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THE PROFESSIONAL BOWHUNTER MAGAZINE

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On the cover: Lolo National Forest in Northwestern MT taken by Dan Mathis.

THE PROFESSIONAL BOWHUNTER MAGAZINE

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President's Message

by Matt Schuster

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I hope you are all having a safe and successful hunting season. By the time you read this, a group of twenty PBS brothers will have hunted Blackbeard Island together, and I hope that we have a few hero pictures to add to those of you who have participated in earlier PBS Hunts this year. It will be hard to beat the guys that did so well at the Land-Between-The-Lakes, but we will give it our best shot. Many thanks to all of you who put in the work to make these happen and to those that showed up to hunt and make new friends. When we hunt or gather under the PBS name, we show the best of our organization.

Wasn't The History of PBS that Bernard Giancoletto put together for the last magazine great? And wow, how times have changed and not always for the better. Politically, PBS, along with other groups, had great success keeping bowhunting a simple sport for a long time, but for now, that overall battle looks bleak. Recently, after writing a letter to an official in Tennessee (after researching and finding out he played golf) to oppose the legalization of the Crosman Airbow for those deemed handicapped during archery season,

I equated the Airbow to shooting golf balls with a bazooka and pointed out that anyone who could shoot one of these pneumatic guns could already use a crossbow. He agreed, but said he would vote for it anyway because, bottom line, it was about money and another license fee. At least he was honest. But that is what we are up against – numbers and money. In the East and Midwest, it is unlikely that any technology will be ruled out. Game departments want more animals killed, not less, but in the west where technology is leading to easy success and driving up kill rates, there may be hope yet when hunters realize that limited animal populations can only take so much pressure. When success rates on some bull elk hunts go way above the traditional rate of five or six percent, then something will eventually have to give. In the meantime, because we don't have the numbers or the money to do otherwise, our best strategy is to win hearts and minds one at a time by being positive role models and preaching short range bowhunting to as many folks as we can.

On a recent mule deer hunt with fellow PBS folks Sam Roberts and Jeff Lander, there



were two modern bowhunters in camp with us. Both were great guys, and good company. Much of their conversation focused on equipment which is normal and that can be the case with traditional guys too, although our conversations don't tend toward using tech to solve problems. If memory serves me correctly, these gentlemen, and they were, took four shots over fifty yards, and tagged one buck. We discussed that a lot because even a perfectly shot arrow is not always perfect at long range when the animal can take one step and change everything. My aim is not to poke at these guys. They probably shoot better at fifty yards than I do at fifteen, but what interested me most is that they were both interested in what we do with our equipment. They looked at a lot of our pictures of past success and, I think, were impressed by the fact that both Sam and I were perfectly willing to go to a lot of time and expense to

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go on a hunt and not come close to getting a shot, and we did not come close. But we had a great time and learned a lot. One of the two guys expressed interest in ordering a recurve, and I hope he does. Closer to home, one of the young men in my local hunt club killed a doe the first time he went out this season with his compound and that same day picked up a spare longbow that my buddy Dudley McGarity had and started shooting. Now obsessed, he can't wait to get home from work just shoot his bow. A good hunter, I have no doubt

that he will tag his first critter with a simple stick this year, and he has already commented about how much he has learned just watching deer that he would have already shot with his modern bow but that were well beyond his current range. I like that.

Anyway, I have to go help a buddy fetch a buck, so I am going to wrap this up by urging all Regular Members to vote in a timely fashion in the upcoming election. This is a big one with three open offices so choose wisely but do choose. PBS is growing nicely so let's

stay on the same path to success in the future. Harmony has made voting on the website simple, and for those that are not internet savvy, nothing changes – you will receive a ballot in the mail.

Shoot straight and please send us stories and pictures when you do!

Matt Schuster

Vice President's Message

by Terry Receveur

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I wrote this report sitting at a fold-up table overlooking an oxbow lake at my hunting cabin in Indiana. I'm looking at the skeletal remains of a buck I harvested two days earlier. It is now packed and frozen in a small freezer under the cabin. I'm hoping one of the many coyotes in the area decides to come in for an easy meal...and not leave!

Like most PBS members we all look forward to the fall hunting seasons and for many of us the much anticipated whitetail rut. It was no different for me heading into the fall, but I was harboring a bit of trepidation. I have been struggling with target panic and had very little confidence in my shooting and ability to ethically harvest an animal. I wasn't sure I would be toting my trusty Stalker Coyote longbow. Fortunately, well known archer and phenomenal bow shot Curt Cabrera would be joining me on an early November deer hunt. We arrived at camp, and I gave Curt a run down of the problems I was having, and he made a few suggestions. We then went out and shot some arrows. I shot four arrows and all four were tight on the target at about nineteen yards. The next two arrows had one right in the zone and the 6th arrow flew over the target deer's back... but I knew what I did. I didn't anchor and settle in on the target. After that I knew what I needed to do. I had enough confidence to carry the bow afield. On the fourth sit of our hunt a beautiful buck gave me a perfect shot at seventeen yards. I was calm as a cucumber mainly because the buck I had in front of me was much

smaller than a couple other bucks I had seen previously and I knew this buck was a gift and I wasn't going to pass it up. I focused on a specific little tuft of hair and pulled the string back and anchored at the corner of my mouth. I then let down and did the exact same thing again but upon hitting anchor and focusing on the tuft of hair I released the string. I wish I could tell you I saw the arrow flight and knew exactly where the arrow hit. I honestly don't recall seeing the arrow in flight or it hitting the buck. I knew it was tight in the chest and heard the tell tale hollow thump and the buck mule kicked. After the shot, the buck ran about thirty yards and stopped, and it looked like he wobbled and fell and then I saw his head pop up again. He ran over next to a creek bank, and I just wasn't sure if he fell, or he simply went down over the creek bank. I felt pretty sure of the shot, but without seeing where exactly the arrow hit, I was very concerned. I waited over an hour and then took up the trail. The arrow was covered tip to nock in blood and had no gut scent. I started looking for blood and found only a few specks. I went another ten yards and found a few more drops and just enough to confirm the direction I knew he went. I went another ten yards without finding blood and decided to walk up to where I thought he fell. Hallelujah, he was right there. The shot was actually perfect and right where the tuft of hair was. It put a nice Snuffer hole right through the top of the heart and pierced both lungs. I have no idea why there was so little blood. I was



ecstatic with the buck and the shot taken. The buck is a clean eight point with just a little one inch sticker on one of his G2s. The body of the buck is massive and Curt and I about died loading him onto the back of a side by side to get him out of the woods.

There are two valuable lessons in this little story. First, never under estimate the value of having a good friend and PBS brother to help you through a struggle (thank you Curt); and secondly, have the courage to admit your limitations and challenges and keep working to resolve them. I won't say my target panic is cured, but I know what I need to do to keep it at bay.

I hope all of you have had a wonderful Fall hunting season and found success in whatever way you define it.

Aim small and miss small.

Terry Receveur

Council's Report

by Preston Lay
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I hope all is well with you and your families. It's the time of year we are preparing for fall hunting seasons. Pursuit with the bow and arrow has brought us together as a group to form the greatest of bowhunting organizations. Recently, we have had a lot of new members join our ranks and this is great. For us to continue, we must remain assembled with passionate bowhunters to carry the legacy that has been forged from our past membership. Any organization must have a structure to maintain its integrity and the PBS is no different. We follow the PBS By-Laws to ensure all rules are fair and consistent with the original mission of PBS. I will throw a few details out that might benefit our new members to provide a better understanding of what the PBS is about.

I would like to say thank you to those who sent me compliments on my last Council report. The kind words are appreciated. It's that time of year here in Oklahoma. I'm trying

to find some time to get this written. Early November is the time to be in the field, tree, funnel, you get the picture!

I would like to thank Ethan Rodrigue and Dalton Lewis for their work with the podcast. They bring lots of exposure to the PBS. If you haven't listened in on one, I encourage you to do so. They are a great way to pass the time on a long drive. There are many different topics on many subjects. It is neat to enter in the lives of such great people. You will notice that many podcast subjects are PBS members. Thanks again for the work you guys do.

Most of us are PBS members in part to hold on to tradition. As part of our mission statement suggests "Bowhunting's Traditional Values". It's so great to be amongst other bowhunters that share the same passion. I had a great conversation with another member on acceptable fair chase. Is it okay to hunt over bait in Texas, but not Oklahoma? What about carbon arrows, vs wood? A traditional game



camera vs one that sends picture to a smart phone? I believe as long as it is fair chase, legal then it lies in the eyes of the beholder.

It just so happens not by much of a coincidence that PBS members are usually on the same line of thinking when it comes to bowhunting's traditional values. I remind any new member to reach out to Council members with any questions about PBS. Also don't forget to send in pictures for the magazine. We all enjoy looking at successful members from around the world.

Shoot straight and God bless.

Preston Lay

Council's Report

by Sean Bleakley
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It's been a long, hot, dry summer and as I write this, I am three weeks into my bow season. Bucks are starting their love sick rituals, making scrapes and leaving rubs. The air is cool and crisp as morning frost glazes over the top of fall's magnificent colors. It's mid-October, the time of year that bowhunters look forward to the most.

As I was anxiously awaiting the arrival of my 250 inch P&Y, twenty five point monster to show up at ten yards, I couldn't help but to admire my Robertson Tribal Styk that was sitting in my lap. Dick Robertson made this

bow for me in 2018 and was a gift from my wife for my fiftieth birthday. Not only is it a smooth shooting, hard hitting bow, it is what I call functional artwork. The bow is made of bocote and myrtle burl with ram horn tips. Some of my favorite woods. What made that bow even more special, is that Dick is a long time PBS member as well as a master bowyer. I then realized that I was wearing or carrying with me, other items that were made by very talented PBS members.

My arrows were Douglas fir shafts that were custom crested and fletched by Gary



Hall of D&M Custom Arrows. I kept them safe in a Great Northern Quiver made by new owner Eric McKee. My knife was made by Jeff Springer, and its sheath was made by Dennis Filippelli of DWF Leather Artistry. Both were donations for an online auction put on by Tradgang.com to benefit the PBS.



My arm guard was custom made for me by Ethan Rodrigue. Ethan is an excellent leather worker and bowyer in his own right. I was fortunate enough to shoot one of his Little Mountain Bows at the banquet in Reno this past spring, and can attest to their smoothness

and accuracy.

Every time that I step into the woods, I carry the PBS with me, not just in my heart but in my hand and on my belt. Each of the members that I've mentioned are huge supporters of the PBS and have donated items to

our banquets, gatherings and other auctions. You can support the PBS by supporting our members.

Sean Bleakley

Council's Report

by Bubba Graves

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I hope all are having an enjoyable and productive season so far. I recently returned from a hunting trip in Alaska chasing moose. The moose unfortunately had other things to do than get within bow range of me. Nonetheless I had a great time and managed to kill an animal that not many have killed with a longbow, more on that later.

There is a lot of good things going on within the PBS. There are some great membership hunts lined up for this fall and some have already passed. Mark Wang put on a banner hunt this fall at the Land Between the Lakes. From what I could tell they had a great time, and many deer were killed. Make sure you check out the PBS forum and publication for other upcoming hunts.

Steve Hohensee has been working behind the scenes and coming up with some great ideas to keep the members connected and to be able to participate in activities virtually. Keep a lookout for these events that are coming in 2023. I for one am hoping that these will be a hit and we can continue doing such activities.

It also looks like that there will be several Odd Year Gatherings planned for this coming year, so be on the lookout for those as well.

As of this writing we have gained 216 new members and several Associate members have stepped up their commitment to the PBS by becoming Qualified Regular Members. Congratulations to them all.

I've said it once and I will continue to say



it, the members are what makes the PBS what it is, the finest bowhunting organization in the world. We are approaching our 60th anniversary and it's because of members like you and members of the past that will keep us going for another sixty years and beyond.

In closing, I challenge each member to become a better representative of our organization and the sport that we love. Mentor a new bowhunter, do your best to recruit new members, promote the PBS, attend an Odd Year Gathering and be a positive example for all to follow.

Bubba Graves

Chaplain's Corner

by Gene Thorn

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CLOSE!

There was no sound that alerted me that a bear was close - right under my treestand. His stark black figure just appeared, seemingly out of nowhere, when I shifted my gaze to the left. How such a large animal could move stealthily through the fall woods in complete silence is a marvel. I had heard chipmunks and squirrels scuffling dry leaves in their frantic search for seeds and acorns all afternoon. I even heard the wings of birds flitting as they flew from branch to branch in my tree. These little critters were only a small fraction of the size and weight of the bear but made an enormous volume of noise. The bear was fairly young and not big enough to interest me in taking a shot, so I let him walk and enjoyed watching him. He followed a well-defined trail out through the open woods in front of me for a couple hundred yards and melted into the distant ridgeline forest. I have had other bears just appear, close like that, several other times. It is always a thrill!

There are times in our life that God seems far away. When tough times and circumstances come our way, we can feel alone. The Bible reassures us many times, that like the silent bear in the forest that appears close by, that the Lord is near; He is with us. When we have a relationship with Him, the promise He gives us is that He will never leave or forsake us. The Lord is near! The Greek word used for near in the New Testament is "engys" and means nearness in place and position. Wherever you go, day and night, day in and day out the Holy Spirit dwells in you and the Lord is with you.

JAMES 4:8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

If we are feeling that God is far from us, we need to speak to Him, read His Word, listen to Him, and be encouraged. Draw closer to Him. He will reciprocate by drawing closer to you.

Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

There is something about sharing a meal together that brings people closer. Our family has always made every effort to sit down together at dinnertime and eat a good meal while sharing the day's events. As bowhunters, it is fulfilling to be able to supply meat from the game we have taken to feed our family and friends. The Lord is saying He wants to share this intimate experience. He desires to be at our table and converse with us. He wants to help us with any problem. He cares about every detail of our lives. Ultimately, He has given us the bounty we feast from. He is close but we must choose to let Him in when He knocks. Let us draw **Close!**

The words of the hymn "In the Garden" tell the same feeling we get when the Lord comes close to us in the woods and fields we bowhunters frequent for so many days of our lives.

**I come to the garden alone
While the dew is still on the roses
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear
The Son of God discloses
And He walks with me
And He talks with me
And He tells me I am His own
And the joy we share as we tarry there
None other has ever known**



1ST ANNUAL PBS VIRTUAL CLOUT TOURNAMENT

By Steve Hohensee

CLOUT HISTORY:

Clout shooting was practiced by Medieval archers to prepare for the long-distance shots used in warfare at that time. A clout shoot was held at the 2021 Bighorn Mountains Odd Year Gathering and it was a lot of fun so it only seems fitting that we should hold a clout tournament for all the members in our virtual events series. The timing is purposefully right when winter is breaking in many locales and in advance of all but the earliest of turkey seasons.



DATES:

March 25 or 26, 2023 (pick your date). If you have a date conflict, shoot your round any date in March prior to March 26.

SHOOTING RANGE:

Virtual participants need to locate a large, safe, open field to shoot their clout ends. Participants may shoot solo or with a group of other members.

SHOOTING LINE AND TARGET LOCATION:

The clout will be placed 180 yards for men and 140 yards for women and juniors under sixteen years of age. Yards may be paced out versus measured for convenience but should be corrected for long or short paces. Drive a stake into the ground to serve as the clout and tie a visible flag/rag onto the stake that can be seen from the shooting line.

SHOOTING:

In any combination of number of arrows, generally six arrows per end, each archer will shoot a total of sixty arrows from their shooting line at the clout.

SCORING:

Measure from the center stake of the target to EACH arrow with a tape measure,

Measure to where the arrow enters the ground or, for bounce outs, measure to the tip of the arrow point. Record the score for each of your sixty arrows; the sum of the sixty arrows is your final score using the following distance to determine score:

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 18" = 5 points | 9' = 2 points |
| 3' = 4 points | 12' = 1 point |
| 6' = 3 points | >12' = 0 points |

PRIZES:

There will be an award for the Clout winner. Please record your single closest arrow's distance in inches from the clout as it will be used in the event of a tie. Door prizes will also be awarded by drawing from submitted scorecards. You must be a member prior to the event to qualify for the winner's award or prizes.

Scores with archer's name and state to be sent by text message to Steve H. at 307-299-7040 no later than 6pm MST on Sunday, March 26. Winners will be announced on the website and PBS Facebook page on Sunday evening, March 26.

We need your email address!

Want to be in-the-know about all things PBS? Join our emailing list for all the latest updates on your organization. If you have not received an email from the PBS President in the last month then we do not have your correct email address. (Be sure to check your junk mail folder as well as sometimes your email system may filter them as spam.)

Please email Harmony
your best email address at
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to be added to our email list!



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Regional Profile

This is an ongoing segment in the magazine titled "REGIONAL PROFILE". In this segment we will highlight one state and give a brief explanation of species available to hunt, out of state license fees, public land opportunities, and any other information that might be

helpful to fellow members interested in taking advantage of that state's hunting opportunities. This addition will probably be an evolving process so any suggestions or comments are welcome!

Ideally, we would like to select a state in

one region then move to another region altogether and continue the cycle until we have eventually covered all states. So please give some thought to contributing to the magazine in this small way for upcoming issues.



By Sean Bleakley

As I drove my truck down a tote road, I caught the glimpse of a cow moose and her calf. They picked up speed to a quick trot, only to make a hard right turn and disappear into the cedars and spruce thicket. I was not driving on the back roads of Alaska, Canada or Maine. I was in New York. UPSTATE New York. Unfortunately when most people hear "New York", they automatically think of bumper to bumper traffic, tall buildings and rude people. That may be true within New York City, but that is only a tiny corner of the 54, 555 sq. miles of the state. NY is the twenty-seventh largest state, making it larger than almost half of the states in the US.

As far as eastern states go, New York has a very abundant population of wildlife, with whitetail deer and black bear comprising the two big game species that have open seasons. You get one tag for each when you purchase a hunting license. Both bear and deer seasons are open state wide. If you purchase an archery privilege and a muzzle loading privilege, you will get an "antlerless only" and a tag good for a deer of either sex. Both can be filled with only a bow. The nonresident fee for a license and all three tags is a reasonable \$160 for hunters sixteen years and older. The fee for fourteen and fifteen-year-olds is \$39. A child age twelve and thirteen can only add the archery privilege with their hunting license for \$9 total.

Although their numbers are down in recent years, NY has a healthy turkey population with both a fall and spring season. With a nonresident fee of \$20, you get one fall turkey tag good for one bird of either sex and two spring tags good for one bearded bird each, with a daily bag limit of one turkey. New York also offers seasons on coyotes, bobcats, raccoons, fox, skunk, possum, weasel, cottontail rabbits, snowshoe hare, ruffed grouse, pheasant, black, grey and fox squirrels. Red squirrels are open all year long.

If you come to hunt New York, you can expect a wide variety of terrain that differs vastly depending on what area of the state you intend on hunting. The Adirondack Mountains in the northern tier contains the largest state park in the country at over six million acres, most of it open to public hunting. The Adirondacks is primarily a boreal forest

that has a long storied history of hunting. Although the Adirondacks have a relatively low deer density, you're likely to encounter a large bodied deer with a thick rack. The bear population is pretty healthy and hunters have a good chance at a good sized bruin.

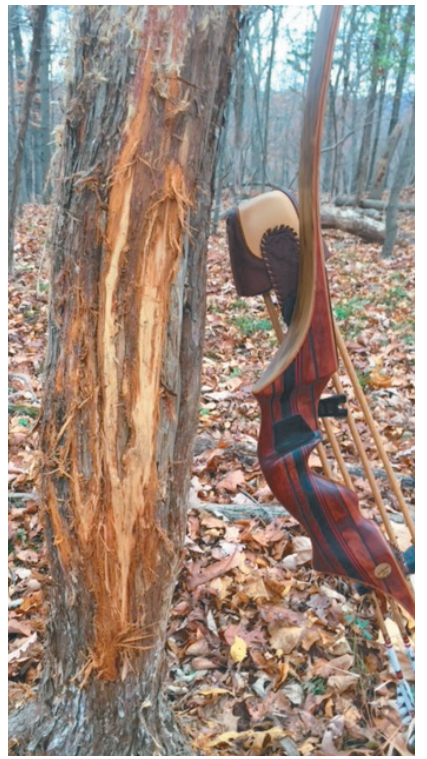
The Catskill Mountains are a physiographic province of the Appalachian Mountains. Its rolling hills and large tracts of land are ideal habitat for almost all of the game species in the state. Scattered among the forested mountains are small open meadows and fields that are usually part of an old dairy farm. The Catskills are also home to many pieces of public hunting land. Because of the large tracts of hardwoods, the Catskills do not get much bowhunting pressure.

Working your way down to the Hudson Valley region, the mountains aren't quite as big. The tracts of forests become smaller and the land opens up a little more. You can also expect a little more population as towns and villages come closer together. Again, there is ample amounts of public land which allow hunting.

When outsiders hear "Long Island", usually one thinks of mansions and multi-million dollar beach houses. But the eastern end of Long Island is an archery only unit that is home to some of the largest bucks in the state. Their unit is open from 10/1 to 1/31. There is ample public land run by the state where you have the chance to arrow a large buck.

Central and western NY, the terrain opens up to agricultural fields and flattens out, and if blind folded, one may think that they are in the Midwest. To me, this is some of the best bowhunting in the state, especially along the southern tier. There are many tracts of state-owned land open to the public.

Politics aside, NY is a great place for sportsmen, the licenses are relatively inexpensive and game is plentiful. The state opens much of Multiple Use Areas and parks to hunting. Even NYC, which owns over 135,000 acres in the Catskill region and the downstate portion for its water supply system opens its land for hunting and fishing. All that's required is a special Access permit which is free. So, if you are looking for place to hunt in the north east, New York is worth a close look. For more information on licenses and public hunting go to: www.dec.ny.gov, www.1.nyc.gov, or www.parks.ny.gov.



A TALE OF TWO LIMBS

By John Provenzale

In June of 2021 I was introduced to Joel Riotto at a local 3D shoot. I recognized him immediately. When I was younger, I read his articles in major bow hunting publications touting trophies and adventures of which I had only dreamed and frankly still only dream about. A guy from my home state not only having such adventures but also writing and publishing stories about those adventures seemed extraordinary and made him a legend in my mind. When I met Joel that first time I was in awe. He was taking pictures of the competing shooters and talking to the president of our club, The Traditional Archers of New Jersey, of which I am the vice president. I learned that Joel was not only the previous president of the club but also the founder of the club nearly three decades earlier.

Later at the shoot, Joel and I got to talking and I showed him the most recent bow I built. He commented how nice it was, which bloated my ego, but more importantly I became aware of Joel's predicament. He has a bow that he loves, as so many of us do, but it was becoming difficult to shoot due to its draw weight. The problem was that he had bought these bows, a one piece and a three piece takedown from Dale Dye in the mid 1980's. Dale Dye passed away unexpectedly in 2019 and there was no way for new limbs to be ordered.

Not only had Joel bought bows from Dale Dye. He had become good friends with him over decades, friends enough that when Dale passed, Joel helped Dale's wife Barbara try to sell off the remaining inventory. Unfortunately, none of the finished bows were left handed in the 40# range that Joel desired. Joel then started searching for used Dale Dye bows and limbs anywhere and everywhere.

I next met Joel at the Eastern Traditional Archery Rendezvous in Pennsylvania in late July. We agreed to head out to a range to shoot together. First he said he had to stop by the Big Jim's tent to inquire about a Dale Dye bow a friend of his had seen in their possession at an event in Michigan a couple weeks prior. Joel spoke to them on the phone and they confirmed they had it and agreed to bring it up to the shoot.

We strolled over there and met with one of the guys who was familiar with the bow and said he had sold it less than an hour prior. I could feel Joel's pain in that moment, in fact my own stomach twisted and sank as a deep breath expelled from my lungs and my shoulders slumped in dejection. It is harder to cope with not getting what you want when you allow a glimmer of hope to enter your mind.

Joel shrugged the near miss off and rebounded in seconds and we went off and shot a couple of fun rounds of 3D. Over the course of that hike I became more familiar with his love of Dale Dye Bows and his dilemma and he became more aware of my obsessive bow building habit.

At the end of that conversation we agreed that I would try to make



Joel and his 11-3/4 hour Texas 10 pointer.

him a new set of limbs. As we discussed this option, I explained that the easiest way to make a set of limbs to match would be to use the same form the originals were made on.

Joel again reached out to Barbara Dye to see if the form would be available to purchase or borrow. In that conversation Barbara mentioned there was a pair of unfinished limbs that looked to be a matched set. The problem with them was that one had 40# and the other had 50# written on the masking tape over the fiberglass which protects the limbs while being shaped. Joel bought them on the spot over the phone and the limbs landed in New Jersey a few days later.

Later that week Joel brought his current bow and the new limbs down to my house to investigate if they were indeed a match and if so what weight. In my basement shop I put the new set of limbs on his riser. I mounted the strung bow on my tillering tree and drew it back using not only my scale but also a scale he brought with him. Fortunately the limbs were a match; unfortunately they measured 51# on both scales -too heavy. Joel really was looking for forty or forty one pound bow. Disappointed, we went upstairs for dinner with my family and enjoyed a venison meatloaf and a bottle of red wine he brought and got to know each other a little better.

Joel left his bow and new unfinished limbs with me. I said if all else failed I would use his old limbs as a template to make a new form and try to make him new limbs from scratch to match to the best of my ability. It looked like we were approaching the "all else failed" scenario.

However something just wasn't sitting well with me later that night. There was something I was missing. Then it struck me. I did not have a control sample in this experiment! In the wee hours of the morning

I crept back to the basement bow shop and put Joel's original riser and limbs back together and weighed it the same way as I did the new limbs. They weighed the same amount, fifty one pounds.

This probably doesn't sound ideal but what I knew was that his current bow was supposed to be forty four pounds. It was originally forty eight pounds but he had the guys at Black Widow shave a little off to drop the weigh to forty four pounds. They couldn't go lower on that set of limbs. The fact that these new unfinished limbs were the same weight and had full untampered fiberglass meant they should be able to go out and get the same treatment and net three to four pounds lighter than his current bow which was exactly what he was looking for.

This experiment also led me to re-examine my tillering tree and found that it was off. I must have been dreaming of big bucks as I put up that measuring stick because I had forgot to account for the thickness of the handle section of the bow in the draw length. The stick started at the back of the handle. So I was over drawing the bows to 29-1/2 inches, not twenty eight inches as intended, which accounts for the several pounds over reading.

It was a restless night with anticipation of calling Joel to tell him the news. I did so the next morning. And to his delight I explained my late night epiphany. In typical fashion he was on the phone with the guys at Black Widow before noon. They agreed to do the same work as done to the previous limbs and shave off a few pounds and to finish out the limbs to their industry leading standards.

Joel drove the two hours the following morning to pick up his bow and limbs and they were in Missouri in Black Widow's shop two days later. Joel was hopeful they would be ready for an October Texas whitetail hunt he had on the books.

In the meantime, Joel invited me to his place in New York for the September early bear season. No bear were harmed or even seen, but it was a magical weekend. I found a promising new hunting area for future adventures, we walked his property and we pored over maps of the vast surrounding public land. More importantly I learned more about Joel. A little of his grand adventures but more importantly I learned how involved he was.

In addition to his involvement in the Traditional Archers of NJ, he was also a past president of the United Bow Hunters of NJ, a life member of the New York Bow Hunters, a senior member of both the Pope and Young Club and the Professional Bowhunters Society. This man is a force. A force that protects the lifestyle I hold dear.

The fine men at Black Widow made good on their promise to have the bow done by early October. I know they received many thanks from Joel for their work. But they surely have no idea how happy they made him. Black Widow went above and beyond proving why they are an institution in traditional archery. I cannot thank them enough.

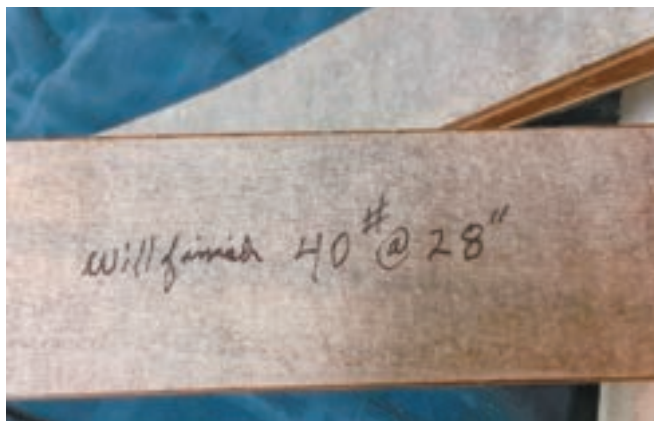
I wish I could say that those limbs sent an arrow that found its mark in Texas in October. But I cannot. However in the 11th and three-quarter hour of the season on a return trip to the same low fence ranch in Texas, Joel connected on a doe and beautiful ten point buck to add to the freezer next to a hard-earned New Jersey antlerless deer killed earlier in February.

Those limbs are the result of hard work, perseverance, help from many in the traditional community and more than a little luck. They will surely get the chance at many more animals but they have done something much more important, they have kept this decades-old team together, Joel and his trusty Dale Dye bow, and allowed them to continue the adventure.

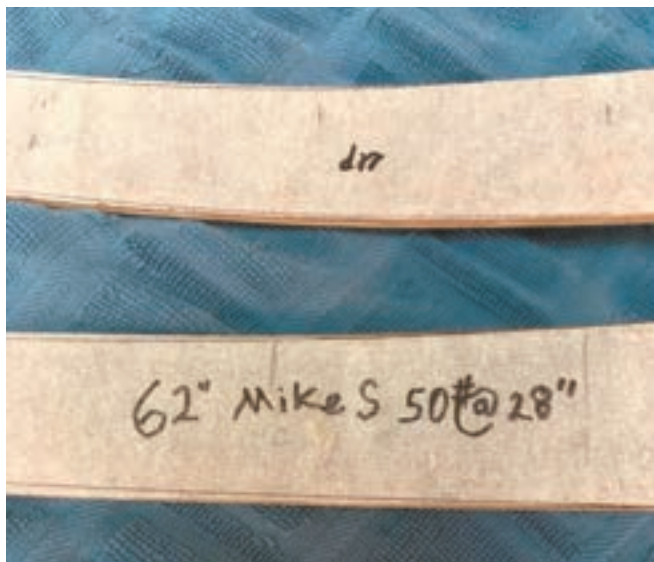
They say you shouldn't meet your heroes on account of they might disappoint you. Legends often are more lore than substance. Well, I met this legend and rather than disappointment I found a mentor who has walked the walk and put his own money and time on the line to fight for our hunting heritage. Most significantly, for the first time in 40 years, I found someone who enjoys the simple stick and string as much as I do. I found a friend.

Equipment note : Joel used his "new" Dale Dye recurve drawing forty one pounds, Easton Legacy shaft and Wensel Woodsman broad head to take all three of his winter 2022 deer.

Author Bio: John Provenzale lives in central New Jersey with his wife and two children where he always has some wood in the process of becoming a bow.



Unfinished limb showing projected end draw weight.



Other unfinished limb showing a different projected final draw weight.





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for Preserving Bowhunting's Traditional Values

It is the purpose of the Professional Bowhunters Society® to be an organization whose membership consists only of persons who are considered Professional Bowhunters in ATTITUDE, and who vow:

- That by choice, bowhunting is their primary archery interest, and their ultimate aim and interest is the taking of wild game by bow and arrow of suitable weights in a humane and sportsmanlike manner;
- To share their experiences, knowledge and shooting skills;
- To be a conscientious bowhunter, promoting bowhunting by working to elevate its standards and the standards of those who practice the art of bowhunting;
- To provide training on safety, shooting and hunting techniques;
- To practice the wise use of our natural resources, the conservation of our wild game and the preservation of our natural habitat.

Associate Members receive these benefits:

- A quarterly magazine, The Professional Bowhunter
- Participation in PBS programs
- Use of the PBS Information/Education Services
- Free use of the lending library, including videos and books
- The opportunity to defend the sport against anti-hunting forces

Associate Member Application

Name _____

Address _____

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Age _____ Hunting Bow Weight _____

Email Address _____

Phone () _____

Referred by _____

☐ Gift

I firmly agree with the goals and principles of the
Professional Bowhunters Society®
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Associate Membership

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Phone 801-888-3802

email: professionalbowhunters@gmail.com

PBS Website: www.ProfessionalBowhunters.org

Yearly fee: \$35.00 per year • (Canadian members: \$40.00 U.S. per year) • Shoulder patch: \$5.00 • Decals: \$3.00

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Welcome New Members to the PBS family!

SEPTEMBER

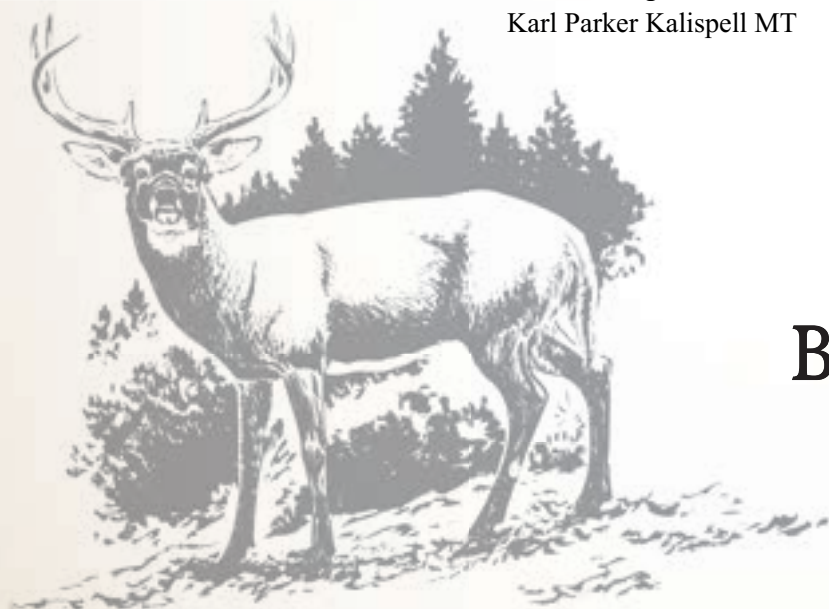
Daniel Joseph Matlock - Elsberry, MO
Edwin Zavala - Safford, AZ
William Michael Adams - North Augusta, SC
Alex Michael Brickey - Rocky Mount, VA
Helmut Boettinger - Berlin, Germany
Michael Poston - St. Louis, MS
Christopher Blake Weaver - Roanoke, VA
Roger L Thornburg - Chuckey, TN
Jay Vanconant - Crosswell, MI
Austin Rabbitt - Hillsboro, MO
Jeremy Armstrong - Inola, OK
Robert Boling - Brookhaven, MS
Newman Landa - Beaufort, SC

OCTOBER

Chris Cocozzo - Victor, MT
Leslie Calger - Ratliff City, OK
Heath Knepp - Montgomery, IN
Kelby Wiles - Fayetteville, AR
Jake Schmalzried - Kingsley, MI
James Andrew Holland - Holt, FL
Jeff Young - Ogden, UT
Shane Leonzio - Pittsburgh, PA
Chancellor Melvin - Batavia, OH
Eric Schloesser - Exeter, NH
James Pellegrino - Martinsburg, WV
Raymond Domico - Finksburg, MD
Noah Hetrick - Butler, PA
Nathan Morgan - Winchester, KY
Karl Parker Kalispell MT

NOVEMBER

Harley Conrad - Charlotte, NC
William Robbins - Monterey, TN
Austin "Rusti" Brown - Crossville, TN
Kelly D Kimzey - Wise River, MT
Luke Edick - Stewartown, PA
Michael Kelly - Tacoma, WA
Christine Ponce - Dayton, TN
Todd Potts - Shelby, OH
Kelly Womack - Greenwell Springs, LA
Zachary Larsen - Globe, AZ
Ron Piontkowski - Attica, NY
Donald Teddy - Reese, MI
Anthony Camilleri - Breckenridge, MI
Nathaniel Seed - Lawrenceville, IL
Nathan Veit - Malta, MT
Neal Moon - Irving, TX



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CHANNEL/UCRB208N37MMROD8RcKtHH6C](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRB208N37MMROD8RcKtHH6C)

The PBS Survival Hunt Challenge

A NEW PBS Program

By Steve Hohensee

When was the last time you shot an azimuth? How about built an overnight shelter without just pitching a tent? Even we PBS members are prone to just pushing a button and having our electronic location appear before our eyes and walking fifty yards into the woods and climbing into a tree stand as the extent of our adventuresomeness.

Back in the late eighties and early nineties, traditional bowhunter and author Sam Fadala often wrote about going on survival hunts for several days or more at a time, limiting himself to one cup of rice per day to survive on plus any game that he could bag with his bow. I believe that Sam was living in Wyoming at the time but may have done some of his hunts in Arizona or New Mexico. The details that Sam wrote about have faded over the years in my mind, but the concept has stuck with me, and I brought it up to Bubba Graves a couple years ago and told him, "We need to do that sometime."

There is nothing that makes the mind reflect more than when you are sitting in a scorching hot antelope blind for sixteen hours a day, no book to read, no antelope in sight, so I started to plan for my own Survival Hunt and then realized it would make a great PBS program! The ultimate goal of the PBS Survival Hunt Challenge is to build and hone woodsmanship skills in a wildland setting with an emphasis on utilizing bowhunting skills. The Survival Hunt is also a great opportunity to do some exploring, adventure seeking, photography, look for arrowheads, shed hunting, fossil collecting, and scouting for the upcoming season.

The beauty of a survival hunt is the opportunity for off-season adventure; a survival hunt can be done nearly anywhere, at almost any time of the year including outside of regular hunting seasons and should only cost dollars per day which is significant for most of us in these days of out-of-control inflation and insane fuel prices.

Yes, the timing seems to have parallels to the TV programs "Alone" and "Naked and Afraid" but my motivation for a PBS program was truly 100% Sam Fadala's writings.

Planning for your challenge

Every person's Challenge is going to



be different. The number of days may vary, terrain, season, size of the landscape available; site specific conditions will change what gear you should plan on taking on your Challenge. Site specific conditions

should be considered when planning your Survival Hunt and selecting gear.

The intent of the Challenge is to be mobile and that any overnight camp locations would be abandoned after each night and

the individual or team would trek and explore and use a new camp location each successive night. There is no reason a canoe or kayak couldn't be a part of an individual's Challenge. A Challenge, either in part or in whole, could be accomplished with a partner.

To properly prepare for a Challenge will necessitate knowing hunting and fishing regulations for both game and non-game species, learning to positively identify any edible plants and learning how to prepare and cook that which is unfamiliar ahead of departure.

Duration

Any combination of days for a total of seven days and at least one bow kill (to include field processing, preparation, and consumption) of any legal species is required to meet the achievement of completion of the PBS Survival Hunt Challenge. We can revisit and modify the number of days or establish different levels of accomplishment in the future if there is enough interest.

Final Thoughts

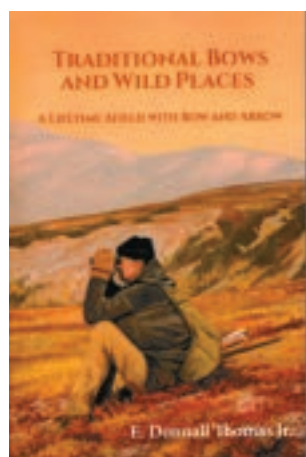
Not every PBS member is going to be interested in taking the Survival Hunt Challenge but hopefully it will generate enough interest for some of us to refine our woodsmanship skills while having another excuse to roam the woods and hills with a bow in hand! Any member out there that decides to do the Challenge, please document, and share your journey with other members on the website and in the magazine. I will research having a "PBS Survival Hunt Challenge" patch made for those that complete the Challenge.

SAMPLE GEAR LIST:

- ✓ Archery Gear: no limit on arrows!
- ✓ Ruck Sack
- ✓ Bed Roll (i.e., Wool Blanket and Pad)
- ✓ 8' x 10' Tarp
- ✓ Climate/Weather specific clothing
- ✓ Poncho
- ✓ Knife
- ✓ Hatchet or Saw
- ✓ Matches or Fire striker (no lighters)
- ✓ Map and Compass
- ✓ 50-100' of Cord
- ✓ 2 fishhooks and 2 flies plus 30' fishing line per day
- ✓ Canteens or Water Bottles
- ✓ Water treatment/filter
- ✓ Flashlight
- ✓ Pot with lid
- ✓ 12" x 18" sheet of foil per day
- ✓ 1 cup of uncooked rice or beans per day
- ✓ 2 bouillon cubes per day, salt, pepper
- ✓ 1/4 cup coffee grounds or 2 tea bags per day
- ✓ Any prescriptions, sunscreen, toothbrush
- ✓ TP
- ✓ Small 1st aid kit
- ✓ Camera/paper/pen: to record your journey
- ✓ Wallet/any licenses/permits

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W W W . D O N T H O M A S B O O K S . C O M

2023 PBS Virtual Events and OYG Schedule

January 12 Virtual Rabbit Hunt
March 25-26 Virtual Clout Tournament
April 14-16 Eastern OYG (NW Pennsylvania)
June 2-4 Southeast OYG (Virginia)

June 10-11 Virtual Bowfishing Day Weekend
July 13-16 Bighorn Mountains OYG (Wyoming)
August 4-6 Midwest OYG (Wisconsin)

KENTUCKY ODD YEAR GATHERING

Dates: March 31-April 2, 2023

Jeff Holchin will lead the Kentucky OYG this weekend in conjunction with the annual KENTUCKY Tradfest. We'll have a booth and raffle items, food to purchase will be available, 3-D course, and possibly some seminars. Free primitive camping. Come one, come all!

For More Info Contact:

Jeff Holchin
jeffreyholchin@gmail.com



NORTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA ODD YEAR GATHERING

Dates: April 14-16, 2023

Hosted By Tim & Cindy Denial • 8147 Wattsburg Waterford Rd., Union City, PA 16438

- 2-3 Primitive camping
- 30 target 3D course
- Food and Beverage available.
- Bucket raffle
- Prize shoot across the pond.

Hotels for 2021 Odd Year Gathering:

These hotels are located at route 97 and I-90 exit 27

The following hotels and prices:

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Red Roof | \$79 + tax | 814-868 5246 |
| Motel 6 | \$64-\$74 + tax | 814- 868 0879 |
| Days Inn | \$72 + tax | 814-868 8521 |
| LaQuinta | \$111 + tax | 814-864 1812 |
| Quality | \$90 + tax | 814-864 4911 |
| Super 8 | \$119 + tax | 814-864 9200 |
| Baymont | \$121 + tax | 814- 866 8808 |

At this exit Restaurants include McDonald's, Arby's, Taco Bell, Barbato's Italian, Tasty Bowl Asian cuisine and sushi bar, Doc Holiday's, and Black Jack's (good burgers and wings).

The exit west of this one is route 19 and I-90 exit 24 with a ton of restaurants and hotels but farther from OYG.

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Country Inn | \$124 + tax | 814 866 5544 |
| Soltice Inn | \$109 + tax | 814 864 5810 |
| Best Western | \$104 + tax | 814-920 4196 |
| Microtel | \$99 + tax | 814- 864 1010 |

Directions from this location to Odd Year Gathering address 8147 Wattsburg Waterford Rd. Union City, PA:

South on route 97 .7 mi. turn left onto Robinson Rd. go 1.4 mi. turn right at the T and Old Waterford Rd. go .3 mi. turn left onto East Rd. go .6 mi. to T turn right onto Lake Pleasant Rd. go 7.2 to T turn right go 3 mi. exactly turn right onto Wattsburg Waterford Rd. we are the 4th place on left. Total mi.13.7.

For More Info Contact:

Tim Denial
zebdenial@gmail.com
1 (814) 438-7847

Directions from North East, and Wattsburg:

Go five miles towards Union City on Rte. 8 turn right onto Arbuckle Rd. go .5 mi. turn left. 4th house on left. From Union City go towards Wattsburg on Rte. 8 turn left on Arbuckle Rd... go .5 mi. turn left 4th house on left.

From Waterford go towards Union City and follow dir. from Union City.



BIGHORN MOUNTAINS ODD YEAR GATHERING

Dates: July 13-16, 2023
(come early and stay late)

NEW location is in the central Bighorn Mountains of North-Central Wyoming. From Buffalo, go west on Highway 16 about 37 miles, turn left (south) on Canyon Creek Rd for 1.5 miles to the copse of trees on the left. From Ten Sleep, go east on Highway 16 for about 26 miles, turn right (south) on Canyon Creek Rd for 1.5 miles to the copse of trees on the left. The access road is very good gravel and will not hinder safe passage of large trailers and motorhomes.

*****IMPORTANT NOTE!** We have no control over our selected site and the Forest Service has not been enforcing their 14-day camping restrictions. If too many people/trailers are left at our selected location, and we are forced to select an alternate location, I will notify each registered participant prior to their arrival with directions to the alternate site, it is therefore imperative that I have a contact method for each attending member***

- Primitive camping with outhouse provided
- Live music by Chad Slagle and Brian Koelzer
- Centralized kitchen/social area for community meals (kick in food or a donation to PBS)
- Practice range of member loaned/donated targets (no scoring, no awards)
- Clout Shoot Tournament (Winners Award)
- Troll Shoot Tournament (Winners Award)
- 3-D Novelty Shoot, TBA (Winners Award)
- *9 Hole Archery Golf Tournament (Winners Award) (*dependent on occupying our 1st choice location)
- Other local activities include trout stream fishing, Medicine Wheel archaeological site, hiking, marmot hunting, tree hugging.

Event donation is \$30 per attendee.

Award contests \$10 each event. Archery golf rounds are unlimited at \$10 per round.

BRING PLENTY OF ARROWS, at least a dozen! A few flu

arrows may come in handy.

*****NOTE*** Attendance limited to the first 74 people that RSVP!!! (A Forest Service permit is required for groups of 75 persons or over).**

Please consider carpooling to the event to moderate high fuel prices. I will attempt to suggest people I suspect may be traveling on the same routes. If anyone is considering flying to the area I suggest flying into Billings and those of us traveling by road can hopefully accommodate a few of you in our tents/tipis.

**RSVP to Steve Hohensee
if you plan on attending!**

Text to 307-299-7040 or Email
steveh.wyoming@protonmail.com

VIRGINIA OYG AT STAR SHOOT

Dates: June 3 & 4, 2023

In conjunction with the Annual STAR Shoot.
Registration will run 8:00-2:00 Saturday.
8:00-12:00 Sunday.

There will be several great 3-d courses, trade blankets, raffle items, food for purchase and primitive camping. Might have a seminar or two. Great trout fishing nearby. Possibly a Sunday morning worship service if Gene Thorn is available.

To donate something contact

Jeff Holchin
jeffreyholchin@gmail.com
or
Randy Brookshier
stykbow59@comcast.net

MIDWEST ODD YEAR GATHERING

Dates: July 14, 15, 16, 2023

Hosted by Ojibwa Bowhunters of Milwaukee, WI at 3045 S. Johnson Rd., New Berlin, WI.

2-3D Shooting Ranges – 1 Broadhead Range Novelty Shoot. Shooting Passes are One Day \$15.00 – Two Day \$20.00. Three Day Pass is \$25.00 Kids Under 12 are free.

Free Vendor Spaces always looking for more vendors.

Contest – Raffles - & Silent Auction. Friday, Saturday & Sunday food and beverage can be purchased, including breakfast. Saturday Night Hog Roast.

Free camping with limited electric supply. Other hotels in the area.

For More Info Contact:

Brian Tessmann
bowretev@execpc.com
1 (262) 389-6319
Chris Bahr
cbahr@heartlandtoolsupply.com



2023 PBS Membership Hunts

PBS members have enjoyed success on some great Membership hunts in 2022, from hogs in coastal GA and Davis Mtn TX, javelina in TX and AZ, some nice whitetails on the LBL KY and Blue Ridge VA hunts, and even a black bear at the Blue

Ridge hunt. At this writing, only the Blackbeard Island GA hunt remains for 2022. Here is a current list of the planned 2023 Membership Hunts (several more are possible – check the PBS web site under the “Membership Hunt” page).

We need more of these great opportunities for our members – different animals in different places – contact Jeff Holchin at jeffreyholchin@gmail.com.

1

January 2023

Arizona Javelina Hunt

Arizona javelina, mule deer and Coues deer from January 1, 2023 until about January 10th or 12th or 14th or whenever folks decide to head home. This is a truck-camp type of hunt on public land. Rick guarantees warm clear sunny weather (just kidding!) and adventure with great food for sure! Contact Rick Wildermuth at Rwildermuth2@cox.net if interested. This is a classic Membership hunt.

2

January - February 2023

Davis Mountains Texas Hog & Javelina Hunt

From January 28 - February 5, Councilman William “Bubba” Graves puts on a very popular hunt in the rugged Davis Mountains of western Texas. This is a backpack-in hunt on private land (the owner charges a small access fee) in some ruggedly beautiful country – snow is very likely with the hunt dates. Better be in shape for this one and know a little about backcountry hunting – it is full already but contact Bubba at 907-712-7856 if interested for 2024.

3

February 2023

Coastal Georgia Hog Hunt

This annual hunt has been quite an adventure and a few who hated sloggng through the salt marsh never returned, but most “embraced the suck” and had a good hunt. Even if the hogs don’t cooperate, the weather is usually pleasant and we’ve never had a bad meal there! Excellent seafood available in town too. Boats are obviously needed and experience with tricky tidal rivers is highly recommended (canoes and kayaks work too); hip boots or waders are required because dry land is scarce. This is a public land hunt and we camp on Rattlesnake Island. If this sounds good, contact either Jeff Holchin at 828-

303-6120 or Tim Antoine at 336-977-0505. Unfortunately, this hunt (which will be held from February 2-6) fills fast and is already booked for 2023 but there are always cancellations, so call or email Jeff (jeffreyholchin@gmail.com) to get on the waiting list. It is cheap, too – you just need a small game license, either for the entire year or just the hunt duration. Can’t be afraid of snakes, gators or bird-sized skeeters!

4

February or March 2023

Caddo National Grasslands TX Hog Gunt

Member Jesse Johnson will host this hunt either on Feb 23-25 or March 2-4. This public land has a nice campground with a lake for fishing or boat access. This is a new hunt that just came up – contact Jesse on our Facebook page for details but it sounds good! This is a good example of the benefit of checking our Facebook page often – within hours of posting it, a bunch of guys expressed interest and it might be full by the time you read this!

5

March 2023

Low Country South Carolina Hog Hunt

This new hog hunt will be held at the Woodbury WMA and will be hosted by Mark Poynor in early March. It is swamp country best hunted with kayaks and canoes. 25,000 acres available and lots of hogs live there but just know that swamp hunting isn’t easy, but it sure is fun! Contact Mark at markpoynor@yahoo.com or 912-321-8350. More details are listed on the PBS website by Mark.

6

April or May 2023

Durango Mexico Goulds Gobbler & Javelina Hunt

This new one is being offered by member and guide Fernando Nunez (nunezmfernando@gmail.com) and costs \$1250 plus license, for one gobbler and 1-2 javelina (includes meals and

transport from Durango airport). Season is in April and May. Fernando prefers groups of 3-4 hunters to arrive on Thursday and depart on Sunday, and he has openings on April 13 and either May 11 or 18, 2023 (later in season was better this year, he says). He's taking only 3 groups to this ranch in 2023. Contact Fernando if interested.

7 October 2023

Land-Between-the-Lakes Hunt

Land-between-the-lakes (LBL) hunt on the KY side from October 1-9 for whitetail deer and turkey. Thousands of acres of prime public land country to hunt. There are cabins for rent but also tent camping available, and unbelievable cooking! Some nice bucks hit the ground here in 2022. Contact Mark Wang at markhw19@yahoo.com if interested - pretty high capacity but the cabins fill up fast. This great annual hunt has also become a classic.

8 October 2023

Northern Pennsylvania Deer Hunt

Northern PA deer hunt with Tim Denial and the Mercer County Bowbenders - come experience the hardwoods of PA with Tim Denial and friends in mid-late October. Stay at a nice campground with showers and hunt thousands of acres with Tim. Contact Tim Denial at zebdenial@gmail.com if interested.

9 October 2023

Blue Ridge Virginia Hunt

This hunt for whitetail deer, turkey and black bear - usually runs for a week towards the end of October. Many thousands of acres of hardwood ridges on public land to hunt, it helps to be in decent shape for this hunt. Randy Brookshier hosts this annual hunt and does all the cooking, which is awesome and not for

those on a diet; contact Randy at stykbow59@comcast.net if interested. Size limit is usually around 10 hunters. Whitetails, black bear, turkeys and small game abound, and great fishing to be had as well.

10 October 2023

Catskills New York Deer Hunt

Possible Catskills NY deer hunt - Councilman Sean Bleakley has access to some great public land in the famous Catskill Mountains and is strongly considering the hosting of a membership hunt there, with camping available at his dad's property (motels are also available, in the nearby towns). Great trout fishing available too. This will depend on how much vacation time that Sean will have in mid-late October 2023, but contact Sean at 845-243-4226 if interested.

11 December 2023

Blackbeard Island Georgia Deer & Hog Hunt

This is the nation's oldest organized archery hunt on an island with ancient oaks, Spanish moss, giant rattlesnakes, big gators and lots of history. The deer are tiny but still fun to hunt, there were plenty of hogs for the 2021 hunt and the weather is usually pleasant. This hunt is usually the first full weekend in December (arrive and scout on Wednesday, hunt Thursday-Saturday, and depart on Sunday), there is no limit on the number of hunters who can join this hunt, and our own Jerry Russell will use his boat to shuttle hunters to/from the island. You will need both a GA big game license with deer tags and the NWR permit to hunt, and must follow the refuge rules to the letter. Contact Matt Schuster at matt@easterndynamicsinc.com to sign up. How often can you enjoy a beautiful sunrise over the ocean and hear waves crashing on the beach while watching deer or hogs feeding towards your stand? That alone is worth it.

More possible dates to come. Visit www.professionalbowhunters.org and click on the Member Hunts tab for an up-to-date list.

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A LINK IN THE KTE CHAIN

My First Alaska Moose Hunting Adventure With A Lifetime PBS Friend

By Duane Krones

Two elk hunters busy with an evening meal spoke in lower voices in a backcountry camp. Bodies beaten with climbing, descending, and side hilling through blowdowns were tired but satisfied. We were hitting our mountain stride and thin mountain air was no longer an issue after nearly ten days of hunting. A faint bugle brought lighthearted remarks about forgetting food and going back upslope before it got too dark.

Finishing supper in fading light our conversation turned to Alaska. My friend and fellow PBSer, Preston Lay had been to Alaska a few times. I listened intently to his stories of bear and moose hunting.

By contrast I had limited experience with out of state hunting. Reading stories of other well-known hunters' exploits in Alaska leave me in awe of their adventures. I had sort of made up my mind that Alaska would always be beyond my reach.



Tom taxi's downwind as far as possible to put as much water in front of him as the little lake would provide. Moments later the big DCH-2 Beaver departs leaving us to our adventure.

That 2018 elk hunt with Preston cemented a bond and appreciation for each other's abilities and like-minded attitude about bow hunting, outdoorsman skills, and just life in general. Preston encouraged and sponsored me in my bid to become a regular PBS member. We committed to a plan to hunt Alaska for moose in 2021. Three years would be enough time to save, and at age sixty it would be the adventure of my lifetime.

Who could predict what those three years would hold for us. By the grace of God, September of 2021 rolled around with Preston and I shaking hands in Anchorage, Alaska. My dream of hunting Alaska was coming true. The next day we were readying our gear prepping for our air taxi into the bush.

Our pilot, Tom has a reputation of being a bit on the grouchy side, probably due to a lifetime of babysitting questionable clients, but we hit it off well once in the air. I have a pilot rating, AP Mechanic rating and was a former Authorized Inspector. I have a love for the workhorse aircraft of Alaska.

A beautiful late afternoon flight treated us to grizzly bear sightings on the slopes, and beautiful wild country as far as the eye could see. A tight banked turn in the valley to check wind direction satisfied Tom that he'd have enough water to depart the small lake. Moments later we were taxied in as close as possible to shore. Preston and I had to wade about forty yards in some muck bottom, teasing our wader height to get our gear ashore.

Tom remarked that he didn't think we had enough gear. He wondered where our bows were. Ultralight hunting is a wonderful thing. I was thankful I purchased the KUIU Taku bags for gear transport. They are tough, waterproof and nearly water tight with quality zippers. Had I slipped or got tripped up in the muck, the Taku bags would float and clothing packed in dry bags would be fine.

The first thing I saw upon reaching the shore was tracks. Big tracks. I'd never seen grizzly tracks in person but I knew the meat hook marks in the mud and pads wider than my nine inch hand spread belonged to a big bear.

With our gear safely on shore, we watched Tom taxi as far as possible downwind, apply full throttle and unleash 450 hp from a Pratt and Whitney R-985 engine. The De Havilland DHC-2 Beaver gracefully lifted off the water and thundered up and away. The amphitheater of the valley augmented the legendary sounds of a radial engine. I was in awe of the scene, forever logging it in my mind as a symbol of solitude and adventure. "Preston?" I asked. "Yes sir," he replied. "Ah, did Tom take the bear spray out of the float locker and give it to you?" Preston looked towards the disappearing aircraft. "No he did not".

An electric fence would have to be our first line of camp defense against bears. Our wits and hopefully unneeded handguns would be the last. The sun was already past the peaks when we finished setting up camp. During the process we had the pleasure of seeing a cow moose splashing across the south eastern shoreline about a quarter mile away.

I'm usually up and gone long before daylight. I'm not a coffee drinker and I eat very little for breakfast. However, this was all new to me and would require a little more restraint and caution. Preston and I had agreed



Preston's KIFARU 8 man tipi and electric fence. A welcome sight at the end of each day.



A pretty impressive set of grizzly tracks. The stride amazes me.



I have a pretty good sized hand. Preston says this is a good bear.

to hunt opposite directions on our first day and I headed easterly. It would be misty, damp, low light kind of day.

The far end of the lake was fed by drainages from the surrounding slopes. The sounds of water rushing could always be heard coming from the valley slopes feeding the lake. I found where a few of these dry gravel waterways converged. It was obvious that game used these paths moving to and from the lake. Dense tag alder brush bends with the flow when water is running and creates one way gates easy to pass through moving down stream but will give you fits going in the other direction.

It was at this convergence of waterways that I decided it would be a

good place to start calling. Now I'm not afraid to say that I'm a good elk caller, but hollering into a fiberglass funnel is almost embarrassing. I had been watching videos, taking advice and practicing. I did a cow call and a bit later a bull grunt. I had a perfect vantage point where



I could engage multiple avenues of approach with minimal movement. I figured I'd wait a half hour and call again.

My hearing never lets me down and within minutes I heard brush moving in the distance. Bear or moose? I thought about the giant pile of bear scat decorated with red high bush berries nearby. Judging from the approaching sounds I was going to find out. Then I heard a low barely audible burp. A bull moose! I moved to the opposite side of the waterway and hunkered down low along the bank and waited, arrow nocked. My heart was racing, I was thinking what in the world, already?

When the sounds were about on top of me I saw alders moving and then an antler raised up and scraped down on some taller brush. A couple of low "wuck" sounds and he turned left intent on busting down into my waterway just a little past some overhanging brush on a slight bend.

I timed my movement with the noise he was making. I needed about ten yards for a clear view around the bend. I had tension on the string and a beautiful dark colored bull stepped down onto the dry creek bed in front of me. He looked huge to me but his antlers obviously didn't meet the legal spread of fifty inches. I didn't really care at the time. I watched in awe as he moved off towards the lake.

Shaking with excitement, I eased back over to my pack at my calling spot and sat for a while. Maybe other moose were in the area listening? I was thrilled to say the least. An Iowa boy a few thousand miles from home hunting with a homemade recurve, just called in a bull moose on his first ever attempt. You can't do that in Iowa. What an amazing experience.

Later that night at camp Preston said that from his vantage point he saw the immature bull I called as he departed. He saw me emerge briefly around the bend as well. We were both pretty excited to see moose on our first hunting day.

We alternated hunting areas each day and mostly sat tight and called. One day in particular Preston was watching me explore the opposite side of our lake. I had felt like relocating at midday to call on the other side during the evening. Since the shoreline is not rounded, I had to complete a saw tooth route to get there. This resulted in plenty of blind spots along the way.

Preston said that at one point I was on a collision course with a grizzly and didn't

~ continued on page 22 ~



Deceptively rugged terrain requiring considerable effort to travel on foot.

~ continued from page 21

know it. Preston could see both the bear and me in his binoculars. Preston said that he really wondered how things would end when

he saw the bear veer off the shore into a dry gravel drainage waterway. Moments later, I turned into the same waterway right on its tail. Ignorance is dangerous bliss.

Our weather was mostly colder temps with high humidity or rain. Low ceiling and low light days weren't camera friendly. Oftentimes fog would close in around us creating an almost claustrophobic bubble. One day high winds and rain forced us to remain in the tipi.

I noticed early on that the small lake was subject to rapid changes in water level. One day in particular, I noticed what I thought looked like an overnight change to an increased level by eight inches. We put a marker stick in the lake at water's edge and were amazed at the changes daily.

About midway through our hunt, Preston called in a bull that appeared to be just legal after looking at photos. Responding to his call, the bull turned and came up slope towards Preston. He said it was almost a relief when the bull passed him in dense brush offering no opportunity for a shot. He said he was just not sure about antler spread. We were in a four brow tine or fifty inch limit area. Neither of us wanted anything to do with nail-biter decisions about legal bulls.

On another morning I was making good progress up a dry drainage waterway when I heard tag alder brush moving. The wind was right and I nocked an arrow. The sound was close just beyond the opposite bank. The next sound was a disgusted "huff" sound. This followed by a large animal moving away in dense brush.

I knew right away that I'd surprised a grizzly and I'd gotten away with



On a rare partly sunny day, Alaska showcases her beauty. Not long after this photo I called a bull that passed south of me too fast for me to out flank. Terrain under this lower brush is like ski hill style moguls.



it. A certain naïve innocence comes with a lack of experience. I was getting some serious lucky breaks with grizzly bears and I was thankful that nature allowed me to learn on the job without serious incident.

We got one day that the ceiling lifted and we were treated to a beautiful high pressure blue sky. We were able to get some nicer pictures. I was north of camp situated on a knoll. I'd called earlier and was enjoying the warmth of the sun. Suddenly I heard brush breaking in the birch trees 100 yards south of me.

From my vantage point I saw the sun glinting off antler briefly and I grabbed my bow and hurried to try to cut off the bull before he could cross my scent. The brush was not as dense, but the terrain was like ski hill moguls. I couldn't close the distance on the bull fast enough and he eventually got down wind and disappeared.

Time flies on hunting trips with good friends. On the morning of our departure, we found ourselves texting weather info to our pilot via Garmin in Reach. While having a snack amidst our packed gear, we heard some splashing and stuck our heads outside the tipi to see a cow moose splash up on shore and disappear into the alders fifty yards away. I guess she came back to see us off.

Then the unmistakable rumble of Tom's radial engine filled the valley. Preston had the tipi down and packed before Tom taxied up. I waded out with the first load of gear. "No luck?" Tom asked. My reply, "Oh we had a great hunt. In fact if we were residents with guns, we'd be tagged out." "How was the flight in?" "Not bad" he replied.

I rode back seat on the trip out. Lifting off that little lake was bitter sweet. I felt empowered and proud of my first Alaska hunt, eager to share my story with my wife Lisa, our girls and friends. However at the same time I felt that the time went too fast, and I wondered if I'd ever get another chance. As we climbed out of our valley, our weather window of opportunity for departure was closing behind us.

We flew a different route on the way back with more bear sightings and more interesting country to take in. Low ceiling, rain and bumpy air had the Beaver rising, falling, and demonstrating some yaw instability. Eventually the air smoothed out as we reached the floatplane base. My first moose hunt of 2021

~ continued on page 24



An old shed antler provides a photo op. Another reminder of things I can't do in Iowa.



The PBS at its best. Two like-minded friends on an Alaskan adventure.



Steady evening rains cause the dry gravel drainage creeks to flow overnight. I'm hunting the area where I called in the immature bull on day one.

was in the books.

I came away from this trip with a different perspective. For me, Alaskan adventures are no longer only something to read and dream about. They are now something to plan and dream about. The barrier has always been a lack of knowledge about logistics. Seemingly unsurmountable obstacles caused me to take the easy way out and just dream.

Alaska may be bigger than anything you might have experienced in the lower 48 but it's not beyond the reach of hunters of modest means that set goals and approach it with the right mindset. Material things won't mean as much to us someday when we reflect on memories and regret unfulfilled dreams.

The PBS by nature creates situations where walking the walk shines. Seeing how other members deal with adversity and success in a hunting camp opens doors for new adventures and opportunities beyond our own scope. Knowledge through experience is earned by someone who has been there, often times learning the hard way or by making mistakes. KTE is also gifted on membership hunts. Members gift that knowledge to other like-minded members. The old saying that you will never live long enough to learn everything from your own mistakes comes to mind.

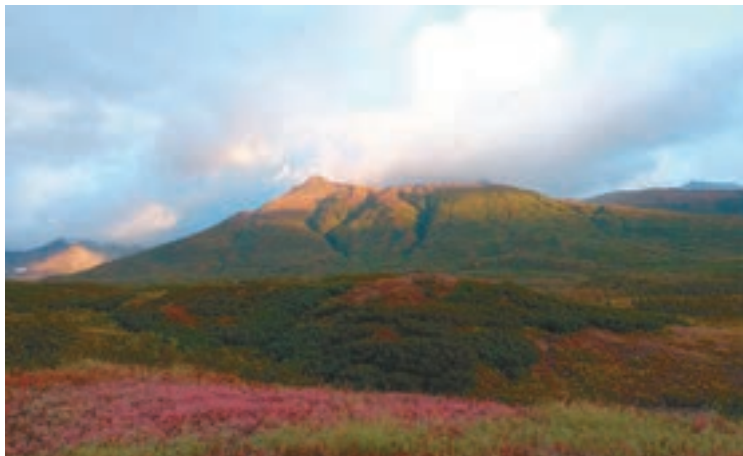
Don't wait to participate in or create membership hunts. Don't avoid PBS Gatherings. Put yourself outside your comfort zone and hang out with PBS members you've never met. Your next friend and best hunting partner might just be that quiet person keeping to themselves at a gathering, or a personality you may have questioned on the first pass.

Councilman Preston Lay rescued my Davis Mountains hunt in 2017. He traveled out of his way to pick me up when my truck engine failed on the 1300 mile trip. He didn't know anything about me except that I was a PBS member going on the same membership hunt. We traveled together the 1000 remaining miles to meet and hunt with four other PBS guys I'd never heard of.

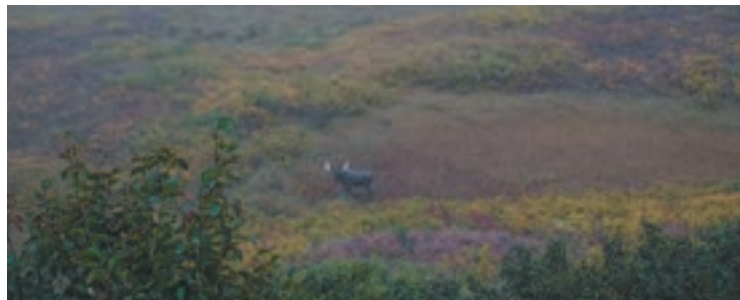
Four years later after hog hunting, and a couple tough backcountry back pack elk hunts together, Preston gifted KTE to me by sharing his knowledge and companionship on this 2021 Alaskan moose hunt. Incidentally Preston's initial Alaska knowledge through experience was gifted to him in part by another PBS member, Steve Hohensee.

Steve was also the guy who invited me to hunt the Davis Mountains in 2017. Councilman William Bubba Graves has also become a life-time friend after hosting that Davis Mountains hunt. Hunting the Davis Mountains with Bubba has become a cherished annual event for me. Bubba has also gifted extensive knowledge of Alaska hunting KTE to me. I'd like to think that at least in some small way, I've returned some KTE.

So the moral of the story is, put yourself out there, get out of your comfort zone and become a link in the KTE chain.



Preston took this beautiful photo of the ridge north of his favorite glassing knoll.



Preston called up this bull close without getting a shot. Very close to the 50" minimum. Preston says he was almost relieved to not have to make that decision on a shot opportunity. Photo by Preston.



Another beautiful picture by Preston.



My view on the way out. Preston is up front right seat. Our window of opportunity for departure quickly closes behind us.

LOVE THAT BOW!

By **Matthew Wilson**

I'm old enough to know better. Love belongs to God, family, children. I Love my wife and my mother. But sometimes you can love a thing. Not exactly for what it is but rather for what comes with it. Maybe we all can relate when we love a bow.

The PBS Gathering of 2022 was held in Reno, Nevada. My home state and just four hours from the house. Of course I was there. The kind of people I want to identify with were all there. I met new friends, re-met other friends. Got to shake hands with the legends. Well known legends and legends not so well known. One of those is my friend, Kevin Hall; gentleman, husband, bow-hunter and bowyer. He entered a bow in the bowyers contest and it was up for auction. Being left handed like myself I put a modest bid in to start the ball rolling. For whatever reason, maybe the lefties weren't paying attention or whatever, I won. For sure I was slightly embarrassed to take home the bow at such a steal. I feared for a moment it would insult Kevin but then remembered what a gentleman and stellar man he is. The Gathering ended and we went home.

At the house I put on a nocking point, some silencers and piddled a bit with the brace height. Man, she shot a sweet arrow! When I fumbled on my part she seemed to make up for it. I know everyone shoots like Robin Hood in their own backyard but I felt invincible! The love affair began...

Nevada has a traditional archery club. The Traditional Archers of Nevada. TAN for short. Its second annual gathering and 3-D shoot was held in the middle of the state, just out of Austin. My wife and I and our bows were heading there and I foolishly bragged I would be coming home with the buckle. Oh boy, my mouth really can get ahead of me at times.

The shoot and the gathering was everything to be expected of the traditional archery community. Excellent people and fun times. I write that and realize there are no words to truly put that across to the reader. If they have been to such a shoot they already know what I mean anyways. Day one was a shooting dream. I was on my marks and the bow was sending great arrows to the target. Regardless of score, I was "killing" animals. Better yet, Wendy, my wife, was having the best shooting day of her life. The group was enjoying her performance and I did my best to fake irritation at her shooting. Everyone knew I was proud of her.

The shoot off for the buckle started Sunday. Us longbow, wood arrow shooters trudged up the hill and put ourselves to the test. It's so cool shooting with guys that are genuine and fun and REALLY GOOD shots. Martin, Rob and Pat could get it done and I was proud to shoot with them. An early lead was matched easily and it truly was shot to shot. In the end, by two little points, I held on and claimed that buckle. My first one! So many times the runner up but finally success. After much handshaking we left the field and I waited for my wife. As so often happened to me, her second day of shooting was nothing near the first day. Are we the only ones?! Regardless, she also left the field in first place. Two nifty buckles took the truck ride home.

The bow, just a simple tool really, played a major part in my adventures. Built by a craftsman whom I proudly call a friend. My confidence was leveled up and a bit of luck with a lot of practice found success. I love that bow!

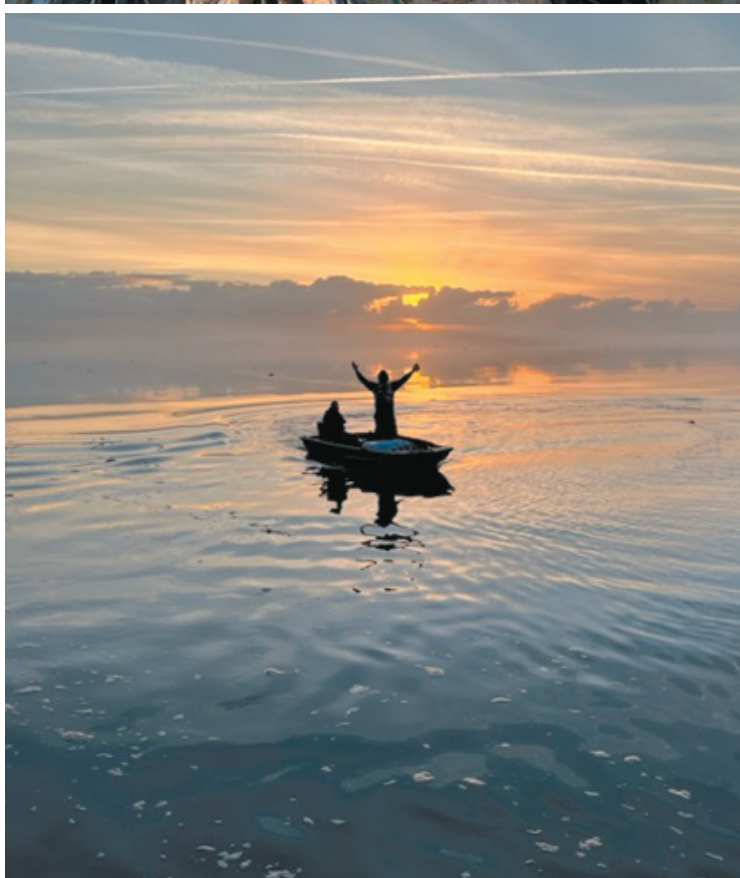


SNEAKY BOATERS ON PUBLIC LAND

By Jeff Holchin

My buddies and I mostly hunt public land, but because so many other people hunt the same land that we hunt, we've learned to be "sneaky" to get an advantage. I bought a sixteen foot Carolina Skiff years ago to take my wife and kids out on the local lake for fun, but one day I realized that the same boat could be used to get to secluded areas that most other hunters didn't hunt. That helped some, but there were still a lot of other hunters that also used boats for their hunting, too. The turning point was when we started looking for good hunting areas that were "hiding in plain sight". One example is the public land I found in Georgia that was pretty good, with the classic pines, palmettos and live oaks, but it also had a waterfowl area that was off-limits to hog and deer hunters until the waterfowl season closed in the winter. A little bit of investigation revealed a bunch of hogs that were mostly unmolested for four months, that lived in the nasty salt marsh that most sane hunters avoided. Bingo! But then, we took it one step further! There was a big public boat ramp that we started with, but then we found a great seafood restaurant in town that also had a tiny boat ramp and spaces for a few trucks with boat trailers. The final touch, which may have been our best move, was to avoid wearing camo clothes or showing our hunting gear on our boats. We added some "decoy fishing rods" and told anybody who asked that we were just "fishing, camping and hiding from our adult responsibilities..." So far, this ruse has worked well!

We have adopted these sneaky strategies with good success to find and hunt good deer hunting, too. There is a COE flood-control lake close to where I live in NC that has some bowhunting-only areas, and most of the hunters park at the edges and push the deer towards the lake. We come in from the lake, and often hunt within 100 yards of the water's edge, especially where a narrow cove creates a pinch point. One glorious fall morning there, I filled both buck tags on cruising bucks and one of them was nice enough to expire next to my parked boat! We also try to have a tarp in the boat to cover up our hogs and deer when we have to get the boat loaded at a busy boat ramp and don't want the general public to figure out what we're really doing. Its all legal of course, but its best to keep a low profile, especially if there are any Karens nearby!



We found a state park in Ohio with a lake that is very popular with fishermen, boaters and waterfowl hunters.....see where I am going with this? There are thousands of acres of land around the lake where hunting is allowed, including a bowhunting-only zone. The campground is usually full but we've only seen a few other hunters there. We have decoy fishing rods on the boat and pretend to be just a couple dumb fishermen (although several times real fishermen have noticed the NC boat registration and asked us why we would come that far to fish – it's so hard to keep a straight face when real fishermen ask us if we caught anything and we have to say "no but it's better than working"). We usually put in the lake before dawn and come out after dark, which helps us avoid other boaters, but taking it one step further, we use the least popular boat ramp and change into civilian clothes when we are moving around the lake during the day or coming to the boat ramp. We try to park the boat in hidden areas that are not so obvious. We try hard to disguise what we are really doing but sometimes other guys figure us out. We've definitely seen more hunters use boats to hunt this lake, but that can't be avoided. In the six years that we've been hunting there, we've enjoyed some great bowhunting and have killed some nice bucks. This year, my son Daniel used some of these sneaky tactics to arrow his best buck yet! Be sneaky, fellow public land bowhunters!



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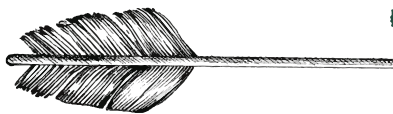


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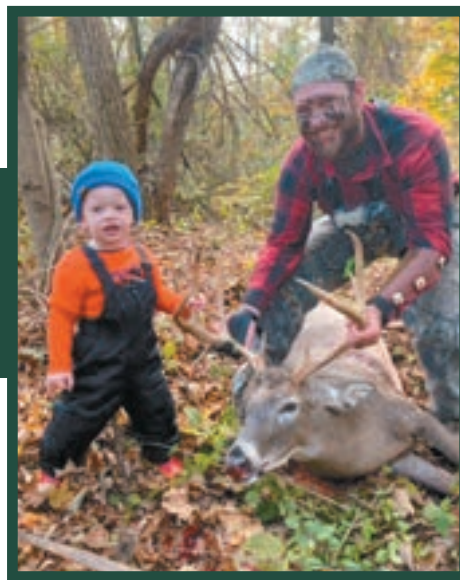

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THIS WAS A DAY



By Joshua Baker

My traditional archery journey started in the summer of 2020. I got fed up with all the complication of compounds. There seemed to be something missing with them. I felt I wasn't connected with anything, like I was just going through the motions. My best friend, Cody kept pushing me to try traditional equipment to see how I felt. I gave in and I found a longbow at an archery shop local to me. It wasn't anything fancy and flashy, but it ignited something inside of me. I couldn't put my finger on exactly what I was feeling but there was something there. After a few months, I got a recurve that really set it off for me. Every chance I could get I was out in the yard shooting at random leaves and other random targets. I simply just couldn't put the bow down. I thought that I was ready to take it to the woods, but boy was I wrong. The first deer that came in was a small doe but it got my heart pumping like I've never felt before. I rushed the shot, and I watched the arrow sail over her back. I was upset but there was that feeling again. It would be the only chance I had that year but I couldn't give up. I continued practicing and was able to overcome the little bit of target panic that I had. I was able to focus and make it count. Going into the 2021 hunting, season I was more confident than ever. I set out to accomplish something I had been practicing for all that year.

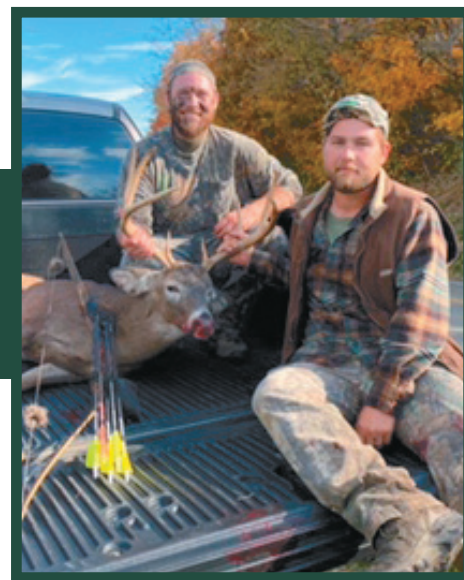
The first few hunts of the year were slow and I didn't see anything at all. The morning of October 31, 2021, I was in an old dried-up creek bed sitting on a small log. I texted my buddy Cody that was just up the ridge from me, and said, "I'm thinking this is a good evening spot, but definitely worth coming back to." Five minutes later I looked up to see a spike walking through an opening. I raised up, drew back and bleated. He stopped and just stood there. I dropped the string only to watch my arrow deflect off a limb in front of me. I pulled another arrow from my quiver and let it go. I heard a smacking sound, and the deer took off. I went to where he was standing and saw a small amount of blood with some white hairs. I first thought that it was a complete pass through but I didn't see a lot of blood on the arrow. We waited two hours or so before starting to track. After twenty yards, there was a large amount of bubbly blood. Not

long after the good blood it slowly went down to nothing. That was the last we found. At that point we had gone around 150 yards. We decided to back out and find a dog to help with the search. A dog tracker came out that evening but found nothing further. The tracker was confident the deer was going to be fine and was more than likely just a muscle hit. Again, that was the only opportunity I had that year. But I never gave up.

Fast forward to 2022. I had even more persistence in me. I had done so much practicing and preparation with a longbow that I got at the beginning of the year. I was determined to make it happen this year. I scouted several spots that I found on maps of land around me. Some small game hunting and scouting trips turned up a lot of good intel for the upcoming season. I had my bow ready and was shooting really well the month before the season. September 24th was opening day for bow season here in Ohio. That evening I went out to some family property. I was only in the stand for fifteen minutes when I had a doe sneak up on me and get to six yards. She saw me in the tree but couldn't figure out what I was. She slowly worked away from me. Forty-five minutes later I had a group of six does pass by, but that was it for the night. I was able to go out two weeks later for a morning hunt. There was a storm moving in, so I was expecting movement early. I was standing beside a large oak tree when I saw three does move in front of me around fifteen yards. The bigger of the three turned broadside at twelve yards. I drew back, settled in and released the arrow. It deflected off a branch and went a foot in front of her. After I missed the doe, I was a bit discouraged to say the least. I was so confident going into this year, how could I have messed up that badly? The only thing I could do was keep my head up and keep trying.

The morning of October 23, 2022, I woke up right away and got ready. I made my coffee and got dressed. I was an hour ahead of schedule and it was looking to be a good morning. I packed the truck with all my gear and hit the road. I only had about a twenty minute drive to where I was going. It was a spot that I drive past all the time but had never stepped foot in it before. I was scouting it on some maps days prior and found a decent little knob on the top of a ridge with a power line going through it.

TO REMEMBER



With me being so early I decided to take a nap before going into the woods. I got a fifteen minute power nap before I got out and started to get ready. I got my shirt on and was taking out my pack when nature called. That's when I realized that I didn't have the toilet paper that I keep in the truck. Making a thirty minute round trip back up town to take care of it and get back again, I got back to the pull off just before gray light. I went up the hill 150 yards and was looking to find a tree when I heard something bound off just on the inside of the power line. I waited a few minutes before moving on and finding a tree. I found a funky looking split trunk maple tree that was between the power line and the woods with a little bit of back cover. After getting set up and settled in I looked around and saw an empty tree stand about ten yards away. I was in the stand for only about thirty minutes when a fire truck came down the road below me. After it passed, I heard a noise behind me and saw nothing but antlers fifteen yards away. I was trying to keep myself calm and not look at them, but he was walking right behind me. I waited until he got in a gap to the left of my tree around twelve yards away. I drew back but my shoulder locked up. I had to let down and draw back again all while keeping my composure. He took two more steps and I bleated at him. He didn't act alert, he just stopped walking. I picked a spot and let the arrow fly. I watched the fletching disappear and I instantly saw blood on the entry side as he took off. I heard about twenty yards of running, followed by ten seconds of silence and then five seconds of crashing. Then there was silence. That's when I lost my mind and had to sit down so I didn't fall out of the tree.

I immediately called my buddy Cody that was hunting just down the road. I said, "DUDE I JUST SHOT A GIANT." He had to keep telling me to calm down, but I just couldn't. It took fifteen minutes for me to calm down enough to get out of the tree. We met back at my truck and we both freaked out! I called my wife and woke her up to tell her the news. She said that she and my son would come out and track it with us. My wife said that on the whole ride there my son kept saying, "Daddy's deer? Where is it?" My son was so excited to get out of the car when they got there, he was smiling ear to ear and pulling at his car seat straps. We made our way up the hill to where it all happened. The arrow was lying where he was standing

with blood on the ground. We followed him into a little briar thicket on the other side of the power line. He went in between some small trees making his way onto a small crest in the hill. He only went around thirty yards from the power line before he expired. Walking up to him was a humbling experience. I sat my son down next to me as I looked at the buck in amazement. I was in disbelief as to what had just happened. I couldn't help but to smile in awe. My son kept asking questions about the deer and seemed very curious and intrigued about the whole thing. After taking a few pictures where he was, we took him back to the power line to take care of him. My son sat beside us the whole time. Walking back to the truck I could hear my son saying, "Daddy's deer" over and over again. He insisted on sitting in the back of truck with the deer after we got back where we were talking about the morning events.

This was a morning to remember, a morning of firsts and a morning of memories. It is my first traditional archery deer, my first archery buck and traditional buck. Having my wife, son and best friend Cody there to experience all of this with me made it so much better. Those are the memories that are going to last and mean much more than the horns ever will. I am very humbled by the whole experience.



The Highlight Of A Great Season

By Paul Ladner

Like many of you, my coyote hunting is an opportunity play while deer hunting. I typically hunt from a climbing tree stand as I find it gives me the most versatility in choice of stand locations. I often make my final decision on where to hunt at the last minute depending on the conditions and my whims. Sometimes I make the wrong play so the next time I move two trees over. Easy enough. I have a special confidence hunting out of a new tree for the first time, especially if I have to cut a limb or two to climb the tree. Crazy I know.

I always carry a predator call with me when hunting just in case. The mouth call I use is small, easy to keep in a pocket and at the ready for any opportunity. This season presented more coyote opportunities than I can recall in the past. It seemed about half my outings involved some predator action. I saw as many as four coyotes in one day, but they tend to be very wily and seem to avoid shooting lanes more often than not. When they are on to you they are gone. They may pause and look back in rifle range, but never in bow range.

Sometimes it will be a coyote that I see out at a distance any time of day that I will entice into shooting range, but many times it is that dawn or dusk howling that I will call to. Be prepared because they sometimes come right in.

This time it was a morning hunt in close proximity to my nephew. We like "tag team" hunting with the wind at a right angle to the line between us so we don't impact the other's hunt too much. We were set up about 150 yards apart. Tag teaming has been very successful for me. I have great luck and tend

to be fairly confident of the outcome. I can't say the same has been true for my nephew.

He likes to get out there pretty early and if the weather is nice I don't mind either. It is nice to let the woods settle and enjoy the wake up and pre-dawn before you expect a

ote was closing in fast as my ears kept track of his approach. The bow was up and I was ready for action. Finally the running coyote came into view as just a shadow. I drew back the bow and patterned the movement using the acoustic and limited visual clues to aim.

The arrow released as the trotting coyote passed at about ten yards.

It was obvious that the arrow altered his path and made him bolt from the area. I couldn't be sure of the shot and had to wait until daylight for further clues. I was deer hunting after all. I patiently awaited better shooting conditions and a chance for deer.

Shortly after, the light allowed for a close examination of the area in the direction of the shot through binoculars. Sure enough there was a blood trail. Still unsure of the shot, I was in no rush to follow. My nephew and I finally decided our morning hunt was over and we took up the trail. It was pretty easy to follow and although they can be tough to track, its too difficult for them to go far when hit hard. We found him about a hundred yards later. It was obvious he succumbed less than a minute after the shot.

Talk about instinctive shooting. This stuff would be all but impossible with a sight reliant aiming system. Putting it all together with a stick and string and a wing and a prayer at close range makes my blood flow and passion for the hunt soar. It is a memory replayed over and over in a compilation of other memories of that hunt.

My success was not limited to that hunt but the season was truncated by shoulder surgery just before Thanksgiving.



shot.

Coyotes started howling before I was really settled. Quickly I dug for my predator call and let out a sequence. Short and sweet and not crazy loud as they weren't far away.

Within seconds I heard the approaching trot of a coyote from the opposite direction of the howling! There was about a half a moon that morning and wispy light clouds passed by. My eyes were fairly adjusted to the gentle moonlight, but my depth perception made details hard to make out. The coy-

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STILL GETTING IT DONE

By Randy Brookshier

As I near my mid sixties I ask myself, as I'm sure a lot of guys do, how much longer am I going to be able to do the things I love to do. Shoot my recurves and longbows, climb into frosty tree stands and back pack and camp in some of the wilder places. I've had my share of broken bones, dislocations and surgeries that make it uncomfortable to do some of the things I used to do without thinking about it.

I look around and I see some younger guys opting for the easy way to do things. Pick up a cross gun and as one recently told me... "Easy Peasy out to fifty yards." So many guys today want to take the easy road to success, more concerned with just killing a deer than with the process that makes the whole experience memorable.

I am sure there are a lot of guys out in the woods that are still pursuing their passion into their seventies and eighties, but when I look around at our P.B.S. membership, I have to think there is a higher percentage in our organization than in other entities or the general public. So, I reached out to a handful of these guys that have been in the woods and getting it done for six decades or more and asked them to send me a short bio. A common thread amongst them all is that they all refused to give in and take the easy path. Although they have dealt with joint replacements, surgeries and heart issues, through adaptation and modification, they are still out in the woods chasing critters with a bow and arrow. These gentlemen are an inspiration and help to answer that question of how long can we expect to be able to do what we love to do. Using these guys as an example, it looks like we can expect to keep enjoying our time in the woods with bow in hand for a good, long while yet.

BILL TERRY, SR.

"I am an eighty-one year old retired electrician who served in the United States Marine Corps for four years. I've been married to the love of my life for sixty years and together we have an amazing family. When I was ten years old, I got my first longbow and now I regularly hunt with a longbow. And even at eighty-one years old, I still climb twenty feet into my stand every day. I am especially fond of bow fishing. Even though I am an avid bowhunter I like to dabble in woodworking in my spare time. I've been a member of the Professional Bowhunters Society for thirty years. Through my membership in the PBS I have met some of the best bowhunters in the world. By attending the biennial banquets and other gatherings, my wife, Kathy and I have become friends with many other like-minded individuals from across the country. I find it useful to keep some sort of log/diary and pictures of my hunts and harvests so I can recapture those times that brought so much pleasure. My personal diary (which no one has seen) details over 350 harvests. I still hunt on a daily basis. Several days a week I practice my shooting skills at a local archery club with fellow long-time bowmen. I think that I can do what I do because of



BILL TERRY, SR.

what I do.

I currently shoot a South Cox Stalker longbow. I have six of them and one Blacktail longbow. My bows range in weight from sixty pounds to thirty-five pounds. I choose the bow weight depending on what I am hunting. The thirty-five pound bow I use strictly for off season shooting. I also have two fifty pound RER longbows I use for bow fishing. For the last few years I've been making my own broadheads from steel I install on wooden cedar shafts. I've scavenged the steel from old farm equipment. I shoot carbon arrows at my archery club and indoor league shoots. I enjoy making arrows so I make a lot of them. I also make, of my own design, my leather quivers, arm guards and finger tabs. The quivers are made custom depending on the type of hunting I'm doing. I've never been a fan of bow quivers."

JACK DENBOW

"My name is Jack Denbow and I am seventy-nine years old.

When I was eight years old I broke my left elbow. Due to complications my arm was not supposed to ever straighten past ninety degrees, but my Father would sit with me every night at the kitchen table making me exercise my elbow. He said that I had tears in my eyes, but it paid off. My arm is still not perfectly straight, but it has an outward bend, which is good for shooting a bow.

I started shooting a bow in 1958 when a buddy would "borrow" his dad's bow. It was much too heavy for us, but it got us started. I finally got my own bow in 1962. It was a fifty-two pound Bear Kodiak. While in the Coast Guard, I walked all over southeast Alaska toting that bow and some cedar arrows. My first deer came on November 11, 1969, Veterans Day.

In the late 1970's, I went through a period with a compound bow

and shot a bunch of deer with it. In the 1980's I went back to the traditional bow and have never looked back.

Everything went smoothly until October 16, 1996, when I had a screw in step pull out and when I fell, I caught my left arm pit on another step and ripped a seven-inch gash across my arm pit and up the front of my shoulder. I had bought my first cell phone just eight days before and it had a part in saving my life.



JACK DENBOW

In 2011, I had a pulmonary embolism and deep vein thrombosis while at the PBS youth hunt in Nebraska. Bob Seltzer and Ben Dodge knew from the symptoms I was having, things weren't good and took me to the hospital in North Platte. They loaded me on a helicopter and flew me to Lincoln to the hospital as it is one of the best in the country for heart and vascular problems.

In 2014, I had cataract surgery in the spring and was not allowed to shoot my bow or do anything that needed strength, so consequently, I got weak. Then in early summer, I screwed up my right shoulder. When I got stronger, I was shooting my wife's longbow. I went to one of my favorite stands and as I was getting in the stand, I tore my right quadricep tendon 75%. It was quite a trip getting back to the ground. I drove home and spent most of the day going to the ER, then to the orthopedic doc, then to radiology, then back to the orthopedic doctor. I think I screwed up my left shoulder at the same time as the right, but I could live with it until 2016 when I had it repaired. In fact, both shoulders are messed up now, but they will go to the grave with me. As Daniel Boone said before he died, "I am worn out."

In 2018, I had my left knee replaced. In 2020, I had right carpal tunnel surgery, then in 2021, I had left carpal tunnel surgery. I have been in physical therapy so many times, all the girls there call me a "repeat offender."

There are not many parts to this old body that have not been worked on or replaced. The only original parts that still work are my appetite and my imagination.

One year, not long ago, bow season had thirty-seven hunting days in it and I hunted thirty four of them. I still get out there though, now days it is easier to sit next to the wood stove. Right now, I am shooting a Black Widow longbow that is forty pounds at my draw, and I have shot several deer and two antelope with it. I have seen all of them fall."

FRANK WHITTAKER, JR.

"I am seventy-five years old and have been serious about bow hunting since I was fifteen years old. I have done most of my hunting in Virginia and West Virginia but have made several excursions out of state to hunt out west and in Canada.

I have had a deluge of injuries that have given my bow hunting career setbacks. Seems once I get over one a short time later I have to deal with another. I have had issues with my right shoulder and eventually had to have that shoulder joint replaced. I have had my hip replaced, am currently dealing with heart issues and have a pace maker installed. The most debilitating for me has been the back surgeries due to degenerative bone issues. I have had five fusion surgeries on my back.



FRANK WHITTAKER, JR.

Despite all of the set backs and discouragement, I am still passionate about archery in general and especially bow hunting. My current set up is a TradTech Lobo carbon riser with Dryad carbon longbow limbs that is 39 ½ pounds at my draw length. I no longer climb into tree stands but enjoy my time watching a good deer crossing from one of my stools."

JOHN STOCKMAN

I'm eighty-eight and have been bowhunting for sixty-five years.

Until I was in my sixties I shot sixty pound recurves. I began experiencing pain in my right shoulder. I made an appointment with an orthopedic surgeon who was also a bowhunter. After examining me, he told me I had rotator cuff damage but it could be treated without surgery. He told me that I needed to shoot a significantly lower draw weight bow and begin physical therapy to prevent further damage to my shoulder.

The doctor told me I needed to acknowledge my age and resulting diminished physical condition. He reminded me that as we age our strength, flexibility, coordination, and muscle mass decline.

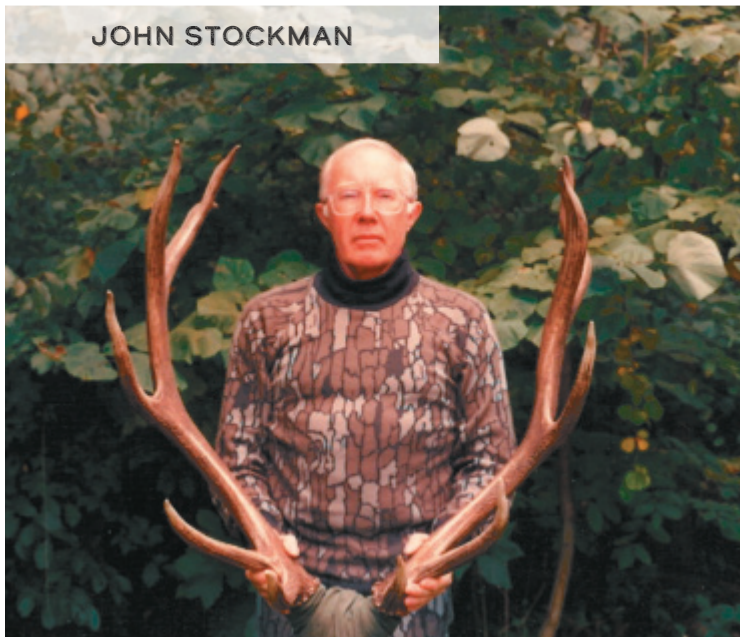
I attempt to live a healthy life style. I don't smoke and about the only time I drink is to toast a fellow bowhunter's success. I eat a healthy diet and maintain an appropriate weight.

I used to run five or ten miles daily. Now I walk two or three miles. In keeping with my doctor's advice, I per-

~ continued on page 34

~ continued from page 33 → form flexibility, stretching, and strength exercises.

I've changed how I bow hunt. I recognize I can no longer pack out elk, mule deer, caribou, and mountain lion. But there are still hunts I can safely do such as hunts for deer, bear, and antelope from blinds. I now use ladder stands and ground blinds for most of my hunting.



JOHN STOCKMAN

I've had recurring rotator cuff problems but lowering my bow weight (again) and performing my shoulder exercises have allowed me to continue to bow hunt. As my doctor advised, adapt and focus on what you can do and not on what you can't do. I'm always disillusioned when I see guys a lot younger than me give up bowhunting because of physical problems that they could adapt to. I've had to deal with a multitude of injuries and age-related conditions that require me to change the way I hunt and I am perfectly willing to do that in order to continue to hunt.

As an aside, yesterday (11/05/22) I arrowed a huge buck. He wore me out getting him out of the woods and getting him loaded in my vehicle.

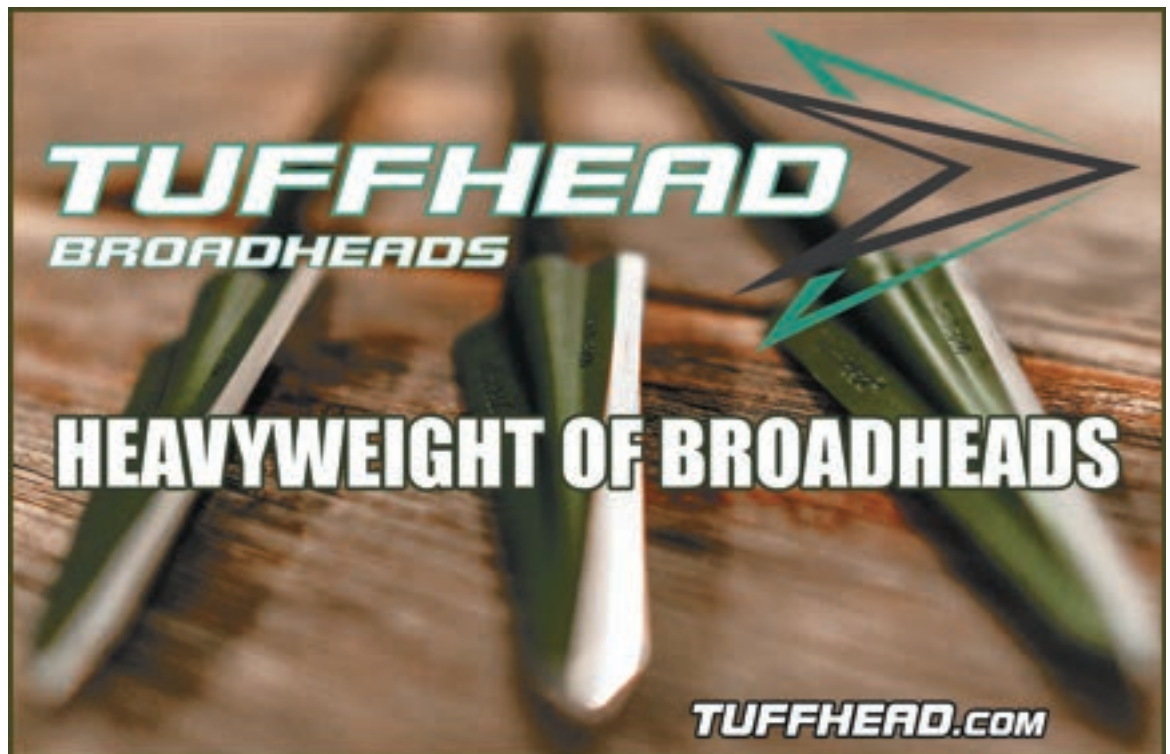
RUSSELL LANTIER

I'm seventy-five. I started bowhunting when I returned stateside from Vietnam. I consider myself the typical seventy-five year old. I think I'm healthy. But I do have to take three different heart meds. I've got some degenerative bone stuff going on in my back and it just aches most of the time, but I have to be careful of course. I have some bone spurs in the shoulders and some frayed rotator cuff muscles that limit me more than my back at times... but, again that's typical of folks this age. Especially those who have been shooting bows this long.



RUSSELL LANTIER

I think the thing that almost caused me to stop shooting/hunting more than anything happened two and a half years ago. I was just starting to loose a few arrows in the back yard, when I put a little tension on the string, and one of the tendons in my string hand partially ruptured. It felt like I had been shot in the wrist with a .22. It was pretty painful. I couldn't shoot at all for about six months, and then for about another six months, I had to use a release. It still gets sore to this day if I shoot too much, but it beats the alternative."





I Love It When a Plan Comes Together

By Rob Davis

My first deer season started on September 15, 1967. I was very fortunate to be born into a bowhunting family. My dad, J. Robert Davis, was my mentor and he spent many hours teaching me about bowhunting and bowfishing. I thank him for that and on the riser of my bow I have the words, "Thanks Dad."

The story for this buck started on February 27th of this year. I was scouting after the deer season ended, and I walked into a section of the woods that I had entered many times before. For some reason I came in from a different direction. Wow, if only I had seen what was about fifty yards from where I usually walked. I found eight scrapes in a very small area. So this deer season I checked it out again and saw five scrapes. I put up a treestand on Saturday and hunted it Sunday morning. It was a windy day and it had just stopped raining. It was in a thick area

with lots of holly trees. I know that during the rut you can have deer run right up on you at any time. And that is just what happened. I saw a very nice buck trotting toward me, and I feared that he was going to trot right on past me. But he stopped right at an opening at one of the scrapes, and I drew back and saw where the arrow disappeared and thought, "That is good!" He ran off and I saw him circle to my left, but lost sight of him in the thick holly trees. I said, "Thank you, Jesus." And got down. I followed the blood trail cautiously, as I thought I might have hit just one lung. It was a very close shot at four yards. It was what my good friends call, "Robo range." I went about seventy-five yards and saw him laying there, he had run about 125 yards. Those antlers were sticking up pretty high. He was a 17 7/8" wide 9-point. I had hit the top of the close lung and the bottom of the far lung.

I got him home and hung up in plenty of time to make it to church. Sometimes it all comes together and everything works out just right.



How to NOT Get Invited Back on a Hunting or Fishing Trip



By Terry Receveur

We all cherish those rare opportunities when a friend or acquaintance invites us to join them on a hunting or fishing trip. If you want to ensure that you *don't* get invited back, do the following:

- **Go back to the friend's hunting or fishing spot without them or without their permission.** I've heard of this happening way too often. It doesn't matter if it is public or private ground. If a friend takes you to a coveted honey hole, you should never return without his consent. I don't know how many great hunting spots or fishing holes have been ruined by "friends" who believed that they could return and even bring friends back to your spot.
- **Show up late for departure.** This is a huge pet peeve for me. I would rather be an hour early than a minute late for a scheduled trip departure time. It is extremely disrespectful to the host and is a waste of very valuable outdoor time. Trust me, if you show up more than a few minutes late, my train has left the station and a return invite isn't coming.
- **Don't offer to help pay expenses.** The host may not accept the offer of help to defray expenses, but they very much appreciate the offer. Truck and boat gas isn't free. Cabin utilities, land leases, and equipment maintenance all cost money. It is a very nice gesture to offer.
- **Don't offer to pay for any broken equipment or lost lures.** Step on your buddy's \$150 Loomis rod and saying you're sorry doesn't really cut it. Most of us are very generous and understanding if you lose a lure or two but hang up a few \$20 Lucky Craft lures and not offering to pay for them will put you way down the list of future fishing partners. Same with borrowed hunting gear. If it isn't returned in as good or better condition, then repeat use is almost guaranteed to never occur.
- **Don't offer to help with the required work.** Sipping a cold adult beverage in the cabin while the host chops and splits wood for the stove is a sure fire way to ensure you'll be home watching Jerry Springer during the next hunting trip. Standing around while the host launches and loads the boat will also keep you out of the sun. Preparing and cooking meals is a necessity of camp. The duties and responsibilities should be equally shared along

with the cleanup afterwards. As most of you know, the work involved in executing a hunting or fishing trip is extensive and we should help wherever we can.

- **Tell all your other buddies about where you went to shoot the big buck or catch the big fish.** Good hunting and fishing spots are about as common as rainbow colored unicorns. If you have one and you choose to share it with a friend, it better be kept as secret as Jimmy Hoffa's burial place. Loose lips ruin spots faster than a condominium development.
- **Drive your 4-wheeler through your host's or the farmer's crop field.** I don't care if you have to pack out ten loads of meat five miles each way. You better not damage a crop field. Nothing says, "your livelihood is not important to me" faster than running down corn or soybeans. If this happens, it pretty much guarantees the said 4-wheeler will remain parked at your house in the future.
- **Don't close any gates you go through.** Gates are put in place for a reason. If it is closed when you arrive it better be closed after you pass through it. The farmers prized bull, pet llama, or fainting goat may be the reason for the gate... or it might just be to deter trespassers. Whatever the reason, if you leave the gate open it pretty much guarantees the gate to joining your host in the future will be slammed closed.
- **Smoke in your buddy's truck or cabin.** Heck, I don't even like it if you smoke on the porch of my cabin. If you have a nicotine addiction that is so bad you choose to contaminate the air of your partners... you might have a problem. The problem of having access to good camaraderie and hunting or fishing spots will certainly grow if you choose to smoke where it is not welcome.
- **Leave all your gear laying around the cabin, truck, or boat.** If this occurs, it is evident we should've invited your mother along to pick up after you. Most hunting cabins or bass boats just don't have a ton of excess space for stuff to be lying around. Keep your gear clean and organized and not in other's way.
- **Set up on a trail cutting off another hunter.** It is your responsibility, as a guest, to ask questions and know the whereabouts of other hunters in camp. Always ensure you or your scent stream isn't interfering with the potential success of another.

- **Get fall-down drunk.** Many hunters and hunting camps often choose to partake in a celebratory adult beverage or even just a nice nightcap to help them sleep. However, excessive consumption often leads to excessive language, boisterous actions, and sometimes smelly messes. No one likes to be around a drunk and invitations for a return visit will be rare.
- **Curse like a sailor.** The main stream media, in all its glory, seem to believe throwing out the "F" bomb in every sentence somehow makes the conversation more impactful. That is certainly true for me... it makes the impact of me believing the offending individual is a crass moron. Be respectful of those around you. Believe it or not, there are still many who believe conversation should be civil and able to be spoken in any audience.
- **Bring along an uninvited pet.** I love a good dog as much as the next guy. If you have a beloved companion that you just can't leave home without, then you better ensure the host has given approval. While your pet may walk on water for you, not everyone else believes Buffy's little chew marks on our \$500 Yeti are adorable. An uninvited pet will most certainly be left at home the next time as well as the owner.
- **Knowingly break a game law.** No one wants to be guilty by association. You better know all the game laws and adhere to them to the highest level. It is not your host's responsibility to inform you of the laws of the land. Nothing is more embarrassing than having a guest break a game law. It puts the host in a very bad situation. You certainly cannot be angry at the host if they feel the obligation to report the violation. It is likely their gear or reputation that is at risk.

These are only a few of the ways to not get invited back on a hunting or fishing trip. Just use common sense and always be respectful of your host. Being invited on a hunting or fishing trip is a really big deal. The host has determined you to be of sufficient character to want to spend some of their valuable time with. Don't let them down.

New Qualified Regular Members

We list the following names of members who have applied for regular membership in PBS and have been approved by the Council. These individuals have completed a lengthy application and are currently in their one-year probationary period. If you are a regular member and see any reason why any of these applicants should not be accepted, please send a signed letter stating your reasons to PBS Senior Councilman Preston Lay, PO Box 73, Jennings, OK 74038.

Please note, the Council can only take into consideration statements that can be defended. **FACTUAL STATEMENTS ONLY**, not hearsay or personal unfounded opinions, can be considered as reasons to reject any of these applicants.

-PBS Officers and Council

Associates applying for Regular status:
James Davis of Richardson, TX



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or Postal Mail:
P.O. Box 22631
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PBS Elections

Electronic Ballots Will Go Out December 15th.

Anyone who doesn't vote online will have a paper ballot mailed to them in January. Deadline to vote is February 15th. Please make sure Harmony has your email if you would like to vote online. It's fast and easy - even Matt can do it!

— Candidate Profiles for President —

My name is Norm Johnson and I have hunted strictly with a bow going on forty-two years – it is obviously my life-long passion. I am fifty-nine years old and reside near the small coastal town of Reedsport, Oregon. My wife Kathy and I have been married thirty-seven years and have three grown adult children of our own and six grandchildren.

I joined PBS in 1997 and first joined Council in 2009 and later completed one term as President in 2019. When I became President, the PBS had reached a critically low point both financially and in membership level. With the help of those serving with me on Council and many within the membership body, we made a complete change in the antiquated business model that had served PBS well but was quickly becoming our downfall. The changes put in place have PBS back in both a financially stable position and nurtured a quickly growing and more youthful membership. We are doing well.

I was caught completely off-guard when Matt asked me to consider running again for a second term. It required a lot of soul searching but I am ready to serve and hope to help those currently on Council get ready to move up in the organization. It is critical that experienced folks move up on Council and keep things on the current positive path. I have a few ideas about how we can do that.

The PBS was founded in 1963 as a service organization acting as a helping friend to all bowhunters, especially beginners and non-members. The founders were focused on high standards that would “upgrade the bowhunter and bowhunting in general.” It is imperative that the Council of the PBS understands our history, the intended purpose of our founders, and most importantly the culture and interests of our membership. We are an overwhelmingly traditional bowhunting organization with

a membership that enjoys a much simpler approach to bowhunting, not relying on technology but learned skills and good woodsmanship for success. That said, we have an open-door policy for anyone who wants to join and learn from the most experienced traditional bowhunters in the country. Also, PBS must continue to promote a positive message and avoid dwelling on what we are against, but instead promote what we are for. Follow the old saying “you can catch more flies with honey than vinegar.”

The number of younger new members that we have attracted is encouraging, and the key to cementing them to our organization is getting them to an event especially a PBS Biennial Gathering. My good friend Don Thomas, after looking around the room at his seminar in Reno said, “It looks like an orthopedic rehab center in here.” The room erupted in laughter. Funny as it was, there was an element of truth to his humor. Bottom line is our younger members are often raising children, paying a new mortgage, and just making ends meet. A trip to a Gathering may be unaffordable. I believe we can put some heads together and come up with creative ways to help them and to demonstrate just how much we value these younger guys and gals to stay involved and become our future leaders.

In closing I would like to thank Matt Schuster, and those Council members that have served under his leadership. They have continued to keep PBS moving in a positive direction both in membership numbers and financially. Of course, we owe the most thanks to Harmony, her organizational skills in modernizing our business model have been the real key to our success.

Norm Johnson



Norm Johnson

— Candidate Profiles for President —

Hello to my PBS family, this is Steve Hohensee, and by the fact you are reading this profile means that I am considering coming out of retirement! A lot of you know me from some of my tales from my eighteen years in Alaska as I was a prolific contributor to the PBS Magazine during many of those years. The past few years I have been focused on making sure all (most) of my ducks were in a row; I retired at fifty-six and traded the Alaskan mosquitos and rain for some dry Wyoming red dust!

I came from humble beginnings, a sixth generation Nebraskan, from a family that many stay close to home, but every few generations a wanderer is born. I have wandered all over Alaska, probably fifteen additional states, several Canadian provinces and territories, and a few other countries with a longbow in hand.

I have been a member of PBS for thirty years, a Qualified Regular Member for twenty-six years, and a Life Member for twelve years. I have attended ten Biennial Gatherings over the decades, planned and implemented six, and have participated in ten Membership Hunts. I organized the first Bighorn Mountains Odd Year Gathering (OYG) and am currently working on the planning for the 2023 Bighorn Mountains OYG.

Past President Bahr nominated me to head up the Website Committee during his term and the committee brought a more usable and interactive website online during that time. I was elected to a Councilman position in 2012 and then as Vice President in 2013, responsible for the Cincinnati Biennial Gathering.

During my tenure as Vice President, I was the driver that led to breaking the stalemate on votes returned versus votes counted that allowed the By-Laws to be amended by the actual members that returned a ballot and gave the voting members the belief that their vote would finally be counted versus just discarded for an inadequate ballot return. The By-Laws were subsequently amended one time to eliminate the fifty-pound rule for Regular Members.

My proudest accomplishments as a PBS member have been the sponsoring of four (currently working on number five) members that have advanced as Regular Qualified Members! Three of those members have either served/are serving on Council or have run for a position. I am excited for the potential of the young man that I am currently sponsoring, the first for me in his generation, and I believe he will play a major role in PBS in the future. The most important role of a Qualified Regular Member is the sponsorship and advancement of additional high-quality members!

At the recent Biennial Gathering in Reno, I asked around to a few key members, who was running for PBS President the next election and of the three people I considered “fully prepared” and recently heavily involved with our Society, they were all a “no”. Being retired is very nice, peaceful, and quiet. I live several hundred yards off a gravel road where we rarely have ten vehicles go by in a day, and my phone rarely rings; I wouldn’t consider coming out of retirement for anybody else or any other organization.

Between March and July, I kept intending to call Matt and let him know I was going to retract my notice of intent to run for PBS President. I didn’t make the call. In the meantime, I spent a lot of time thinking if I did in fact run and was elected, what would be my agenda for the organization. I didn’t make the call to Matt and then before I could blink, the list of candidates came out! Norm Johnson was in fact one of the persons that I considered “fully prepared” and engaged and had reconsidered running for a second term.

Norm is about as strong as a presidential candidate as we have in our ranks and since he is far prettier than I am, I realized there is only one path I’d have to outpace him in votes and that is by preparing a superior two-year agenda that offers more value for our membership.

Proposed Two-Year Agenda if elected:

1). Continue to promote a high number of Membership Hunts each year and consider the potential for increasing the number of Odd Year Gatherings so that most members are within a reasonable driving distance of at least one event. I am a firm believer in surgically implanting the idea to host an event (Membership Hunt or OYG) in a specific individual versus the broadcast method saying, “somebody should host an event”. Just ask Jeff Holchin, it’s how he got ME to host an OYG, which doing so is very rewarding by the way.

2). Maintain current financial stability and the upward trend of membership recruitment especially from Social Media outlets, while building opportunities for our members which will aid in membership retention.

3). A special issue of the Magazine will be published that will focus on who we are, our membership, our rich bowhunting heritage (sixty years is upon us, 1963-2023), PBS structure, and a whole lot more! This issue will be made available to hand out at events to prospective members as a recruiting tool and will be a good reference for current members when they have a question on our proud, rich past.

4). First meeting/call with Council, I will ask each person on Council to bring a list of (at least) three items that we are not doing but should be or are currently doing but needs improvement.

5). Review current, formal Committees and consider revitalizing any that would benefit our Society. An example would be the Conservation Committee. On my retirement property, I have spent hundreds of hours doing management projects that benefit the watershed, wildlife, plant composition, and restoration. I know of other members that are doing impressive work on their lands, too. Maybe it is a good time to breathe new life into some idle committees.

6). The buying power of the Membership’s dollar continues to weaken, most recently due to extreme inflation and insane fuel prices, so we need to imaginatively consider programs that further our goals of promoting bowhunting without a heavy expenditure or a long commute for participating members. I’ll list two ideas that I have that will need further development.

A. “PBS Virtual Bowfishing Day”: Lets pick a day for 2023 and let’s go bowfishing!



Steve Hohensee

We as members are all spread out so pick a river, stream, or reservoir in your area and let’s shoot some fish. It would be a great opportunity to include a new or prospective member. The same concept could readily be adapted to a virtual rabbit hunt during mid-winter when most big game seasons are over for the season.

B. “PBS Bowhunting Survival Challenge”: In the late ‘80s and throughout the 90s, bowhunting writer Sam Fadala would often describe survival bowhunts that he and a buddy would go on. They would carry very basic camping gear, something like a cup of rice per day, a bow and a quiver of arrows. They would enter the wilds and a number of days later they would emerge from a cross country hike. The goal beyond a scenic walkabout and primitive camping would be to supplement your rice with arrow killed game, especially rabbits, snakes, etc. I’ve been contemplating a survival bowhunt for a long time now. I believe 2023 is my year to do it and I’ve been thinking about a location.

7). I have no preconceived intentions of initiating any ballot initiatives, but ballot initiatives may be membership driven. I truly hope other Council will bring good ideas to the table and my stated agenda could thus be amended.

A couple of items in closing and I’ve gotta go as Wyoming and Montana antelope season opens tomorrow and I’m departing for Montana this evening!

Norm Johnson, best to you and PBS could REALLY use an OYG in the Pacific Northwest! ; ^)
Thank you, everyone for your consideration.

Steve Hohensee

— Candidate Profiles for Vice President —

I have been a PBS member for the last twenty-three years and can honestly say I have never been involved with any organization that comes close to matching the comradery, dedication, or high ethical values shared within our organization. I am extremely humbled and honored to have been asked to run for Vice President of such a fine group of men and women.

I was born in South Louisiana and after military service moved to Tennessee where I currently reside with my wife of twenty-seven years and our two daughters, as well as our son-in-law and two small grandchildren. I was fortunate to have grown up in a family that was incredibly involved with all aspects of the outdoors, especially hunting. My father was a bow hunter since long before I was born and not being a bowhunter myself was never even a consideration. I have been very blessed over the years to share some great adventures across the country with likeminded bow hunters. Adventures that have taken me from the coastal islands of Southeastern Georgia to the Pacific Northwest and Alaska. Those adventures have been a direct result of my involvement with PBS. I had the privilege to have served on the PBS Council and have been involved with several committees over the years. I have been building bows for last twenty years and together with a small group of great friends and fellow PBS members, am involved with The Stickboys Podcast where we release weekly episodes ranging from traditional bowhunting adventures to stories of our shared history as traditional bowhunters. Bowhunting

is much more than an interest or hobby to me. It is a lifestyle and I love every aspect of it. Aside from my faith and family, it is my passion, and I am committed to sharing that passion.

PBS has made some great strides over the last several years. Our on-line presence through social media and digital platforms along with the large success of our Membership Hunts and the great leadership we've been blessed to have within our organization has resulted in many positive changes. At forty-seven years old I did not grow up in the technology bubble and it is something that I definitely have a love/hate relationship with. However, it is absolutely the world we live in these days. PBS has done well by embracing these changes without altering who we are as group. Our membership numbers are strong, financially we are in a better place than we have been in a long time, and our new member numbers continue to grow. I think the key is to continue to share our love for bowhunting and the way we approach it with as many people as we can. It's no secret that PBS isn't for everyone, but by staying true to who we have always been as an organization I believe we will attract like-minded bowhunters that share our passions and values.

I would like to thank our current Council for the fantastic leadership and dedication they have provided. As always, our organization is in great hands now and for the foreseeable future and thank you for the consideration.

Ethan Rodrigue



I hope that everyone has been dealing with these crazy times as best as they can and that all have been safe and healthy. I'm honored and humbled to be considered for the office of Vice-President of the best organization that I've ever belonged to. I first joined in the late 90's or early 2000's, but I didn't quite get what the PBS was all about and let my membership expire. A chance meeting with Terry Receveur on a bear hunt in 2010 renewed my interest and opened my eyes to a little bit of what the PBS is all about. I joined right away and attended my first Biennial Banquet in Cincinnati. That's when I really got what it was about! Many of you know me, many of you do not. I'm married to the love of my life, Jill and have raised my three stepsons in the Hudson Valley area of New York State. I'm a retired police officer who is now working for New York's second largest commuter railroad where I hold the position of cable splicer for the communications department. I've been shooting a bow for forty-three years and hunting with one for forty years. My bow has taken me all over North America, hunting eleven states and four Canadian provinces. Many of these trips would have never been made possible if it wasn't for the PBS. This is why I want to give something back.

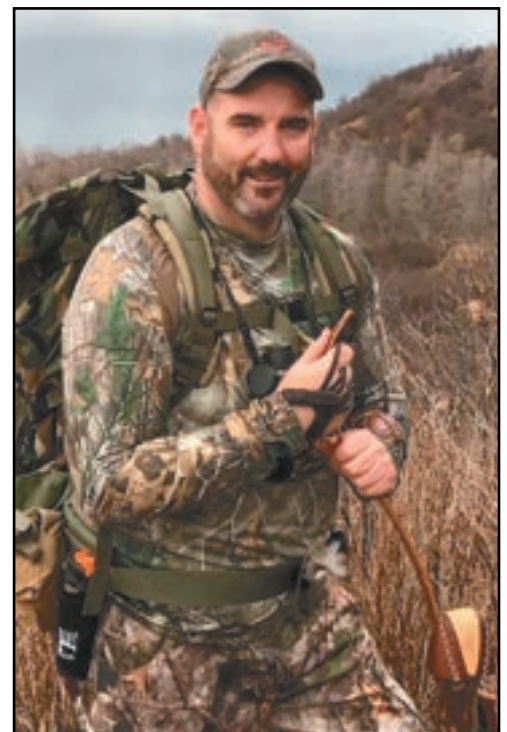
The last year and a half, I have proudly served on Council and in that position have experienced the trials and tribulations of organizing a Biennial Banquet. The task of taking on the role of Vice President is daunting and intimidating, however, I feel that running for VP

should be a natural progression from Council.

I would like the opportunity to help the PBS continue its growth and to help its newer membership by offering my "Knowledge Through Experience", as well as finding new ways to expand our membership even more. If voted in as Vice-President, I would like to continue to build on what the previous Councils have accomplished and continue to fight for bowhunter's rights and opportunities on any given forum. I do my best to represent the values of the PBS, as I feel all of us do, by placing self-imposed limitations and relying on skills and woodsmanship rather than modern technology and gadgets.

The PBS has become somewhat of a family to me. I've made lifelong friends by attending several PBS Membership Hunts and Gatherings as well as being active on social media. I've made friendships that will last a lifetime. Friends that I would not hesitate to share a hunting camp with, and friends who are there to help prepare for a hunt that they may be more familiar with. These are the things that make the PBS great. I hope to see the PBS continue to grow as it has over the last several years and we, as members, continue to recruit and mentor a new generation of hunters who will continue to carry on our values and tradition. Thank you for your consideration.

Sean Bleakley



Sean Bleakley

— Candidate Profiles for Councilman —

Let me introduce myself briefly; I have lived most of my life in northeast Ohio where I am fortunate to hunt deer with stick and string on multiple private properties. I have also hunted caribou in Quebec, elk in Colorado, moose in Alberta, and black bear in Ontario. I joined PBS in the 80's in order to attend the first Gathering and have missed only a few since.

PBS has been a guiding light to me over the years, particularly in my early learning process when so many Ohio guys encouraged me to switch to a crossbow "to be more successful". Friendships made here have enriched my life in a big way, and PBS offers a much-needed alternative to the instant gratification, buy-your-success, screen-obsessed world we seem to live in. I often refer to PBS as my spiritual bowhunting home! Every issue of our magazine, every Gathering, every hunt with PBS friends, makes my desire to hunt burn brighter. For the record, since our family prefers wild-caught protein, I am primarily a meat hunter; and my greatest trophies are the new hunters I have helped to mentor.

While I have not been active as a volunteer in the bowhunting world,

should I be elected, I have professional skills and experience that may be helpful to PBS as we continue to grow. Our leadership made some tough decisions a few years ago that put us firmly on the growth path - a clear indication that so many others hunger for a like-minded, ethics-driven bowhunting community. I do love to introduce others to archery, particularly children, with whom I use a large sheet of ethafoam with balloons pinned to it to generate some excitement. I have a half-dozen youth and children's bows hanging in my shop for this purpose.

My venison-loving wife and I own and operate Chrysalis Family Solutions in Wooster, Ohio, a mental health treatment, consulting, and training business. Our work is our ministry, and we focus on special needs children, along with marital and family counseling. While we have six full time therapists working for us, my personal bread and butter is management consulting, primarily with foster care and mental health agencies.

Prior to opening Chrysalis four years ago, I had a career in various senior management and executive positions with large nonprofits serving troubled children. In addition, I served

on a couple of boards of directors of similar organizations with national and international reach, and have experience in program management, strategic planning, and finance. Some of these experiences might serve PBS.

Angie and I have six children, including a few who were adopted and have special needs. We are active in our church where I am an Elder, having led Sunday school and fellowship programs for teens and adults, served on various committees and helped call new pastors.

Equipment wise, except for my rookie season, and a few seasons impacted by two major shoulder injuries twenty years apart when I dusted off a compound, I have hunted forty years with recurves and longbows. I have been exclusively using EFOC arrows for the last seven seasons, as they tightened my groups and give me more pass-throughs! Primarily a tree-stand hunter, I am trying a saddle this year.

Finally, I was blessed to be raised in a 'service above self' oriented family and taught to do whatever it takes to get a job done. It would be an honor to serve on Council, and I pledge to bring



Dave Earley

this ethic and my professional experience to PBS if elected.

Dave Earley

My name is Randy Brookshier and I live in southwest Virginia. I have been shooting a bow most of my life, and I started shooting a bow with my dad when I was four years old.

I shot throughout my teen years and competed on my college archery team. After college I went to work for a police department and at the same time was fortunate enough to be picked up by Hoyt as a sponsored shooter. I shot compounds for Hoyt for five years. It was interesting and I learned a lot traveling and shooting for Hoyt, but after all those years of serious competition, I felt like something was missing. In the fall of 1989, I picked up a used Brackenbury recurve and was hooked. I sold all my compounds and never looked back. Shooting a traditional bow opened the door for me to reconnect to what I felt archery is all about. Embrace the history and simply have fun.

I currently have almost forty years in law enforcement and am married to a wife that is incredibly supportive of my passion for bows and bowhunting. I have two sons and a daughter who were all raised shooting bows. I shoot a bow every day of the year and enjoy shooting them all, my old Bears, ILF bows and Howard Hill longbows.

I have been involved in getting nu-

merous individuals involved in archery and then mentoring them on their journey into bowhunting. I am an active member of my local archery club and over the last forty years have served in about every office in that entity. I am a member of several organizations, but my primary interest has always been with the Professional Bowhunters Society.

I have been a regional representative of the P.B.S. for several years. In addition to attending Membership Hunts around the country, I have hosted several P.B.S. Membership Hunts myself. Hunts for sika deer in Maryland and for big game in the Blue Ridge mountains here in Virginia. All the hunts I have attended as well as the ones I have hosted have been an avenue for me to meet many of the finest bowhunters on the planet and solidify some lifelong friendships.

Some of the more enjoyable times involved sitting around a campfire with likeminded bowhunters, either on a Member Hunt or at one of the Odd-Year Gatherings, just sharing ideas and experiences, often in a state or location that I would never have had the opportunity to visit were it not for the P.B.S. I hope to facilitate more members having this opportunity and experience, espe-

cially the younger members.

I felt honored when asked to run for an open Council position. I am seeking this position with the hopes of being able to give back to an organization that has meant so much to me throughout my bowhunting career. If voted on to the Council I intend to be a positive example for bowhunting and the P.B.S. and to continue recruiting and assisting new members into the ranks of our organization. The P.B.S. has experienced a period of rapid growth over the past several years, and I hope to assist in continuing this trend by building on the hard work and accomplishments of the previous council. I have made it a habit of personally reaching out to new members in the Appalachian region that I serve with a welcoming letter providing additional information on our organization.

I joined P.B.S. in 1982 as an Associate member and became a Regular member in 1992. One of the proudest days of my life was when I received my Regular Member acceptance letter from then president, Tim Reed. I have been involved in sponsoring several members through their Regular member application since that time. One of the things I hope to accomplish is to encourage, motivate and assist more



Randy Brookshier

members to initiate the process and apply for Regular Membership.

As Councilman, I hope to make the proper decisions to enable all of our members to enjoy the experience of the P.B.S. as much as I have.

Randy Brookshier

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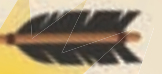
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Brian Peterson doubled up during Missouri's firearms season using his Jerry Pierce Choctaw recurve, cedar arrows and ACE 145gr broadheads.



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Paul Ladner with his first elk taken in WY, August 2022. Ken Hoehn longbow from PBS banquet and an arrow from Andy Houck. Hunted with PBS members Jeff Holchin and Mark Viehweg.



Derek Trent with his first velvet 8 taken with a Toelke Pika on September 8, 2022.



Ontario, Canada black bear taken hunting with Bear Creek Outfitters. St Joe River longbow Ace Standard broadhead on an Easton Traditional Shaft.



Don Davis with a buck.



MEMBER PHOTOS



Sid Roberts with a north Georgia bear take with his custom Droptine Bow and a Wensel Woodsman broadhead.



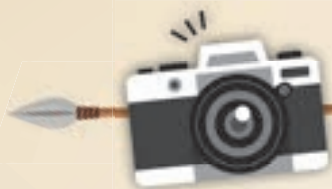
Old warriors: Bubba Graves and his Texas feral goat from the Davis Mountains. Wes Wallace Royal Longbow, cedar shafts with Grizzly 200 grain Broadhead and a Sun Body 6" brim Gus hat.



Ryan McKinney with an Idaho bear, 2022.

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MEMBER PHOTOS



Pastor Joseph Hart in Idaho with his first black bear taken with a bow personally made by Earl Hoyt, Jr.



Pastor Joseph Hart of Moore's Hill, IN. Quebec wilderness. Schafer Silvertip bow.



Pastor Joseph Hart of Moore's Hill, IN. Quebec wilderness. Schafer Silvertip bow.



Pastor Joseph Hart in New Brunswick with his 12-year-old son Caleb who was in the stand with him. This harvest was with Dale Dye's last personally made bow.

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MEMBER PHOTOS



David Balowski's Ontario, Canada grouse with St Joe River longbow, Ace Hexhead on an Easton Traditional shaft.



Rob Durant with a doe taken in September with a Little Mountain recurve. Great Northern quiver. 200 grain Day Six broadhead.



Curt Barkus's MD public land buck with his Robertson Wolfer and J&M custom arrows.



Joel Riotto took his Dale Dye bow and Woodsman heads to Texas and came home with this nice buck.

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