



THE CHRISTIAN Outdoor Fellowship of America

C O F A

Elk Hunt 2005



By: Michael Brooks

This year's elk hunt was one of the best in COFA's history according to Mike Brooks and George Reinbold. We had over 30 folks from across the country attend this year's hunt. There were several highlights on this hunt—the camp was full of excitement and enthusiasm.

The first group arrived from Ohio and Florida on Wednesday and Thursday (October 19 and 20th) and on Thursday we arrived in the Uncomgarue National Forest and put up all the tents, including a new cook tent. The second group from Arkansas, Wisconsin and Colorado arrived the following Wednesday, October 26th, and stayed until the 30th.

I would have to say that the excitement among the boys was certainly evident to the hunters in camp. We had several men that hadn't hunted elk and this was a new experience for them. How do you share the size of an elk compared to the size of a whitetail? The guys saw some large elk off in the distance on Thursday evening. The remarks on "look how big those horns are" or "how much do bulls typical weigh" started many conversations. That was the trigger that started the guys thinking about Saturday morning. So much runs through your mind as you prepare for your opening morning from the stand you hunt from! Do you have the right equipment, or what is it that I should leave behind in the tent, too much weight to carry up the mountain...

Yes, opening morning is a ritual for many, and a new tradition for the new hunters. As I watched the guys getting ready for their first elk hunt on Saturday morning at 4:30 AM, I can remember a time on my first opening morning of deer hunting back in Wisconsin. How excited I was! I couldn't sleep the night before. It was all business, checking equipment, what was in my fanny pack.

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I listened to the other hunters getting ready and enjoyed the comradeship that we all had. I didn't even know the guys I hunted with my first deer hunting experience. I was a greenhorn, new to the game. I heard the same thing on this year's elk hunt that I heard many years ago, listening to my nephews talk about getting their gear on the ATVs, asking each other if they had everything they needed. It was all business with this group, especially my nephews.

I took Rob, Ryan and Bob to a spot that has produced elk kills over the years, and a good spot at that! The ride on the ATVs towards the hunting spot is a beautiful ride as you pass through two streams on the ATV, see some incredible views, it's pure backwoods and mountains. In the dark we walked up the side of a mountain and my nephews, the "flat-landers," were gasping for breath and had to stop often as we climbed. I was impressed with how the boys handled the climb. Once they got to the bench of this drainage ditch, they fell on their knees and began to get their breath back. Bob Luce helped me get the boys





into position for covering the aspen meadow below and teaching the boys how to use a cow call. The morning was quiet until a bull bugled behind us in the bowl about 8:30. I turned to Ryan, and whispered to him that the bulls were not supposed to be calling this late in the season. I used the cow call and got the bull into a frenzy. He still didn't work his way towards us, so we went down and sought him out. I continued to call and the bull bellowed in anger. Ryan and I finally got into a position of seeing the bull 70 yards below us. The bull moved out of sight. Ryan now got a taste of Colorado elk hunting at its finest. The hard work, the challenge of getting into the right spot, and the crawling in the mud and snow, dancing around fallen trees and hanging dead branches. Yep, he is no longer a rookie. Did Ryan get his kill? No, but he now has a lifetime of memories that he can carry around with him forever. That evening around the campfire we enjoyed hearing Calvin play his guitar and had all of us singing songs. The testimonies were very touching. Men from all walks of life shared the good news of the Lord Jesus Christ. The smell of a campfire and a cup of coffee, and listening to music brought a lot of smiles to the hunters' faces. We laughed and listened to funny jokes. Greg Channing shared a great testimony, as did Bob Luce. What happened spiritually within the group—well, you will get to hear those stories in the upcoming issues of the COFA E-Mag. We had several men head home with changed attitudes towards their families and commitments towards the Lord.

Several men enjoyed cooking and getting into the camp cook tent, one being my brother Bob. He was a big help to all that ventured into his cook tent. Bob's help in this year's camp was incredible; he provided laughs and some good fried tators and brats for many of us.

What can a COFA elk hunt provide for you? Well, it's a great time of hunting and getting to know others who love the outdoors and hunting. The spiritual aspect of the hunt is geared around evangelism and encouragement. So many hunters that would never grace the inside of a church will attend an event such as COFA's elk hunt. They will get to hear the Word in a testimony and short devotional and be encouraged to follow a walk with the Lord. We want a 25/75 ratio of believers to non-

believers in camp. This year we reached that goal, and had at least one conversion.

I realize that not everyone who comes to a COFA hunt cares about hearing the message, but honestly, so many come from broken families, are going through marriage problems, problems with jobs, children or have someone that is ill. There is hope for the brokenhearted and we want to share that message from the word of God.

We hear all kinds of stories of hopelessness from fellow hunters who attend a COFA camp. We want to be encouragers and help those in need find the ONE who can give that hope and faith. COFA is not a hunt club; we don't want to be in the worldly business of hunting, but the spiritual business of sharing God with others in the field and waters across this great land.

If you're interested in attending a COFA hunt, start planning for 2006. This will be a great time and you don't want to miss out on that! For information on next year's hunt, call Michael Brooks at 303.456.0555 or George Reinbold at 303.880.3800 for additional information.





Work Together

By: *Tim Riter*

The Bait

Something unexpected happened when I first held my grandson, Joshua. He adjusted himself into my shoulder, and his hug reached right into my heart. I've never been the same since we connected like that. I suppose it's only natural he seemed to love fishing, almost from his first breath.

I started him out fishing with an empty line on a Colorado pond. He doesn't remember it, but he had to fish "like grandpa." He was content to just wet a line, and never realized he had no hook. Few two year olds can be trusted with a hook in company.

Later, I took him to a local pond in Temecula, where crappie and bluegill abound. I just put a little piece of worm on a small hook with his Power Ranger pole, and he caught one every cast, even when the casts only went two feet. I'm convinced we caught some bluegill five or six times in a row. The only problem, he expected all fishing to match that!

For his first trout expedition, we drove to a frequently stocked pond in the local mountains. It didn't live up to his bluegill experience, and at five he grew bored when neither of us got any bites after an hour or so.

Then a trout hit my line, and his joy at least matched mine. No selfish competition here. But after I reeled the trout in for 20 feet, he slipped loose. Josh commiserated with me for about three seconds, then a whoop broke out. Something hit his line. After sloughing off my hook, the trout grabbed the closest available worm. Josh's.

He carefully reeled in the largest fish he'd ever caught, arriving as a trout fisherman. He graduated from crappie to the king of fish. Grandpa couldn't have been more proud. To be honest, I'd never thought of trout fishing as a team sport. I learned a lot from my grandson that day. Setting the Hook: you accomplish more when working together.

Reeling It In

I might have been a hermit at one point, if God had let me. I've learned since that we get so much more done when we work together. Not just in catching trout, either. I'm a pretty decent stream fisherman, but I need help when it comes to lakes. That's not my area of expertise.

God makes us all that way, each a little different. Each good in some areas; weak in others. Do you think he might have done that on purpose? To keep any of us from being a Lone Ranger? To make us rely on others? I'm intrigued with the secret of spiritual growth found in Ephesians 4:16, "From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."

What part has God uniquely given you? Where do you need to rely on others? How can you make trout fishing a spiritual team sport?





King of Camo



By: George Reinbold

For any of us who have been in the armed forces or hunting for any length of time, we're familiar with camouflage. But, just in case there is one person who may not be aware of what "camouflage" is, let me explain. Camouflage is the "art" of concealment. And please

trust me, it IS an art. Whether it is concealing a person in specially designed clothing to blend into the surrounding environment or concealing an object (or location) with specially designed netting from overhead planes and satellites; the purpose is still the same – to hide or be undetectable in the surrounding environment.

I'm reminded of a commercial for Real Tree Camo which airs on the Outdoor Channel. The commercial begins by showing you a scene in the woods. Then the announcer says, "There are four hunters here. How many can you see?" Well, of course, all four hunters are camouflaged and are virtually impossible to detect! After a few seconds go by, each camouflaged hunter moves their arms and legs in order to allow the viewers to see where they are. But as soon as they stop moving their arms and legs and return to their original positions, they instantly disappear again!

Now, what would happen if you were to take the same people from the previous commercial I just mentioned and place them in a snowy field waiting for geese? Of course, they'd stick out like a sore thumb. My point is that you need to use the proper camo for the environment you're going to blend in with. I realize that what I just said may come across to you as "everyone knows that! So tell us something we don't know."

All right, let's cut to the chase. You may be wondering, "Who does this guy think is the King of Camo?" Would it be Real Tree or Mossy Oak? How about the Breakup pattern vs. the Hardwood or Reed patterns? Well, just to let you know right up front, I'm not going to get into which is the best camouflage pattern or which is the best company that makes camouflage. That's because there is

a much more important pattern of camouflage that I want you to become aware of . . . "spiritual camouflage."

So, go ahead and ask, "What in the world is spiritual camouflage?" Therein lies the problem -- spiritual camouflage is NOT of this world. It is, however, in the unseen world but affects each and every one of us as if it were something we could just reach out and touch or taste. Remember, the camouflage that hunters and the military use are able to fool our prey into believing that we're "not there." In essence, camouflage is truly invaluable as concealment to us as predators and deadly to our prey. In the same way, Satan is our predator and we are the prey.

If that doesn't scare you, it should. I'm not talking about some fantasy fairytale by the Brothers Grimm. This is for real. This is about your eternal life, your eternal soul and that of your family's. If you are one of the people who believe there is no God, there is no devil, there are no demons or angels and there is no heaven or hell – then YOU have been DECEIVED! Since the beginning of time Satan (the devil, Beelzebub, the dragon, etc.), our sworn enemy, has been using his camouflaging techniques to "trick us to death", to our eternal death.

Remember, the art of camouflage is making something appear so like the real thing that it just blends in and fools the prey. And it is no different with truth and the things of God. I'm sure I'm not the only one who had heard one of their parents or grandparents say "a half truth is a whole lie." Being a boy of about eight at the time, my Grandmother said this phrase to me; but, I didn't understand what she meant. Apparently seeing the puzzled look on my face, she explained that, "this is when someone mixes just enough truth with a lie that it causes people to believe everything said was totally true." That's what Satan has done with people right from the start.

So, what is your view of Satan? How do you picture him? Is he the little guy in a red union suit with a pitchfork and pointy tail who sits on your shoulder and tries to get you to do some innocently bad thing? Or is he this hideously looking monster





which lurks outside your door at night, waiting for you to come out so he can scare the living daylights out of you? Perhaps you don't even see him or view him or think of him at all. In other words, as long as you don't believe he exists – he doesn't. You know, "out of sight, out of mind."

I believe the average person today "pictures" Satan in the way the movies, children's books and the media have portrayed him. From cartoons to sitcoms and even several movies (which won't be mentioned here) we have had false pictures painted for us of our enemy. There have even been movies which have portrayed the devil in a GOOD way as a benevolent super being. We all have been so fooled and drawn into believing there is nothing wrong with Ouija Boards because they are found in the game section of a department store, or that the sitcoms of Bewitched or Charmed are just harmless programs which the people in Hollywood put out for our entertainment—they're not trying to seduce us or our children. And as far as palm readers and séances are concerned "it's O.K." because that is no worse than reading your horoscope out of the newspaper, is it?. But now, even more people are being seduced into believing there is nothing wrong with witches, witchcraft, or even becoming a wicca because Roseanne Barr, Sting, Cybil Shepherd and other celebrities have joined wicca.

"Truth" is something that EXPOSES a lie in the same way that light takes away, or exposes, darkness. The truth of the Bible says in 1 Cor 11:14 & 15 that "Satan masquerades as an angel of light and his demons masquerade as servants of righteousness." Do you get what that says!?! God is saying that Satan CAMOUFLAGES himself as an angel of light and that his demons (fallen angels) are also CAMOUFLAGING themselves as servants of righteousness!

Don't be deceived into thinking that the word "masquerade" is like a masquerade ball. Let me take you back to the Warner Bros. Cartoons from the 1950's and 1960's. I remember seeing a cartoon as a kid where the wolf was trying to trick the guard dog of a flock of sheep. This wolf places a sheepskin on his back which is about one-fourth the size of the wolf and attempts to sneak past the guard dog. Well, of course, the guard dog is much smarter than that and is able to recognize

the wolf and just annihilates him. Now, the wolf really wasn't fooling anybody, not even the children watching. But, had the wolf dressed up TOTALLY as a sheep, made noises like a sheep, walked like a sheep, smelled like a sheep – it would have fooled EVERYBODY. That is what Satan has been doing, and is doing to people everywhere.

The Bible also says that Satan was the most beautiful creature EVER created. What!?! Satan is beautiful? That's right. So you may want to re-think how you picture this enemy of ours. Because he is trying to seduce you, trick you into believing things and ideologies which are not true or real. John 10:10 says that the thief (Satan) comes only to steal and kill and destroy; but that Jesus came to give us life and to have it to the fullest.

Satan IS a deceiver (1 Chron 21:1, Rev 20:7 & 8), a destroyer (John 10:10), a liar (Acts 5:3 & 4), a murderer (John 8:44), the accuser of the brethren (Zech 3:1), a tempter (Matt 4:1-10, 1 Cor 7:5), a thief (Mark 4:15), acrippler of people (Luke 13:10-16), a schemer (2 Cor 2:10 & 11), a tormentor (2 Cor 12:7), a counterfeiter (2 Thes 2:9 & 10) and these are just a FEW of his many vile characteristics. But, don't be fooled into thinking he is more powerful than Almighty God. Satan is NOT omnipotent (all powerful), God IS. Satan is NOT omniscient (all knowing), God IS. Satan is NOT omnipresent (everywhere at one time), God IS.

Satan is NOT all loving, God IS.

In case you feel I'm the kind of person who sees the devil under every rock or leaf, I'm not. The Bible says in the first chapter of James that when we are tempted, we shouldn't say, "God is tempting me" because God can't be tempted by evil and He doesn't tempt anyone. But, instead, we're tempted by our own evil desires which drag us away and entice us to do wrong. It's when our own desires are conceived that it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. Pretty ugly of us, isn't it? We're guilty enough on our own without any help!

The easiest way that Satan is able to deceive, trick or seduce people is that he is a master at knowing (from our behavior) what our weaknesses are. Then he simply gives us ample opportunity to hang ourselves. Remember again the first chapter of





James where the Bible says we are all tempted by our own evil desires; Satan simply “dangles the carrot in front of our noses”, and we do the rest. It doesn’t matter what your weakness may be; but, I can assure you it will always be a subtle seduction. I don’t want you be left discouraged after realizing that as much as we are the predator to our prey of deer, elk, moose or whatever – the King of Camo (Satan) is just as real of a predator to us as his prey. But instead, I want you to have hope and assurance in KNOWING that we have the victory OVER Satan. How? The Bible says in . . . Rom 8:37-39, “. . .in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

1 John 4:4, “You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.”
Rev 12:10-11, “For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.”

Forty Martyrs

Would you ever renounce your faith?

“Arise, O Lord! Do not let mere mortals defy you! Let the nations be judged in your presence. Make them tremble in fear, O Lord. Let them know they are merely human.” - *Psalm 9:19-20 NLT*

Forty Martyrs

History knows them as the 40 martyrs of Sebaste. They were soldiers in the famed Twelfth Legion of Rome’s imperial army, around A.D. 320. One day the captain informed his troops that Emperor Licinius had sent down an edict commanding all soldiers to offer a sacrifice to his pagan god. Forty of the soldiers were followers of Christ, and they refused.

The emperor decided to make an example of the soldiers, so he marched them onto a frozen lake and stripped them of their clothes. “Renounce your God and you will be spared from death,” he told them. Not one man came forward. Throughout the night the men stayed together, singing their song of victory: “Forty Martyrs for Christ.”

When morning came, 39 of the men had frozen to death. The one survivor recanted his confession of faith. The officer in charge that night had been so moved by the scene that during his watch he’d come to Jesus, so he broke rank and walked out onto the ice. Stripping his clothes he openly confessed his faith in Christ. He refused to renounce his new faith. When the ordeal was over, the Roman soldiers carried 40 frozen men off of the ice.

In comparison, my life is like a long night on a soft mattress. I may one day be faced with serious consequences for my faith. You may, too. Will we have the strength of character and heart and faith to stand strong just the same?





Getting Outdoors with Your Kids this Holiday Season



By: Cathy Channing

Well, it's that time of year again... ah, the holidays! Thanksgiving is just around the corner, hard to believe as that is. It seems the holidays come quicker every year.

My fondest memories of Thanksgiving and Christmas revolve around family, tradition and our children. There's such a detailed tapestry of tradition wrapped up and intricately woven in all families and the holidays. When our children were younger, every Thanksgiving, we traveled from Round Rock, Texas to Alvin, Texas to share Thanksgiving with family—both our families were in Alvin where both Greg and I grew up. Then, for Christmas, all our family traveled to Round Rock.

Over Thanksgiving, we would go back and forth between the two families, inevitably having to “suffer” through two Thanksgiving dinners. The only suffering was in our clothes becoming much too tight. Visiting with family and friends was always so delightful and full of nostalgia, but the tradition that we shared just in our little family with our own children was especially wonderful.

As we returned to Round Rock from Alvin each year, we stopped with the kids in Hempstead, Texas at a Christmas tree farm to cut down our Christmas tree and haul it home. Each year, it was a triumph to find that perfect tree, measure it against all our scrutiny and decide as a family on the best tree of the whole farm. One particular year stands out in my memory when we showed up at the tree farm and the owners' chocolate Labrador had just had puppies that morning. The kids were absolutely enamored with the puppies and thrilled to be some of the first people to welcome the little guys into the world.

The owners dressed as Mr. & Mrs. Claus, which further enchanted the kids. The kids had Santa Claus all to themselves on this particular trip and Santa took just our family out on a hay-ride and helped pick out our tree.

Since those years in Texas, we have moved to Colorado and some of our traditions have grown and changed. We no longer go to a Christmas tree farm the day after Thanksgiving to cut our tree, but to the national forest to select a tree from hundreds of specimens (Note: you may obtain a permit for \$10 per tree (limit 5 trees per customer) to cut your own tree from most national forests in Colorado. Check the USDA Forest Service's website for the area you wish to cut in for applicable dates, areas, restrictions and additional information). It's always a great time of fellowship and bonding with family members as we venture in

Safe Ice Thickness Chart

Ice Thickness*	Permissible Load
3 inches	Single person on foot
4 inches	Group in single file
7-1/2 inches	Passenger car (2-ton gross)
8 inches	Light truck (2-1/2-ton gross)
10 inches	Medium truck (3-1/2-ton gross)
12 inches	Heavy truck (8-ton gross)
15 inches	10 tons
20 inches	25 tons
30 inches	70 tons
36 inches	110 tons

*Solid clear blue/black and lake ice.
 Slush ice has only half the strength of blue ice.
 Strength value of river ice is 15 percent less.





the car to the mountains, playing Christmas songs and sipping spiced cider along the way.

Plan an outing for your family this holiday season and you will be truly blessed. God will meet you there in the outback as you enjoy the splendor that He provides every year in the crisp, blue skies, mountain peaks, and snow-packed trails. What better testimony from a parent to children than to share your appreciation for God's creation with them. Pack a picnic lunch of leftover turkey sandwiches, spiced cider and all the fixin's to enjoy on some of these exciting excursions:

- Ice Skating
- Horse-Drawn Sleigh Ride
- Hiking
- Downhill Skiing (the lifts in Colorado opened Oct. 14th)
- Cross-Country Skiing
- Dog-Sledding
- Snowmobiling
- Ice Fishing
- Snowshoeing
- Sledding/Snow Tubing

If you do not live in an area where snow is plentiful, consider these other outdoor activities:

- Horseback Riding
- Hiking
- Ice Skating at an Indoor Rink
- Combing the Beach for Seashells (winter is a great time for collecting shells)
- Fishing
- Golf

A Colorado Mixed Bag



By: Glenn R. Latham
 "You know, after catching that fish, I'm not even disappointed that I didn't get a deer." Those were the words of my long-time hunting buddy Bruce Jones after a pleasant long weekend at our favorite haunt in northeastern Colorado.

Bruce and I have attended the same church for years, and although I knew who he was, we were not acquainted. One year one of the fellows who was going deer hunting with me invited Bruce to join our group. On the way up, I asked Bruce what he was shooting. "A 6.5 Swedish Mauser" was the reply. Hmmm, that's not your run-of-the-mill deer rifle; that's one carried by a fellow that knows a thing or two about rifles. As it turned out, the rest of the group went their separate ways, but Bruce and I have become close friends.

But back to our story. Besides the fact that there is a decent deer population in the area, there is also some good bass fishing in the local ponds. We usually head out there on the first weekend of September to do some dove hunting, but tend to spend more time fishing than hunting. But this weekend was in October; the opening weekend of the plains muzzleloader season. We arrived about mid-day Friday, and helped another friend put up his double-wide tree stand. This fellow's eight year old son was going deer hunting with him for the first time, so he decided a tree stand for two was good way to do it.

Although that task took most of the afternoon, we hit one of our favorite fishing holes on the way back to camp. This pond is an old gravel pit not much more than 100 yards square, but fairly deep. We usually catch a number of bass around 12"-14" and a few in the 15"-16" "keeper" range (although we throw them all back). One year I caught a nice 18" specimen.

Not more than 20 minutes after arriving, I heard Bruce remark, "That's no bluegill!" I looked down the shoreline to see his rod bent in a serious arc. Now Bruce likes to fish with an ultra-light outfit from time to time, so just because his rod is doubled over doesn't necessarily mean he's latched onto the Loch Ness Monster. However, when this fish boiled, then wallowed on the surface, and I got a glimpse of its head, I knew Bruce was into a superior specimen of the largemouth bass!

I got down to where he was about the time he beached the behemoth, and it was a beauty. I ran to the car to get a tape measure and scale, and found the fish to weigh seven pounds even with a length of 23-1/4". We took a few pictures and admired his trophy, then released it back into the pond. We fished for another hour and came up empty.





The following morning, daybreak found us in our tree stands guarding a couple deer trails amongst the cottonwoods in the river bottom. About eight o'clock, some other hunters scared a doe near Bruce's stand, but at a distance of 100 yards and on the move, he passed up the shot. It would have been a reasonable opportunity with a scope-sighted repeating rifle, but with an iron-sighted muzzleloader, you have to be more selective in your shots. Bruce saw it circle around the slough, and figured it was headed in my direction. He expected to hear me shoot at any moment, but it never came by my stand.

About eight-thirty, a nice whitetail doe appeared about 100 yards out, headed toward me on a trail that passed by the left side of the tree I was sitting in. She was looking over her shoulder as if she had been spooked by another hunter. When she was about 50 yards out, I raised my rifle, and scraped the steel butt-plate on my coat. She stopped and looked in my direction, but did not look up. I have found that deer rarely look up, and when they do, they don't seem to understand what they see up in the tree. Not seeing anything, she continued down the trail toward me. When she cleared a dead tree about 25 yards from my stand, I took a bead and squeezed the trigger. True to whitetail form, she reacted to the fatal wound by running all out until her life was gone.

After dressing, hanging and skinning the deer, we broke for a late breakfast of blueberry pancakes. Later that afternoon, Bruce went back on stand, but did not see anything.

The next morning, I slept in while Bruce got back up in the tree. We agreed that later in the morning I would come out and if he hadn't gotten anything, I would do a drive through the river bottom. When I arrived about ten o'clock, Bruce was fishing in the slough, his muzzleloader balanced across his tackle bag. "You should have been here earlier. I've caught so many fish I've lost track!" I broke out my rod, but the bite was over. It's tough to beat a weekend spent in the company of good friends, enjoying God's creation!





Tips for Our Readers

Turkey Tips

- Thawing a frozen turkey requires patience. The safest method is to thaw turkey in the refrigerator. Be sure to plan ahead, though. It takes approximately 3 days for a 20 pound turkey to defrost.
- For crisper skin, uncover the turkey the day before roasting and let it stand in the refrigerator overnight.
- Cook times will differ depending on whether your bird was purchased fresh or frozen. Figure on 20 minutes per pound in a 350 degree oven for a defrosted turkey, and 10 to 15 minutes per pound for fresh.
- A turkey will cook more evenly if it is not densely stuffed. As an alternative, add flavor by loosely filling the cavity with aromatic vegetables—carrots, celery, onion, or garlic work nicely—or by carefully tucking fresh herbs underneath the breast skin.
- Before roasting, coat the outside of the turkey with vegetable or olive oil, season with salt and pepper, and tightly cover the breast with aluminum foil.
- Don't be a peeping tom (no pun intended)! Once you get the turkey in the oven, resist the temptation to open the oven door and admire your handiwork. When the oven temperature fluctuates, you're only increasing the likelihood of a dry bird. Wait until about 45 minutes before you think the turkey is done. Then remove the foil from the breast to allow it to brown.
- Take the turkey out of the oven when the deepest spot between the leg and the breast reads 180 degrees F on an instant read meat thermometer. Check the internal temperature of the stuffing as well; it should be at least 165 degrees.
- After removing from the oven, tent the bird with foil and let rest for about 15 minutes before carving. If you need more time to make gravy,

brown and heat up side dishes, etc., you can let it sit for up to an hour without losing too much heat.

- Remember to carve your turkey with a very sharp knife.

Christmas Tree Tips

For many people, decorating the Christmas tree is a favorite part of the holiday. The National Safety Council offers some safety tips to make sure a mishap doesn't spoil your holiday season.

Christmas Trees

- A real tree can add to the spirit of Christmas by filling your home with beauty and the scent of pine. But a real tree can also pose a fire hazard. Each year, more than 400 residential fires involve Christmas trees and tragically nearly 40 deaths and 100 injuries result from those fires.
- Try to select a fresh tree by looking for one that is green. The needles of pines and spruces should bend and not break and should be hard to pull off the branches. On fir species, a needle pulled from a fresh tree will snap when bent, much like a fresh carrot. Also, look for a trunk sticky with sap.
- Cut off about two inches of the trunk and put the tree in a sturdy, water-holding stand. Keep the stand filled with water so the tree does not dry out quickly.
- Stand your tree away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources. Make sure the tree does not block foot traffic or doorways.
- If you use an artificial tree, choose one that is tested and labeled as fire resistant. Artificial trees with built-in electrical systems should have the Underwriters Laboratory (UL) label.





Tree Lights

- Only use indoor lights indoors (and outdoor lights only outdoors). Look for the UL label. Check lights for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections. Replace or repair any damaged light sets.
- Also, use no more than three light sets on any one extension cord. Extension cords should be placed against the wall to avoid tripping hazards, but do not run cords under rugs.
- Turn off all lights on trees and decorations when you go to bed or leave the house.

Tree Ornaments

- Always use the proper step stool or ladder to reach high places.
- Read labels before you use materials that come in jars, cans and spray cans.
- Never place lighted candles on a tree or near any flammable materials.
- Avoid placing breakable tree ornaments or ones with small, detachable parts on lower branches where small children or pets can reach them.
- Do not hang popcorn chains and candy canes on the tree when small children are present. They may think that other tree ornaments are also edible.

Emergency Car Kit Tips

With the holidays upon us and winter driving conditions prevalent across the country, it's a good time to stock an emergency car kit for your travels. Include these essentials:

- Battery-powered radio, flashlight, and extra batteries
- Blanket
- Booster cables
- Bottled water and nonperishable high-energy foods such as granola bars, raisins, and peanut butter
- Fire extinguisher (5-lb., A-B-C type)
- First-aid kit and manual
- Maps, shovel, flares
- Tire repair kit and pump





Cooking Classics

Stuffed Pumpkin

Submitted by: Cathy Channing

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup wild rice
- 1 medium sugar pumpkin
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1/2 teaspoon dry mustard
- 2 tablespoons bacon grease
- 1 pound ground venison
- 1 onion, chopped
- 3 eggs, beaten
- 1 teaspoon dried sage
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper

DIRECTIONS:

In a saucepan, bring 4 cups water to a boil. Add wild rice and stir. Reduce heat, cover and simmer 1 hour, or until tender.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Remove the top of the pumpkin and scoop out pulp and seeds. Prick the pumpkin interior with a fork and rub with 1 teaspoon salt and dry mustard. Heat bacon grease in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Stir in the ground venison and onion. Slowly cook and stir until evenly brown. Remove from heat. Mix in the wild rice, remaining salt, eggs, sage and pepper. Stuff the pumpkin with the venison mixture. Place pumpkin in a shallow baking pan with 1/2 inch water.

Bake the pumpkin in the preheated oven 1 1/2 hours, or until tender. Add more water to the pan as necessary to avoid sticking.

Turkey a la Oscar

Submitted by: Cathy Channing

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 (10 ounce) packages frozen cut asparagus
- 1/4 cup water
- 1 tablespoon margarine
- 6 turkey breast cutlets
- 1/4 teaspoon crushed garlic
- 1/4 pound cooked shrimp - peeled and deveined
- 1 (1.25 ounce) envelope hollandaise sauce mix

DIRECTIONS:

Place the water and asparagus in a saucepan, and bring to a boil over medium heat. Cook covered 5

minutes. Remove cover and cook 1 or 2 minutes, until tender. Drain and set aside, but keep warm. Melt the margarine in a skillet over medium-high heat. Cook the turkey cutlets 2 to 3 minutes on each side, or until browned and no longer pink on the inside. Remove turkey from the pan and set aside.

Add the garlic and shrimp to the already heated skillet. Cook over medium-high heat 1 or 2 minutes, stirring constantly until the shrimp is heated through. Prepare hollandaise sauce according to package directions. Place each turkey cutlet on a plate. Top with the asparagus and shrimp. Spoon hollandaise sauce over all.

Note: When using leftover turkey, simply reheat until heated through, and skip the cooking step. Crabmeat may be substituted for shrimp.

Pecan Bars

Submitted by: Cathy Channing

INGREDIENTS:

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup margarine
- 4 eggs
- 1 1/2 cups light corn syrup
- 1 1/2 cups white sugar
- 3 tablespoons margarine, melted
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 2 1/2 cups chopped pecans

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Lightly grease a 10x15 inch jellyroll pan. In a large bowl, stir together the flour, 1/2 cup sugar, and salt. Cut in 1 cup of margarine until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Sprinkle the mixture evenly over the prepared pan, and press in firmly. Bake for 20 minutes in the preheated oven. While the crust is baking, prepare the filling. In a large bowl mix together the eggs, corn syrup, 1 1/2 cups sugar, 3 tablespoons margarine, and vanilla until smooth. Stir in the chopped pecans. Spread the filling evenly over the crust as soon as it comes out of the oven.

Bake for 25 minutes in the preheated oven, or until set. Allow to cool completely on a wire rack before slicing into bars.





Calendar of Upcoming Events

November 20th - 26th
WISCONSIN DEER HUNT
TBA

November 27th - December 1st
OHIO DEER HUNT
TBA

Limited to 8 hunters. This is COFA's first deer hunt in Ohio and is a shotgun and handgun hunt. There is a \$125 non-refundable deposit requirement.

Contact: *Wilbur (Grizz) McCormick*
740.286.5522 or
leejoy@adelphia.net

