



Outdoor Christian Ministries Informational Newsletter

July, 2021

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512-497-7050

www.ocmtx.org

From "Big" Dale Hancock

Dale,

We made it back from the ranch and had a great time and excellent weather except it was 105 degrees. It was a special time that I had with all of the men and the life lessons they learned. I called in 5 coyotes and a pack of javelina that made for an interesting moment. They were running in and out and around the caller and decoy. They were about 15 ft from the boys. The boys were so freaked out when I called the coyotes in none of them ever fired a shot. We caught 45 bass between all of us. The youngest boy caught a monster bass that we released back into the pond. We saw some awesome sunsets and sunrises. God is awesome. We had a Bible Study each evening. The Lord is so good. Thank you for Outdoor Christian Ministries and its mission. You may not even know it but thank you for being my spiritual mentor and a brother in Christ. We just never know what the Lord has in store for us. May the Lord continue to bless you as well as Outdoor Christian Ministries.



President's Ponderings

It has been awhile since we prepared an OCM newsletter. We are currently in the middle of year 2021 which is our fourteenth year of operation. We had over 230 guests at the ranch in 2020 despite the issues that Covid-19 presented.

In this newsletter you will find comments from our guests as well as numerous photographs. We hope you find these as uplifting as we do.

After OCM secretary/treasurer Jay Gunn passed away, Mike Schneider led the way to name our Memorial Day weekend outing to the Jay Gunn Memorial Retreat. Eugene Pryor took over as secretary/treasurer after Jay became too weak to continue in that role.

At the OCM annual board meeting in May 2020, Mike Schneider announced his intention to resign as OCM vice president after 10 years and recommended long-time volunteer Phil Bynum move into the vice president spot in October 2020. The board voted to have Phil Bynum begin serving in that spot in October 2020. You will find an article by Phil in this newsletter.

Cross Trails Outfitters began coming to OCM in February 2015 and has come at least once a year since then including 2020 and 2021. It is a joy to have the men and boys of Cross Trails Outfitters. We have attached some recent quotes from them. I encourage everyone to view their website at www.teamcto.org.

A few years ago, Pastor Walker and I discussed modifying the OCM role at the ranch through lessening volunteers' chores on deer harvest efforts and increasing its percentage of time spent on actual retreats. That modification has proved successful in many ways. OCM wants to thank the Christianson and Benline families for taking on more deer harvest efforts and for numerous improvements on brush work, blind improvement, and feeder improvements.

There are numerous volunteers at the ranch. The volunteers that have been most active at the actual retreats include Clifford Graef, Phil Bynum, Mike Schneider, Pattie Burnett, Andy Burnett, "Big" Dale Hancock, James Crider, Joshua Burnett, Tracy Green, and myself.

It is an honor for all of us to serve through the OCM activities.

May God Continue to Bless all Guests and Volunteers,

Dale Burnett
OCM President



Testimonials

Keith Ferguson (from Houston area) January 2021

It was a pleasure as always. In late summer of each year, we always hope to get an invitation back to the ranch via Dale's email. Our friendships here have become family-like. This is a special place and operation. We are very thankful to OCM and Pastor Walker for the opportunities.

Daryl Yaw (from Houston area) January 2021

Ditto what Keith said. We really appreciate the trip each year.

Ms. Chris Poynor (from Central Texas) June 2020

Thank you so much. You've made this such a special experience for my entire family and Tracy.

Braiden Green (from San Antonio area) May 2021

Thank you for letting us go to the ranch. It was really fun and tell Ms. Pattie thanks for the food!"

G Jones (from Cross Trails) March 2021

Thank you for the opportunity to spend some awesome time with my son. It's hard to find property owners that are willing to offer a great hunt to us. My son shot his first javelin. We got to listen to God and have a few devotions with a bunch of great new friends. May God continue to bless you and your family for this valuable opportunity.

Jack Green (from San Antonio area) May 2021

Thank you for rides on the Polaris (ATV). Tell Mr. Mike thanks for teaching me archery.

Payton (from Cross Trails) March 2021

Thank ya'll so much for letting us come out on ya'll ranch. It is very beautiful and I'd love to come back soon because I got my first hog here. It was very fun to go fishing. I got a few big fish. So I just want to say thank ya'll very much for letting us come out and a great time here.

Braxton Green (from San Antonio area) May 2021

Thank you for letting our family go to your ranch. We had a great time.

Retired Pastor Jim Philpott (from a Methodist Church) April 2021

I really missed not going to the ranch in 2020 due to Covid-19 concerns. I hope we get to go in 2021.



Vice President's Note

Here I am stepping into some big VP shoes left by Mike Schnieder. Mike did a great job as the VP of Outdoor Christian Ministries and I hope that I can live up to the task. I am a new board member of OCM but, I have been helping out at OCM for over ten years. I retired in 2009 and was planning to find a new job and go back to work. Dale Burnett was my manager years earlier and I called him up to get his permission to use him as a reference. That reconnected Dale and I and a few months after that I began helping out at the ranch. I did just about every task you can imagine preparing and helping with fund raising hunts and OCM retreats. I have loved every minute. I have loved the outdoors all my life and have lived in the country most of my life. Almost everything I have done has been related to the outdoors in some way. I spent many years in Scouting and made some of the best friends of my life. When I started college the only thing I knew for sure was that I didn't want to work in an office. I had to be outdoors. I ended up getting a BS and MS in Aquatic Biology and went to work with the State of Texas in environmental protection.

Prior to a recent OCM retreat, Dale Burnett asked me if I would be interested in leading a Bible Study. I was a little hesitant at first because I have never led a Bible Study before. I told myself that this is something I have to do. I had to start somewhere! I knew I needed to choose a topic that was relevant and that I felt strongly about. I have always felt that the outdoors and my study of biology in particular gave me insight into many of God's great creations. In college several students asked me if I believed in God. When I told them yes they said: "but you're a scientist!" I told them yes and that science had only strengthened my belief in God because of what I had learned. For my Bible Study I chose the topic "Finding God in Nature." I loved leading the Bible Study and I am looking forward to improving and presenting it again in the future. One of the activities we had at this retreat was fishing in a pond at the ranch. While we were there Dale asked me to talk about the pond's ecology of sorts. I spoke about many of the creatures that would likely live in or around the pond and how wonderfully complex it is.

Job 12:7-9 tells us to ask the beast, the fowls, the earth, and the fishes and they shall teach us that the hand of the Lord hath wrought this. We already spend some time talking about nature during retreats at the ranch but, since that retreat I have been thinking about combining this Bible Study with a field trip to the pond. Not to fish (maybe some fishing) but, to explore the pond instead of just talking about it. I have the nets, scopes, and other equipment I would need to collect samples of and examine a variety of the life in that pond. We could then study those creatures and marvel in the wondrous complexity of God's Creation. My hope is to continue to assist and potentially enhance the experience of everybody that attends our retreats at the ranch.

Stop and smell the roses and all the rest of God's Wondrous Works.

Phil Bynum, VP OCM

So Many Options



Fishing Stories



Teammates



Fellowship



Practice Makes You Better



2021 OCM Leadership

Officers Volunteers:

Dale Burnett	President	512-497-7050
Phil Bynum	Vice President	210-241-2434
Eugene Pryor	Secretary/Treasurer	281-794-5215

Other Volunteers:

Clifford Graef	512-870-7940
Pattie Burnett	512-750-9770
Andy Burnett	512-415-1247
Robbie Burnett	512-797-6949
Mike Schneider	512-913-5163
Joshua Burnett	512-468-1112
Tracy Green	512-413-7510
Pastor David Walker	210-394-2795

Donations:

OCM has been blessed by many monetary donations, small and large. OCM has also been blessed with non-cash donations including those of labor. OCM is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and your contribution is tax deductible. If you wish to donate materials or equipment, call Dale Burnett.

If you wish to make a monetary donation via credit card, then please use the PayPal "Donate" button located in the upper right hand corner of our web pages (www.ocmtx.org). You do not need to have a PayPal account; they will simply charge your credit card for the specific dollar amount that you enter. If you wish to donate monetarily, please make your check out to "Outdoor Christian Ministries" and mail it to:

Dale Burnett
3300 Elder Hill Road
Driftwood, Texas 78619