rojo Outfitters Spring Turkey Hunt - 5 Ticket Bundle Private Land Elk Hunt - Single Ticket	109 59 2 3,429 228 884 50 6,787 Total Revenue Licenses Sold 781 303 125 270 214 211 2,887	\$1,090 \$2,950 \$100 \$34,290 \$11,400 \$8,840 \$2,500 \$81,430 \$2,500 \$81,430 \$2,140 \$9,090 \$1,250 \$8,100 \$2,140 \$6,330 \$28,870

Combined Rev 335,426



Nate Copeland (F), Treager Stout (A), Kristen Gillman (W), Jessica Brown (A) and Amy Newcomb (A) building bonds at their conference.

ODWC Employees Journey to Santa Fe for Regional Federal Aid Coordinators Meeting

By: Kristen Gillman (W)

In May, Amy Newcomb (A), Jessica Brown (A), Treager Stout (A), Nate Copeland (F) and Kristen Gillman (W) attended the 2024 Federal Aid Coordinators meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico. It was an opportunity for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Region 2 federal coordinators and their staff to get together and discuss a variety of topics. The group discussed topics like programmatic agreements, boating access, shooting ranges, 2 CFR 200 changes and land certification. New Mexico Game and Fish Department (NMGF) provided a tour of Lisbon Fish Hatchery, one of five in the state. They raise triploid rainbow trout to stock in public water. Another hatchery is working on raising Rio Grande cutthroat trout for reintroduction. NMGF shared a stream restoration project to help facilitate the reintroduction of cutthroat trout to New Mexico's waters. The day concluded with an Archery in the Schools 3-D archery tournament.



Jessica Brown (A) practicing her archery skills.

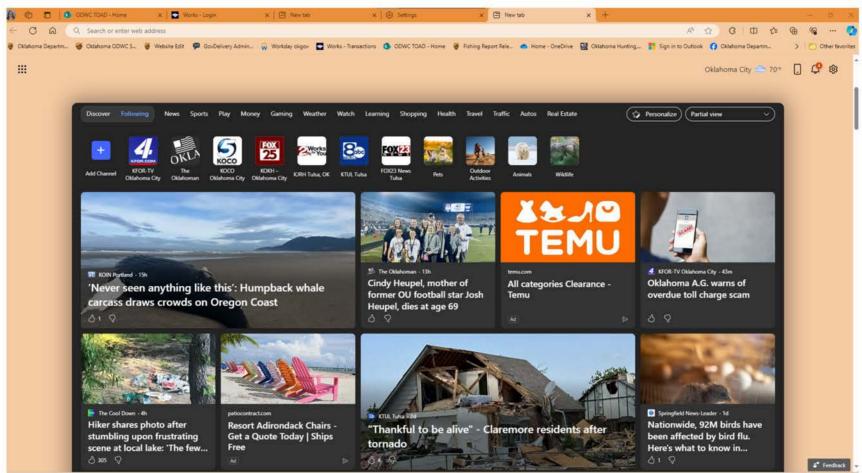


The group lined up to compete in the 3-D archery tournament.

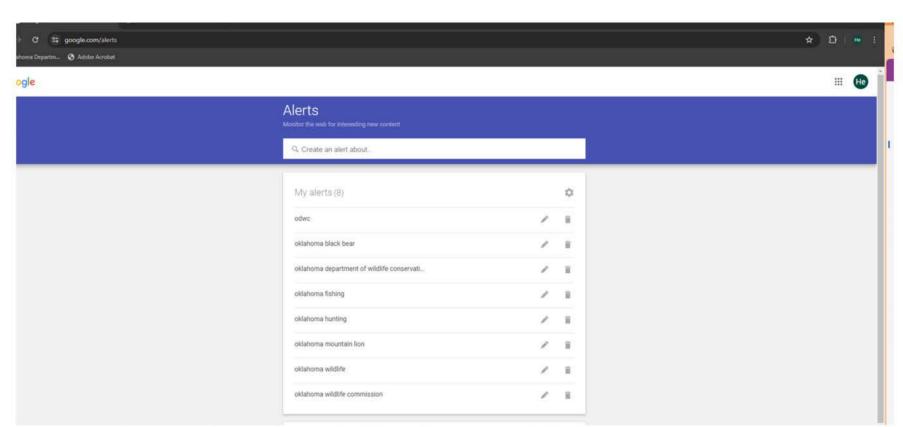
Long-Running "Wildlife Articles in the News" All-User Emails to Cease

By: Jennifer Benge (C&E)

The Wildlife Department and hunting, fishing, and wildlife topics are regularly in the news. For years, articles from around the state and country that pertain to Oklahoma were compiled and sent to employees in a "Wildlife Articles in the News" all user email. To decrease the number of "all user" emails and to save you time in wading through articles that you might not be interested in, we will no longer be sending these email updates. If you would like to continue to see these articles/stories you can set your browser to help you find them.



If you use Microsoft Edge (part of O365) you can open a new tab and you should see a screen similar to the one below that shows current events and news around the world. In the upper right corner of the box showing the current events you should see Personalize. If you click on that you can then select topics and publishers that you are interested in seeing their news stories. Most of the major Oklahoma media channels are on there, such as, KFOR, The Oklahoman, KOCO, KTUL, FOX23, etc. The only downside to this is you cannot specify that you only want fishing, wildlife, hunting, and conservation articles/stories.



If you use Google Chrome or prefer Google as your default browser you can go to https://www.google.com/alerts and set up alerts that you will receive an email about. To use Google Alerts, you will have to create a personal account if you do not already have one. In the screenshot below you can see the alerts that I have used in the past; ODWC, Oklahoma black bear, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, Oklahoma fishing, Oklahoma hunting, etc. To create an alert, you will type in the key words in the search bar.

If you prefer to go straight to the media outlet to look for stories/articles I have included links below to sites that typically run wildlife related articles/stories (some may require a subscription):

- The Oklahoman Outdoors | oklahoman.com
- Tulsa World <u>Tulsa World | Breaking News | Read Tulsa News, news for Tulsa County, and the metropolitan area of Oklahoma. The latest weather, crime, politics, and more.</u>
- News 9 OKC Breaking News in Oklahoma City, OK (news9.com)
- KFOR News 4 OKC KFOR.com | Oklahoma News & Weather | Oklahoma City, OK
- KOCO News 5 OKC Oklahoma City News, Weather and Sports KOCO 5 News
- Fox 25 OKC Oklahoma City News, Weather, Sports, Breaking News (okcfox.com)
- News on 6 Tulsa Breaking News in Tulsa, Oklahoma (newson6.com)
- 2 News Oklahoma Tulsa KJRH 2 News Oklahoma Tulsa, News, Weather, Sports
- News Channel 8 Tulsa Tulsa News, Weather, Sports, Breaking News (ktul.com)
- Fox 23 News Tulsa fox23.com
- <u>Tahlequah Daily Press tahlequahdailypress.com | Cherokee County's award-winning premier information source since 1864</u>
- News 7 Lawton Home (kswo.com)
- Muskogee Phoenix muskogeephoenix.com
- kxii Texoma KXII | Texoma News, Weather, Sports | Texoma
- Enid News & Eagle enidnews.com | News source for northwest Oklahoma, providing local, state, national and world coverage.
- KLAW101 Lawton KLAW 101 Oklahoma's Best Country Lawton Country Radio

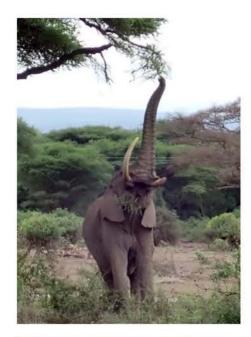
Retirement Spotlight: An Interview with Bruce Burton

By: Heather Del Moral (C&E)

Bruce Burton retired in 2018 as a wildlife regional supervisor for northeast Oklahoma. Since then, he has been loving retirement. He enjoys his life every single day. Since retirement Bruce says he spends more time on his existing passions, including hanging out with his beautiful wife and family, caring for his horses, traveling, and fishing. He's also focusing on home repairs. Bruce recently traveled to Tanzania in the fall of 2023 for a 10-day horseback safari with his wife Louise and daughter Amber, exploring Arusha National Park. This ride was beautiful but not for the faint of heart, nor for an inexperienced horse rider.

Bruce fondly remembers the friendships he built during his career at ODWC, which he misses the most. He mentioned that retirements and funerals are the primary times he reconnects with former colleagues except a few close individuals that keep in touch more regularly. He enjoys waking up every day to see the sunrise and take in the evening sunsets. He said retirement is nice for pursuing dreams previously put on hold due to time constraints of working. He shared a recent experience of a 50-mile ride in Missouri. Bruce advises future retirees to stay active and spend plenty of time outdoors. Below are some photos of Bruce's adventures since retiring.

If you would like to update us on your adventures after retirement, please reach out to Heather Del Moral directly! heather.delmoral@odwc.ok.gov; 405-521-3856















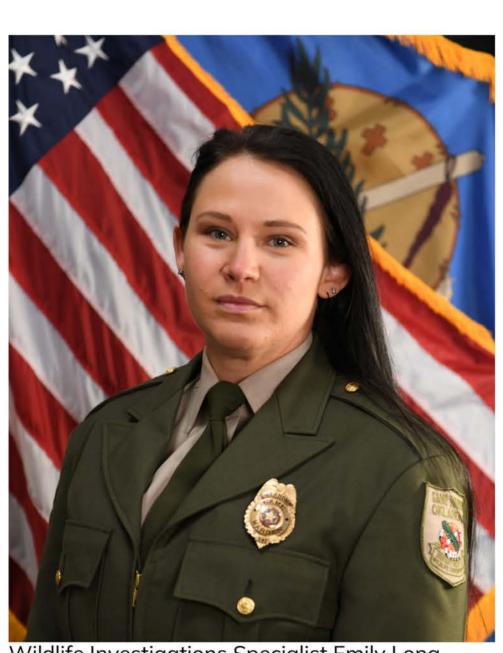




Marshall Reigh (LE) was recognized on the floor of the senate for his outstanding achievement "Game Warden of the Year".



Marshall Reigh (LE) with wife Shana.



Wildlife Investigations Specialist Emily Long.

Investigator Long Praised for Assisting in Canadian Wildlife Case Resolution

We are pleased to share a significant update on a recent wildlife case in which our investigator, Emily Long, played a crucial role.

Case Summary:

- Marlin and Shounda Turley: Pleaded guilty to hunting a bull and cow moose without a license. They were fined \$7,500, including court costs, and are suspended from hunting in Ontario for five years. • Matt and Janelle Kehoe and Nungesser Lake Lodge: Pleaded guilty to hunting a bull
- and cow moose without a license and unlawfully buying a license. The business was fined \$25,000, including court costs, had their bear outfitter area revoked, and are prohibited from providing services to big game hunters for two years. Robbie Green, Robert Green, and Bob Green's Fishing Camps: Fined a total of
- \$93,750, including court costs, for multiple wildlife violations. They also face hunting suspensions and loss of outfitting privileges.

Thank you, Emily, for your dedication and hard work in this case!

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Red Lake District



Attaboy to Russell Perry (W) and Tony Crawford (W)

Sent: Wednesday, June 5, 2024 3:12:24 PM To: Russell Perry <russell.perry@odwc.ok.gov>; Tony Crawford <tony.crawford@odwc.ok.gov> Cc: Bill Dinkines <bill.dinkines@odwc.ok.gov>; Russ Horton <russ.horton@odwc.ok.gov> Subject: "Atta Boys" Over Memorial Day weekend the Oologah Lake Manager, Eric Bonnell, sent me the following text:

Michael Evers Conservation Officer C702

"Overcup Bottoms looks awesome. Saw they did a bunch of work there. Appreciate those guys and you with the focus on some of those areas"

Not sure why I was lumped in but keep up the great work Russell and Tony!

Wildlife Supervisor-Northeast Region Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation

Matthew Mattioda

From: Matt Mattioda <matt.mattioda@odwc.ok.gov>

C&E Teamwork

Micah Holmes (C&E) sent a commendation to Kelly Adams (C&E) and her team after an encounter with an old friend who had a great experience with ODWC's offerings. The friend discovered a video of San Bois WMA on Facebook, learned it was public land, and applied for multiple controlled hunts and Outdoor OK Adventure raffles through the

website. He also purchased PointGuard and extra preference points, and plans to go camping and bow hunting at San Bois this October. This anecdote highlights how their efforts are making a positive impact, generating \$60-70 in revenue from this individual and retaining him for the upcoming season.

Kelly responded back with a summary of all communication employees that worked together in different efforts regarding San Bois and a quote from Phil Jackson: "The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team."



Jennifer Benge (C&E) attended "Go Wyld Women's Weekend 2024" in northeast Oklahoma with a group called "wildHERness" whose mission is to foster a connection to the outdoors for women of all demographics, creating a diverse community of competency, self-reliance, confidence and mentorship in the mutual appreciation of outdoor recreation. To learn more about the organization click the button below.

<u>wildHERness</u>



Jennifer teamed up with a group of ladies and their fearless leader, Bob, for a squirrel hunting adventure during "Oklahoma Go Wyld."

Tony Crawford (W) sent in this touching story about his son:

"In April 2024, Caston had an unforgettable experience on youth weekend at Spavinaw GMA, where he bagged an 18-pound jake. Just three weeks later, he continued his turkey hunting journey with a trip to upper central Kansas to hunt Rio turkeys. Caston successfully took down a 17-pound jake there, after drawing the necessary turkey tags. Adding to the excitement, Caston got to drive a bit during the trip. What's even more special is that Caston accomplished these hunts using his great-grandmother's .410 shotgun, adding a cherished family tradition to his new passion. It's safe to say that Caston is now thoroughly hooked on turkey hunting. To top it all off, he received his combo lifetime license just before embarking on the Youth Turkey Weekend!"

Some of the pictures from Caston's turkey adventures are below.

Way to go Caston! And way to go to Tony for passing on the tradition to his son. R3!





Maggie Wood Wildlife Technician



Maggie Wood joined our team in May 2024, bringing her background in wildlife and conservation to the role of our very first female wildlife technician on a WMA! She will be working as the technician for Keystone, Skiatook, and Candy Creek WMAs. A graduate of Depew High School and Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU), Maggie earned her bachelor's degree in parks and recreation management with a minor in wildland Fire. Maggie's career path includes six years at Walmart and a 10-month internship at Arcadia Conservation and Education Area. Her deep-rooted passion for hunting, fishing, and trapping reflects her heritage and is a cherished way to create memories with family and friends. She also enjoys crafting items from paracord, such as gun slings, lanyards, and belts, and refurbishing hunting gear. A cool story about Maggie is that she won the ODWC Creative Writing Contest, earning her an antelope hunt in Texas. Her dedication to hunting surpasses even that of her father, who initially introduced her to the sport. Whether accompanied by her husband, Nathen, or solo, Maggie's commitment to the outdoors is unwavering. Maggie's enthusiasm for wildlife and conservation, supported by her husband's encouragement, has been instrumental in her journey. We are thrilled to have her as part of our team. Welcome, Maggie!

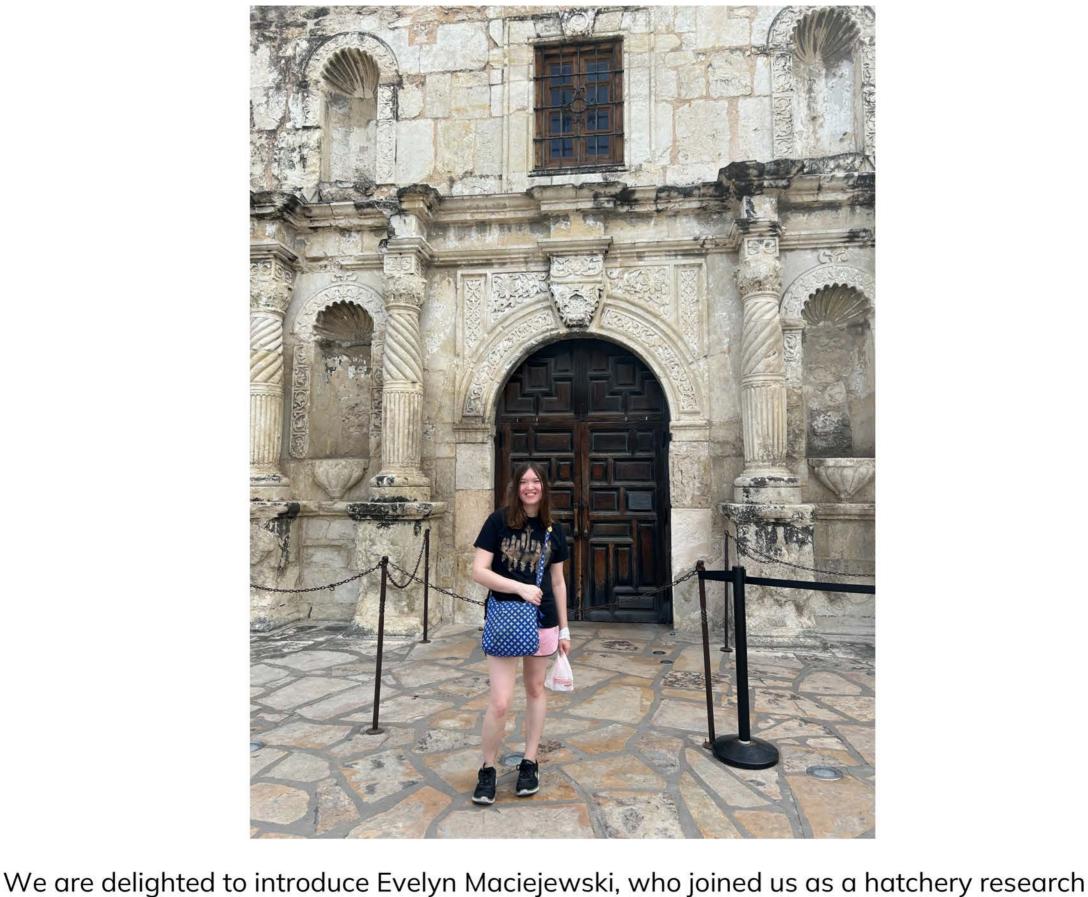
Lydia Gearhart Game Warden



Lydia Gearhart joined us in March 2024 as a game warden. A graduate of Konawa High School, Lydia pursued her passion for the outdoors at Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU), where she earned a degree in parks and wildlife law enforcement. Lydia was an intern for C&E for 14 months where she helped with rack madness, social media, the Cy Curtis program, OKNASP events, OKSSSP events, answering constituent calls and much more. Lydia's love for outdoor activities such as hunting, fishing, trapping, and hiking fuels her passion for her work. She finds great peace in nature and thrives on the challenges that come with hunting and fishing. In addition to her outdoor pursuits, Lydia enjoys going to the gym and thrift shopping in her free time. Lydia has embraced her new role with enthusiasm, relishing the opportunity to experience something new every day. Welcome to the team, Lydia!

Hatchery Technician

Evelyn Maciejewski



technician at the Durant State Fish Hatchery on May 15, 2024. Originally from Monroe, Michigan, Evelyn has an impressive academic background, holding a bachelor's degree in marine and aquatic biology from Bowling Green State University (BGSU) and a master's degree in zoology with a specialization in aquaculture and fisheries science from Southern Illinois University (SIU). Before joining our team, she worked for Riverence as a research technician for a year and a half. Evelyn enjoys hiking and fishing, activities she has loved since childhood, and also likes reading, watching movies, playing video games with friends and family, and volunteering with 4-H. She has traveled to Seattle three times in recent years and hopes to visit Canada soon. Evelyn's passion for her job stems from the flexibility it offers and the opportunity to conduct research vital to the

future of fisheries. We are excited to have Evelyn on board and look forward to her

contributions to our team!



Pay increase Information:

Here are the steps you can follow to determine what your new salary will be effective July 1, 2024.

Log in to Workday

Click on your picture or the person icon in the top right corner

Click on View Profile

In the blue column, click on Compensation

Find your Total Base Pay and multiply it by 1.16 (16% increase).

Example: $$50,000 \times 1.16 = $58,000$

This is your new salary as of July 1, 2024.

If the new salary puts you over the new Maximum for your Grade, you will be capped at the new Maximum for your Grade.

If the new salary puts you below 85% of the new Midpoint for your Grade, you will be raised to 85% of the new Midpoint for your Grade.

To see the new pay scales for FY2025, please visit the Toad under Admin > HR > Employee Benefits or follow the link below:

<u>odwc Salary Bands</u> <u>Fy25</u>



VIEW DIRECTOR'S REPORT

COMMISSION SUMMARY



Mikki Wilmoth (W) recognized for 20 years.

May Personnel Actions

New Hires

Evelyn Maciejewski – Fisheries Hatchery Technician, Durant, 5/15/24

Maggie Wood – Wildlife Technician, Keystone/Skiatook/Candy Creek WMAs, 5/20/24

Promotions

Kimberly Clark – Hatchery Technician @ Durant to Assistant Hatchery Manager @ JA Manning 5/1/24

Joseph McAllister – Biologist to Senior Biologist, Wildlife Central Region, 5/1/24

Matthew Hensley – Biologist to Senior Biologist, Wildlife SE Region, 5/1/124

Austin Griffin – Biologist to Senior Biologist, Fisheries Research, OFRL, 5/15/24

Kristi Keeling – Cashier to Procurement Officer, 5/15/24

Mary Streber - Payroll/Benefits Coordinator to HR Management Specialist, 5/15/2

Transfers

Chris Whisenhunt – Fisheries Senior Biologist, Jenks Office, to Fisheries Senior Biologist for the East Central Region, 5/15/24

June Birthdays

- RODEFELD, NELS 6/1
- WILLMAN, RILEY 6/1
- BRANCH, JOSEY 6/3
- MCCANDLESS, JACOB 6/3
- HEADRICK, JEFF 6/6
- SHAW, JERRY 6/6
- GILLHAM, THOMAS 6/9
- LOWE, LEAH 6/11
- SPRINGER, DAMON 6/11
- BERGIN, MICHAEL 6/13
- THIBODEAU, MARCUS 6/15
- TABOR, SIDNEY 6/17
- EDDINGS, MASON 6/18
- GAYLORD, HEATHER 6/18
- LOVELACE, ETHAN 6/19
- GAMMILL, CAMERON 6/23
- HALE, TREY 6/23
- JENNINGS, LEWIS 6/25
- ROWE, COLBY 6/25
- SARVELA, ERIKA 6/28
- SCAGGS, VICKY 6/30

July Birthdays

- BARNES, ERIC 7/7
- GRAGG, BOBBY 7/8
- MOORE, KODY 7/8
- FULTON, BRANDON 7/10
- COTTRILL JR, PHILLIP 7/11
- GOGGIN, JESSE 7/12
- BENNETT, SETH 7/14
- STANLEY, MARVIN 7/15
- RYSWYK, RYAN 7/17
- THOMAS, AMANDA 7/17
- WHILES, ALEXIS N 7/17
- WILLIAMS, MICHAEL 7/17
- JOHNSTON, SAMUEL 7/18
- GRACE, SPENCER 7/19
- PAULK, ZACHARY 7/20
- RUNYAN, TY 7/21
- KING, DYLAN 7/22
- MORRIS, CODY 7/22
- PHILLIPS, AMANDA 7/22
- BROWN, JESSICA 7/23
- CLARK, KIMBERLY 7/23
- TOBEY, TODD 7/24
- SCOTT, GARRETT 7/26
- ERDMAN, NATHAN 7/27
- GRIFFITH, DANIEL 7/28
- ROWLAND, JAKE 7/28
- JONES, DYLAN 7/29
- CREWS, ANDREA 7/30
- MATLOCK, PATRICK 7/31

REELIN' IN THE YEARS

- ANSON, KEVIN 25
- BAKER, GREG 2
- BARTNICKI, JORY 6
- BOGNER, DAVID 7
- BROTHERS, JEREMY 25
- DAVENPORT, JOHN 34
- DONNELL, JENA 15
- FULTON, BRANDON 12
- GILLHAM, ROYCE 10
- GONZALES, CHEYENNE 1
- GRAY, SHELLI 12
- HOWERY, MARK 32
- JACKSON, AUSTIN 9
- JUDKINS, TELL 10
- LUETKEMEYER, CHERYL 17
- MESKIMEN, BRIAN 16
- MITCHELL, MADISON 2
- MOORE, MEGAN 4
- PATTERSON, CHAS 19
- ROBBINS, WILLIAM 10
- ROBERTSON, SEAN 2
- ROBINSON, GABRIELLE 18
- ROCKWELL, JASON 7
- SAVAGE, HAYDEN 2
- STAUFFER, JD 12
- STOVER, CHRISTOPHER 12
- TALBERT, BRIAN 7
- THIBODEAU, MARCUS 8
- WEYMOUTH, JAMIE 1
- WILLIAMS, JOE 24
- ZIMMERMAN, MICHAEL 10

