



WILDERNESS UNLIMITED

California

*A Quarterly Magazine for the West's Premiere Hunting and Fishing Club
Special Issue, Promo Sampler*

*A brief view inside the world of Wilderness Unlimited.
The West Coast's premier Outdoors Club*

On the banks of one of the premier trout waters in Oregon, the White River Lodge offers a premier lodging experience. Whether you go to fish, relax, or enjoy a family outing, this lodge is ideal. With a cool rock walled lower level, spacious main floor, and upper loft, it comfortably sleeps six. A full kitchen is available, along with a bbq grill on the stone patio. The setting and unique features will make for a highly memorable stay.

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Located on the scenic Bidwell Ranch in Shasta County is the Bidwell Bunkhouse. This studio type building has the capability of accommodating 4 adults. With all the amenities of home: a refrigerator, electric stove, tableware, bathroom/shower and a woodburning stove, you can't go wrong staying at the Bidwell Bunkhouse.

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This rustic cabin sits on the shores of Kramer Bass Pond. See W.U. #208. W.U. has the exclusive use of this rustic cabin from April 1st through September 15. The cabin sleeps 8 comfortably. You need to bring all your food and utensils.

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Don't miss an opportunity to visit the Clarke Lodge, located west of Laytonville and situated on the pristine 5,000 acre Clarke Ranch. This ranch offers peacefulness, beauty, a small trout pond for fishing and provides the perfect place for a family gathering. Bookings are available and the rates are listed on the Clarke Lodge property description 26B in your land manual. Contact the Hayward Office for availability and bookings.

Refer to property description for current rates.



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Cover Photo: Hayden Ranch, taken by Darrin Gong

Tentative Hunting Seasons*

SPRING

OPENS

CLOSES

Youth Turkey Hunt
Spring Turkey
Spring Pig
Trout Season

3/19
3/26
5/2
4/15

3/20
5/1
5/31
11/30

SUMMER

OPENS

CLOSES

Archery Deer Season (A Zone)
Archery Antelope Season (Zone 5)
General Deer Season (A Zone)
General Antelope Season (Zone 5)
General Bear Season

7/9
8/6
8/13
8/20
8/13

8/9
8/14
9/25
8/29
12/25

FALL

OPENS

CLOSES

Dove Season (First Half)
NE Waterfowl
Quail Season (Zone C)
Balance of State Waterfowl

9/1
10/1
10/15
10/22

9/15
1/16
1/22
1/29

WINTER

OPENS

CLOSES

Winter Pig
Steelhead Fishing
Fall Turkey
Pheasant Season
Extended Winter Pig

11/1
11/1
11/12
11/12
2/1

1/31
3/31
11/27
12/25
3/25

*Not all Zones and hunting opportunities represented. Please check D.F.G. Regulations and current W.U. properties for up-to-date information.

**Wilderness Unlimited
Promo Sampler**

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Member News

By Rick Copeland

Welcome to the start of W.U.'s 25th year.

Back in 1987, who would have thought W.U. would have grown to become the west's premier outdoor recreation organization.

I was reminded of our storied history at the January International Sportsmen's Shows (ISE). Many may recall it was at the San Mateo Show that W.U. first hung its shingle to the public. We hit the ground running and have only looked forward. Our first introduction to many members, including the very first year, has been at various sport shows. It is always a pleasure meeting and talking with our members. It is a true testament of W.U. when I am approached by the next generation of members and they share stories of their time on properties with their parents and how they are now sharing those memories with their young families. Members make W.U.

For W.U.'s part in the ISE show, including the Youth Outdoor Sports Fair, see summary page 14.

If you attend the Fred Hall Show at Long Beach in March, drop by and introduce yourself.

The show interaction causes one to reflect on our roots. Active members share their use and success stories. Inactive members made inquiries and plans to get back in this year. Talking to many, while the economy had sucker punched them this last year, many felt that the rewards and advantages of quality outdoor recreation provided by W.U. is worth figuring out how to include into their daily lives.

Yet after all this time there are still nay sayers who doubt W.U. and go so far as to state that W.U. is going out of business. Granted, this is a tough economy and this is as tough of a business as any other to keep operating solidly. Fortunately W.U. has a fiscal plan model that matches its property package to its active membership. IT WORKS! In 2009, W.U. downsized a bit as our charter dictates. A smaller membership leads to a smaller property package.

In 2010, W.U. started publishing this magazine, four times a year. The seasonal publication, Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter will now be known as *Wilderness Unlimited* - California edition, a quarterly magazine. Oregon members can expect an Oregon specific publication, *Wilderness Unlimited* - Oregon edition.

In this first issue of 2010, W.U. is including the map and details of a new ranch, and all the property and reservation information to get out and make use of the upcoming spring seasons: turkey, pig and fishing. Also included are "How To" articles that match the upcoming seasons. After seeing how successful the Waterfowl Mentoring Program has been, we are excited to introduce a Turkey Mentoring Program.

The very popular "Beyond W.U." program is being expanded. For years, Beyond W.U. has provided opportunities for members to travel to New Zealand, Hawaii, Mexico and Alaska to name a few. The opportunities here have really exploded. See page 24.

Don't forget to check out W.U.'s website from time to time. There are several youtube.com video links, tons of members *in action* photos and hopefully by the time you read this, an online turkey selection form.

As a reminder, the "Members Only" section access information is sent via The Member Wire. Make sure the office has your e-mail address!

Lastly, Make sure to check out the many programs supported by the Wilderness Unlimited Foundation. There are lots of events coming up, new and old. Did you know the WUF is totally donation and fundraiser driven? Support WUF and support our outdoor heritage future. To donate, contact the Hayward Office.

Wilderness Unlimited is charged with providing for our active member, with your help we'll continue to do be "all we can be", for you.

"I looked at the lion through my Alpen's. It was like somebody turned a light on."

"I was shooting a 3-D tournament when I came across a shot at a mountain lion in a shaded area. I couldn't make out the 12 ring so I pulled up a pair of [brand X] binoculars and couldn't see much better. Then I looked at the lion through my Alpen's. It was like somebody turned a light on!"

Burley Hall - World & National Winning Professional Archer

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Fishing Property Information.

A valid fishing license is required for anyone 16 years of age and older. Your fishing license must be visibly displayed above the waistline while fishing. Remember, Fishing license are valid January 1st through December 31st. Don't forget to obtain a current license.

State Regulations permit fishing with two rods under certain circumstances; however, on W.U. property, only one rod at a time per angler is permitted.

Trout stream fishing opens April 24. Phone-in reservations begin for trout stream properties on Wednesday, March 31.

The following properties are open for members' use if weather and access conditions permit.

W.U. Camping & Fishing Properties Currently Available:			
13	Bidwell	Trout, Bass	All Year
14	La Marr	Trout, Panfish	4/30-11/15 (Trout)
15	St. John	Bass, Panfish	All Year
26	Clarke	Trout	All Year/Some Restrictions
47	Rockport	Rockfish	Seasonal
48	Lake Margaret	Trout	May-Oct (weather permitting)
57	Spring Valley	Bass Sunfish	Seasonal
74	Barsnick	Bass, Catfish	All Year
77	Wilcox	Trout	4/30-11/15
90	Lower Fall River	Trout	4/30-11/15
91	Upper Fall River	Trout	4/30-11/15
110	Trion Ranch	Bass, Panfish, Catfish	All Year
123	Mariner	Bass, Panfish	All Year
156	Garcia River	Steelhead	November-March
167	Middle Fall River	Trout	4/30-11/15
171	Camp 19	Trout, Bass, Panfish	All Year
185	Killian	Trout	All Year (weather permitting)
195	Benz	Trout, Bass	Seasonal
208	Kramer Ranch	Bass, Panfish	5/1-9/15

Annual Membership Renewal Perks for 2011

You have probably already received your annual dues renewal statement. If not, please let the office know immediately. We don't want any member to miss out on the opportunities available during this renewal time. W.U. is working especially hard, due to the economy, to accommodate all of our members' needs.

Last year W.U. offered a special "perk" to the membership to encourage members to renew early. Well, we have continued with this program, which offers big savings by renewing annually prior to March 1st to keep your dues rate at the current level. Yes, your dues will be frozen at the same rate as long as you continue to activate early each year. This is also available to new members, renewing for the first time and will continue for the years to come for all active members continually renewing prior to March 1st each year. Renewing on time is very helpful in planning for the upcoming year, before the major fishing and hunting activities begin.

This is our way of saying "Thank You" to the membership for their continued support. Once again, please let us know if you haven't received your renewal statement.

W.U. Website

Did you know that W.U. has a fairly extensive website? Check out

www.wildernessunlimited.com

The "Members Only" pages have to be accessed using a specific username and password. Click on the W.U. property sign to gain access. If you cannot access the member only section contact the W.U. e-mail address shown for the current user name and password.

Of notable interest to members in the "member only" section are weekly property updates, digital property maps and member success photos.

The website is never up to our satisfaction and is being tweaked all of the time.

HULI CAT FISHING CHARTERS 2011

Rock Fish Charter - Sunday in July

Albacore Charter - Sunday in August

Crab and Humboldt Squid Combo - Sunday in November

For several years, W.U. has chartered the Huli Cat, a 55 foot vessel out of El Granada, skippered by W.U. member and Owner, Tom Mattusch, for special W.U. fishing trips. These trips with Tom have always been great. Charters are W.U.'s way to organize a trip. Special attention is always given to new sea fishers and kids. Each charter lists the intended quarry at the time we set the dates. The key is to be flexible. If a different species of fish is "running", the emphasis of the charter may shift.

The prices for all of these trips are priced below the norm. Book early as space is limited. Reservations for these trips can be made at the W.U. office now.

Rock Fish Charter - Sunday in July

\$65 adult, \$55 for youth (under 18)

This trip has been planned for beginner ocean fishers and has focused on calmer water. However, all aged anglers and abilities are welcome. Rockfish season opens on July 1. This trip is planned as "potluck", targeting species of fish available at the time. For the past several years, this trip has always been pleasing to all aboard.

Albacore Charter - Sunday in August

\$175 per angler

Captain Tom and the Huli Cat are historically one of the best tuna catchers. Albacore often come close to the Half Moon Bay coastline. The price of this trip is very reasonable. Note: if the albi's are a long ways out, an additional fuel surcharge may have to be added.

Dungeness Crab and Humboldt Squid Combo Charter -

Sunday in November

\$75 adult, \$65 for youth (under 18)

This trip has been hugely successful. The Huli Cat has been one of the pioneer charter boats for crab/fishing combo trips. Load up!

Remember: Tom always takes care of members with a nice discount. Try your hand for Humboldt squid, rockfish, salmon, albacore, crabs.....

White River Nymphing By Dave Hughes

My old friend John and I were leaning against his rig the other day, catching up on life, which we hadn't had a chance to do in a while. A flock of turkeys had just hustled up the hill above the upper campground. My wife, Masako was picking enough watercress, from the bed of it not far from the lodge, to go with venison for dinner. The White River was in perfect shape, but we hadn't fished yet.

While John and I talked, young Nick, who was staying in the lodge with his father, hustled by on his way to fish the pools just downstream from the lodge. John hailed him over, asked how the fishing had been. Nick had hooked one, his father another, in a day of fishing. I noticed Nick's rig was set for nymphs, with a hard indicator up high, and two size 6 or 8 salmonfly nymphs a foot apart at the tippet end. He asked my advice, and I told him the only thing I'd change was the point salmon fly nymph for a size 16 beadhead of any sort, and then I'd pinch a stout split shot between the two of them. Nick, impatient to be fishing, bolted for the river.

John and I continued to talk, and a few minutes later heard an indeterminate yelp. It could have been from the river. It could have been from up in the hills.

John said, "Must have been Nick hooked one."

I said, "I think it was one of those tom turkeys that just departed up the hill."

Just a few more minutes later, Nick came loping up from the river, said, "That was good advice. I had one of the big ones on." He'd hooked it on the size 16 nymph he'd tied on, whatever it was.

My normal advice when somebody asks for my advice is not to take my advice. That said, nine out of ten of the trout my wife and I have hooked on the White River have been on size 16 beadhead nymphs, usually Princes or A. P. Blacks, not that it matters. And in defense of my advice, I'm just passing on advice that somebody gave to me when I first began fishing the river many years ago. I've followed it ever since, and am passing it along now.

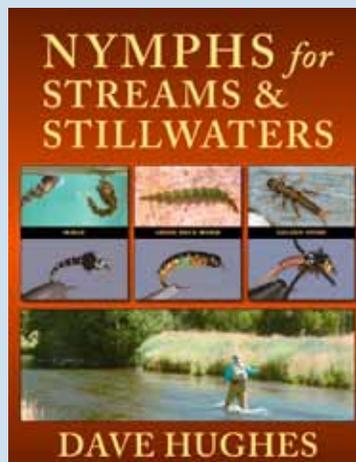
A small nymph is not going to sink anywhere fast by itself and the one requirement of the White, with its three- to six-foot deep holding lies and fairly fast current, is the need to get your nymph down near the bottom abruptly. That's the reason for the heavy salmonfly nymph-that and the fact that the river is loaded with the naturals, and trout must eat them all year long. It's also the reason for the split shot or two pinched between the larger nymph and the smaller one: The combined weight causes the two nymphs to plunge quickly and get to fishing depth almost the instant they hit the water.

The purpose of the indicator is to float all that weight, keep it suspended slightly above the bottom, keep you from snagging on every cast--you will on every tenth cast or so. I use those new balloon indicators in large size. I want no question that my indicator is going to float, and that I'm going to be able to see it. The White is usually off-color enough that trout are not bothered by a big indicator.



So there's the standard White River rig, if you haven't tried it yet: a big indicator about four to six feet up the leader from the point fly; a weighted salmonfly nymph on 2X or 3X tippet and a size 16 beadhead nymph a foot from it on 3X or 4X--White River trout are not leader shy. Pinch one or two split shot between them and you're prepared to fish deep, down where those big trout hang out. Your rod should be 8-1/2 to 9 feet long. Your line should be a floater. Make each cast five to ten feet upstream from the water you actually suppose will hold the trout you're after. It takes that long, even with all that weight, for your nymphs to reach fishing depth.

There are, not incidentally, folks who fish the White River and catch a lot more trout than I do. If you run into one, check out his or her rig; it's probably going to be different than mine, and it might well be better. But it will certainly solve that problem of getting a nymph down deep and very quickly.



(Dave Hughes is the Author of Nymphs for Streams & Stillwaters)

Annual Fly Fishing Clinic

Wilderness Unlimited's heralded Introductory Fly Fishing Clinic will be held at the Bidwell Ranch May 14-16. Since W.U.'s inception, this class has focused on introductory fly fishing techniques. Students have been able to enroll in the class without any fishing experience. Today, there are over twenty year's of graduates on the water.

Always improving on the clinic's overall effectiveness, the instruction crew has incorporated an intermediate element to run concurrent with the beginning class. Therefore, graduates from prior classes can review the basics and then spend more time on advanced techniques with instructors.

This year's clinic will again include both introductory and intermediate instruction. Come along for three fun filled days of Fly Fishing instruction taught by arguably the best collection of instructors on the west coast. This is the best value in fly fishing instruction you will find.

Many graduates from W.U.'s schools have gone on to become great instructors themselves. When the fundamentals are mastered methodically, only good things can happen!

W.U.'s Fly Fishing School offers the very best of hands-on instruction, including:

- Fundamentals of Fly Casting
- Knot and Gear Selection
- Stillwater and Stream Tactics
- Fly Presentation Techniques
- Reading Water to Find Fish
- Entomology and Fly Tying
- How to Land and Release Fish
- Trophy wild Trout Fishing!

The three day clinic starts at 8:30 a.m. on May 14. The best experience is to actually camp at the Bidwell Ranch during the clinic, but staying at a motel in near-by Burney or near by bed and breakfasts will work too. The Bidwell Bunkhouse and the Bidwell Fly Fishers are the closest lodging options. Due to the early start, Thursday night arrival is suggested. The clinic officially ends on Sunday at noon to help folks get a head start home.

The clinic is being administered by the Wilderness Unlimited Foundation (WUF), is limited in space and is being offered to members for just \$70.00. Guests of members will be \$110.00. A few spots may be made available to non- members at the \$149 public price.

Don't have your own gear? W.U. has several rod and reel kits available for student's use. You need to let the office know at the time of reservation if you require gear assistance.

Phone reservations will begin on Wednesday, March 24, at 11 am. Guest and non-members can begin making reservations on Wednesday, April 7. At the time of reservation, payment needs to be made. Confirmed students will be sent a fly fishing manual in advance of the class to help with their preparation.

Don't miss this one.

Bidwell Ranch Update

The Bidwell Ranch, as are many ranches, is a work in progress. Many "old" members can remember a time when there was only 1 pond, no power plant or on-site fish hatchery. Things change. The ranch has grown over the years to 4 ponds, providing additional fish habitat and thus a great deal more sporting opportunity ... and maintenance.



W.U. and Bidwell Ranch always have a list of "to dos". Just keeping the muskrats in control is a job in itself. The winter months are usually the best time to engage groundwork for multiple reasons. Last winter, the Bidwell's redid the levee at Pond 4 (a muskrat casualty) only to see the levee blow out again in a different location. Within 30 days the ranch got equipment back in and finally completed a long-term project. By the end of last year, Pond 4 was a good fishery.

This year's program was to enhance the Pond 2 area, by regaining the water flow to the fore bay. This is the area to the south of Camp 2, known as the "flats". By removing a huge section of the choking tules at the outlet near camp and opening up the water flow, the fish should return to the "flats". Included in the project was removing a lot of berry bushes and refurbishing the bridge at the inlet. Members should be pleased with this action. Thanks much to Mark Bidwell with help from caretaker Mike Vegas and Burney area manager, Phil Spezio.

Youth Fly Fishing Clinic – April

In conjunction with the Northern California Council Federation of Fly Fishers, Wilderness Unlimited Foundation is conducting a Youth Fly Fishing School on Saturday, April 10th, 2010 from 9am to 5pm at East Bay Regional Park, Shadow Cliffs, in Pleasanton, CA. The Fly Fishing School will be limited to students from 8 to 16 years old. The class will cover an introduction to fly fishing, entomology, knot tying, beginning fly tying, fly casting, hook removal and how to handle fish so they can be released. All equipment will be provided for students. Students are recommended to bring comfortable clothes for changing weather conditions, sunscreen, insect repellent, chair, hat and polarized sunglasses (available at any sporting goods store). Guests will be allowed on a 48 hours confirmation. Lunch will be provided. Reservations are required and a \$25 (\$30 for non-members) activity fee is due upon reservation confirmation, which includes a box of flies, lunch and a donation to WUF.

Reservations are open!

Member's Success



Deer Season: 6 Steps to Remember in September

By Gary Lewis

Pick up any lifestyle magazine and you'll find 1001 ways to change your life forever. Better career, better relationships, better golf game, sculpted abs, how to stage a romantic getaway. Important stuff, but none of it counts the last week of September.

If you haven't looked at the calendar lately, opening day of deer season is not far off. If you're a bowhunter, the season is only a month away. For me, it hit home when I received the postcard that said I'd drawn a Snake River deer tag.

I'm not ready and you probably aren't either, but we can get there. Here are six steps to take as the days grow shorter and the aspen leaves turn yellow in the high country.

Gary Lewis is the author of John Nosler – Going Ballistic, Black Bear Hunting, Freshwater Fishing Oregon & Washington, Deer Hunting Tactics and Hunting Oregon. Contact Lewis at www.GaryLewisOutdoors.com.

1. Get in shape. I'm convinced there are a lot of deer that hunters never see. Most of them live more than half a mile from the nearest road. To reach them takes the kind of endurance that is forged in the gym, on a bike, or on the butte. The last two months before the season is when I switch from weight training to biking and hiking. After a couple of trips up the hill, I put on a full pack.

2. Target practice. A lot of people sight-in the rifle before the season. They fire a few rounds from the bench to make sure the bullets are hitting the paper and call it 'good enough.' It's not good enough. Chances are sometime in September or October, there'll be a shot that will make or break the season. It may be a 70-yard standing offhand shot like my first crack at a forked horn. It may be a 137-yard running poke like the one I had to make on my best-ever mule deer.

If you're a bowhunter, shoot at least twice a week. The week before the season, concentrate on making one good shot each day. You can hit the shots that matter if you create an attitude of accuracy, commit to regular practice, learn the ballistic characteristics of your favorite load or arrow and focus on the fundamentals. Best of all, target practice calms the jitters that lead to buck fever.

3. Scout deer country from your kitchen table. Fuel costs are high, but paper is still relatively cheap. Focus your interest on three or four core areas and buy the topographic maps for each spot.

Pick out the saddles that deer use to cross from one drainage into another. Find the springs where they get their water. Identify the benches where they sit, three-quarters of the way up the hill to catch the scent of predators on the rising thermals.

Hint: a buck will rarely bed more than 800 yards from its water source.

4. Watch from a distance. In mule deer country and in some black tail habitats, a spotting scope can help you get close to the deer. Until the end of August, most of the bucks will seek out the high, open slopes to make their living. Bucks tend to avoid brushy cover while the antlers are tender. Set the spotting scope at 20x and scan a pattern from closest country to furthest then do it again until the deer start to show.

More than seeing deer on a scouting trip, I want to see deer sign. I want to identify buck tracks around a water hole. Once I find a spot where a big buck gets his water, I can make reasonable guesses about where he's bedding and feeding. And where he'll go when pressured.



5. Devise a back-up plan. The best-laid plans go awry on Opening Day. Someone else got there first or a forest fire pushed the deer into the next unit. It can happen. Maybe it's just as simple as a change in the wind and weather. Whatever the reason, you need a Plan B. In fact, I plan my hunts so that, if I have to, I can hunt three different areas in the first three days.

6. Look at pressure limiters. Cattle, campgrounds, fences, road closures, rimrocks and water all tend to limit or redirect hunting pressure. Pay attention to how certain factors tend to channel your fellow hunters in predictable patterns then do something different.

Once we noticed how the hunters at the next camp roared off north, south and east at first light every day. We made it a point to wait until they were gone, then we hunted 200 yards west of their camp. We jumped a 30-inch buck. My partner missed because he hadn't practiced for that going-away shot. He hasn't been the same since.

Come to think of it, after I hunted my first deer season, my life was changed forever too. As long as mule deer inhabit the high and wild places, and as long as black tails ghost along the edge of the timber, I'll be there with my binoculars and a rifle. And the better for it.

Members Speak Out

Ladies and Gents,

Thank you again for accommodating me on another one day hunt. This is the strength of this club in my opinion as I travel extensively and don't have that much planned time off, so one day hunts with little notice is what I have to do. The Mosby Ranch was another great property and as the pics attached will show was successful. Serge was a great help in recommending carrying a slug while hunting quail in the chance you get close to a hog. That is what I did and it worked wonderfully. Keep up the great work and although I am out of hogs for the year I will undoubtedly get the chance to hunt some great birds in the next few months.

Regards,

L.P. Bakersfield, CA



WU/WUF Camp Staff

My son could not stop talking about how fun it was, what he learned and the friends he made. He loved the food and learning about guns at the range. Excellent hunter safety program and he loved the fly fishing.

T.B. Willits, CA

Ron,

Just a note to tell you that in the past month I have had several members tell me how nice your staff handles the phone reservations. On one occasion, the member had his speaker phone on and I was able to hear the conversation between the member and your staff member.

VERY GOOD. Staff was both professional and friendly on the phone while providing the help the member needed.

They have also been very helpful to me when I call for information and support in the field.

Just passing on the kudos from the membership and a little slap on the back from me.

Great job!

Jim Andrews (Caretaker)

Here are a couple of photos I took of my daughters Micaela and Cheyenne from C and S Club last week. We had a great time and are going back after Christmas. Thank you WU



I wanted to thank you all for including me on the Swine and Wine Hunts. I may not have gotten the Swine, but the educational and culinary experience was wonderful. I am HOOKED thus far and have to continue on this new adventure. Great mentors and Jenna is a fab Chef!

E.A. Napa, CA

W.U. Office

Not sure if these pics will do any good for your publication, but they are some of my favorites. This is Laura (five), her first deer hunt (B zone Oregon Mountain). Although we did not take any game, we saw lots of deer, animals, and had a great time.

Laura is hooked on hunting & camping. Thank you for the great properties to enjoy the outdoors - this is why we love W.U. hunting.

Thank you!

S. A. San Jose, CA



Dear Serge,

Just a note to thank you (and certainly) Joe and the W.U. staff for helping arrange our pig hunt at the Hill Ranch (property 99). My friend Adam (who owns the a W.U. property in Oregon) and I were met by W.U. caretaker Bill Merrill who introduced us to Larry, the ranch owner. Both Bill and Larry were extremely cordial and helpful to us as we pondered where and how to look for pigs. Upon arrival the day before our hunt, Adam and I waited until the prescribed hour, then pitched camp in good light and drove off to the local bar for a burger and a beer. We lucked out with perfect mild weather throughout the hunt, and a three-quarter waxing moon. We met fellow-member, John D. who was also great fun to hang out with and who was a methodical and intelligent hunter. Our official Expedition Photographer, Dr. Thomas Gilman, also known as the "Gate B@#*h", joined us for a day and rooted for the pigs. We included Bill in as much of our fun as he had time for and I believe everybody had a perfectly fine time. One additional pleasure for me was driving past Larry's ranch headquarters coming and going and seeing half a dozen good looking "using horses"...stock that looked to be Foundation Bred, although I haven't talked to Larry about them yet.

Even as I prepared for this hunt, I expected to enjoy myself, but I couldn't have anticipated just how much fun it would really be. This country is splendid; the ranch is well kept; Bill keeps the signage legible and informative and he knows the land; Larry is pleased to have respectful W.U. hunters on his property and the pigs have gotten savvy enough to leave tantalizing sign everywhere, yet make the hunt a challenge. They actually came grunting through our camp at night, but you've got to hunt for the boogers during daylight hours...walk ridges, search manzanita, cover terrain. I was the "stove-up" geezer of our group so Adam trotted up the hills and ridges and left me to the easier walking along the ranch-roads in the bottoms. In the mornings we were out before daylight and would hunt until about 10:00, then come back to good camp lunches and dead-to-the-world naps and go out again around 4:00 PM for the evening hunt.



There is something magical about being in remote country with one's good friends, old and new, and pig or no pig, this was a welcomed respite from our routines. We'll be back...and back.

Good job, Wilderness Unlimited. Good job, Bill. And yes, there is a nice pig at the game butcher's as I write this.

An additional benefit to Adam was to gain a deeper understanding of what Wilderness Unlimited is about and when I last spoke to him, he was on his way down to the John Day River to greet the W.U. fishermen who were on his ranch.

Cordially,

R. H. Lake Oswego, Or



I've been in the club for 10 years, it is a great club and never ran into bad people. All patrolmen are nice and pleasant!

J.B. Redding, CA

Just wanted to send you these pictures of the trout that our grandsons caught at Camp 19 Ranch this last Labor Day Weekend. Cole Travis 11 yrs. caught the 17" trout. Justin Travis caught the 12" trout; and Ryan Travis 6 yrs. caught lots of fish too!

We always have such a great time when we go to Camp 19 Ranch.

Thank you,

J. Y. Arbuckle, CA

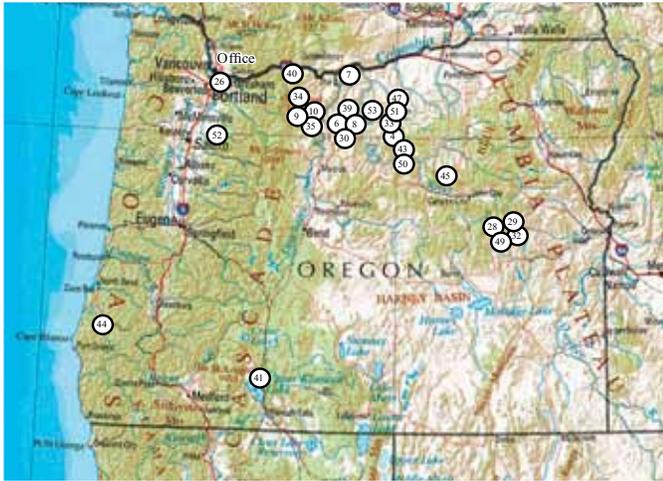


Re: Fly Fishing Clinic

Please let the W.U. / WUF Fly Fishing Instructors know I thoroughly enjoyed the Introductory Clinic. All the instructors are extremely willing to help with technique and answer every question. The foundation for a lifetime of fly fishing that is laid out for a novice is phenomenal. I caught my first, second and third fish ever on a fly during this clinic.

Thank You!

A.C. a guest from Paso Robles, CA



As we move into another year, and begin to look ahead, it's fun to dream of outdoor adventures. One of those W.U. adventures could be a trip to Oregon, where a lot of fun awaits you.

Fishing

In north central Oregon there are several small stocked lakes that fish best in the spring. These W.U. ponds are prime in April and early May. (As the temperatures warm and the days get longer, weed growth begins to interfere.) Grass Valley Pond, Highway Lakes and Schilling Ponds are all located just south of the town of Grass Valley. Further west, Wamic Pond, about 45 minutes south of The Dalles, is also stocked with trout.

The White River, in north central Oregon, is becoming legendary in Wilderness Unlimited circles. It's legendary for monster rainbows, and it's legendary for being a fickle river that can be tough to time for fishable conditions. Runoff from Mt. Hood snowmelt and rainstorms will blow it out of shape. Perhaps the best times to fish the White River are now, before the heavy spring runoff, or starting in mid-summer after the most of the snow on the mountain has melted. If you time it right, you may well hook the biggest trout of your life; 10-12 pound fish are not uncommon. Should the White be blown out, nearby Tygh Creek holds smaller trout and the Deschutes River is only 20 minutes away. The camping area at White River is one of the nicest W.U. has in Oregon. And for the comfort minded, there's the beautiful White River Lodge, which everyone should experience.

If smallmouth bass fishing is of interest, a stop at Twickenham to fish the John Day River should be included in your trip to Oregon. The water usually warms enough for the fish to be very active after Memorial Day. And if you want to hook a kid on fishing, this may be the place to do it as the smallie's will bite on darn near anything.

You won't hook a lot of big ones in the summer (the monsters are caught in February and March), but you should find good numbers of fish. The camp area is adequate and the scenery is stunning. Twickenham is located about an hour northeast of Prineville in central Oregon. About an hour northeast of Burns in eastern Oregon the Malheur Rivers flows out of the Strawberry Mountains and through the Blue Bucket Ranch. Lots of feisty rainbows that don't see a whole lot of the fishing pressure call this water home.

The lower end of the ranch can be ok for fishing early, but as the summer progresses head upstream. There are three irrigation diversion dams on the ranch, and in the summer you'll want to be fishing upstream from the 2nd or 3rd one. The camp area (known as Mill Dale) is shaded and nice, and there's a B&B on the ranch if primitive isn't your thing. While the scenery is gorgeous and the fishing can be good, perhaps the most striking aspects of a trip to Blue Bucket are the brilliance of the stars in the night sky and the extreme quiet, which almost roars on a calm night.

Closer to you is Sportsman's River Retreat near the town of Chiloquin in southern Oregon. This RV park/campground offers prime access to the Williamson River and Klamath Lake. W.U. keeps a 14' jon boat and motor that members can rent for 20 bucks a day. This river, too, is noted for big rainbows, especially as the lake warms and fish seek out the cooler river temperatures in the summer. Dry camping is available at no charge to members, but there is an added fee for RV hookups or to stay in one of the comfortable bunk houses on the property.

Big Game

If big game hunting is your thing, keep in mind that the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife controlled hunt application deadline is May 15. If you want to rifle hunt for deer and/or elk on W.U. ranches in Oregon, the club asks you to send your completed application and hunt deposit to the Hayward Office by May 11th so it can be reviewed before delivery to ODFW. W.U. has a half dozen mule deer and Rocky Mountain elk ranches in eastern Oregon, as well as the Long Prairie ranch in southwestern Oregon, where you can hunt blacktail deer and Roosevelt Elk.

Some pretty good rifle buck and elk hunts are available on W.U. ranches, but nearly all require you to apply for a controlled hunt tag. (If you're an archer, things are simpler since bow tags for both deer and elk are general season/over-the-counter tags that must simply be purchased before opening day of the season.) Oregon Big Game Packets, which contain valuable information on options, season dates, hunt fees, etc. can be emailed to you if you contact the Hayward Office. These packets will be available starting in mid-March. You can also expect more news on Oregon hunts via email in future W.U. Member Wires.

There are some good opportunities for W.U. members, in Oregon. Take advantage of them if you can.

2010 Oregon Big Game Season Dates

Archery Deer & Elk Aug. 28-Sept. 26

(Coast Buck Aug. 29-Sept. 27 AND Nov. 14-Dec. 6.)

(Late season closed on W.U. Nov. 13-27 for rifle elk hunting.)

Rifle Mule Deer Buck Oct 2-Oct. 13

Rifle Coast Blacktail Buck Oct. 2-Nov. 5

Early Cow Rifle Elk (Drewsey Valley #1) Aug. 15-Sept. 30

Rifle-Rocky Mtn. Bull Elk 1st Season Oct. 27-Oct. 31

Rifle-Rocky Mtn. Bull Elk 2nd Season Nov. 6-Nov. 14

Rifle-Coast Bull Elk 1st Season Nov. 13-16

Rifle-Coast Bull Elk 2nd Season Nov. 20-26

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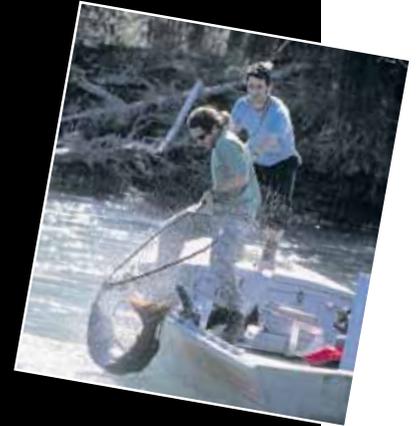
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Spring Turkey Rundown

By Terry Knight

The California spring turkey season gets underway on March 27. There is a special youth hunt on Mar. 20-21 and an archery only season from May 2 through May 16. The shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to 4 p.m. and the limit is one bearded turkey per day and a total of three for the season per licensed hunter. (W.U. bag limits on W.U. properties are of course different.) A bearded turkey is classed as one where the beard protrudes from the breast and can be seen. Actually the turkey can be either a tom or a hen as long as it has a visible beard. However, hunters are encouraged not to shoot the hens. The average tom will weigh from 8 to 20 pounds.

As expected, the state is literally awash with wild turkeys. In fact, wild turkeys can be found on both private and public lands from the Mexican border to Oregon. Actually in many areas they have become pests.

California has three species of wild turkeys with the most common being the Rio Grande. These are the turkeys you see around the local farms and houses. The Merriam turkey is a high country bird and is normally found at elevations above 5,000 feet. The other species is the Eastern which is found in limited numbers along the North Coast. All three species will interbreed where their ranges cross.

Knowing turkey behavior can mean the difference between success and failure when it comes to the hunting bird. Wild turkeys always roost in trees. A flock will establish a pattern where they feed and roost. Typically a flock of turkeys will select several trees for roost trees and unless spooked will return to these same trees day-after-day. Turkeys will fly up to the roost tree just before dark and stay there until daylight. Typically, several toms will roost in one tree and the hens will roost in a nearby tree. Any unusual noise will cause the toms to gobble from the tree. Hunters can use this trait to their advantage in locating a roost tree. One of the best methods is to get up on a ridge before daylight and blow on a crow call.

If a tom is within hearing distance, chances are that he will gobble back. I have had toms gobble to a crow call from up to a mile away.

At daylight the toms will start to gobble to attract hens. Often you will hear a gobble followed by the yelp of a nearby hen. The more the hen yelps the more excited the tom will get. At times he will gobble nearly nonstop at the hens. At first light the hens will fly down and walk to the roost tree that is holding the toms. The toms will immediately join them. Other times the hens will make a long flight from the roost tree and land in an open glade. The toms will fly down to them and start to strut. Strutting in one method that toms use to attract a hen.

If you can locate a roost tree before daylight you should set up within about 100 yards from the tree. Either use a blind or sit against a tree and remain perfectly still. If you have a decoy, set it out about 25 yards from you. Once the toms are on the ground give a couple of soft clucks with your call. The tom should answer with a loud gobble.

Once the tom starts gobbling, call only enough to keep him interested in you and if he starts towards you, quit calling. He already has you located and he will often come in on the run or walk towards you in a full strut. When he gets within the 30-yard mark, aim at the base his neck and fire. If he goes down, immediately run to the flopping turkey and place your foot on his neck. More than one hunter has seen a turkey suddenly recover and run off.

If you don't score in the morning, walk the ridges and make a series of loud yelps. Often you will get a gobble in response. If you do hear a gobble, immediately find cover and set up. Turkeys are most active right after daylight and late in the afternoons. During the middle of the day they will often stay tight and rest.

W.U. hunters often ask which ranches offer the best hunting. That can change from week-to-week. If turkey hunting is allowed on a ranch there are a sufficient number of birds on that ranch to hunt. Hunting turkeys is also a learning process and the longer you hunt the better hunter you will be. Not even the best hunters are successful every year. The key to success is patience.

Few types of hunting is as rewarding as turkey hunting. It can be nerve wracking when you hear that loud gobble and the fun of turkey hunting is not just shooting the bird but calling him in.

Readers are always welcome to call me at (707) 263-1699 or email at tknight3021@sbcglobal.net.

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The Gray Ghosts of September

By Ed Migale

Each year, in the first dim light of just before sun-up, on the first day of September, the first dove I see always seems to appear out of nowhere. There is nothing to be seen in the half-light, and then ... *THERE!*

As if floating like a ghost – but in reality moving forward at a deceptively quick pace – spotting that dove is the most anticipated moment of my new hunting season. It tells me all is right in the world; that the annual life cycle of the hunter and his prey is to be fulfilled once again. A magic moment, to be sure.

Their daring, uneven flight characteristics have earned these tiny speedsters all kinds of names, many of which we can't put in print. Here are some tips that will help you call doves "delicious".

Perhaps that is one of the most alluring aspects of dove hunting. But there are two others that come to mind, such as the unparalleled gunning challenge offered by these fleet-of-wing creatures. Mutually inclusive to hitting – versus missing – is dove breast meat, stuffed inside a wedge of fresh pasilla pepper, alongside some firm jack cheese, wrapped with bacon and sprinkled with salt, pepper and paprika then grilled over mesquite coals and served with a spicy Zinfandel. Fantastic!

But a lot of dove hunters never get to enjoy very much in the way of eating these delicious birds. Why? Because they miss what are arguably – and in their defense – the bird many consider the toughest target in all of wingshooting.

Now it might be easy to say "well if doves are wingshooting's toughest targets, then it is entirely understandable that most hunters would miss most of the time." A good argument. But an argument with a few chinks in its armor because you *can* shoot a higher percentage *if* you pay attention to a few details.

So here are some tips that will help you miss less often on doves this September.

□ Pick the Right Gun

When it comes to picking your dove gun, don't listen to anyone else's advice ... including mine. Just shoot the gun you are most comfortable with and do your best shooting with. I especially don't care what gauge it is. 12, 16, 20, 28, .410; they are all good.

Can you shoot it? Does it swing well and allow you to track these swift and erratic ghost-like birds? Those are the "to be or not to be" questions, not "what gauge is it?"

□ Pick the Right Choke

This part of the gun is -- pardon the pun -- fair game for discussion. I believe that a good dove gun will have screw-in, changeable choke tubes. Here's why: Doves are found in lots of different habitats, and behave differently based on those habitats and the hunting pressure on them. For example, doves gliding gently through tree branches surrounding a watering hole on opening day present a much different target than high crossing, fast flying fence-line doves do a week into the season. The former require a very open choke; the latter something tighter.

□ Pick the Right Ammunition

Ammo and chokes are really part of the same discussion. Those water hole doves can be taken with light loads of smaller shot, like 1 ounce of # 8's in the 12 gauge or 7/8 of an ounce of #8's in the 20. But for the high crossers, I like to move up in payload and shot size, say 1 1/8 or 1 1/4 ounces in the 12 and 1 ounce in the 20. # 7 1/2's fill the ticket here, as do # 7's and even # 6's.

□ Pick the Right Spot

Think location, location, location. Watch for doves flying specific routes. As soon as you see a pattern developing put yourself in position to intercept the doves as they fly towards you. That way you'll get what are known as "incoming" targets, which, because they require less lead than "crossing" targets, are easier to hit.

□ Pick your Best Shot

The biggest mistake I see dove hunters make is that they shoot at every dove they see that is anywhere close to being in range. What's wrong with that you say? After all, they're afield to try to get some doves, right? Well, yes, and no. The problem is that when the hunter takes marginal shots, he or she often misses. Then the hunter is left standing there with an unloaded gun at precisely the time another gray ghost appears, only this time at a slower speed and better angle than the previous attempt.

You don't have to believe in or be afraid of these feathered ghosts. Do all the above and you'll be able to pick the feathers off your share of doves this September. The BBQ is waiting.

Sacramento Valley RV Camp

The RV Camp is in the Sacramento Valley and is known as the "home base" for many W.U. members during the waterfowl season. The Camp is within minutes of 15+ W.U. waterfowl and pheasant hunting properties. The site also has a very nice club house that is home to many W.U. activities. The 2010-11 prices for RV spots are posted below.

Anyone who was not in the RV Camp last season and is interested in an RV space or cabin please call the office and be placed on the standby list.

All correspondence and deposit checks should go to Wilderness Unlimited at 22425 Meekland Ave. Hayward, CA 94541. You can call the office at (510) 785-4868 or e-mail office@wildernessunlimited.com

The 2010-11 rates are as follows:

	Outside Spots 24' or larger	Inside Spots 23' or smaller
W.U. member	\$575	\$525
W.U. Inactive	\$650	\$600
Non Member	\$775	\$725
Off Season Storage	\$350 for eight months or \$50 per month.	

Teach a Kid Which the Way to Go

By Rick E. Martin

A Bible verse reads, "Teach a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." Proverbs 22:6

Things today are drastically different than when I was a kid. When our family wanted to go camping for a weekend, we just went. My summers were filled with very little schedule-wise. So when my family wanted to do something on a weekend, we did it. Life was simple.

We did our long road trips with memories of "are we there yet?" But the memories went well beyond that.

My kids have done a lot of things that I did not get to do when I was their age. With today's sports schedules and other activities, scheduling is a nightmare. Some events like a family "anything" are scheduled months in advance.

So when do my kids have time to realize their outdoor heritage? It has not been simple or easy and we still have a ways to go.



Last summer my son Matthew did get the opportunity to go to the W.U. Youth Camp at Clark Ranch. He was able to experience a number of different things and what he came home with was impressive.

This fall, he started Middle School. That notion in and of itself is enough to cause much fear for most parents, me included.

I have been surprised in a number of ways. All of a sudden he likes science. Science? He has seen the connection of natural science and how it relates to the outdoors. I guess the light went on in that he now realizes that in order to do something you want to do in life requires some work. Huh? My Kid?

Although he still does not like school, for the first time in his life he is concerned about his grades. All A's and one B, I am proud to say.

Another thing that he wanted to work on was to improve his skills with a shotgun so that he could do his first pheasant hunt. Of course we missed the opportunity to do the W.U. Youth Hunt. Why? A major conflict with soccer playoffs.

So the two weeks during Christmas Vacation was devoted to working towards that hunt. We went out a number of times shooting clay targets to get consistency with his shooting. Then we scheduled a day at the W.U. Bird Club at the RV Park in Williams.

With the help of a W.U. Member who ran his dog for us, Matthew shot his first two pheasants!

This all came with a bunch of support from a number of folks. They know who they are: Counselors at camp, a member who loaned my son a youth shotgun and the member that ran his first hunt.

Thanks very much.

Beyond W.U.

Santa Margarita Lake Ranch Hunts

W.U. introduced a special mentored hunt program on the Santa Margarita Ranch back in 2008. The ranch is east of the W.U. Rinconada Ranch on property that lies on the shores of Santa Margarita Lake but can't allow unescorted access for several reasons. Thus, W.U. ran "mentored" hunts with an access fee that allowed members who could use help in a particular activity. The landowner actual acted as the mentor. These hunts included deer, pig, turkey and duck/quail combo hunts. All were well received and extremely successful.

The approximate 1000 acre ranch provides good game populations on typical central coast terrain consisting of open hillsides, oak trees and brushy draws.

The owner of the ranch works the ranch most everyday and knows where the game is.

Book one of these "mentored" hunts at these special W.U. prices (lower than most guided hunts) and you won't be disappointed.

Hunters can camp at W.U.'s Rinconada or in town (accommodations are not included) but not on the Lake Ranch. Special arrangements can be made for handicapped hunters.

TURKEY HUNTS \$400 Per hunter. (2 hunters required per hunt) for Spring season. (Only two – two person hunts this year)

PIG HUNTS \$500 Per hunter (2 hunters required) for anytime in the month of June. Limited hunts available.

BLACKTAIL DEER HUNT There should be at least one deer hunt available this year. The details will be in the June edition of *Wilderness Unlimited*.

The ranch will provide transportation (Kawasaki Mule) while on ranch and will assist members with game cleaning.

To book a pig or turkey hunt, call the W.U. office on the dates below, and request a Santa Margarita Lake Ranch Hunt. If you are the first to book you need to reserve the hunt via credit card before the rancher is contacted by you. Within one week of credit card confirmation, if after discussing hunt with the rancher, the dates or details don't work for you, your fees will be 100% returned. If you agree to the hunt and you later cancel there will be a 50% refund if the hunt spots are filled. If the hunt does not occur due to the rancher, there will be a 100% refund.

Ask the Wild Guy

By George Visger

“The Wild Guy” aka George Visger. George, is an original Wilderness Unlimited member and now also serves as Principal Wildlife and Habitat Coordinator for the Wilderness Unlimited Foundation. The “Ask The Wild Guy” column will be based on George’s outdoors experiences, presented in a light manner intending on illustrating the use of strategies to help members with their outdoor success.

On an early November day in 1987, I was duck hunting on the Butte Creek Farms spread in the Sacramento Valley when I probably should have been out striper or sturgeon fishing. But archery and duck hunting are two passions of mine, and both have been known to short-circuit logical thinking on more than a few occasions.

I had taken a drake wood duck a few minutes into shooting time as is my custom. The woodies always seem to be the first scouts coming off of a night roosting on Butte Creek, heading over to forage in the adjacent rice fields. An hour into the hunt, I heard the unmistakable call of a single lonesome greenhead cruising west of me in the dense fog. I made the kill with a single shot.

Once the fog burned off, the remainder of the day had been spent watching a large grind of specs dump into a field on the north side of Butte Creek about a half-mile northeast of my position. I could see large flights of sprig cruising at nosebleed altitudes.

I was set up about where blind number four is currently located. This was years prior to any other blinds on the Butte Creek Farms property. My spread of 29 decoys consisted of a mixed bunch of mallard, sprig and widgeon. The 29 decoys was not a magic number for me, but it was all I could fit in my decoy bag.

I set my blind layout by lying lengthwise on top of a berm and pulling the rice stalks over me as cover, using my decoy bag as a pillow.

I rearranged my decoys several times after the fog burned off. Each time I walked out to rearrange my dekes, a flock of sprig would dive bomb me while I was standing out in the open.

I have always been a firm believer in movement attracts waterfowl. I had devised my own motion decoys years before the electronic versions, which I personally don’t care much for. My method consisted of tying a string to the keel of a drake sprig (I also like to have as much white in my spread as possible), and stomping the anchor weight into the mud.

I would then yank on the string to create ripples in the decoys on calm days such as this. Every now and then my anchor weight would break loose, and I would be forced to wade out and rearrange the spread. After about the fourth consecutive dive bombing attack by the sprig during my decoy rearrangement session, I thought there had to be more than just bad timing or movement that pulled the birds in.

I surveyed the layout, my brain churning with questions. What else could I do to entice the birds down from the stratosphere after my rearrangement sessions? I stood up on the rice berm and it dawned on me, turbid water! Each time I waded through my spread, I had stirred up sediment from the bottom and my decoys were bobbing in chocolate-looking water when the rest of the field was clear. Not only the ripples from movement but also the very obvious change in water color drew the birds in like a magnet.

That also explained why after a few minutes, the attraction faded. I ended up bagging my limit that afternoon on a day when ninety percent of the members had left before noon. 22 years later, I still book afternoon hunts in early November on many of the Wilderness Unlimited properties at a time when most hunters are chasing pheasants. I usually find I have the properties completely to myself, which allows me to work birds in close and personal for good clean kills.



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Mail To: CDA, 820 Park Row, PMB 671, Salinas, CA, 93901-2406

W.U. and WUF Were a Huge Show Presence.

W.U. and WUF provided Lucy's Pond again for the 16th year for many happy kids at the Western Outdoor News organized Youth Fair portion of the International Sportsman's Expo's. The youth program is under the direction of W.U. member Bill Karr. This year, Lucy's Pond was placed in a central location in the two January sport shows (San Mateo and Sacramento) for all to see. W.U. members, the San Francisco Rod and Gun Club and the Delta Teen Team manned the fishery. Under the direction of Gene Bohner, (RV Camp "Mayor" Geno) W.U. put through approximately 3000 kids during the 6 days.

A great amount of work goes into the event. A huge thank you to all who volunteered and a special thanks to Jerry Delgado, Francis Eichhoff, Danny Gregori, Pat Young, Justin Bohner, Jason Bohner, Joe Stelly and Mike Stelly.



Tom Stienstra and Ed Rice congratulating Hal

"Lucy's Pond is always the climax of the *Western Outdoor News* Youth Sports Fair at ISE San Mateo and Sacramento. This year, by putting the Fair either on the show floor or in the heart of the ISE event, we were able to show off all the participating groups and activities to an even larger number of adults and youth. And that's ISE's and WU's reason for being. Thanks, Gene, Francis, Jerry and all the volunteers!"

John Kirk

Director of Communications

International Sportsmen's Expositions

California Outdoor Hall of Fame

A long time W.U. member Hal Jansen was inducted into the California Outdoor Hall of Fame at this year's San Mateo Show. Inductees are picked based on their history of teaching, leading and sharing the outdoors with others. Hal is a world-renowned fly fisherman whose specialty has centered on coastal steelhead fishing.

Hal becomes the third W.U. member to be inducted into the Hall of Fame, following Bill Karr and Rick Copeland. The three are in an esteemed group of thirty living inductees.

As an added bonus ISE founder, Ed Rice was on hand this year for Hal's induction. W.U. has always been indebted to Ed for allowing the then fledgling organization into a "booked" show back in 1987. W.U. has never disappointed. Later, Ed approved the concept of bringing the Lucy's Pond and Youth Outdoors Sports Fair into the ISE show.

Annual Ground Squirrel Shoot

Ground Squirrel Shoots are planned on the second weekend of **June**. Tentatively the ranches are: **Mosby #100, Hildreth #142, Rinconada #164, Orchard #179 and Los Gatos Creek #103**. For the purpose of this activity, rifles, handguns, shotguns, etc. will be permitted. Members may arrive after 3 p.m. on Friday evening to camp but must stay in the camp area and not shoot on Friday. The actual shooting days are Saturday and Sunday. Only ground squirrels and coyotes may be hunted during this activity. Call the Hayward office as space is limited.

Phone reservations begin on Wednesday, May 12.

Members requests to add non-member guests will be accepted starting **June 10** if space is available.

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Vic Boyd has a super New Zealand adventure.

It all started back in June when Vic read about W.U.'s new partnership with Serge Engurasoff and Urge2Hunt. Vic had not drawn any of the out of state tags he had put in for and was looking for something to fill the itch.

He contacted Serge at Urge2Hunt, discussed the possibilities and outfitters that Serge had openings on and decided he had always wanted to visit and hunt New Zealand. The only problem is he needed to leave in about two weeks.

Serge was up to the task and booked Vic on a seven day Chamois and Tahr hunt on the South Island with an option for other animals if all went well.

According to Vic, Serge put together the hunt details and other travel connections, including airfare, all in about six days!

Upon arriving in New Zealand, Vic was met at the airport by the guide and driven two hours south to sheep ranch country. The base of operations and accommodations were actually right at the guide's house which resembled every bit a top notch lodge. During the drive Vic and the guide were able to discuss the plans and goals for the week.



The original booking was for Chamois and Tahr, both fabled for tough country hunting. Vic was considering a Fallow Buck also and pretty well decided on taking one before the first morning.

The weather was cold (New Zealand winter) and the mountain terrain tough and steep. After hunting and tracking for a Fallow Buck, Vic and the guide came across the red stag pictured. This magnificent animal was at a very uncomfortable angle of a shot and the weather was extremely cold. Vic got it together and bagged the stag at about 200 yards with one shot.

Another harrowing tale involved the Chamois. After a few hours of pursuit, Vic found himself perched precariously on a shale rock cliff. He had slid to this point and his pack was about 30 feet above. At that point, Vic was unable to move. The guide had exposed himself to the Chamois on the other side of the ridge, hoping they would present Vic with a shot virtually straight down.



Vic's gun only holds 3 shells so you can figure where the rest were (in the pack). When the animals moved into the valley below the guide had said the big one would be first. Vic took the straight down ~300 yard shots, dropping the Chamois with the third and last round (Who practices straight down shots?) A once in a lifetime trophy.

Net result was a Super Gold Metal Stag, Gold Metal Fallow Buck, Gold Metal Tahr, Silver Metal Chamois (all excellent trophies) and a great duck shoot to boot.

All the mammals were taken with Vic's .300 Win. Magnum using 180 grain Barnes Triple Shock Bullets. The guide has loaner guns available if you need or choose not to travel with your own.

Per Vic, "It was everything that Serge said and every detail went exactly as Serge said it would."

Vic was so pleased with Serge's operation that he has already booked a trip to the dark continent for an upcoming Cape Buffalo and Sable hunt.



If you would like to take the trip of a lifetime, or any trip for that matter, contact Serge Engurasoff at Urge2Hunt.com.

Youth Archery

By Robert Moore

Archery equipment for youth has been slow to catch up to the adult versions around today. The recurve and longbow can be shot by any archer young or old. You just pick a draw weight that you can comfortably draw and hold. Second, you choose the bow's length from tip to tip based on at least your height and draw length. Draw weight is based on a 28 inch draw length in adult long or recurve bows. Today you have many other choices to consider or customize. Risers of wood or metal, glass layered takedown limbs and many colors to choose from just to name a few. Still any youth can choose a longbow or recurve and grow with it without having to upgrade every year or two; just shoot your form.

Compound bows started to show up in the late 60's and early 70's in a production type model from several archery businesses. These early bows were heavy, bulky and basically needed some years in the field to work out the kinks; most had no draw stop or let off. The mid 80's saw several bow manufactures finally producing bows with consistency. 30 inch draw length, draw stops and at least a 50 percent let off were the norm even though the average shooter has a 28 inch draw length.

A few generic youth compound bows were available but they couldn't be "fitted" properly to the individual. The manufacturers for whatever reason didn't produce a youth version of the adult bows.

The mid 90's saw technology in the bow manufacturing progress. Lighter, faster, smaller and any other "er" you could think of. Women were now showing more interest in target archery and bowhunting.



The manufacturers started to produce a few more bows to properly fit persons with a shorter draw length and lower draw weights. Camo was the main color with a few manufacturers offering other colors for the riser.

The late 90's and early 2000's saw more changes in equipment and marketing in archery. The National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) started in Kentucky with the help of Mathews Archery. Brennan Industries started producing a bow called Genesis. The bow is capable of covering a wide range of draw lengths with no let off and multiple color variations for NASP.

Interest in archery exploded! Archery manufacturers realized they need bows to cover a wide range of individuals of different draw lengths, draw weights and color interests.

Bow manufacturers such as Genesis and Browning produce a compound looking bow that can cover up to a 30 inch draw length with no let off or draw stop. Draw weight is adjustable from 11 to 20 lbs on the standard model.

Bow manufacturers such as Alpine, Browning, Diamond, Darton, PSE, Bear, Hoyt and Mission (Mathews) have bows available with a wide range of draw length adjustments and up to 40 or 50 lbs draw weight for youth. Hoyt and Mission also offer a choice of different riser colors if you don't want camo.



Finally the bow manufactures have caught up to the times. A youth can now have a bow properly fitted to them and can be adjusted as needed for some time. When draw length and draw weight are increased you must check the arrow for proper length and spine to the new adjustment.

There is never a wrong time to enter the world of archery hunting.



International Bowhunter Education Program

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2010 Region II Class Schedule

Date	Location	Contact
May 14, 15	Wilderness Archery 4870 Pacific St. Rocklin, Ca. 95677	Robert Moore (916) 723-6792 moorerobt@surewest.net
June 12, 13	Paradise 6049 Sawmill Rd Paradise, Ca. 95969	Joe Becker (530) 877-7438 bjoe@ccxn.com
June 18, 19	Wilderness Archery 4870 Pacific St Rocklin, Ca. 95677	Robert Moore (916) 723-6792 moorerobt@surewest.net
August 7, 8	Wilderness Archery 4870 Pacific St Rocklin, 95677	Jim Williams (916) 635-6759 jewilliams88@netzero.com
September 25	Maya Archers 750 Galleria Blvd Roseville, Ca.	Larry Rolufs (530) 885-7677 lern@suddenlink.com

Internet Home Study Course Available at www.nbef.org Course Final can be taken during a regular scheduled class (pre-registration required) contact instructor for more information.
Separate Internet Home Study Final Classes are scheduled when a minimum number of students have pre-registered.
Contact John Waddles (916) 381-4130 for more information

“The Mental Game: Positive Attitudes & Lessons Learned”

By Ed Migale

What enables success in the outdoors? Is it your gear? Clothing? Gun or rod 'n reel? I say it really all starts from within you, that place right between your ears and how you apply its use.

Case in point:

After a long night's work of field dressing, dragging out and skinning my buck, I had slept in till after sun-up. I got up, made coffee and got busy breaking camp. I was almost done loading the truck when a hunter drove past camp. He slowed, stopped, stuck his head out the window and proclaimed to me, "I'm headed home; there aren't any deer on this ranch!"

I asked how long he'd been hunting and if he was sure he wanted to quit so soon. It was, after all, only Saturday I said, and the season was open one more day.

"Got here last night in the dark – first time I've ever hunted this area -- and been driving the roads all morning." (All of two hours!) "Haven't seen a thing."

As he drove away, I could only stare at the back of his truck in disbelief. It, too, was my first time there, having arrived Thursday afternoon. But I had seen several deer, lots of tracks, and plenty of well-used trails. Had I not bagged the tall-racked forked-horn the evening before, I would still be hunting; the deer were here!

Success is never easy and never guaranteed. That is because there are no two days exactly alike. Something is always different, always changing. A wildfire. Drought. Agricultural crop rotation. Land use changes on a neighboring property. Hunting or fishing in a new area.

No doubt it can be frustrating at times. Like just getting to know the lay of the land on a deer or turkey ranch. Or figuring out what type of weather makes a duck blind productive. And then the landowner sells the ranch or decides to keep that duck pond for himself ... and the search for knowledge starts all over again.

Or not. The easy way out is to give up.

But successful outdoorsmen and women don't give up; they tackle change and failure with determination. Some even welcome the challenge that change and failure bring.

They have positive attitudes. The hunter in my above example had a poor attitude. He was willing to throw in the towel after just two hours when he still had nearly two days of hunting time available. Even if he did not see a legal buck, he could have looked at the time spent as a scouting trip for next year.

Instead he drove off not knowing all that much about the lay of the land, and certainly without being able to put venison in the freezer. He learned nothing and had nothing to show for his efforts.

At the other end of the spectrum, the successful hunters and anglers I have known have always looked upon each day afield as a learning experience, with time spent and effort expended as building blocks to a foundation that will lead to success. Failure – while not desirable – is not necessarily all bad, because out of failure comes lessons learned. Lessons that can be applied in future adventures.

I won't bore you with the details of any of the countless failures afield I have had over the last 40 years; I merely mention the fact to assure you that just because I've had my byline attached to this and other articles, I am by no means exempt from being unsuccessful.

Thankfully, I have had plenty of successes to counter the failures, but many of those successes have come as a direct result of applying lessons learned from a previous failure. My attitude is to always try to improve on whatever it is I am doing.

I will never give up. And I hope you never do, too.

"Hope". Now there's a good word to use in an article about success and attitude. Webster defines hope as "a feeling that what is wanted will happen; desire accompanied by expectation" which pretty well sums up how most of us feel as we head out on our fishing and hunting trips.

But to actually be successful demands that we arm ourselves with more than hope ... or shiny new guns, or fancy rods and reels, etc. The most important item you can take on your next adventure is a positive mental attitude and outlook on just what it is you are hoping to accomplish.

By being smart, by being safe, and by being respectful of the next fellow and of the game you pursue I truly believe that you will find success. Good luck!

Youth Shooting Clinic

Mosby Ranch May 22-23

WUF will be sponsoring a youth shooting clinic on Saturday and Sunday, May 22 and 23 at Mosby Ranch. A practice shooting range will be set up for teaching and reviewing general shooting. Every youth interested in shooting, whether at critters, or not, needs to attend this one. Due in part to a grant from the Friends of the NRA, youth size .22's, .243's and .223's, including ammo will be available to the kids for a full day of shooting.

Learn the basics of general gun safety, correct firearm action use, targeting and shooting. The clinic will include the use of open sights and scopes. When the kids have reached a passing grade on these skills they will, if they desire, move up to shooting ground squirrels. A youth hunting license will be required for this portion of the clinic. Shooting at varmints will aid the young hunters in shooting at live moving critters and help the landowner in attempting to rid the landscape of these pests. The intention will be to shoot squirrels with the .243's and .223's.

Kids will be coached at the range by trained marksman and escorted into the field with mentors to provide technical and safety guidance.

The clinic will start promptly at 9 a.m. and run until 5 p.m. on Saturday (bring your own lunch!). The clinic will continue on Sunday from 9 a.m. till Noon. The age range for the clinic will be 3rd to 12th grade

There will be a nominal donation to WUF of \$20 for this clinic due at the time the reservation is made.



Wilderness Unlimited Foundation Update

Expect exciting things from your foundation in 2010. Our youth programs are expanding, adding youth hunter safety courses throughout the year and youth shooting clinics. These youth focused education programs are key to WUF, ensuring that our outdoors heritage continues as the years go on. Then, of course there are historic functions like members picnics and fly fishing schools and much needed habitat programs. A synopsis of the action follows:

Congratulations to the Winter Raffle Winners!

Chris Romer – Browning 12ga. Shotgun

Darryl Lovato – Weatherby 7mm

Mike Christiansen – Ruger .22

Thank you to all that participated in the Winter Raffle. Proceeds from the raffle will be used for various WUF programs and projects.

News

The **Bidwell Ranch** work at Pond 4 was successfully completed this past year. Recently the targeted work around Pond 2 has begun. The main plan is to regain the flow through the forebay along Pond 2. It's happening. Pond 2 work includes the repair to the inflow foot bridge as well.

Coming Up!

CDFG Junior Turkey Hunt – March 20th – 21st, Mentored Junior Turkey Hunt April 16-18. The weekend before the general spring turkey season opens will be open to youth hunters in possession of a junior hunting license. This year's mentored Junior Turkey Hunt will be held on the April 16-18 weekend at the Spring Valley Ranch. Most W.U. spring turkey properties will be open for the Junior General Hunt.

Youth Fly Fishing Clinic – April 10th

There will be a Youth Fly Fishing Clinic held at Shadow Cliff East Bay Park in Pleasanton, CA on April 10th. Please see page 7 for details. **Reservations are open!**

COHA "Wild" Fundraiser Dinner– May 15th

Sac Valley RV Camp

This event was a huge success last year. Come out and support what you love and have a great time doing it! Space is limited and expected to book up fast! Make your reservations today!

23rd Annual Fly Fishing Clinic – Bidwell Ranch – May 14-16.

Learn to cast a fly in beautiful Shasta County on the Bidwell Ranch from pro instructors. Reservations open April 7th. This clinic fills up fast.

Youth Shooting Clinic – May 22-23

Thanks to a grant from the Friends of the NRA we are able to host a youth shooting clinic. The clinic will give kids an opportunity to become comfortable, confident and safe with firearms for both hunting and target. The clinic is open for youths in the **3rd grade through 12th grade**. Students do not need a hunting license to participate in the clinic, but a license is needed to participate in the ground squirrel shoot at the end of the clinic. See page 9 for details.

The date of this event has changed from the May 8 date noted in the annual calendar.

Summer Youth Camp 2010 – June 20th – June 27th

We are excited about this year's camp! Please see page 23 for more details and registration information.

This is just the first half of the year! Look through the calendar to see what WUF has in store for the rest of the year!

Have you contributed to WUF lately?

WILD TURKEY HUNTING EXPO

Wilderness Unlimited (W.U.) and the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) will sponsor the 15th annual Wild Turkey Hunting Expo at Wilderness Unlimited's Sacramento Valley RV Camp near Williams, California, Saturday, March 6, 2010. The seminar will start at 10 a.m. It's all part of W.U.'s ongoing hunter education program.

For the third year, the seminar will be co-hosted by Knight and Ryan Mathis, the NWTF's Senior Regional Biologist. Everything there is to know (A-Z) about wild turkey hunting will be discussed in this student friendly environment. Topics to be covered are turkey habits, calls, how to call, shotguns, ammo, patterning your gun, camo, blinds, archery and will include cleaning and cooking.

The seminar is free. A hot lunch will be served, courtesy of the non-profit, Wilderness Unlimited Foundation (WUF). A \$5 lunch donation is suggested.

For more information about the seminar contact:

Terry Knight 707-263-1699 tknight3021@sbcglobal.net

Ryan Mathis 707-443-1646 rmathis@nwtf.net

WUF SUMMER CAMP 2010



The Wilderness Unlimited Foundation Youth Summer Camp is on its way up! We had a great time in 2009 and looking forward to this year's camp.

The WUF Summer Camp is a week long overnight camp providing an opportunity for children to explore the outdoors in a safe, educational and fun environment. Camp will be held on Sunday June 20th through Sunday June 27th.

Campers ages are 8-years old (or entering the 3rd grade, e.g. if your child is 7-years old and entering the 3rd grade in the fall they are eligible) to 14-years old (or leaving the 8th grade).

Junior counselor positions will be available for high school student. Junior counselors will receive credit for high school graduation volunteer community service hours.

Camp is fully funded by camp tuition. Tuition per child is \$300 for members and \$350 for non-members.

Camp Activities!



Fishing – Spin and Fly Fishing, setting up a pole/rod, knots, hooks, bait/entomology, lures/flies, removing hooks, catch and release and cleaning

Archery, Marksmanship and Gun Safety – B.B. Guns, .22's and hunting rifles, shotgunning - trap

Hunter Safety - Campers leave camp hunter safety certified!

Flora and Fauna Identification – Native vs. Non-native animals, game animals, hiking, night hikes and photography



Conservation – Habitat building, wood duck boxes, "pack in, pack out", hunter and fisherman ethics

Outdoor Survival and Safety – CPR, fire safety and compass reading

Crafts, games, swimming and so much **MORE!**

If you would like to register your child and/or have any questions please contact the Hayward Office.

Space is Limited for campers and junior counselors!

What WUF needs to help make camp great!

Counselors, Activity Leaders, Camp Help:

Do you have something you would like to share/teach at the camp? Do you have a skill, an activity or just something really cool that you think would be a great addition to the camp? Are you available to lend a helping hand?

Camp Supplies:

- We would LOVE to have a few more 8-10+ man tents to call our own.
- Refrigerator and Freezer

Thank you and we hope to see you at camp!

Contact Information:
(510) 785-4868 Ext. 109
wuf_camp@wildernessunlimited.com





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Hill Ranch - Photo by Jason Horton