

Outdoor Rec / Local

Ducks Unlimited banquet shows increased attendance

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Returning again this year for another successful annual fundraising banquet at the Community Connections Senior Center were members of the Baker City Chapter of Ducks Unlimited (DU), with a notable increase in attendance.

The group included Bob Mason, Chairman of the Southeast Oregon District/Baker City Chapter, Noel and Lara Livingston and their daughter Lindsay, Rocky and Karen Desimini, and Jim Fuller, all present for the event last year.

John Stanfield, DU Senior Regional Director, and Terry Thomas, DU Oregon State Chairman, among other honored guests, also attended.

Also making another appearance this year were the crew of Oregon Trail Restaurant, who catered, including Dave McGuire, Sr., Dave McGuire, Mark Linderman, Bill Monges, and Cory Stevens. Dinner included duck, pork tenderloin, potatoes, rice pilaf, rolls, veggie and meat trays, and dessert.

Luke Brown and Emily Penland, of Barley Brown's Brew Pub, were present to serve alcoholic and other beverages. Barley's has been represented at the event for the last 11 years.

Mason noted there were 130 attendees this year, up from 121 last year, and 95 the year before, for a steady increase, and, fundraising efforts included games, raffles, and a silent and live auction, with auctioneer Troy Hill.

Silent auction items included: a ladies duffel bag, donated by Triple C Redi-Mix; a travel combo, donated by North Powder Café; a decanter set, donated by Gregg Hinrichsen,



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Guests at the Baker Electric table enjoy dinner and conversation as the popular auction begins behind them.

of State Farm Insurance; a lantern candleholder, donated by Farm Industrial; a rustic lab sign, donated by Bake Electric; a lesser Canada goose decoy, a wooden half trunk, and a paracord handle knife, donated by Black Distributing; and a game cleaning kit, donated by S&S Auto Center.

Live auction items included: spring fling wood ducks, donated by Windshield Doctor; a TriStar over/under 20 gauge shotgun, donated by Baker Electric; a Knife of the Year, donated by S&S Auto Center; a camo office chair, donated by Bob Reedy; a canvasback decoy, donated by Triple C Redi-Mix; a mail box and a wall shelf, donated by Clarke and Clarke Insurance; a mission bench, donated by The Bow Shop; a toaster, donated by Cover Works; a barrel cooler/apron, donated by Gentry Auto Group; and a Henry

Golden Boy .22 caliber rifle, donated by Randy Guyer.

Mason, in material he provided for guests, said, "Since 1937, Ducks Unlimited has raised over \$1.279 billion to restore or enhance nearly 12.6 million acres of wetlands throughout North America. Within the State of Oregon, Ducks Unlimited has spent an average of \$3.5 million per year over the past five years and has conserved a total of over 70,000 acres of wetlands.

"Ducks Unlimited is presently cooperating on several projects within Baker and Union Counties. The Ladd Marsh project, which restored 1,500 acres of wetlands near La Grande, is part of this local northeast Oregon effort.

"The largest percentage of Ducks Unlimited conservation funding comes from local banquets, just like ours. As a Ducks Unlimited supporter, you

can be proud of your involvement and of all of our efforts contributing towards the conservation of wetlands. The committee hopes you will enjoy the 2015 Banquet and thanks you for your support to Ducks Unlimited. The committee also hopes you will join us for future Ducks Unlimited activities. Ask any one of the committee members here tonight about becoming a volunteer on our local chapter. The banquet is possible only through the businesses and individuals who have contributed merchandise, cash and work toward this banquet. Please continue to support them and Ducks, Unlimited, as well."

The committee includes the Desiminis, the Livingstons, Jim and Sue Fuller, John Anderson, Dick Haines, Ken O'Neal, Danny O'Neal, Ethan Farnam, and Bill Tipton.

—ODFW WEEKLY RECREATION REPORT—

BAKER COUNTY VIEWING

Bighorn sheep can be seen in the Burnt River Canyon west of Durkee or along the Snake River Road south of Richland. The best viewing is in the early morning and late in the evening.

Winter bird species are starting to migrate through the area.

Bald and golden eagles can be seen along the Snake River. Take the Snake River Road between Richland and Huntington.

BAKER COUNTY HUNTING

Chukar, Hun, and California Quail - The season ends Jan. 31. Hunters should expect another season similar to last years. Chukar numbers were up from last year however.

Grouse season starts September 1. Blue grouse can be found in the higher elevations while ruffed grouse are more common in wetter areas. Hunters should expect an average year for grouse. Successful hunters are asked to place the tails and wings from harvested birds in the collection barrels.

Cougars can be found throughout Baker County but hunters should target areas with high concentrations of deer and elk. Setting up on a fresh kill or

using distress calls can all be productive techniques. Hunters are required to check in the hide of any cougar taken, with skull and proof of sex attached. Remember to pick up a 2015 tag.

Bear season closes Nov. 30. Successful hunters, remember check-in of bear skull is mandatory; see the regulations for details. Biologists recommend propping the bear's mouth open with a stick after harvest; it makes for easier tooth collection and measuring.

Coyote numbers are good throughout the district. Try calling in early morning and late afternoon. Remember to ask for permission before hunting on private properties.

NE OREGON FISHING

Steelhead fishing has been good to very good on the Imnaha and Grande Ronde rivers.

The lower Umatilla was good for steelhead fishing this past week (Nov. 16-22) with anglers averaging 3 hours fishing per steelhead landed. Anglers should expect to encounter low water conditions and cold temperatures. Angers are having success with bobber and jig/bait combos.

JOHN DAY RIVER: steelhead. Flows are now near 250 cfs and summer steelhead are moving into the lower river. The

mouth of Rock Creek and Cottonwood Canyon State Park provide the best bank access. Floating with drift boats will be difficult until flows increase to 450 cfs or over. Fly, lure and bait fishing are all producing steelhead.

LUGER POND: hatchery rainbow trout. Luger Pond is closed to fishing until Dec. 31 due to a recent pesticide application to remove unwanted goldfish. However, the pond will not be restocked until spring.

MAGONE LAKE: rainbow and brook trout. Lake has been stocked with both legal and trophy-sized rainbow trout. Fishing has been fair.

McHALEY POND: rainbow trout. Pond has been stocked with legal and trophy-sized rainbow trout. Fishing is fair.

McKAY RESERVOIR: closed to fishing until March 1, 2016.

MORGAN LAKE: rainbow trout. Closed to fishing as of Nov. 1.

OLIVE LAKE: rainbow trout, brook trout, and kokanee. Fishing is fair and lake has been stocked with both legal and trophy-sized rainbow trout.

PEACH POND (Ladd Marsh): rainbow trout. Peach Pond is closed to fishing until Dec. 31 due to a recent pesticide application to remove unwanted goldfish. However, the pond will not be restocked

until spring.

TAYLOR GREEN POND: hatchery rainbow trout. Was stocked with 150 trophy-sized rainbow trout the last week of September.

WALLOWA COUNTY PONDS: rainbow trout. Kinney Lake was treated with a pesticide on Oct. 5 to remove unwanted fishes. Public access has been restricted to avoid exposure to rotenone. Kinney Lake is closed to entry until all signage has been removed and is closed to angling until Dec. 31. No fish will be in Kinney Lake until restocking in spring of 2015.

Salt Creek, Honeymoon and McGraw were stocked this fall prior to rifle deer season and should produce good catch rates.

WALLOWA LAKE: rainbow trout, kokanee, lake trout. Trout fishing has slowed at Wallowa Lake. However, the pressure has dropped off with the end of the summer season. During the fall stocked trout have been in the lake long enough they start to learn to eat natural food. Try fishing with flies and other more natural baits. The lake has received additional rainbow trout stocking due to other area water bodies being too hot to receive fish. This means the lake has been heavily stocked with both legal-size and trophy trout.

Thanksgiving swim meet

Baker Swim Team and La Grande Swim Club both attended the Boise Y Thanksgiving Invitational Swim Meet on November 20-22. Baker had one athlete, Jozie Ramos (10). Of the LaGrande swimmers, two were from Baker City, Jared Miller (16) and Justin Miller (14). There were over 500 swimmers competing. The following are their results:

Jozie Ramos
200 IM - 3rd
200 Free - 3rd
100 Back - 3rd
100 Free - 4th
50 Breast - 1st
50 Back - 4th
100 Breast - 3rd
50 Free - 2nd
Jared Miller
500 Free - 1st
200 Back - 2nd
200 Free - 3rd
1000 Free - 2nd
100 Back - 1st
100 Free - 6th
200 IM - 4th
Justin Miller
200 Back - 4th
100 Breast - 6th
50 Free - 5th
100 Back - 7th
100 Free - 8th
200 IM - 10th

ODOT urges safe travel preparedness

Storm systems moving through the area can bring freezing rain and/or several inches of snow to eastern Oregon and the surrounding area. For the latest information on any Advisories please visit: http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/total_forecast/getprod.php?wfo=pdf.

ODOT crews are continuing their 24 hour coverage plowing and sanding Oregon highways as they responded to winter weather conditions. Travelers are advised to be prepared for winter challenges and review road and weather conditions before heading out by checking www.TripCheck.com and local weather reports.

ODOT recommends motorists consider delaying travel when conditions are severe. If you must drive in these conditions:

- Be ready to use your chains. Be patient. Go slow.
- Expect a long commute that could last hours. You never know when weather or traffic incidents will cause the road to be closed for extended periods.
- Keep fuel tank full (in case you get stuck in road closure).
- Carry emergency supplies (water, food, warm clothes, flashlight, etc.)
- Increase the following distance between you and the vehicle ahead of you.
- Don't abandon your vehicle, even in the shoulders. It could be towed at your expense.
- Keep a watch on weather conditions throughout the day in anticipation of the next snow storm which could make current road conditions worse.

For additional resources on winter driving and preparedness, please visit: <http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/COMM/Pages/winterdriving.aspx>

Know Before You Go: Call 5-1-1 or visit www.TripCheck.com for the latest real-time traffic updates and camera views of Oregon's highways. Outside of Oregon, travelers can call 503-588-2941.

Avalanche training to be held at EOU

Eastern Oregon University's Outdoor Adventure Program, in partnership with the Wallowa Avalanche Center, is presenting a free clinic on the fundamentals of safely in a winter environment where avalanche hazards exist.

Michael Hatch, Outdoor Adventure Program coordinator, is leading the avalanche awareness training from 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 1 in the Zabel Hall Auditorium on campus. Hatch will cover avalanche hazard awareness, tour planning and familiarity with avalanche center advisories, basic equipment considerations and the need for skill in companion rescue.

Attendees will learn how to identify and plan for travel in avalanche terrain, the basic requirements for an avalanche, including warning signs that the snow is unstable, and how to use information from an avalanche center.

"This presentation is packed with information aimed at anyone who is serious about winter recreation," Hatch explained. "Snowmobile riders and backcountry skiers are especially encouraged to attend, because it's a great opportunity to learn how to identify unstable conditions and increase your margin of safety in the backcountry." For more information contact Hatch at 541-962-3621.