



OHIO VETERANS OUTDOORS NEWSLETTER



Scott Rhoades Memorial Duck Hunt

At our Second Annual Memorial Duck Hunt, the ducks got the better of us. We had 8 Vets and unfortunately, only 3 ducks, not for the sake of the calls. Thanks to Fowl Foolers calls the ducks came to check out the spread, just not close enough. It was cold and rainy in the morning, but cleared up to a beautiful afternoon.

Fesant Hunt

What a tough word to spell, and apparently an even harder bird to shoot! Of 50 birds, 34 were taken. We had a great turnout at our annual stroll in the weeds. There are a couple great videos on our Facebook page of some birds being taken down. Thanks to our sponsors including a new one, Fin Feather and Fur for the blaze orange vests, winter hats, and FFF gear!



Tom Finally Got Jerry

Our second annual trip to Arkansas was not a disappointment—we were there right in the thick of the migration. With all the birds that were there, many people wouldn't take their eyes off the sky, right? Not Board Member Mark Higgins, keeping the trenches clean for the rest of the boys taking out a fat mouse! They ate like kings that day!

This great snow goose hunt would not be possible without Kenny and Jonesy at Bayou Bottoms Guide Service. Can't wait to go back next year—make sure you keep an eye out for sign-up.



How To Get Involved

OVO is always looking for volunteers and participants. If you are interested in volunteering or you are a Vet who would like to take advantage of the opportunities OVO provides, please contact us at mail@ohvetsoutdoors.org or click “Interested” on the Facebook Event.

Who We Are

Ohio Veterans Outdoors, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization created by and for combat-wounded, ill, and injured Veterans of the US Armed Forces.

Mission

Promote wounded veteran wellness through outdoor experiences and education.

Our Board

Brian Luce, President

Travis Ribby, Vice President

Shane Compton, Treasurer

Lynn Compton, Secretary

Eric Anderson, Member

Mark Higgins, Member

James Sanders, Members

Luke Rhoades, Member

Nick Vincent, Member

Find Out More

We want to recognize all of the great companies that support our Mission and Organization. If you see something underlined, it is a link to a webpage. Please, click the link and support those that support us in anyway you can!

Website: www.ohvetsoutdoors.org

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Twitter](#)

Ohio Veterans Outdoors

Upcoming Events:

April 29-May 2: 5th Annual Spring Turkey Hunt, Jackson, OH

May 7: Lake Erie walleye fishing: **Double Dipper** Marblehead, OH

May 14-16: Mike Higgins Welcome Home Classic Fishing Wknd, Brookville, IN

June 11: Lake Erie walleye Fishing: **Wrek-n-Eyez** Ashtabula, OH

Aug 7: Whitetails Unlimited Hunters Night Out Banquet, Wilmington, OH—Link for tickets to follow (watch on FB also)

21 Questions

For the next few newsletters, we will be spotlighting a board member on the 3rd page of the newsletter (if you haven't already scrolled to the bottom)! This one is from the OG, the head honcho, the top banana... need I say more?

Stimulation

Have some left over stimulus money that you are not sure what to do with? After you go on your Amazon shopping spree (using AmazonSmile of course), put some of that money to good use. Every little bit helps to support the Vets!

New Threads

Pretty sweet, huh?! Look for them at the next event—or email us if you just can't wait!!



We hope you find this newsletter useful and informative. If you did, please recommend a friend or family member visit our website or social media.

If you have any suggestions for content or topics you would like to see included, message us on Facebook/Instagram, email us at mail@ohvetsoutdoors.org, or fill out the web form, [here!](#)

Brian Luce

What is your position? President

How long have you been with OVO? Founder

Why did you join OVO? What attracted you to OVO? I modeled OVO after other organizations that have helped me - Hot Coffee Hunts for Heroes, an org in MS that does deer and turkey hunts is the main inspiration for OVO. It's a community-based org and they just love on vets and really make you feel like family. I tried to replicate that feel when we started so vets would feel at home and really be able to truly relax and let your guard down in a no-judgement environment.



What do you hope wounded vets will gain from an OVO event? A sense of community, a hobby that can be shared with friends and family, and a healthy way to relax and heal.

Did you hunt, fish or recreate outdoors prior to joining OVO? If so, what did you do? I grew up hunting, camping, and fishing with my dad – he was a big sportsman and a great example of an outdoorsman. He taught me to hunt and fish ethically, and to be a good steward of our land's natural resources.

Best hunting/fishing story? I killed a 160" deer in Blanchester, OH in 2018 after I had climbed down from my stand to leave. It just so happened to be the deer that Travis (a fellow Board Member) had been chasing and obsessing over since he first spotted him.

First OVO event? 2016 Deer Hunt

Favorite OVO event or experience: We took some guys down to Tennessee to bowfish in 2017 – some vets from Fort Campbell came out with us too and we just had a great time on the water killing Asian carp, gar, and grass carp on the river.

What is your full-time job? Senior Manager, USAF Requirements and Acquisitions; Project Manager at Whitney Bradley & Brown, Inc. A Government consulting firm in Dayton.

How long have you been out of the military? How many tours? I retired 1 Dec 2015. 3 trips to Afghanistan, 1 trip to Iraq, 1 short trip to the Horn of Africa.

What branch were you in? USAF, Retired (early) as a Major with 15 years, 6 mos

Advice to someone who recently separated from the military: Find a hobby/activity you can share with friends and/or family that is fulfilling.

Miscellaneous thoughts: Focus more on the experience than the trophy – chase after the dream and not the money.