Special Points of Interest:
- Plan to attend the OFAH Zone J AGM and Election March 28
- OFAH Zone J Youth OHEP Essay Contest WINNERS
- OFAH Zone J 32nd Annual Youth Camp
- OFAH Conference on Lyme Disease

We have WINNERS!!

Congratulations go our to Taylor, Carver, Roger and Austin for winning the OFAH Zone J OHEP Essay Contest!!

These four youth submitted winning essays and will each be awarded an Ontario Hunter Education Program funded by OFAH Zone J and P&T Hunt Camp!!

We would also like to announce that two CFSC Instructors have stepped forward with offers of FREE non-restricted firearms courses for two of these lucky winners. Lyle Smith and Brian Kerr have both generously donated a non-restricted firearms course.

Thank you very much!! Congratulations!!
OFAH ZONE J EXECUTIVE 2019-2020 CONTACT INFO

Chair, Brian Moore  Watford area  brianmoore@live.ca  519-919-1520

1st Vice, Felix Barbetti  Fonthill area  fbarbetti@congeco.ca  905-892-4381

Director, Joe Tetreault  Cambridge area  joet.ofah@gmail.com  905-452-4676

2nd Vice, Randy MacPherson  Kitchener area  martin.mac@wightman.ca  905-662-9724

Secretary/Treasurer, Kathy Moore  Brantford area  secretaryzonej@gmail.com  519-861-0965
( also Newsletter Editor)

Past Chair, Tony Jackson  Stratford area  tonyj_ofah@mail.com  519-273-4193

Please share this Newsletter with your Club and your friends.
Mark Your Calendars

**2020**

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

**Note Date Change**

April 2—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.
Message from the Chair

Hello members and friends,

It certainly has been a busy couple of months since the holidays. Throughout much of our Zone, the mild temperatures have prevented any decent ice conditions for (safe) ice fishing opportunities. As we approach Family Fishing weekend (February 15-17), many of our clubs that are hosting Family Fishing events have had to either cancel their events or change the direction.

In the recent months, you likely seen or heard of the Election for the OFAH Provincial Directors at Large (PDAL). We thank you for taking the time to vote for our next round of PDAL’s. The ballots were counted and we welcome 5 OFAH PDAL’s. The winners are:

Dr. Chris Davies - OFAH Zone E
Len Dickinson - OFAH Zone F
Bill Blackwell - OFAH Zone H
Dr. Joseph Wilson - OFAH Zone H
Maya Basdeo - OFAH Zone J

We welcome all of the above PDAL's and look forward to working with them!

As you have noticed, a very familiar name is not listed above. Tony Jackson had served as PDAL for a number of years and was not successful in this election. I personally can not Thank Tony enough for the amount of volunteer hours he provided not only OFAH, OFAH Zone J & it's members but also the entire outdoor community as a whole. If you have ever had the privilege of speaking with Tony on any issue, you can respect his passion for everything outdoors, from Moose management to small game, Tony worked hard for everyone.

The OFAH Zone J Youth Camp committee is well underway with planning the 32rd camp being held in partnership with the Tavistock and District Rod and Gun Club. The camp will be held on Father's Day weekend, June 19-21. Space is limited to 60 Youth from ages 8 - 17. Registration opens April 1st at 12:01am! Please see the camp flyer for registration and contact information. The activities this year are looking like; Archery, Pellet guns, Birdhouses, Trapping and Pollution (bees).

The West Nile Virus (WNV) study with Dr. Amanda MacDonald continues. OFAH Zone J has recently allocated funding to ensure this important study continues. Dr. Macdonald is looking for additional funding to assist with her lab work. If you, your club or others would like to financially support this, please contact myself or Dr. McDonald.

The OFAH Zone J AGM and Elections are March 28th. This meeting is being hosted by Twin Creek Shooting Preserve, just South of Inwood (between Bothwell and Sarnia). If you are looking at becoming more involved with your Zone, we are always looking to have new and fresh ideas. If you are interested in joining our very rewarding team, please speak to the nominations committee (Tony Jackson or Felix Barbetti).

I must apologize to everyone who attended our January meeting in Dunnville. Since taking my first seat with OFAH Zone J in 2008, I have taken all of my elected roles very seriously. I have never, in almost 12 full years, missed a membership meeting. Over the Christmas holidays, my family begun the rounds of sickness. From minor colds to the full out flu - we spent our turns under the weather. The week leading up to our meeting, we had a death-grip flu like virus that took hold. We were simply in no shape to be sharing our blessings with everyone else. In the future, you can continue to count on me as you have grown to know in the past 12 years!

Respectfully,
Brian Moore,
OFAH Director
Chair*, OFAH Zone J
*OFAH Zone J Youth Camp
O.H.E.P Instructor
N.A.S.P.
March 28, 2020 is the date for our Zone J Annual General Meeting and Election. As OFAH Zone J Executives we invite members in good standing (at least one full year) to step up to the plate and bat for our South Western Ontario hunting and fishing interests. Your contributions to making our Zone what it could and should be regarding increased opportunities and standing up for our collective interests will be appreciated. To stand for one of the Zone’s 5 annually elected executive positions, after determining your personal time and travel availability you simply need to declare your intent to stand by advising Tony Jackson or Felix Barbetti (nominating committee) by e-mail or phone or by advising any of our current executive.

**Time & Travel Commitments**
There are 3 quarterly general meetings at which delegated reports and updates are presented to our membership at large. Between these get together are teleconferences scheduled as required. Other discussions and commitments should also be expected commensurate with your dedication and interests to our core directions. In appreciation, Executive and their spouses are also invited to our OFAH annual conference.
Travel and costs incurred while conducting Zone business are reimbursed. It's essential to the health and progress of our Zone J to refresh the team and network by encouraging new energetic and dedicated members to stand for election for Chair, 1st Vice Chair and Director (these positions are also full OFAH Board participants with additional commitments), 2nd Vice Chair, Secretary/Treasurer. After the elections a new year commences with the newly elected team announced. The chair then assigns or confirms the areas of interest that each member is expected to be attentive to and or report on. The Zone J and OFAH policies are also discussed early in each year.
Our past Zone Chair is also a member of the current executive for Zone continuity and their proven expertise.
So please join us and continue to make your Zone a great place to hunt and fish!
Please contact Tony Jackson or Felix Barbetti to express your interest.

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**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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**OFAH Zone J 32nd Annual Youth Camp**
June 19-21, 2020
Tavistock & District Rod & Gun Club
South of Stratford, ON

Registration opens April 1, 2020

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**The Southwest Outdoors Club & The Tilbury Auto Mall Present**

**2020 SWOC BIG BUCK SPORTSMEN’S SHOW**
Saturday, April 18 at the Tilbury Arena

- doors open at 10 AM
- Over $2,500 in Door Prizes to be Won
- More than 65 Amazing Vendor Tables
- Kids Live Trout Fishing Pond & Indoor 3D Archery Range
- Award-Winning Tandem Displays
- Live Raptor Display and Show
- Beadle Brothers from Monster Whitetail Magazine
- Cash Bar & Canteen Open All Day

2020 Honda Rubicon 520 DCT Deluxe Raffle
ADMISSION $5 - KIDS 12 & UNDER FREE

**Tilbury Auto Mall.com**
Join us for an evening of presentations focused on priority pests that impact forests, fields and natural spaces. Meet with invasive species experts and network with local environmental organizations from around the Niagara region.

This is a free event, light refreshments will be provided.

For more information visit invasivespeciescentre.ca

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**Thank You so much!**

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to OFAH Life Member Don Fairbairn for facilitating a donation from Middlesex Stewardship Council to OFAH Zone J Youth Activities fund in the amount of $8,280.00.

This will assist us in keeping our annual OFAH Zone J Youth Camp free to participants for many years to come.

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**Thank You so much!**

to Dunnville District Hunters and Anglers Club for hosting our membership meeting in January. A huge THANK YOU to the 45 OFAH members who attended! Awesome questions and interaction!!
OFAH Zone J Annual General Meeting and Elections
Twin Creek Shooting Preserve
1279 Dobbyn Road, Inwood

Tentative Agenda

March 28, 2020

9:00 hrs  Meeting called to order
          Conservation Pledge
          Moment of Silence
          My Canada Video
          Welcome/opening remarks
          Self Introductions
          Welcome/opening remarks
          Brian Moore, Chair

9:20 hrs  Guest Speaker: Robin Powers—Coon hunting/competition night hunting presentation
          Chair’s Report:
          Business Arising from Chair’s Report
          Minutes of March 2020 Meeting
          Financial Report
          Business Arising from Secretary/Treasurer Reports
          Brian Moore

10:00 hrs Guest Speaker: Jake van Rooyen—Bluewater Anglers Hatchery
          OFAH Zone J Outstanding Achievement Award presentation

10:30 hrs  Coffee break
10:45 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.

12:00 hrs  adjourn for Lunch
12:45 hrs  Club reports and activities
13:00 hrs  continue with Committee Reports – Big Game, Environment, Firearms, Fisheries, Land Access, Out-
           reach, Small Game and Sporting Dogs, Waterfowl & Wetlands, etc.
           Old Business, New Business 50/50 draw, door prizes

14:00 hrs  OFAH Zone J Executive Election
15:00 hrs  Adjourn

Twin Creek Shooting Preserve is located at
1279 Dobbyn Road, Inwood
Drive in past the house and shop, back to the hill

www.ofah.org(zonej
Tavistock & District
Rod & Gun Club
336945 33rd Line,
Embroke, ON

Youths aged 8 to 17 years Welcome!
Must be accompanied by
a parent or guardian

Camping is optional but
highly recommended.

is proud to host the
32nd Annual OFAH Zone J
Youth Camp Out

June 19, 20 & 21, 2020

This is a FREE weekend!

PreRegistration
is Required

Limited number of spaces available
Register early
Don't miss your chance to join us

Tentative Agenda
Friday June 19th
Gates open at 2pm
Registration opens at 4pm
6:30pm Opening Ceremonies
7:00 pm Community Wildlife
workshop with Greg Balch
8:30 pm Campfire Social

Saturday June 20th
8:30 am Welcome meeting
Followed by groups such as:
Fish lure making
Trapping/lure demo
Pellet guns
Bird House building
Pollinators workshop
Archer
Evening Campfire Social

Sunday June 21st
Campground pack-up and clean-up
Various activities
Gates close at NOON

LUNCH on Saturday provided
FREE courtesy of OFAH Zone J
All other meals are the responsibility
of the participant.

Registration OPENS April 1st
To register scan the above QR code OR
email bertnotebomer@hotmail.com

I give my pledge as a Canadian. To save and faithfully defend from waste the natural resources of my country. Its soil and minerals, its air, water, forests and wildlife.