

## THE FIRST 10 YEARS

On June 10, 2016, the Jack O'Connor Hunting Heritage and Education Center celebrated the 10th Anniversary with a festive dinner banquet, auction, and Ten Gun Raffle. Special guest speaker, Idaho Lt. Governor Brad Little welcomed guests and reminded everyone of what an incredible writer, outdoorsman, hunter and dedicated conservationist Jack O'Connor was. He praised the work being done by the Center to preserve Jack's important legacy.

It's hard to believe it has been 10 years since the Jack O'Connor Center opened to the public. The story actually began several years prior to opening when a small group of local Jack O'Connor fans discussed the importance of preserving the legacy of one of Idaho's most important and famous citizens who had made Lewiston his family home for 30 years.

Jack died on January 20, 1978 while aboard the SS Mariposa enroute to San Francisco from Hawaii. His wife Eleanor survived him by only 6 months, passing July 25th of the same year. After their passing the family donated the collection to the University of Idaho where it was displayed for a few years, then put in storage for lack of space.

trailer which opened to reveal a trophy room environment displaying many of Jack's prized trophies, firearms, photos and memorabilia. The trailer toured across the country for about two years giving fans from coast to coast and opportunity to view some of Jack's most prized trophies.

While the collection toured the country a group of local citizens including Jeff Nesset, Darrel Inman, Cal Groen, Mark Yochum, Hank Kaufman, Ray Speer, Joel Ristau,

in Hells Gate State Park, leaving the original visitor center empty. The vacated building became the perfect site for the soon to be established Jack O'Connor Hunting Heritage and Education Center. Much work lie ahead. There were the business and legal tasks of establishing the Center as a nonprofit organization, drawing up bylaws and forming a Board of Directors, along with the drafting of a loan agreement with the University of Idaho for the collection.



From left to right, Anne & Bradford O'Connor, Caroline O'Connor McCullam and Catherine O'Connor at the 2006 dedication.

Jaynie Bentz, Eldon "Buck" Buckner and Bradford O'Connor began the work of bringing the collection back to Lewiston and giving it a permanent home. Over the course of about three years funds were successfully raised from local as well as national sources, including Potlatch Corp., ATK, Cabelas, Avista Fdn., Boone and Crockett Club, NRA, D.A. Davidson and the DeVlieg Fdn., and many private individuals.

With the location now in place exhibits needed to be designed. Perry Lee, a Boise architect, created the initial layout and the exhibits began to take shape. The Center was dedicated June 6, 2006 as Jack and Eleanor's daughters, Catherine and Caroline, and son Bradford and his wife, Anne, shared stories. With the support of the O'Connor family and the University of Idaho, ownership of the collection was soon transferred to

the Center. The collection of one of the most famous hunting writers of all time, with millions of dedicated readers for his books and articles, now had a home back in Lewiston, Idaho.

In 2004, the collection was loaned to Leupold Optics for the "Jack O'Connor Legacy Tour." The O'Connor Legacy Tour was an exhibit housed in a specially-designed

During this time the Idaho Park and Recreation Department had built their new Discovery Center

Over the first 10 years the volunteers who staff the Center have greeted thousands of visitors from Alaska to Florida and points around the globe. The task for the next 10 years is to establish a sound financial basis to preserve Jack and Eleanor's important legacy for our future generations.

THE JACK O'CONNOR HUNTING HERITAGE & EDUCATION CENTER 5600 Hells Gate Rd., Hells Gate State Park, Lewiston ID 83501 • Mailing: PO Box 394, Lewiston, ID 83501 www.jack-oconnor.org • 208-743-5043 • info@jack-oconnor.org Hours of Operation: Tuesday - Friday 10am to 4pm • Saturday & Sunday 1pm to 4pm

Preserving our hunting and conservation heritage as inspired by the legacy of Jack O'Connor.

## THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK

We say good bye to 2016 and thank Manderson "Mandy" Miles for his leadership as Board Chairman for the past two years. Our sincerest appreciation is extended to Mandy for keeping the Center on sound footing as we celebrated the first decade. Mandy passes the gavel to Gary Evers, who will begin his term as the newly elected Chairman in January 2017. Gary has been an active board member since 2014. As he takes on the chairmanship, Gary shared some of his thoughts.

Happy New Year 2017 as we enter the eleventh year of the Jack O'Connor Center. I am Doyle Gary Evers, Gary please, almost retired dentist in Lewiston. I regard it a privilege to serve as Chairman for the Center's Board of Directors. Initially I thank Manderson Miles for his Chairmanship for the past two terms. Our board meetings have been relevant and succinct and our balance sheet looks better than ever before. The board members and Director, Shirley Phillips, deserve credit for the present financial success. We could not be here without the hardwork and efforts of all of our board members and volunteers. Most have put in many hours at their own expense to further the mission of the Center.

Our Marketing Committee, led by Jeff Nesset, fulfills its duty of presenting us favorably to the public and our Hell Gate State Park landlord and partner. The donors are the mainstay of the organization. I appreciate all who contribute in so many ways.

The Center has marvelous exhibits. Jack and Eleanor's big game trophies, photographs, firearms, and even Jack's handmade wooden camp box, are wonderfully displayed. Additionally, Steve Rice, acting as liaison for the Carrey-Boggan's bighorn sheep collection, coupled with Darrel Inman's skills in developing the display, has expanded the pure museum quality of the exhibits.

I am extremely proud of our Youth Hunter Education Challenge program (YHEC). The direction provided by David Pakula, Cal Groen and Buck Buckner are sharing the O'Connor legacy with our youth.

As organizations go, the Jack O'Connor Center is a fledgling and my objective as chair is to continue the successes of our Center's first decade. Now on to the next decade.

#### HEADS & HORNS: CARREY/BOGGAN BIGHORN SHEEP COLLECTION

The Jack O'Connor Center has been proud to exhibit Johnny Carrey's historic collection of bighorn sheep skulls for the past year. We are excited to announce that this prized collection, on loan from Doug and Sharon Boggan, has been extended through September 2017.

Johnny Carrey, who died in 2002 at the age of 87, spent his life on the Salmon River and its steep breaks. He first began picking up skulls of bighorn sheep while he guided hunters. His reputation for collecting bighorns became known and people began bringing him horns. Carrey diligently recorded who found each head, where it came from and when it was picked up by writing the information on the skull. The earliest skull dates from 1879.

Over time the collection grew, and most were stored in his attic. Lack of storage finally prompted Carrey to sell it. Doug Boggan, Riggins, Idaho resident and friend of Carrey's, happened to be present when Carrey agreed to sell both his ranch and the bighorn collection to Robert Senter, a businessman from New Hampshire.

Doug Boggan hated to see the collection leave Idaho and never forgot about it. In the winter of 2014 Boggan and Senter struck a deal, and Boggan was able to purchase 50 of the horns and bring them back to their Idaho home. The return to Idaho required the assistance of IDF&G biologists. Idaho regulations require that horns from wild sheep to be marked with a pin that identifies them as having been legally picked up. Jim White, IDF&G, Lewiston, said handling the horns was one of the highlights of his 25-year career. White said, "It's a window into the past."

Jack O'Connor had a life-long commitment to the conservation of wild sheep. He relentlessly campaigned for special management and a controlled season for hunting beginning with desert sheep in Arizona. Jack O'Connor, Johnny Carrey and Doug Boggan shared a common respect for the magnificent bighorn sheep. The exhibit adds a new dimension to the Center and we are very pleased to be able to make it available to the public for this extended period.



#### \_ THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS & SUPPORTERS

Tim Miles Trust Eldon "Buck" Buckner Rene Barrientos Caroline O'Connor McCullam Michael Opitz Family Steve & Julie Rice Nesset Bodman Group Mesa Verde Trading Blair Hansen Ryan & Pamela Pleas Bradford & Anne O'Connor David Pakula Darrel Inman Hells Gate State Park Presnell Gage, PLLC Fisher Systems D. A. Davidson Lolo Sporting Goods

The educational mission of the Jack O'Connor Hunting Heritage and Educational Center is to provide, promote and foster educational opportunities inspired by Jack O'Connor's vision as a noted outdoorsman, author, hunter and conservationist.

We welcome individuals, families, clubs, schools and associations of all kinds who are interested in our hunting heritage. We encourage you to call for an appointment and guided tour of our facility. If you or your organization is interested in volunteering at the Jack O'Connor Heritage Center, please contact us during regular business hours. Retirees especially are welcome.

# A SPECIAL GIFT

In June of this past year, the Jack O'Connor Center received a generous donation in the amount of \$25,000 from the Tim Miles Trust. Tim Miles was born December 1940 in Mt. Carrol, Illinois. He was raised in a strong hunting and fishing family with three older brothers. He fished and hunted often and was inspired by reading Outdoor Life Magazine and looked forward to reading Jack's next article and books.

Tim Miles chose to go to college at University of Wyoming so he could become a "Westerner." He earned a BBA degree in marketing and finance. After graduation, Tim moved to Denver, Colorado and became very successful in real estate, leasing buildings and property to many big businesses that were moving into the Denver area. Tim hunted big game, water fowl, upland birds and fished all over the western United States and Mexico. He visited his nephew, Manderson "Mandy" Miles in Lewiston, Idaho where Tim became aware of the Jack O'Connor Hunting Heritage and Education Center.

Upon Tim's death in May 2016, he left funds in a trust for charity purposes including organizations whose missions supported hunting and fishing with an emphasis on teaching youth. The \$25,000 gift in Tim Miles name was awarded to the Jack O'Connor Center by Board Chairman, Manderson Miles, at the June 2016 annual board meeting. The donation was in recognition of Jack O'Connor's strong belief in instilling hunting ethics with youth in programs like the Center's Youth Hunter Education Challenge (YHEC) now



Manderson Miles announcing the gift.

in the third year. The Jack O'Connor Center is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that depends on private and corporate donations to continue the work of preserving the legacy of Jack O'Connor for future generations.

#### GRILLED PEPPER BACON WRAPPED —— Elk tenderloin roast ——

A special Thank You to Jessica Yochum for sharing this wonderful recipe-

#### **Ingredients:**

1 Elk Tenderloin Roast\*
1 Tbsp. Worcestershire Sauce
½ tsp. Onion Powder
½ tsp. Rosemary
½ tsp. Sage
½ tsp. Garlic
½ tsp. Kosher Salt
1 Ib. Smoked Pepper Bacon

Rub elk roast with Worcestershire sauce. Mix all dry ingredients and rub on roast. Using toothpicks to hold, wrap

It would

not be

possible to

operate the

Jack O'Connor

Center without

the incredible

team of

dedicated

volunteers.

The volunteers

roast with bacon. Cover and refrigerate for 8 to 24 hours. When ready to grill, remove and let stand to room temperature. Turn grill on high and sear all sides, then reduce heat to medium-high. Turn once for 12 to 15 minutes. Check with meat thermometer (140 for medium). Let sit 5 minutes before slicing and serving. Enjoy!

\*Notes: I cut the tenderloins out when we hang the elk. I clean them up and let them sit a couple of days in the fridge. I do this because if you let them hang with the elk they dry and you have to trim a lot off. Also, be very careful when gutting to not get any juices on them or they will not taste good and it will taint the meat. This is basically a filet mignon roast.

#### MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

The Friends of Jack O'Connor membership program was established three years ago as a vehicle for O'Connor fans to keep up-todate on exhibits and programs of the Center. The program has grown each year. Please check the website for details of the benefits associated with each category of membership. Join today, or if you are already a member, consider upgrading to the next level. Your support is very much appreciated.



#### **VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT**

Southern Methodist University (B.S. 1969). He worked as a forensic firearms examiner for a major Texas crime laboratory.

In 1987 he moved to Lewiston, ID to work for Blount Sporting Equipment Division (CCI/Speer/RCBS/ Outers/Weaver), first as the technical liaison in Marketing and later as a development engineer. Although he "wore many hats" for the company his favorite ones were being the project manager, developer, and author of the Speer Reloading Manual (12th -14th Editions) and being the technical contact for outdoor writers. a promise to remain in the Lewis-Clark Valley and volunteer. It was the opportunity to give back to a community that had given so much to the Jones family. He also writes a monthly ballistics column for Shooting Times magazine.

In addition to "meeting and greeting," Allan does much of the computer work tracking and maintaining raffle ticket sales, setting

greet visitors and share stories of Jack and Eleanor's world-wide adventures.

One of those volunteers, who has been staffing the Center for the past 7 years is Allan Jones. Allan is a native of North Texas and graduated from

After retiring in 2007, Allan fulfilled

up forms, and moderating the Jack O'Connor web forums.

Our sincerest gratitude goes to Allan and all of our loyal volunteers. Call today about volunteering - 208-743-5043.

#### KIND WORDS FROM A FRIEND

"A great tribute to America's greatest outdoor writer – a wonderful way to keep his memory alive and to carry on his values and ideas as a sportsman."

- Robert A. Peretti (Facebook 8/25/16)

Follow the Jack O'Connor Hunting Heritage and Education Center on Facebook!

## THE WORLD LOSES A MASTER

On April 14, 2016 the world lost a master gun maker, Alvin "Al" Leroy Biesen at the age of 98. Al was born in Lacrosse, WI and started building custom guns in the 1940's. At the end of that decade he approached Jack O'Connor about restocking a rifle for him. Jack felt that rifle was "too pretty" and requested he build another one, and so their friendship began.

This second rifle was a featherweight, pre-64 Model 70 Winchester with the now famous fleur-d-leis checkering pattern. Jack considered this rifle his favorite. Many of Jack's articles and stories talked

about his favorite Biesen rifle. Jack's writings helped make Al Biesen one of the most famous gun makers in the world. Jack's famous .270 Winchester is on display at the Center.

Al's son, Roger, joined his father working side by side for over 30 years, producing the same painstaking craftsmanship. In the early 1990's the third generation Paula Biesen-Malicki (Roger's daughter), joined her family as a custom firearms engraver.

The Biesen family has been loyal supporters of the Center from the opening. The family built a series

of custom rifles for the Center in their Spokane, WA workshop. The rifles were patterned after Jack's favorites and were used for annual fundraising raffles to



support the Center's exhibits and education programs. Al Biesen will definitely be missed.

## A HONORED RECOGNITION

and Education Center was the proud recipient of a 2016 prestigious NRA Foundation Certificate of Appreciation "for outstanding performance and lasting contributions to the NRA Youth Hunter Education Challenge (YHEC)." YHEC is a National Rifle Association sponsored youth program that challenges young participants in eight separate events combined into one complete competition/training program. It is basically an advanced hunter education program. The Jack



The Jack O'Connor Hunting Heritage O'Connor Center sponsors Idaho's only YHEC team.

> This recognition comes just as registration begins for the 2017 YHEC team now in the third year. The program is taught by a group of experienced volunteer instructors lead by Jack O'Connor Board Members David Pakula and Cal Groen. The program is "graduate studies" in outdoor skills and safety training for youth and beginning hunters that want to become outdoors men and women.

One of the parents shared the following comments about her son's experience:

"This experience really changed Peter's ability to shoot accurately. The knowledge and skill of the volunteers helped change a boy that could not accurately hit the broad side of a barn

into a pretty darn good marksman and now he loves to shoot and looks forward to participating again this year to fine tune his skills. We just cannot say enough good things about this program and we are so thankful it is available in our area and for all the volunteers that pitch in to make a difference in the lives of these young hunters!"With Gratitude, Kesha Vrieling

In June the Center hosted a competition with the Oregon team from Baker City. Our team showed the skills they had learned and did very well in all events. New friendships were made. The Jack O'Connor Center promotes and preserves the legacy of Jack O'Connor's wildlife conservation through this wonderful youth program. Now we pass that legacy, love, and respect for the outdoors to the next generation.

## **JUST DON'T GET BETTER ODDS!**

This year's major fundraiser is a Ten Gun Raffle. The raffle is comprised of 10 fine firearms including 4 rifles, 3 shotguns, and 3 handguns – with an average retail value of over \$1,200 each. The raffle highlight is a Winchester M-70 Jack O'Connor limited edition Tribute rifle in 270 caliber. This raffle is limited to 400 tickets to be sold for \$50 per ticket.

#### Other firearms in the raffle include:

- Kimber-Pro Crimson Carry 4", .45 Auto Pistol
- Beretta A-300, 28", 12 Gauge Shotgun
- S&W Model 629, 6 1/2, 44 Mag Revolver
- Remington Versa-Max 12 Gauge 28"
- Browning A-Bolt Lightweight-300 Win.
- Ruger Bisley S.S. .454, 7 1/2
- Browning Citori Lightning 12 Gauge, 28", Shotgun
- Remington M-700 VLS 22-250

Ruger 77-17HMR

Mag w/Leopold 3 x 9 Scope

Remington Caliber Rifle

The drawing will be held Saturday, June 10, 2017 and ticketholders need not be present to win. The odds (assuming all tickets are sold) of any ticket winning are 40 to 1. Just doesn't get much better than that! This is a fun way to support the Center while helping to preserve the legacy of Jack O'Connor. Tickets are available at the Center or by calling 208-743-5043.

Hunting to me Is to feel Freedom vicariously Through the creatures that I pursue It's Freedom that I see In all the things they do At a very young age I learned to stalk The grouse, the squirrel, the chicken hawk And in this child there was imprinted The Liberty that God intended

#### HUNTING TO ME

This Freedom from arbitrary rule Is what I see in every whitetail duel The Anthem of Life the bull elk does sing And in his song True Freedom rings In the wilds the Hunt is to me To truly be Free And so at the end of the day When the Creature is down Take a minute

And a knee on the ground Give thanks to the Creator for this life He gave you Then Promise to show a Young Hunter or Two How Hunting is Freedom to you

- Shared on the Jack O'Connor Facebook Page by Monte Mitchell, Alaska