

## PBS Bio

I grew up on a rural Midwest farm where hunting and fishing was a normal part of life. Deer season was celebrated in my family with the loud bangs of shotguns each November. There were no bows or bowhunters in the equation. Yet somehow my brother Ron and I got it into our heads that was the way to go. We bought ourselves a couple Bear 76ers and were determined to teach ourselves this new skill and take deer with them. The challenge was addictive even though the first deer harvested with our bows didn't come along until a few years down the road.

During my years in the Marine Corp. my wife Tracey and I took up shooting and hunting with compound bows, like many people did in the 1980's. It seemed the thing to do and we followed the crowd into compound archery. It was a lot of fun for many years and we harvested many animals all over the US and Canada. As our family grew we shared our passion for archery with them and it was a way of life for us. Meat we harvested ourselves on the table, feeding our family, was a something we were very proud of.

As serendipity would have it, one year we got invited by a friend to go to the Kalamazoo Traditional Archery Expo. Tracey and I had a blast! It felt like we had come home after a long journey into a foreign land. I was determined to dig out my old recurve and use it. I bought Tracey an old second hand bow that day and we started a new traditional archery journey.

The traditional archery community became our family and after a bit it seemed a natural progression for it to become our business as well. We took over St. Joe River Bows and Thunderbird Traditional Archery finishes. The traditional archery lifestyle suits us right down to the ground and it is who we are. We don't harvest as many animals these days but every harvest is a blessing we cherish. Mentoring and helping newbies into archery has become a huge part of our lives and we love every opportunity to help new ones join our wonderful way of life.

This is why in 2010 I joined the PBS. I want to strongly encourage all to promote and protect our archery heritage and PBS is a great organization for doing both. Helping our youth find this amazing archery lifestyle is key. Supporting strong ethics and sticking to our core values is needed. Coupled with mentoring and welcoming new hunters into our great traditional hunting lifestyle.