

OFAH ZONE J NEWSLETTER



JULY 2023

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| www.ofahj.org/zonej

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MESSAGE FROM THE 2ND VICE

My name is Dave Mendler, and I am proud to be an OFAH member for well over 40 years and now a Board member for Zone J. I have a long-standing interest in hunting, fishing, and camping instilled in me by my father and uncle. I spent my childhood years at the family trailer in Honey Harbour where I enjoyed fishing for Crappies and Pike as well as camping. My hunting career also started in my youth when I joined my dad and uncle for Jack Rabbit drives back when they were plentiful in our region. I am an avid hunter and enjoy big game hunting at our camp in Kearney where we own 1000 acres of God's paradise. We enjoy the opportunity to pursue moose, deer, and bear (when tags permit) as well as the camaraderie of my hunting buddies. This camp has a 60-year history and many of the shareholders are 3rd generation. Preservation of our land, wildlife and hunting culture is important to us. My true passion however has been small game hunting, especially cotton tail hunting with beagles, nothing is sweeter than the sound of a pack of beagles chasing its quarry. In recent years many of my small game hunts have been without a gun as I mentor young and new hunters to the sport. Hunting and fishing have a long and cherished tradition and I hope that future generations can have the same opportunities that I have enjoyed.

"Hunting and fishing have a long and cherished tradition and I hope that future generations can have the same opportunities that I have enjoyed".

This is why I believe the OFAH is important to secure these opportunities for future generations, our children, and grandchildren. I bring with me some Board experience as I am the Past President of the German Canadian Hunting and Fishing Club in Mannheim, Kitchener. I was President for 13 years and sat on the Board for 29 years in various positions. One of my most fulfilling events in these years was 2016 and 2017 when we hosted the OFAH Youth Campout. I look forward to meeting many of you over the years at various OFAH events and at your home clubs. Yours in conservation, Dave.



ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS AND HUNTERS ZONE J- GENERAL MEETING

Notice of OFAH Zone J Membership Meeting



Sunday, August 20, 2023 – 10:00 am
Windsor Sportman's Club
2401 Dougall Ave, Windsor, ON N8X 1T3

Doors open at 9:30 am for coffee and refreshments.
10:00 am - meeting called to order.

Special Guest Speaker: John H. Hartig, Ph.D., Visiting Scholar.
Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research, University of Windsor.
Zone updates
Attendance prize draws
Door prizes
And much more.

Morning coffee, snacks and childcare provided at no cost.
Lunch is available for a fee.

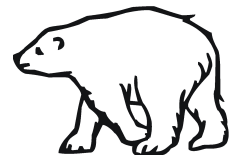
Childcare provided at no cost while you enjoy the meeting! To reserve your space,
email Linda at linda@mapleleafcenter.com

Attend the meeting and get another ballot entered for the annual attendance prizes including \$1300 Excalibur crossbow or one of two Tackle Buckets generously donated from our friends at North Shore Tackle and Raptor Kayak Canada each worth \$300.



FUN FACT: Most types of bears can smell up to 32 km or 20 miles away. The bear's sense of smell means that when you're in bear country, they can smell your camp if they are in a 32 km radius of where you bed down for the night. Although, bear attacks are very

infrequent, storing your food away from your camp in an inaccessible container is wise choice. Polar bears have the best sense of smell reaching up to 64 km or 40 miles. For more information about bear behaviour and how to avoid bears in the woods, check out the link below.



Source: How Far Can A Bear Smell? Written By: Carl Borg, March 13, 2023 www.outforia.com/how-far-can-a-bear-smell

OFAH ZONE J YOUTH CAMPOUT – TAVISTOCK ROD AND GUN CLUB



On the Father's Day weekend, the 32ND Annual OFAH Zone J Youth Camp Out was held at the Tavistock District Rod and Gun Club. Activities included a BB gun range, archery, fire starting, bee pollinator display, fishing lure making, birdhouse building and much more. The grand prize giveaway went to a young camper whose family borrowed tents and sleeping bags as first- time campers. She won a complete family camping set of a tent, 2 sleeping bags and 2 lawn chairs! Thanks to the all the volunteers including Chef Chris from Features in Stratford who cooked the delicious food, Brian Moore, OFAH Past Chair, and Bert Notebomer from TDRGC who organized the event. If you are an OFAH Zone J affiliated club and are interested in hosting the Youth Campout, contact Brian More at brianmoore@live.ca



OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Congratulations to Michelle Flinders and Amanda Stamper for their success in achieving the 2023 Outstanding Achievement Award!

This award was created by OFAH Zone J in 2008 to recognize an individual's outstanding effort towards Stewardship, Conservation and or the promotion of angling or hunting in OFAH Zone J.

Nominations Due December 31, 2023

To Qualify:

- Members of OFAH Zone J may nominate anyone, does not have to be an OFAH member to receive this award.
- A description of the accomplishments of the nominee as well as photos, news articles, etc. would be beneficial if included.
- The Zone membership will vote on the winner at the January 2024, Membership meeting with the winner being announced at the OFAH Zone J Annual General Meeting in April 2024.
- Send nominations to: secretaryzonej@gmail.com



BRANT ROD AND GUN CLUB: GIRLS & GUNS

If you were anywhere near the Brant Rod and Gun club on June 24th, you knew that place was rockin' and rollin'. The 2nd annual Girls and Guns event was in full swing with over 120 women signed up for the event. Some women had hunting experience, many with no experience at all.

55 volunteers, over the course of the day helped the women enjoy time on the Archery Range and time doing some trap shooting. Both ranges were run with precision, following all safety protocols. There were even activities to keep the kids busy. There were food trucks and several vendors including the OFAH crew from Zone J and their families. There were over 150 visitors that toured the site that day, with questions like what is going on here and how we can we get involved.



It was truly amazing! Our hats off to the Brant Rod and Gun Club for an incredible day, and we will see you next year for the third annual Girls and Guns event Brant Rod and Gun Club



GRANT OPPORTUNITY

Brant Rod and Gun Club was the successful recipient of grant funding to help with the Girls and Guns event. If you are interested in applying for a grant to promote hunting, fishing, and/or conservation, please contact Paul Prowse, Secretary/Treasurer Zone J at secretaryzonej@gmail.com for more information and an application.

MOURNING DOVE RESEARCH – GRANT RECIPIENT

OFAH member Emad Hazboun, a longtime Hunter Education Instructor, is completing his Master of Science at Western University with a focus on Mourning Doves. His research will investigate the approximate mourning dove natal origin (e.i, breeding grounds) by using the measurements of natural stable isotope markers in the feathers. The study is a two-part process; one is to create a Mourning Dove-specific feather hydrogen isotope calibrated "isoscape" to be used to assign individuals to molt origin based on feather isotope analyses. The second part is to use this calibrated isoscape to assign hunted birds to origins in North America and so provide the first unbiased estimate of production regions supporting the fall harvest. This study is the first of its type and approach in Canada, if not in North America. It's a continent-wide 2-year program and will augment uncovering the breeding grounds for mourning doves at a higher geographic resolution.

Trapping sites were carefully selected, baited with sunflower seeds, and monitored for activities in Middlesex County. In early July, captured mourning doves, will be feather sampled, blood sampled, banded, then released. The blood sampling of mourning doves will be used for future work on avian influenza. This will assist in future management plans and ensure a healthy population for future fall harvest. Emad was successful in receiving Grant funding from Zone J to support his research. Stay tuned to Zone J as we will keep you informed about this important research on Mourning Doves.



ZONE J'S QUIZ – TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Answers to the questions can be found on the last page of this newsletter.
Quiz Questions submitted by **Greg Balch, Chair**.



1. Some researchers have suggested that the main function in nature for the Black Fly.
 - a. To spread West Nile Disease.
 - b. To take a blood meal and reproduce.
 - c. To pollinate blue berries.
 - d. The Black Fly has no use in nature.
2. A White Tail Deer's pupil is three times the area of a human pupil, allowing it's eye to do what?
 - a. Nothing different from the human eye.
 - b. Take in nine times the light as a human eye.
 - c. See better than a human during the day.
 - d. See depth better than the human eye.
3. Why would a hen Mallard be sitting in the water on the winter cover of a swimming pool in the spring?
 - a. Resting during migration.
 - b. Getting a drink.
 - c. Trying to attract a Drake Mallard.
 - d. Feeding on Mosquito larvae because the winter cover imitates a Vernal Pond.
4. When a young prey animal such as a deer fawn sees, hears, or smells a predator it will experience a condition known as "Alarm Bradycardia". What will that prey animal do in response?
 - a. Run to its mother.
 - b. Lay very still and quiet.
 - c. Nothing at all.
 - d. Run away as fast as it can.
5. Researchers have found that when a Red Fox is facing north in deep snow while hunting mice, it will be successful what percent of the time?
 - a. 75%
 - b. 100%
 - c. 20%
 - d. 10%
6. Which animal can affect Grouse populations and in turn the distribution of Northern Goshawks?
 - a. The Skunk
 - b. The Possum
 - c. The Red Squirrel
 - d. The Fisher
7. Prior to which annual event does a black bear experience Hyperphagia?
 - a. In the fall prior to hibernation.
 - b. Just when waking up in the spring.
 - c. During hibernation.
 - d. Just before breeding.
8. The possum is the only Marsupial in North America, is also the only Mammal to be what else?
 - a. The only white meat mammal.
 - b. The only mammal that can breathe under water.
 - c. The only non-placental mammal.
 - d. The only mammal with an anal gland.
9. Which semi aquatic Fur Bearer can breathe air from bubbles under the ice?
 - a. Mink
 - b. Otter
 - c. Beaver
 - d. Muskrat

PHEASANT HUNT RETURNING TO CONESTOGO

By Steve Galea, reproduced with permission from the Ontario Out of Doors Magazine, published June 13, 2023.
<https://oodmag.com/pheasant-hunt-returning-to-conestogo/>



A 45-year-old pheasant hunt that was cancelled in 2021 [will return to Conestogo Lake Conservation Area \(CLCA\)](#) this fall.

The hunt is a three-year pilot program. Made possible by the efforts of a dedicated group of pheasant hunting enthusiasts, with support from the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH).

The hunt was revived after a small group of hunters met with the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) board of directors in January 2022 to present a proposal to develop a self-funded, volunteer-run, pheasant program in Area 3 of the CLCA. The result was the pilot project and the formation of the Conestogo Pheasant Club (CPC). The CPC

The CPC is a volunteer, not-for-profit, OFAH affiliate club. Its role is to arrange hunt logistics. Including procurement of pheasants, build a social media presence, and manage membership applications and payments. The CPC hopes to have 80 members in its first year and 100 in the subsequent two. Only OFAH members can join the CPC, due to the federation's membership insurance.

Club president Mario Coniglio said the GRCA sold 125 permits in the year prior to the hunt's cancellation. But noted that the CPC executive thought it would be prudent to scale back membership to a manageable size for their inaugural season. This is also appropriate since the hunt is now confined to a smaller portion of the former hunt area.

CPC membership applications, which cost \$280 for the season, will be available on June 1 and sold on a first-come-first-served basis. For more information, join the Conestogo Pheasant Club Facebook group or visit www.conestogopheasantclub.ca.

The hunt will run from Sept. 25 to Nov. 27. And 1,000 pheasants will be released. This year, only season permit holders will be permitted to hunt. But the CPC is examining the feasibility of daily permits for subsequent years.

"The CPC's goal is to provide an accessible, high quality, and inclusive hunting experience to pheasant hunting enthusiasts in southern Ontario," said Coniglio.

Source: Galea, S. (2023, June 13). Pheasant hunt returning to Conestogo. Ontario Out of Doors Magazine. Retrieved from <https://oodmag.com/pheasant-hunt-returning-to-conestogo/>

Picture source: Leo Barrette, North Gosfield, 2023




**LONG POINT
WATERFOWL**
Long Point
Waterfowlers' Association
DINNER
Saturday, September 9th, 2023
Port Rowan Community Centre
14 College Ave, Port Rowan ON N0E 1M0
Cocktails at 5:50, Dinner at 7pm
Pig Out Catering-prime rib and chicken
\$80 per ticket
To order tickets contact:
Johnny1duck666@gmail.com

RECIPE CORNER FISH BATTER

Summer is a time for fishing and fish fries! There is no recipe in the *Recipe Corner* for the July Newsletter but rather a request for your best fish batter recipe. How do you fry your fish? Are you someone who has a special recipe? Has it been passed down over the years? Or do you rely on the good 'ole "Fish Crisp Beer Batter"? What is your recipe? Share it with Zone J and it may be printed in the next Newsletter and on Zone J's Facebook page.



Send your fish batter recipe with pictures to:
secretaryzonej@gmail.com



FUN FACT: Did you know that Owls have incredible hearing. In fact, they have facial plates near their eyes that funnel sound to their ears to help them hear. They can hear sound up to 16 kms or 10 miles away. They also have incredible eyesight making them one of the great predators of the forest.

Source: <https://www.ontario.ca/document/ontario-hunting-regulations-summary>



HUBERTUSHAUS-2023

Oktoberfest



Friday, October 6th – 6:30pm – 12am, Admission \$25, Haus Special* \$45

Saturday, October 7th – Bogenschuetzenfest 10am to 4pm - see details below.

6:30pm – 12am, Admission \$30, Haus Special* \$50

Sunday October 8th Family Day – 11:30am – 3:30pm, Admission \$20,
Members and kids 12 & under are complimentary. Kids Keg Tapping at 1:30pm.

Friday October 13th – 6:30pm – 12am, Admission \$25, Haus Special* \$45

Saturday October 14th – 6:30pm – 12am, Admission \$30, Haus Special* \$50

*Haus Specials includes, Admission, Schnitzel or Rollbraten dinner, coffee, and cake
We look forward to seeing you during the Festival!

Entrance ONLY tickets can be purchased online by Credit Card at:

<https://gchfc-hubertushaus.square.site/>

For more information and tickets

(Pay by e-transfer (hubertushaus1954@gmail.com), cash or cheque)

Email: hubertushaus.tickets@gmail.com or text/call Liz at 519-502-9501

*52nd Anniversary - Oldest Cultural Event - Bogenschuetzenfest Archery Competition
10 a.m. to 4 pm – Spectators free, food & refreshments available for purchase after 11 a.m.
Information call Jim at 519-721-1096 or email Jimdownie@hotmail.ca. Please join us!
www.hubertushaus.ca twitter @hubertushaus www.facebook.com/gchfc

ZONE J QUIZ ANSWERS



1. c) To pollinate blue berries
2. b) To take a blood meal and reproduce
3. d) Feeding on Mosquito larvae because the winter cover imitates a Vernal Pond
4. b) Lay very still and quiet
5. a) 75%
6. c) The Red Squirrel
7. a) In the fall prior to hibernation
8. c) The only non-Placental mammal
9. c) otter

OFAH ZONE J EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Contact information for your Executive Committee:

Greg Balch Chair	London Area	gwbalchofah@rogers.com 519-852 1126
Mark Braet 1 st Vice	Sarnia Area	markbraetofah@gmail.com 519-328-2354
Dave Mendler 2 nd Vice	Kitchener Area	davemendlerofah@gmail.com 519-616-1733
Robert Gurney Director	Brantford Area	Trapperrob01@yahoo.ca 519-770-6866
Paul Prowse Secretary/Treasurer	South Perth Area	paulprowseofah@gmail.com 519-857-3255 Secretaryzonej@gmail.com
Brian Moore Past Chair	Watford Area	brianmoore@live.ca 519-919-1520
Tony Jackson 2 nd Past Chair	Stratford Area	Tonyj_ofah@gmail.com 519-274-1697



Did you know that invasive species such as the sea lamprey, zebra mussels, round goby, among others in the Great Lakes can be transported from lake to lake via your boat if you do not rinse it off and clean out all the live wells. Even if they appear to be fish free. Do your part and reduce the incidence of transporting invasive species to another body of water by cleaning and draining your boat before transporting. This includes cleaning the propellor, anchor, dock line, live wells, trailer, hull, rollers, bunk, axle, propeller, motor and bilge.

KEEP IN TOUCH THROUGH ZONE J'S FACEBOOK'S PAGE



Did you know Zone J has their own Facebook page? Join the Facebook page to get the latest news, events, pictures and stories. Get to know what is happening in your Zone! Search OFAH Zone J on Facebook to join or [Click here to join the Zone J Facebook page!](#)

WANT TO HAVE YOUR SAY?

Are you interested in submitting something for the newsletter or Facebook.
Do you have a question for the quiz?
Please contact the newsletter editor,



Paul Prowse
Treasurer/Secretary Zone J
Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (O.F.A.H)
Cell: 519-857-3255
Email: secretaryzonej@gmail.com

REMINDERS:

*Next Membership Meeting: Sunday, August 20th at the Windsor Sportman's Club.
-Attendance prizes to be drawn at the meeting.

*Outstanding Achievement Award nominations to be submitted by December 31, 2023, to secretaryzonej@gmail.com
-Vote to take place at the January 2024 Meeting with the award to take place March 2024.

