



Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow (CLFT) is an intensive 5-day hunting awareness and conservation education workshop designed for current and future professional leaders within natural resource agencies, organizations, and select university students. Every year ODWC sends a handful of employees to the training in hopes of giving them the opportunity to grow as they learn how to engage the hunting, fishing, and trapping community and explore the roles of hunting in Wildlife Conservation.

This year the employees were: Catherine Appling-Pooler (A), Sean Robertson (A), Amy Newcomb (FA), Alexander Cooper (W), Jake McCandless (A), Kara Gardner (CE), and Heather Del Moral (CE). Each employee came back with a unique perspective on their role in the agency as a newfound leader in conservation.



"I shot my first shotgun, and out of 20 clays I only missed 4! I also harvested my first pheasant. The training helped me see how important conservation is."
-Sean Robertson



"Throughout the workshop we covered diverse aspects of conservation, from hunting practices and policies to understanding hunter motivations and demographics. The sessions covered essential topics like hunter responsibility, ethics, hands-on firearm training and hunter education. One of the highlights was joining a pheasant hunt at Prospect Hall Hunting and Shooting Club. I'm grateful for the chance to meet with fellow natural resource professionals from other state and federal agencies and would highly encourage others at ODWC to attend a CLfT workshop!"
- Catherine Appling-Pooler



"CLfT was a great chance to get to spend time with a lot of early career wildlife professionals who, like me, didn't have hunting and fishing as part of their upbringing. It was also great to see the perspectives and attitudes of many late career professionals who come with different backgrounds and from all over the country. I even learned a lot during the conversations at meals or during activities."
-Alex Cooper



"A week at the National Conservation Training Center for the Conservation Leader for Tomorrow workshop was a week jam-packed with knowledge transfer, field experiences, and comradery. With little to no personal hunting background, this workshop perfectly suited the expansion of my hunting understanding and its relevancy to wildlife conservation. It was a week I'll remember forever!"
- Amy Newcomb



"I am grateful for the opportunity to attend CLfT at the National Conservation Training Center. My classmates and teachers were all amazing people, making the whole adventure well worth it. I better understand the importance of hunting as a tool for conservation. I get why it can become a way of life for so many. This opportunity has opened the door to a world that can be appear intimidating from the outside. Thank you ODWC for sending me on this once in a lifetime opportunity. If you haven't gone yet GO."

- Kara Gardner



"CLfT was an amazing program and I highly recommend anyone in our field to go. You get amazing instructors and work with people who care about the conservation of our country's wildlife resources."

-Jake McCandless



"I'm so grateful for the opportunity to attend the CLfT workshop. The week was intense and filled with valuable information. It deepened my understanding of the science behind hunting and the North American model of wildlife conservation, highlighting its significance. Building new friendships with fellow wildlife conservation professionals was a rewarding aspect of the experience."

-Heather Del Moral

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