

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS

The graphic features the words 'HAPPY HOLIDAYS' in a large, red, stylized font. The letter 'O' in 'HOLIDAYS' is replaced by a green wreath. There are two green Christmas trees: one behind the 'P' in 'HAPPY' and another behind the 'I' in 'HOLIDAYS'. To the right of the text are three Christmas ornaments: a red one at the top, a green one in the middle, and a smaller red one at the bottom. Each ornament has gold and silver stripes and a gold cap.

December 2014

To All OHEIA Members, Hunter Education Instructors, and Website Visitors:

With the approaching holidays, the Oregon Hunter Education Instructor Association Board of Directors would like to take a moment to wish all a Happy Holiday Season. With 2014 coming to end, ODFW staff and our Hunter Education instructors deserve a pat on the back, as Oregon continues to be one of the safest regions in the nation for our hunting public. A great job by all.

## **CHANGE**

Presently we're in an extremely dynamic era with our rapidly evolving education programs. Traditional Hunter Education classroom and home study opportunities are highly valued and still with us, and the adoption of online courses and their accompanying field days continue to attract an expanding audience. These new venues demand a revamping of our materials and techniques, but feedback and statistics suggest they're well accepted. Again, kudos to all involved.

## **BIENNIAL STATEWIDE CONFERENCE**

The 2015 statewide Hunter Education Instructors Conference is scheduled for April 24, 25 and 26<sup>th</sup> in Pendleton at the Wildhorse Resort. ODFW staff will be sending notices, agenda, and registration information in the near future. Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend. This is our best opportunity to personally interact with ODFW staff, stay informed on changes in policies and procedures, and take advantage of educational sessions benefitting both new and well tenured instructors

As always, OHEIA's planning committee is scheduling accompanying extra-curricular and fund raising events at the conference. These include post-banquet games, drawings, and silent/oral auctions. The planning committee is putting an emphasis on quality, and members should be quite pleased with opportunities this year. OHEIA also welcomes any fiscal or merchandise donations one may wish to contribute. Simply contact a Board member, and we will make every effort to expedite the process.

## **OHEIA BUSINESS MEETING**

In conjunction with the instructors conference, OHEIA will have a brief membership meeting addressing the geographic distribution of Board members across the state. Our bylaws historically based Board representation on ODFW district boundaries. With recent ODFW redistricting, there is need to amend our bylaws to assure a balanced Board composition. Details of our proposal will be forwarded before the conference, and we will gather for discussion and a yea/nay vote on the amendment.

## **GRANT OPPORTUNITIES**

The OHEIA Board strongly encourages our members to explore and take advantage of the Grants section on this site. ODFW supports Hunter Education to the greatest degree possible, but there are facility and equipment needs for classes that are outside of their realm and beyond typical class funding abilities. Portable benches, clay bird launchers, video equipment, or permanent facility developments serving numerous classes are potential examples. Nothing ventured is nothing gained.

Be Safe and Happy Holidays,

Dave Ganskopp, President OHEIA