

# Tracks™

AUGUST 2009



For more details on the 21st Annual Outdoor Connection Convention see page 2.

## Big Bear Down (Ron Diersen - KY)

"Big BEAR Down! Big BEAR Down!, crackled over the radio. Dan Bickers had just harvested a nice bear at dusk of our third day of a scheduled five day hunt. It would prove to be the third bear of the evening.

A couple of hours earlier, while I was watching a sow and three cubs, I heard a shot in the distance. A smile crept across my face, wondering if one of our group had taken the shot. I later discovered that Dan Richeson had harvested his first bear by placing a perfect shot with his muzzleloader.

After watching the sow and her cubs for almost 45 minutes, they wandered back into the forest. She had stayed around for so long that I was sure she was the alpha bear in the area and my chances of seeing another bear that evening didn't look good. However, my fortunes changed at 9:15 PM Atlantic time. There was plenty of shooting light when I saw a bear crossing through the undergrowth on the opposite hill. He appeared a few minutes later, stood partially upright on a fallen down tree, presenting a perfect shoulder shot. Two bears down for the evening. I called on my radio for Ron, our guide, and he answered right away. He was just a couple of minutes down the road. I could see him as he backed up the dirt path closer to my stand. Another shot rang out in the distance and that is when Dan Bickers brought the airwaves alive exclaiming his harvest.

(continued on page 3. Want to learn more, contact your Outdoor Connection franchise owner)

## Inside

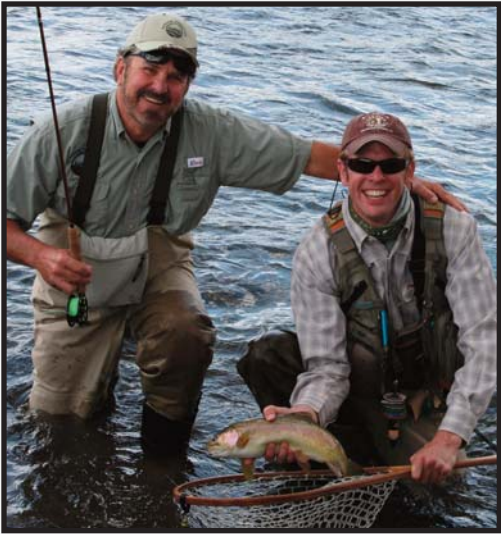
PAGE 2  
21ST ANNUAL OUTDOOR CONNECTION  
CONVENTION IN COLORADO SPRINGS

PAGE 3  
BIG BEAR DOWN CONT. (NBH1)  
WASHINGTON TURKEY (WAH1)  
SPECIALS (FLF7 & TXF2)

PAGE 4  
WASHINGTON TURKEY CONT. (WAH1)  
MIXED BAG SPECIAL (BCH2)



## Outdoor Connection Annual Convention



The 21st Annual Outdoor Connection Convention was held recently at Cheyenne Mountain Resort in Colorado Springs, CO. In attendance were many veteran franchises, as well as some new faces. The official convention kickoff began on Wednesday, July 29th, when eight fly fishermen hit the streams and rivers for some great trout action. Whitewater rafting was on the agenda for Thursday. With a cool, brisk morning to start with, the adventurers were off to Canon City to raft down the Bighorn Sheep Canyon. With only a few spills during the morning session it was time for lunch. After a short break, back in the boats we went! The afternoon proved to be a little more challenging with more rapids than the morning session. For the many first timers this proved to be a great experience with awesome scenery!

The meetings kicked off on Thursday night with the opening ceremonies including an awards presentation and state of the company address given by OC President, Marc Glades. Friday the meetings continued with a presentation from Pack String Ranch Outfitters (Patrick Faast), Eagle Nest Resorts (Jessica Pedruchny) and K&K Outfitters (Keaton Kelso). Outdoor Connection also had the pleasure to have Diana Award winner, Arlene Hanson in attendance to do a presentation on involving more women in the outdoors. Arlene and her husband, Bob have hunted all over the world. Streiff Sporting Goods wrapped up the meetings on Friday with their presentation on the new agent buying program, VIP program and the new line of OC clothing.



Friday evening the group attended a dinner buffet on the balcony of the resort overlooking Cheyenne Mountain.

Saturday began with a lodge presentation from High Lonesome Ranch (Sean Scully). Scott Marvin followed with an open forum with sales questions being bounced around to rookies and long standing franchise owners. The meetings wrapped up with a presentations by Angie Merkel on the DAT Program and Marc Glades on the new Advisory

Panel and the Continuing Education trip set for October.

After all presentations, numerous items were then raffled.

Cheyenne Mountain Resort was a wonderful setting for the 2009 convention. Outdoor Connection franchise owners not only experienced beautiful mountain views, but also gained valuable knowledge from their peers and presenting lodge owners.

## Washington Tukeys

(Chris Vancura - OK)

I had the opportunity to hunt Merriam turkeys in south-central Washington state just off the Klickitat River. My guide, Tracy, was absolutely amazing. The hunt was one of the greatest, funniest hunts I've been on in awhile. Tracy knew the area very well along with the birds' behaviors that we were calling in turkeys every hour of the day. There was one time we were set up in our blind calling in one particular Tom when suddenly we had two other Toms from behind us responding to our call as well. You could tell they were moving in on us fast. The terrain in that area was very steep and thick with forest growth. It really made the hunt much more of a challenge to the point a Tom would practically be right on top of us before showing itself. It was exciting to just hear the Toms gobble so close and know that it was only a few feet away too. I missed a few good opportunities to harvest a Tom simply because I just could never see it even being within a few feet of it. In the two days of hunting, every time we would set up in a blind, Tracy would have called in a least one bird. I did get shots at two of them, but due to the high level of adrenalin rushing through my veins, I'd just get

(continued on page 4. Want to learn more, contact your Outdoor Connection franchise owner)



What an evening! Tom Gorter, not to be outdone, harvested his bear with a double lung shot the next day. Four for four, another 100% opportunity and success hunting trip to this great New Brunswick, Canada location.

You may wonder why it took us until the third day to harvest our first bears. On the first day, June 1, it snowed, poured down rain all day and there were 40 mph wind gusts. We decided not to hunt. On Tuesday, the wind was still gusting hard and we were greeted with a nice downpour within the hour of getting to our stands. No bears were sighted that evening to the shock of us all. Getting skunked on bear sightings just does not happen at this lodge. I guess that is why they call it hunting. We can't control the behavior of the bears or the weather.

This lodge has gotten to be a very popular location. It is already booking into 2011. With 99.9% sightings, you are almost certain to get a chance at a bear. It is an easy hunt and priced great. Only \$1,400 for the hunt and that includes lodging, guides, meals, tax, license/tag. A good bear in New Brunswick is 200 pounds. Bears harvested this year have ranged from 80 pounds to 360 pounds. If you are interested in going on a bear hunt in New Brunswick, Canada, this is a great destination.

For more information on hunting in New Brunswick contact your local Outdoor Connection franchise owner.

FLORIDA KEYS FISHING PACKAGES (FLF7)  
STARTING AT \$650/PERSON FOR 3 NIGHTS LODGING &  
1 1/2 DAYS OF FISHING.  
ALSO INCLUDES: MEALS AND TACKLE

COPANO BAY FISHING PACKAGES (TXF2)  
STARTING AT \$620/PERSON FOR 2 NIGHTS LODGING &  
2 DAYS OF UNLIMITED FISHING.  
ALSO INCLUDES: MEALS, TACKLE, CATCH CARE & DRINKS



way too excited and mess something up by moving too fast and spooking the bird or just didn't have the right aim on it. I'm sure with a little more practice, I'll be better prepared for next season and then I can bag a trophy Tom.

Not only was the hunt amazing, but the hospitality given by the outfitter was absolutely pleasant as well. There were delicious home cooked meals every night with great company and two cabins to stay in, both of which were very inviting and comfortable. The country out there is extremely beautiful and just full of peace. The outfitter did the very best to always be sure I was all set for whatever maybe needed and would put a lot of effort in to getting me into the turkeys. A special thanks to Tracy for the awesome hunt, and I would defiantly recommend this hunt to anyone else who would like to try a turkey hunt in the great Northwest.

*For more information on hunting in Washington contact your local Outdoor Connection franchise owner.*



### BRITISH COLUMBIA MIXED BAG (BCH2)

Sept 11-22, 2009 - 10 day hunt  
(Best dates for a goat/caribou combo)

\* Any 2 - Mt. Goat, Moose or Caribou

Was - \$12,500 **NOW - \$10,000**

\* To take a 3rd animal for only \$2,000 (reg. \$4,000)



## Outdoor Connection®

The Worldwide Hunting and Fishing Authority™

This complimentary issue of Tracks is provided by your local Outdoor Connection franchise owner. For more information on any of the adventures in this issue or other expeditions worldwide, contact the franchise owner below:

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