

WYOMING OUTFITTERS & GUIDES ASSOCIATION 2023 HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBER AWARD: LYNN MADSEN

I WAS RAISED on a dairy farm in a little town called Firth, located in southeast Idaho. I spent every day milking cows but from a young age I had a real love for horses. Though my dad didn't care for horses much, I had a grandpa who did. My grandpa Jack was an avid hunter and fisherman. I spent a lot of time on a creek bank and in the mountains with him via horseback. He had lived in Etna for several years and he told me a lot of stories about Wyoming. He had a yearly subscription to Outdoor Life Magazine. When he finished reading each monthly magazine, he gave it to me and I would read it from cover to cover. I once remember seeing a hunting ad from Frome's in the magazine and I remember thinking "How cool would that be to do that for a living?" Little did I know that the same camp advertised in that issue, would one day be ours.

My wife Marcene and I got married in 1972 and we decided to live in Cokeville where she was raised. Her father Everett Peterson lived in Cokeville and was an outfitter there. I got a job with the local telephone company and would use my vacation time to guide for Everett. I absolutely loved the mountains and the horses. Over the years, Everett taught me a lot about guiding and packing. In the late 80's, Everett and I bought a camp together in the Commissary Ridge country which is closer to my current home in Afton. This was an exciting time of life for me as I was off and running as an outfitter. We later also bought the Wagon Train from LD Frome. In 1992 we bought the camp at Hawks Rest in the Teton Wilderness from Randy Hecker, which was the same camp I had read about as a boy.



We decided to sell our camps in the Afton area and focus on our camp at Hawks Rest. We called it Yellowstone Outfitters. Marcene took care of the groceries and other supplies, always making sure I had what I needed. My son Chad packed for us. Chad loved the mules and being a packer. He always made sure everything was taken care of with the camp. With their help and others, all I had to do was guide.

A few years later, we bought the horse rental company from Mont Harmon and called it Yellowstone Horse Rentals. Chad, who was only 21 at the time, ran the horse rentals and was very good at it. Under Chad, that business has grown from a few hundred horses, to a couple of thousand.

I could have never done any of this without the help of my family. My children, Chad, Kim, Renae, and Candace have all played a part in operating the business.

The grandkids have also had a part in it from a young age. My oldest grandson Brandon first rode into Hawks Rest when he was 5 years old and has never missed a year since. His younger brother Kyle is now helping Chad run Yellowstone Horse Rentals. Brandon and his wife Kendra now run Yellowstone Outfitters and they both love Hawks Rest as much as I do. They will do well there.

It has been a privilege to be a part of the Wyoming Outfitters Association. I have gained so many lifetime friends here. Happy trails to all of you.

—Lynn Madsen 🐾

