



# CALL OF THE WILD

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A Publication of Wilderness International™ Inc., a non-profit conservation group with a biblical worldview

## WHO WE ARE

We are Christians that love the outdoors. We may choose kayaking, fishing, bird watching, white water rafting, camping, hiking, photography, conservation work, skiing, hunting or any of a number of outdoor activities. The bottom line is we love to experience this great world God has created and desire to help others to do the same. Our goals are to:

1. Operate a professional, cutting-edge, conservation organization with a biblical worldview.
2. Engage the Christian community in the conservation and environmental movements.
3. Provide outdoor adventures and conservation projects to enable people from all walks of life to experience and care for God's creation.
4. Proclaim that **nature** is the "Art of God" and that it declares His majesty to all people.
5. In every activity we do, gently expose those we work with to the creator and assist them in making an intimate connection with Him.



*"Nature is too thin a screen; the glory of the omnipresent God bursts through everywhere"*

Ralph Waldo Emerson



## ***THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS!***

Last fall we began our first membership drive and we are continuing our push towards the goal of recruiting 1000 members. We would like to say thank you to each one of you that has already joined. We cannot accomplish anything without your support, prayers, membership fees, and involvement.

For a minimal annual donation of \$25 our members enable us to help people intimately connect with the creator through experiencing His creation. This ability becomes much stronger with each new member. If you have not already done so, will you please consider joining with us?

Just go to our website and click on the **"Join Wilderness International"** link. Or fill out the form on the last page of this newsletter and mail it in. Thank you for standing with us as we promote the truth of Romans 1:20.



***Since the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, ....***

***Romans 1:20***

**WILDERNESS HUMOR: “Roping a Deer”** - On my ranch in the winter, deer will congregate at the cattle feeder and do not seem to have much fear of me when I am close by. A bold one will sometimes come right up and sniff at the bags of feed while I am in the back of the truck not 4 feet away. While observing this one day I came up with the silly idea to rope one, feed it corn for a couple of weeks, then butcher and eat it.

I filled the cattle feeder, then hid down at the end with my rope. The cattle, having seen the roping thing before, stayed well back. After about 20 minutes, 3 deer showed up. I picked out a likely looking one, stepped out from the end of the feeder, and threw my rope. The deer just stood there and stared at me. I wrapped the rope around my waist and twisted the end so I would have a good hold. The deer still just stood and stared at me, but you could tell it was mildly concerned about the whole rope situation. I put a little tension on the rope ... and then received an education. The first thing that I learned is that, while a deer may just stand there looking at you funny while you rope it, they are spurred to action when you start pulling on that rope. That deer EXPLODED.

The second thing I learned is that pound for pound, a deer is a LOT stronger than a cow or a colt. I could fight down small cow or colt with a rope and some dignity. A deer -- no chance. That thing ran and bucked and twisted and pulled. There was no controlling it and certainly no getting close to it. As it jerked me off my feet and started dragging me across the ground, it occurred to me that having a deer on a rope was not nearly as good an idea as I had originally imagined.

After 10 minutes the deer tired and I was able to get on my feet again. At that point, I had lost my taste for corn-fed venison, and just wanted to get that devil creature off the end of that rope. Despite the gash in my head and the several large knots where I had cleverly arrested the deer's momentum by bracing my head against various large rocks as it dragged me across the ground, I could still think clearly enough to recognize that there was a small chance that I shared some tiny amount of responsibility for the situation we were in. I didn't want the deer to have to suffer a slow death with a rope around it's neck, so I managed to get it between my truck and the feeder - a little trap I had set before hand...kind of like a squeeze chute. I got it to back in there and I started moving up so I could get my rope back.

Did you know that deer bite? They do! Never in a million years would I have thought that a deer would bite somebody, so I was very surprised when I reached up there to grab that rope and the deer grabbed hold of my wrist. Now, when a deer bites you, it is not like being bit by a horse where they just bite you and let go. A deer bites you and shakes its head --almost like a pit bull. They bite HARD and it hurts. The proper thing to do when a deer bites you is probably to freeze and draw back slowly. I tried screaming and shaking instead. My method was ineffective. It seems like the deer was biting and shaking for several minutes, but it was likely only several seconds. I, being smarter than a deer (though you may be questioning that claim by now), tricked it. While I kept it busy tearing the tendons out of my right arm, I reached up with my left hand and pulled that rope loose.

That was when I got my final lesson in deer behavior for the day. Deer will strike at you with their front feet. They rear right up on their back feet and strike at head level with surprisingly sharp hooves. I learned a long time ago that, when an animal --like a horse --strikes at you with their hooves and you can't get away easily, the best thing to do is try to make noise and an aggressive move towards the animal. This will usually cause them to back down a bit so you can escape. This was not a horse, this was a deer, so such trickery would not work. Very quickly I devised a different strategy, I screamed like a girl and tried to turn and run. The reason I had always been told NOT to try to turn and run from a horse that paws at you is that there is a good chance that it will hit you in the back of the head. Deer may not be so different from horses after all. The second I turned to run, it hit me right in the back of the head and knocked me down. Now, when a deer paws at you and knocks you down, it does not immediately leave. I suspect it does not recognize that the danger has passed. What they do instead is paw your back and jump up and down on you while you are laying there crying like a little girl and covering your head. I finally managed to crawl under the truck and the deer went away. The best lesson I learned from all of this, if you ever think of roping a deer, don't do it!

*Author Unknown – this article has been passed around the Internet for the last couple of months. If you enjoy this type of outdoor humor, we would suggest you consider looking into books written by the well-known author, Patrick McManus. This is purely fictional humor and we would never promote or support any abuse of wildlife. Humor is good medicine for the soul.*



## 2009 WILDERNESS INTERNATIONAL “COMMUNITY CONSERVATION DAY”

Gladstone OR – Wilderness Intl. approached the Gladstone city council early in the year to begin a much-needed native habitat restoration project at Meldrum Bar Park on the Willamette and Clackamas Rivers.

With the cities agreement and support, much planning was under way and several site preparation workdays conducted. The entire event culminated with 45 workers joining forces on April 18<sup>th</sup> for a full day of work. The first target area was cleared of invasive plants, mulch and topsoil were spread, and then over 1000 plants were put in the ground. Two weeks later the native plant starts began to leaf out and bloom.

WI had the privilege of partnering with several organizations on this project and is moving towards making this a large multi-year project. WI would like to thank the following for their support: The City of Gladstone, SOLV, Oregon 150, Starbucks, Pitney Bowes, Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation, Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, Friends of Rinearson Creek, Clackamas County Juvenile Dept. and all of individuals that have joined in on the volunteer workdays.

To learn more about this particular project or our work with native habitat restoration you are invited to visit the website listed below.



# [www.wildernessintl.com](http://www.wildernessintl.com)

**Our website has been improved and updated. Check it out and let us know what you think!**

### Membership Enrollment Form

Please complete this form and mail it along with a donation for \$25 to:  
**Wilderness International Inc. PO Box 491 Canby OR 97013**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City ST Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_



We can always use a donation above the \$25 membership donation to further our mission.

Please indicate any additional amount here: \_\_\_\_\_. Wilderness International is an IRS approved 501c3 tax-exempt organization so your donations are tax deductible.