

WYOMING OUTFITTERS & GUIDES ASSOCIATION 2025 HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBER AWARD — GARY AMERINE —

I was raised in a small town in Northern California, where I grew up hunting and fishing. Most mornings before school were spent hunting ducks and I would skid into school just in time to throw my waders and shotgun in my locker.

In 1979, I spent my first fall guiding in Wyoming. Come September, I would make my way to Wyoming to guide until my family and I were able to make the move permanent. I was fortunate enough to guide for various outfits throughout the Greys River over the years until buying our camp in the Greys River from my good friend, Ken Clark, in 1997. My wife Jenny and I ran the camp together until retiring in 2012. While Jenny would occasionally agree to cook when we were in a bind, she much preferred to come out guiding each day. Those days on the mountains alongside her were special.

While anyone who has been in the outfitting business can attest too, the stories are endless. My favorite hunter story has to be when a hunter lost his rifle after making the fateful decision to put his scabbard rear facing. Joined by Jenny, the hunter and I went looking for the rifle. Not only did we find the rifle hanging in a tree where it had been pulled out of the scabbard, we came upon what would be the highest scoring



typical deer of the year.

But my most cherished stories are those made with my family and friends. Not only did I work side-by-side with my wife Jenny, our two daughters could frequently be found in camp. Whether it was saddling horses, doing dishes, or spotting the first deer of the day, the girls were always eager to help. While dubious at first, after seeing how helpful

they both were, hunters would quickly switch to asking if the two little blonde girls were around or coming along to help.

During my years outfitting, I was also fortunate enough to serve on the WYOGA board, including serving as Vice President and President. A special thanks to all the friends I made at WYOGA along the way. During that time, we worked through some thorny issues with Game and Fish, and the professionalism with which WYOGA worked to address those issues was unmatched.

What an honor it is to have been selected for the Lifetime Member Award. It came as quite a surprise. I couldn't be more humbled to join the list of Lifetime Members. It was great working alongside all of you. Keep up the good fight. 🙌

