

# 2016 HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBER AWARD

## Eugene Linn Sponsored by **SCI** FIRST FOR HUNTERS

BIG GAME HUNTING

### First, Thanks everybody, for the honor

of being selected for a Lifetime Membership to WYOGA. That was a huge surprise. I recently read the list of Lifetime Members and recognized quite a few friends. They represent some of the best in our profession.

This history could go on for quite a while. I will try to keep it short.

In 1905, My Grandfather, Bennie L. Linn, and two brothers, decided to leave western N. Dakota and become Idaho farmers.



Eastman. He later published the Eastman Journal and produced the cow elk call which we have all used. In those days you took the Outfitters License test in person and with others. I took it with Don Turner, Gap Puche and Bill Townsend. During this time our son, Peter, and our daughter, Laura, were born.

Ellen and I outfitted hunters and took pack trips in the Jed Smith Wilderness Area of the Teton Mountains and southern Yellowstone Park.



They drove a team and wagon across Montana, turning south through Yellowstone Park and Jackson Hole. A wagon wheel broke on Teton Pass. They returned to Wilson and camped on some unclaimed land along the Snake River while the wagon was being repaired. My Grandfather homesteaded that land. I still live on part of it today.

Within two years of arriving in the "Hole", Bennie Linn began guiding hunters for a neighbor named Otho Williams. In those days and until the end of World War II, the terms "Guide" and "Outfitter" meant the same thing. My grandfather outfitted from the teens until 1939. Slim Pendegraft was a friend and his business partner. His clients included a well known "Doc Holtz" from Lander. Through the forties and fifties my Grandfather and my Dad, Eugene B. Linn, guided for Ben Taylor on the Soda Fork of the Buffalo River.

In the early sixties my father guided for George Clover on Spread Creek in the Mount Leidy Highlands. I shot my first Elk there one weekend when I was in High School.

My guiding career began in the late sixties for Dick Umbenhauer on the Upper Hoback. I moved on to the Darwin Ranch in the Gros Ventures, guiding for Loring Woodman. In 1974, while working there, I had the good fortune of meeting my wife, Ellen. In 1976 we bought Teton Outfitters from Mike

Eventually, as our son Peter took an active role, we bought a pack trip business from Trail Creek Ranch in Wilson. This included summer trips in the Gros Venture and Teton Wildernesses.

I joined WYOGA around 1979. George Clover sponsored my application to join. Ray Billings asked me to serve as Secretary/Treasurer during his presidency of WYOGA. Subsequently, I was the Secretary for Tim Doud, Steve Shaeffer, Tim Haberberger and Terry Pollard. Over the years I have served as President, Vice President, Secretary and a Board Member for Jackson Hole Outfitters and Guides Assn.

Two years ago my son Peter became the outfitter for Linn Brothers Outfitting, Inc and the Darwin Ranch. Ellen and I are still active in the business. We drive the trucks and pay the bills instead of guiding the guests. It is a pleasure to pass this business along to a fourth generation.

At the end of my time as Secretary of WYOGA, we moved the office to Casper. I was in favor of that move and think it has been of great benefit to the Association. Jim Schell once called me "Secretary for Life" of WYOGA. Now Sy Gilliland has beat me out for that distinction.

Thanks, Sy, for the nomination for this award. I will treasure it. 🐾