CALL TO ALL MEMBERS

The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters Zone J is seeking nominations for the Annual OFAH Zone J Outstanding Achievement Award. Deadline for Nominations is December 31, 2019

This award is to recognize an individual’s outstanding effort towards Stewardship, Conservation, and/or the promotion of angling or hunting in Southwestern Ontario as selected by the OFAH Zone J membership.

Members of OFAH Zone J may nominate anyone, does not have to be an OFAH member, for this award. Nominees for the 2019 award may be submitted to the Zone J Secretary/Treasurer no later than December 31, 2019.

Please include a description of the work the nominee has done as well as photos, news articles, etc. The Zone membership will vote on the winner at the January 2020 Quarterly meeting at the Dunnville District Hunters and Anglers Club, with the winner being announced at the Zone J Annual meeting March 28, 2020 in Inwood, ON.

We know there are many deserving volunteers who quietly devote their time, energy and money to conservation, hunting and angling within our Zone. Please help us recognize them by submitting a story about their dedication and passion.
Please share this Newsletter with your Club and your friends.
**Mark Your Calendars**

2020

January 12—OFAH Zone J membership meeting hosted by Dunnville District Hunters and Anglers Association

March 28—OFAH Zone J Annual General meeting hosted by Twin Creeks Shooting Preserve, Inwood

**Note Date Change**

April 4—OFAH Annual General Meeting, Peterborough, ON

June 19 to 21—OFAH Zone J 32nd Annual Youth Camp—Tavistock Rod & Gun Club, near Stratford

August 23—OFAH Zone J Membership meeting hosted by Halton Sportsmans Club, Milton

2021

January 10—OFAH Zone J membership meeting hosted by German Canadian Hunting and Fishing Club, Mannheim

April 10—OFAH Zone J Annual General meeting hosted by Caledonia Hunters and Anglers Association, Caledonia

June 18 to 20—OFAH Zone J 32nd Annual Youth Camp—Tavistock Rod & Gun Club, near Stratford

August 15—OFAH Zone J Membership meeting. **We are seeking a host club for this meeting.**

A huge Thank You to everyone who have invited us to their Club.

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**WEST NILE VIRUS SEROSURVEY in WILD TURKEY and RUFFED GROUSE in ONTARIO**

Environment and Climate Change Canada, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, and the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative

This study aims to determine the number, level, and distribution of wild turkeys and ruffed grouse exposed to West Nile Virus (WNV) in Ontario.

In 2017, a total of 70 birds were assessed for WNV by the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative (CWHC), with 41 (58.6%) testing positive, including the first West Nile-positive wild turkey in Ontario and also a Trumpeter swan and a Double-crested cormorant.

We are recruiting hunters who will be hunting wild turkey and/or ruffed grouse this fall/winter. Participants will be provided with filter strips for blood collection and a postage-paid envelope for submitting samples. When cleaning birds hunters are encouraged to wear gloves to prevent contact with potentially harmful bacteria and viruses, and to always cook meat properly.

WNV is most often spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes are infected when they feed on infected birds, and can in turn spread WNV to humans and other animals when they bite. Bird species vary in their susceptibility to the virus, and many birds are exposed without developing significant disease. In our experience, grouse and turkeys with illness due to WNV are rare, but we don't know how many birds are actually exposed to the virus.

Birds with WNV often show neurological signs including poor coordination, tremors, weakness, and unable to walk or fly.

To participate contact: Dr. Amanda MacDonald, amacdo21@uoguelph.ca
If dead birds found, contact the CWHC, 1-866-673-4781

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Dr. Amanda MacDonald and her team would like to extend her appreciation to the hunters and supporters who have made this research a resounding success! Dr. MacDonald will be at the OFAH Zone J meeting in January to discuss her findings so far. She is also asking for additional funding to extend this project and continue her research into our wild turkey and ruffed grouse. If you or your club are interested in supporting this research financially, please contact Amanda at amacdo21@uoguelph.ca.
**OFAH Zone J Tag Bags**
Sealable and large enough to hold your license paperwork for the upcoming License System changes. Available at the OFAH Zone J membership meeting for the discount price of $4 each.

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**Thank You so much!**

To Southwest Outdoors Club for hosting OFAH Zone J meeting in August. It was amazing as always. We love visiting the Wheatley area. Our members always make us feel very welcomed!

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**2020 OFAH MEMBERSHIP RATES**

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*all above include a $26.00 Annual subscription to Ontario Out of Doors magazine. Any membership is available without the Ontario Out of Doors*
OFAH Zone J General Membership Meeting
Dunnville District Hunters and Anglers

Tentative Agenda

January 12, 2019

9:00 hrs  Meeting called to order  Brian Moore, Chair
Conservation Pledge  
Moment of Silence  
My Canada Video  
Welcome/opening remarks  Brian Moore, Chair
Welcome/opening remarks  DDHA
Self Introductions  
Chair’s Report:  Brian Moore  
Business Arising from Chair’s Report
Minutes of August 2019 Meeting  Kathy Moore
Financial Report  
Business Arising from Secretary/Treasurer Reports
OFAH Zone J Outstanding Achievement Award nominee presentation and vote

10:00 hrs  Coffee break
10:15 hrs  resume reports

1st Vice Report:  Felix Barbetti
Director  Joe Tetreault
Alt Dir Report  Randy MacPherson
Committee Reports: Big Game, Environment, Firearms, Fisheries, Land Access, Outreach, Small Game and Sporting Dogs, Waterfowl & Wetlands, etc.

11:00 hrs  Dr. Amanda MacDonald, west nile virus study in wild turkey and ruffed grouse

12:00 hrs  adjourn for Lunch  Lunch may be purchased on site
12:45 hrs  Club reports and activities
13:00 hrs  reconvene for Committee Reports – Big Game, Environment, Firearms, Fisheries, Land Access, Outreach, Small Game and Sporting Dogs, Waterfowl & Wetlands, etc.
Old Business, New Business  50/50 draw, door prizes

14:00 hrs  Adjourn

Dunnville Hunters and Anglers Conservation Club is located at
237 McLaughlin Road, Dunnville.
McLaughlin Road is about 2 miles east of Dunnville running north off Highway 3.
Youth ages 12 to 15 years!!

Win a FREE Ontario Hunter Education Program course!!

Guidelines and Information:
- Essay contest is open to applicants ages 12 to 15 years of age (inclusive) who are Ontario residents. Contest opens November 1, 2019.

ONE submission per person ONLY.
- Deadline to enter is noon on December 31, 2019. Submissions received after that time/date will not be eligible.

TWO WAYS TO ENTER:
1) Write a ONE PAGE essay answering these three questions:
   A) Why is hunting important to conservation?
   B) Why is hunting important to the economy?
   C) Why is hunting important to me?

2) RECORD a VIDEO between 1 and 2 minutes long answering the same questions:
   A) Why is hunting important to conservation?
   B) Why is hunting important to the economy?
   C) Why is hunting important to me?

—Email your submission directly to secretaryzonej@gmail.com. All entries will receive a confirmation email.
- The winning entrants will be notified by email then announced on OFAH Zone J facebook page and website.
- Winning writers are being offered the opportunity to take one Ontario Hunter Education Program FREE OF CHARGE courtesy of OFAH Zone J and the fine folks at P&T Hunt Camp.
- For detailed information on the OHEP course, please visit OHEP.net.

Available course dates and locations will be discussed with the winners. These courses will happen in Southwestern Ontario and will be small class sizes with students limited to the winners of this contest only, not open to the general public.

Questions may be emailed to secretaryzonej@gmail.com