

# Jack O'Connor

## HUNTING HERITAGE & EDUCATION CENTER

Lewiston, Idaho

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## STEVE WEST TO SPEAK AT 11TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

The Jack O'Connor Center's Anniversary Banquet and Auction is just around the corner. The event will take place the evening of Friday, June 9th at the Quality Inn in Clarkston. Tickets are available for \$50 per person and limited to 150 attendees. A limited number of Sponsor Tables for eight guests are available for a donation of \$1,000.

The Center is both honored and excited to announce this year's special guest speaker will be Steve West who is the host and producer of the Steve's Outdoor Adventures TV series, which airs on both the Outdoor Channel and Sportsman Channel networks and is in its 14th year on television. Steve has over 20 years of experience as a big

game and waterfowl guide. For the past 17 years he has owned and operated one of the most successful booking agencies in the world. Steve's hunting career spans the globe. His area of expertise has been and always will be North American big game hunting. He hosts and produces two nationally syndicated television shows on the Outdoor Channel. Steve is an avid Jack O'Connor fan and even dedicated one of his recent shows to Jack. Like Jack O'Connor, Steve is known for his commitment to wild sheep conservation and has helped to raise funds to help revive wild sheep populations and expand their territories.

Gary Evers, Board Chairman, is

heading up the plans for both the silent and live auctions. Among the offerings are outdoor trips, excellent sporting arms and equipment, specialty one-of-a-kind art and outdoor items, a two-night stay at the historic Weinhard Hotel in Dayton, and a two-night stay in a riverfront cabin in Hells Gate State Park.

For tickets or more information please call Shirley Phillips at 619-818-6056, or email us at [info@jack-oconnor.org](mailto:info@jack-oconnor.org) Join O'Connor family members and Jack O'Connor fans for this festive event and help us to continue preserving our hunting and conservation heritage as inspired by the legacy of Jack O'Connor.



## 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](http://www.jack-oconnor.org) • 208-743-5043 • [info@jack-oconnor.org](mailto: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.*

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Royce and Iris Manning started volunteering at the Center in October 2011, shortly after moving to Lewiston from Pullman, where they had both been employees of Washington State University.

Royce was born and raised in the Columbia Gorge town of Stevenson, WA. He served in the U. S. Airforce from 1955 to 1958, with major training in electronics. Royce then enrolled in WSU graduating with majors in Police Science, Sociology, and Psychology and a minor in Anthropology. After working several years for various construction companies he joined the WSU Police Department in 1970, retiring as Lieutenant in 1998 after 28 years with the force. Royce has always had an interest in guns and was a gunsmith for a period of time before joining WSUPD. He served as armorer and fire arms instructor. (Note from Iris: When Royce watches movies, if there are any guns involved, he's always noticing to be sure they are authentic to the time period of the movie).

Iris was born and raised on a wheat and cattle ranch east of Genesee near

the top of the Coyote Grade Road. Iris began her career at WSU Safety Div. in 1977. She was the administrative asst.

She retired after 20 years in 1998. In the summer of 1980 she took a leave of absence from her job at WSU and worked as a cook for the Dolores Archaeological Project in Dolores, CO, which ignited an interest in archaeology that continues to this day. After meeting at WSU, Iris and Royce married in 1981. She and Royce shared a love of archaeology spending many vacations visiting ruins. Both love to travel and have traveled to many countries including many areas in the United States, especially the Southwest.



It is interesting that Iris has an indirect connection to Jack through his son Bradford O'Connor. Iris' brother-in-law, Jerry Hines, was a classmate of Brad's. After Jerry's marriage to Iris's sister, Phyllis, the friendship continued for several years.

Iris is an enthusiastic gardener and has adopted the floral planters at the Center. Her biggest challenge is finding plants that don't appeal to the deer living in the Park.

Royce enjoys opportunities to talk "guns" with visitors, while Iris enjoys hearing their stories.

**We feel fortunate to have them on our team of volunteers.**

for the Director of the Safety Division, which included the campus Fire Dept., Police Dept., Parking Services and Environmental Health Services.

## THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS & SUPPORTERS

Caroline O'Connor  
McCullam

Eldon Buckner

Anne & Bradford O'Connor

Ronald Polley

Steve & Julie Rice

Jeff & Teri Nessel

Joel & Lisa Ristau

Wayne Van Zwoll

Presnell Gage, PLLC

Fisher Systems

D. A. Davidson

Holly & Steve Ledgerwood  
– Biesen Memorial  
donation

Dennis W. Hastings, Vassar-  
Rawles – American Flag

Devan & Daran Wastchak –  
Book Collection

Dick Kinne – Outdoor Life  
Magazines

James B. Andrews – Book  
Collection

Hells Gate State Park

## WISH LIST

*As a non-profit organization, we appreciate any and all donations. We are currently looking for the following items:*

*Jack O'Connor books*

*8 foot ladder*

*Paper Cutter*

*Metal Book Shelf*

*4-drawer file cabinet*

*Wild bird seed*

If you or someone you know may be able to help, feel free to contact us at: 208-743-5043.

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.

## GUN SHOW AND OPEN HOUSE

Please join the O'Connor family members, friends and Jack enthusiasts for a Gun Show of collector firearms, speaker's forum and ticket drawing for the Ten Gun Raffle at the Center in Hells Gate State Park. The Center will open from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm on Saturday, June 10th. Park admission will be free for those attending the Jack O'Connor events only. If you plan to enjoy any other aspects of the Park you will need to pay the \$5.00 per car (bargain!) admission fee.

The Gun Show is unique in that it is more like an exhibit of fine firearms and historically significant guns. Also on display will be the famous Winchester .270 custom built for Jack by Al Biesen.

If you would like to exhibit your firearms, please contact Darrel Inman at 208-553-3411 for table information.

Speaker's forum will feature family stories from Bradford O'Connor and Caroline O'Connor McCullam, Jack's adult children. Next you will hear from Wayne Van Zwoll, a full-time journalist who has published more than 3,000 articles in more than two dozen outdoors magazines, and Eldon L. "Buck" Buckner, well-known Jack O'Connor historian and longtime member of the Boone and Crockett Club Records Committee. The forum will offer opportunity for questions and answers.

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. Makes for darn good odds! For ticket information call the Center at 208-743-5043. The winning tickets will be drawn Saturday at 2:00 pm. The ticket holder need not be present to win.

Join us at the Center for a fun-filled Saturday in the Park!

## PASSING THE LEGACY TO THE NEXT GENERATION

The Jack O'Connor Hunting Heritage and Education Center was the proud recipient of a 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 O'Connor Center sponsors Idaho's only YHEC team.

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*

To date, the participants have been through classes on hunting ethics, a safety refresher class, wildlife identification, game care after the kill and proper equipment. Yet to come are muzzleloaders, orienteering and archery. Field activities include .22 rifle and muzzleloader proficiency and shot gunning. At the end of the program in early June, the students will be tested on the knowledge and skills taught in the classroom sessions and field events.

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.



Mandy Miles & Darrel Inman giving pointers to Ean Ulrich

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS


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### *Honorary Board Members*

Lt. Gov. Brad Little  
Ken Wareham  
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**Follow the Jack O'Connor Hunting Heritage and Education Center on Facebook!** 

## BEAR HUNT

My dad, my grandpa and I all took a plane to Petersburg, Alaska. Once we got to Petersburg we met David Bennitz there. He owned the Stikine river guide service. Also, we went to the store, David let me get whatever I wanted. After the little bit of time that we spent in Petersburg, David took us to his big commercial crabbing boat. He also had a small skiff that he was pulling behind the big boat.

We got to our destination at a bay on Kupreanof Island. David's Big Boat was our base camp and we hunted out of the skiff. At the beginning of the week, we set out crab pots. When it came time for hunting, we cruised the shorelines looking for black bear.

On the second day of the hunt we

spotted a big black bear, so we went in to shore as quiet as we could, but the bear still went around this hill and up



into the forest line. We kept following the bear so if he came out we could get a shot. So we walked slowly and set up on this small rock pile that was overlooking this stream and the forest

line. We waited and waited until the bear finally came out of the forest, but I couldn't get a clean shot and the bear went back into the forest. About five minutes after that the bear came out again and started to walk down to the creek. Right then is when I took the shot from 50 yards out, it was a clean shot and the bear dropped in its tracks.

Later in the week my grandpa also got a black bear, and this was cool for him because he said that it would be the last big hunt that he would participate in. I am very fortunate to have been able to hunt with my grandpa on one of the last major hunts of his life.

*By: Jack Opitz (age 13 years)*

## THE SHEEP SHOW

Rain, ice, blowing snow and freezing temperatures couldn't keep us from exhibiting at the January 2017 Sheep Show in Reno. The Jack O'Connor Center was one of the over 400 exhibitors at the Show. The Center proudly displayed Jack's famous .270 rifle created by Al Biesen, along with Eleanor's custom Mauser 7 x 57 mm. Also making the trip to Reno was Eleanor's award-winning Dall ram taken in the Yukon Territory on a trip in 1963, with a Boone and Crocket score of 177-4/8.

Anne and Bradford O'Connor (Jack's son and daughter-in-law) traveled from Lacey, WA to share family stories and greet O'Connor fans from across the country. Founding board member and Jack O'Connor historian, Eldon "Buck"

Buckner helped enthusiasts choose from the selection of rare and out-of-print books by Jack. Gary Evers, Board Chairman, snapped photographs for admirers as they held the famous .270 rifle that Jack wrote about so eloquently in his books and articles in Outdoor Life Magazine.

The Wild Sheep Foundation Convention and Sporting Expo, or better known as The Sheep Show, spans a week of activities in Reno each year. The goal of the Foundation is to raise money to help revive wild sheep populations and expand their territories. Jack was a well-known champion for wild sheep conservation and an early member of the Wild Sheep Foundation.



Bradford O'Connor and Mike Opitz

## MEETING ROOM/EVENT FACILITY

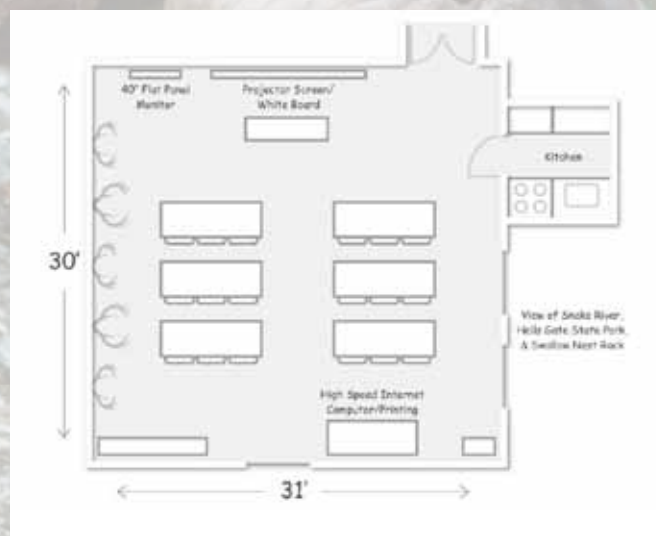
The Jack O'Connor Hunting Heritage Center offers an ideal facility for meetings and events.

Our 930 Sq. Ft. Classroom/Meeting room has comfortable table seating for over 60 people, with an occupancy limit of 132. a kitchen area equipped with a refrigerator, oven and coffee maker.

We also have office features such as a computer/printing station with full internet access, projector with screen and Flat panel television monitor with DVD player.

**Full Day Fee of only \$100 • Monday-Friday • 9:00am to 4:00pm (other times available upon advanced request)**

**For more information about booking your meeting or event at the Jack O'Connor Hunting Heritage and Education Center, please call 208-743-5043. Advanced reservations are required.**



- 930 Square Feet of Space
- Computer/Printer with High-Speed Internet Access
- 40" Flat Panel 1080 Television
- Monitor with DVD Player
- Ceiling Mounted Overhead
- Projector w/Large Screen
- Kitchen Facility
- Table Seating for 62
- Maximum occupancy of 132 people
- Beautiful view of Snake River and of Swallows Nest Rock