Official Publication for the members of the Professional Bowhunters Society

UNITED WE ACT FOR THE PRESERVATION OF BOWHUNTING

PBS 2014 BIENNIAL GATHERING TICKET ORDER FORM MARCH 27 – 30, 2014

		Regular Life _	Regular	Associate
Spouse/Guest's Name (if attending)			
Children's Names (if at	tending)			
Address	City		State	Zip Code
Day Phone	Evening Phone		Email	
Individual Pricing:	Friday Dinner & Auction	#	@\$58	\$
8	Saturday Dinner & Auction	#		\$
	Regular Life Member Breakfast (Friday)	#		\$
	Thursday Social	#		\$
	Ladies Luncheon & Auction (Saturday)	#	_ ~	\$
	Ladies Riverboat Luncheon (Friday)	#	_ ~	\$
	Youth Seminar & 1 Lunch – Friday/Sat.	#		\$
Half Draw Package:	1 Friday Dinner & Auction Ticket 1 Saturday Dinner & Auction Ticket 100 "General" Raffle Tickets	#	_@\$150	\$
Full Draw Package:	2 Friday Dinner & Auction Tickets 2 Saturday Dinner & Auction Tickets 200 "General" Raffle Tickets	#	_@\$300	\$
	Additional "General" Raffle Tickets 100 for \$50; 35 for \$20; 15 for \$10	#		\$
	TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED:			\$
Check here if you are	staying at the Hyatt Regency and are a 1st	time banquet	attendee	
As an added bonus, free "General" raffl	any one (family) sending in their registe tickets.	tration form	by December 31	, 2013 will receive 50
free "General" raffle Please make all chec Canadian members m For your convenience	e tickets. Oks payable to PBS and mail to: PBS, laust send International Cashiers Checks of you may use MasterCard or Visa. 2.5%	P. O. Box 246 or Money Orde	, Terrell, NC 28 ers payable in US	682 S funds.
free "General" raffle Please make all chec Canadian members m For your convenience Please provide the fol	e tickets. Oks payable to PBS and mail to: PBS, laust send International Cashiers Checks of you may use MasterCard or Visa. 2.5%	P. O. Box 246 or Money Orde 6 will be added	, Terrell, NC 28 ers payable in US I to your total am	682 5 funds. nount.

Ticket order reservations made before January 1, 2014 will receive a name badge upon arrival in Cincinnati. Deadline for receiving this form in the PBS Home Office is March 15, 2014. Tickets will be picked up at the PBS registration desk in Cincinnati. Tickets will <u>not</u> be mailed.



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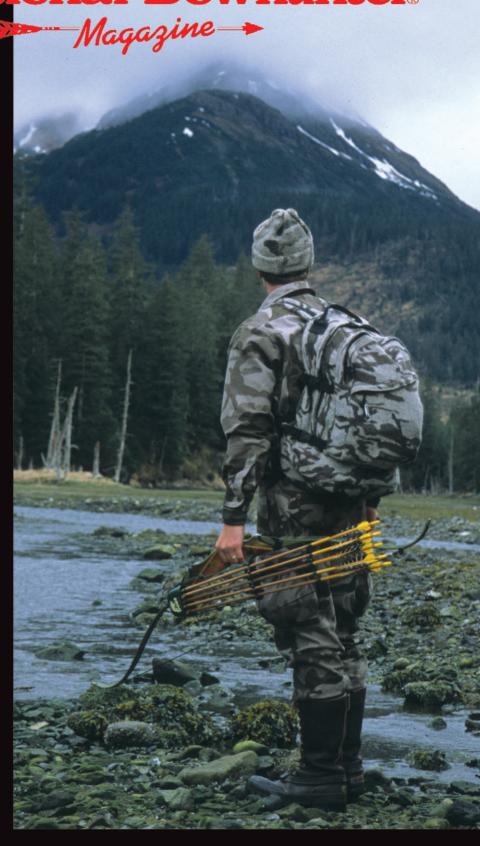
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Cover Photo by: Rob Burnham, Rockville, Va. The purple feathered arrow was carried all season in support of Larry Fischer. Larry is battling cancer

PROFESSIONAL BOWHUNTER MAGAZINE

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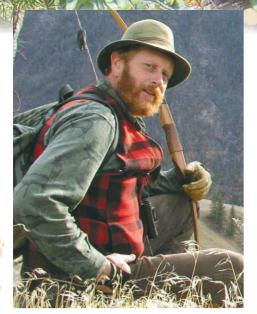
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When you receive this we will be in final preparations for the gathering in Cincinnati. I hope to visit with many of you there. We have several important issues to address in Cincinnati, but there is one thing that should prevail - having a good time with old and new bowhunting friends! Seeing our membership in person is what fraternalism is all about. I realize that not everyone can make it to the biennial events, for a variety of reasons, but usually time and cost are the main factors. So how can we maintain fraternalism with only a quarter of us able to meet in person? For starters, try to participate in regional events such as Odd Year Gatherings and membership hunts. The quarterly PBS Magazines, combined with our website and facebook page should keep you informed of these events well in advance. Right now we are in the process of pulling together a system of regional representation, involving 7 regions. The intent of this is to get our membership more engaged with each other for shoots, hunts, and occasionally political actions, where the logistics are reasonable. Talking with PBS elders of today and those of the recent past, it is my understanding that this organization was founded on a need for brotherhood and a unified voice when the defense of bowhunting was in order. We can't recreate the good old days, but we can carry forward to today the basic principles that pulled a group of like-minded bowhunters together 50 years ago.

It was around Thanksgiving in 2011 my wife Holly and I stopped in to see Vern and Fran Struble in Corvallis. Vern had been having good and bad days at that time and we were fortunate to catch him on a good day. I told him I was going to be in the election for PBS Vice President in the next two months. He said, "Great! I was in that

President's Message

by Jim Akenson micaake@yahoo.com

Applying the principles of our elders in today's world

position once...Grand Junction was the Banquet that year. It was a really good get-together, and everybody just had the time of their lives!" I then asked Vern, "Aren't all PBS Gatherings a grand time?" He said, "I sure want to make it to Portland in a few months to see everybody but people just don't get along as well as they used to, and they seem to want different things out of PBS than being satisfied with being a group of bowhunting brothers." That conversation didn't go much further but the gist of it stuck with me, and it still resonates today. I guess we all probably have had conversations with friends, mentors, or elders who have passed away that we would somehow give anything to continue - but we can't. What we are left with, ultimately, are words of wisdom.

Vern had a great time with his PBS bowhunting buddies. The only Gathering he missed was Portland, in his own home state. I never did get the chance to tell Vern I had become President of PBS. He was my mentor and I know he would have been proud. However, Vern did hear that my wife Holly had become a Fish & Wildlife Commissioner in Oregon. That news made him smile. Vern knew when to speak-up for protecting bowhunting seasons and he rarely missed an Oregon Fish & Wildlife Commission meeting over a 45 year period. Holly owns a longbow that has "Vern's Vision" inked on it when it was made 13 years ago. So where am I going with this? I'm giving an example of mentoring, of illustrating how mentoring will ensure that other like-minded people will "carry the faith" of the bowhunting and conservation principles of our elders. Keeping this faith of brotherhood, respect, and sheer joy to share experiences – in person, is what fraternalism is all about. I urge each of you to get to know a fellow PBSer, whether it is in Cincinnati or at one of the other PBS functions over the next year. If they are younger or less experienced, then offer to help them learn and excel at bowhunting. If you are new to bowhunting seek out one of the PBS Regular members. We owe it to both our elders and our successors to keep the flame burning!

As a last note, I want to extend a big thank you to Greg Darling for his long-term service as a Councilman. Greg, you have been both a great contributor for PBS and a great person to work with! Also, when you get chance, please take the opportunity to welcome Cory Mattson as the new 3-year Councilman. Cory, I look forward to working with you in the coming year! Finally, let's give a special thanks to Preston Lay for running against Cory in the recent election. And Preston, we'll be hoping to hear more from you in future elections!

Respectfully,

~ Jim A.

Regular Membership Candidate

We list the following names of members who have applied for regular membership in PBS. These individuals have completed a lengthy application and are currently under review by the Executive Council.

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 Steve Osminski, 7473 Marsack Drive, Swartz Creek, MI 48473.

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:
Rob Burnham – VA
Dan Russell – WA
PJ Petiniot – IN

Jeffrey Holchin - NC

Vice President's Message

by Steve Hohensee steveh.alaska@gmail.com • 907-362-3676

Cincinnati: In the Land of Opportunity

What is it about that special connection that one PBS brother or sister finds with another that is less entwined between non-members? When I stop and think of the people that I would most love to spend time with in the woods I either met them at a PBS Gathering or, chances are I will be able to spot them across the room in Cincinnati. When I am in Cincinnati, I will take a moment, stop, survey the room and I can be reasonably assured that there is a member out there

that I will eventually help drag a deer from the woods, or perhaps will assist me in a difficult tracking job.

Will it be on a PBS Membership Hunt, maybe on a remote and lonely river? Perhaps I haven't even met that person but there they are; will it be the stocky guy in the plaid shirt that I have never met who is voting for his favorite photo? Maybe it will be the new member that was just welcomed at the registration table; better yet maybe both! For now I do not know

but sooner or later inevitability must win.

But perhaps most curious of all is the bond that I have created with the likeminded, brothers that I have never shared a camp with, removed by physical distance but not by mental connectivity. Where can one hope to find such a same-connection? I say nowhere but in the land of bowhunter opportunity.





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Deadline Dates for The PBS Magazine

Nov. 20th for 1st Qtr. 2014 issue Feb. 20th for 2nd Qtr. 2014 issue May 20th for 3rd Qtr. 2014 issue Aug. 20th for 4th Qtr 2014 issue

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Senior Council's Report

by Greg Darling stykbowhunter61@yahoo.com

Parting thoughts...

Writing this is bitter sweet, as I wish I could have been more effective over the course of my time on Council. How-

ever I think that the PBS will go on for some time to come and without me to help tend the flock and protect it from the wolves. That being said, I know I leave my post to Cory Mattson and I know he feels as fiercely protective of the organization as I do.

I thank you all for your support and encouragement over the years. You all know who you are. The countless letters and emails of encouragement and accolades were much appreciated. I'm looking forward to stepping back and again enjoying bowhunting as well as enjoying y friends the PBS has afforded me during my years of service and participation.

I'm sure some of you are happy to see me go, however I can assure you the support I received was 20 to 1 over words of dissent. I hope we can all agree that the PBS means a lot to all of us and we all want to see it stand for another 50 years. I'm leaving it up to Council and future Councils to sort out how to make sure of that.

So thank you, I'll miss the level of involvement for sure, but look forward to letting go as well. I'll see you out there, and good luck.

Greg

2014 Election Results

Total Ballots Received 228 ~ Total Voting Members 352

Three Year Councilman

78 Preston Lay

144 Cory Mattson

6 Abstain

228 Total Votes

PBS extends a thank you to those who ran for office and were not elected. Preston Lay is a true credit to the character of our organization demonstrated through his willingness to "step up" as a leader.

PBS also extends congratulations to Cory Mattson who was elected by vote to the Three-Year Council person position.

2/3 Majority Vote Required for By-Law Amendments

BALLOT ITEM: This proposed By-Law
Amendment would change the wording of the

By-Law ARTICLE XI - Amendments

from: "These By-Laws may be amended, revised, or altered by an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Regular members" To: "These By-Laws may be amended, revised, or altered by an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Regular members returning completed ballots."

33 - NO, do not change

By-Law ARTICLE XI - Amendments.

224 - YES, change By-Law ARTICLE XI – Amendments to above wording.

5 - ABSTAIN

262 - Total Votes

The Ballot Item on the 2/3 majority vote did not pass. It would have needed 11 more yes votes (235) to achieve a 2/3rds majority considering an eligible-to-vote count of 352.

These results have been verified as correct through a second count and confirmed as accurate by a vote of Council.

NOTICE:

There will be a meeting for Regular Members on Friday at 9 a.m. during the Cincinnati Gathering to address the issue of voter participation and effective ballot elections.



Let's make sure we get in the right box.

Notify our Home Office of any change of address!

PBS

P.O. Box 246 Terrell, NC 28682

email: probowhunters@roadrunner.com

PBS Website www.probowsociety.net

Council's Report

by Steve Osminski steveosminski@yahoo.com

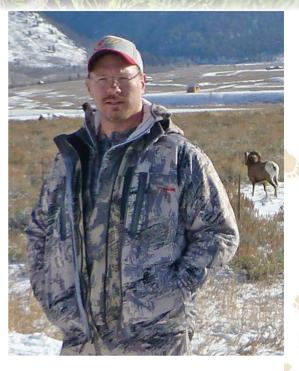
Fraternalism and Change...

The 1st Quarter issue of our fine magazine should find you in plenty of time for the 2014 Gathering March 26-30 in Cincinnati. I always tell prospective and new members of the PBS it is hard to grasp what the PBS is all about until you attend a Gathering. I know my eyes (and literally my entire world) were opened. My wife and I knew no one as we stepped onto the plane in Detroit heading to the Salt Lake City Gathering. Starting with that plane ride where I happened to sit right behind my now good friend and hunting buddy Bryan Burkhardt, thru the festivities and the random seating of the Friday and Saturday night dinners I was introduced to serious bowhunters from all over the country. PBS members who have turned into solid friends and hunting partners. Every single one of those friends has multiplied to many more high quality bowhunting friends from their groups of bowhunting friends. On that note, concerning serious bowhunting friends, I will say a fond farewell to Councilman Greg Darling. Greg has been on Council for what seems to be forever and cares deeply for the PBS and bowhunting. I want to not only thank him for his service but also for showing a very young and naïve PBS member how to be a good member by inviting him on a DIY bear hunt in Que-

At the Gathering, you will see passion for bowhunting; from the membership meeting to the Friday and Saturday night banquet speakers. You will also see massive amounts of generosity, again from all the speakers, but also from all the donors and bidders in the auctions. This includes all the bow and arrow makers from the contests of the weekend as well. Their efforts along with so many of the member donations will raise money to operate the PBS for the next two years.

Speaking of friendships and donations, I would like to highlight our Pack of Dreams Raffle. With the Midwest location of the Gathering, we decided to make it a whitetail deer hunter's nirvana and thru our many generous friends we have come up with a dandy package! (See the dust cover for tickets.) The highlight of any big PBS

prize is a bow. With the package I had in mind, we needed a great ground blind bow. My mind immediately went to Jerry Brumm of Great Northern. Jerry has done so much for the PBS including being a past Vice President, I thought it would be neat for him to have top billing. Jerry was honored at the opportunity and is building the PBS a very special Limited Edition Super Ghost recurve for the POD. Bob Brumm is donating a matching Great Northern Quiver, and good friend Jeff Springer is getting some of the handle material from Jerry to add one of his hand forged "Tippet" knives to go match. These "Tippet" knives go for \$1000-2500 at auction, so the winner will be VERY lucky. Arrows would be another key ingredient and True North Arrows has donated a dozen custom cedars tipped with points and Eclipse broadheads. Councilman Tim Roberts is adding one of his custom Farr West Leathers armguards as well. George Lynch of Lynch Mob Calls talked to his friends at Jay's Sporting Goods in Michigan and procured a fantastic new ground blind; Baronet's "Big Mike". For all day comfort in your ground blind, Scott Hoffman donated one of his 16" HuntMore 360 chairs and Sitka Gear donated a Fanatic Jacket and Bib set. I'm putting in a nice heavy set of 4x4 whitetail sheds, Tim Cosgrove from Kustom King Traditional Archery found a new custom deer call maker and is adding one of the "Woody" calls, and member Chris Latona is making a cus-



tom turkey call to fit in the POD. Barry Wensel has saved us the last spot at this year's Boot Camp—this is a tremendous opportunity to learn from one of the best EVER. Dates are April 10-12, 2014 ONLY. Rounding out the Pack of Dreams is a PACK of Dreams; The Elk Hunter from Bison Gear. Angelo Christiano is a great friend to PBS and we appreciate him and all the other donors more than they ever know. If you need some new gear, look at these businesses that support the PBS.

This Council report will be my last as the responsible party to the Associate membership, I will be Sr. Councilman on March 1st and that means I will be the conduit for the Regulars. I will have some interesting items for next quarter with regard to voting and the new Regular Membership Application. It has been an honor dealing with all the excitement of new members and fielding questions about the PBS and the steps Associates should take as they grow in the PBS. My advice to all the new members and for that matter long standing Associates; seek out your PBS brothers! Get to the Gathering or an Odd Year event. Call the Home Office to get a list of members near you. Put out a thread on the website. Get in on one of the member hunts. The members of the PBS are the best benefit of the PBS—find some, you will like them!

Steve O.



Over the past little bit, I have found myself in a sort of introspective condition. Some of this comes from recent-past Council discussions. Although, a larger part, or awareness, has been on the time I have had the opportunity to serve as a committee chairman, and on the PBS Council.

While there are many faces to the PBS, I am under the impression that for the most part our members reside in one of two camps. There are those that feel the need for the PBS to be a strong leader in the political realm. They see threats to traditional values and beliefs that bowhunting...as we know it, is based on. Then, over in the other camp there are those that understand the inherent values of fraternalism. At this point it would be very wise not to try and surmise the views from one camp to another, and it would serve no positive purpose. I do believe that through the course of time the gap between the two camps has widened significantly. This separation is almost to a point that it should be a great concern, and possibly even to a point where it could be regarded as a major threat to both bowhunting and the very future of

We all know that for some time our organization has faced some pretty glaring obstacles that are impediments to any forward progress. There has been an attempt to fix some of these problems, most recently the 2/3's voting issue. I believe this latest effort would have resulted in nothing more than a short-term, band-aid type of fix. While this was viewed by many as a solution, we failed to realize that we can't build something positive on a nega-

Council's Report

by Tim Roberts
Tim@farrwestleather.com

Bridging the Gap... political action vs. fraternalism

tive, and reducing our voting membership pool is a negative. Just maybe if we all were to sit back and look at some of these problems through a perspective of, "How can we start tackling these problems in a proactive way and continue to move in that positive direction?" I think such an attitude would be a greater benefit to our organization in the long run.

Honestly, the very best starting point is a place where we all should be comfortable with...ourselves.

There are many members within our ranks who are great examples of tolerance, understanding, and respect for others. They are the ones that believe that as long as a member, or person is doing all they can to fit within our guidelines - then they fit, they belong, and until they chose otherwise, will always be welcome. If the rest of us, decided that our goal was to be

more like that group eventually the problems and obstacles that our organization faces would diminish and work their way out. Ideally, if all our members believed that their opinion had value, maybe not agreed with by all but was respected, we wouldn't have participation problems or issues. Not trying to say that it would be a perfect world, but we would stand a lot better chance of obtaining a level of functional ability.

As we are into the first quarter of a new year it would be a worthy challenge, for our members, self included, to set a goal to find more tolerance, understanding and respect for those whom we frequently disagree with.

Respectfully,

Tim Roberts



Straight Arrows

Chaplain's Corner

by Gene Thorn

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watched as my white fletched and dipped arrow flickered across the ravine in an arc that eventually fell right into the dead center of the 12 ring on the bull elk target. It was probably 80 yards and it was amazingly a perfect hit. How does a wooden arrow that is not perfectly straight fly as well as it can? That has been a discussion many of us have had on the range, at rendezvous and gatherings, and in hunting camps. We straighten, tweak, sight down the shaft, spin arrows and do the best we can, but ultimately it is the job of the feathers to stabilize the flight of that imperfect shaft. We tune our bows and work on our form and release but a stiff breeze can drift our shot off target. I like my arrows to be as straight as I can get them, but the bottom line is they are never perfect.

Our walk with the Lord, like our arrows, is not perfect. We fall short at times. We make bad choices at times. Once we put our lives in His hands, He has a way of continually returning us to the right path to direct us to the center of the target of life, which is to be perfected in His image. He makes perfect people out of imperfect vessels. It is a lifelong process that is totally completed only when we reach heaven.

Psalm 5 ¹Give ear to my words, O Lord, consider my meditation.

²Give heed to the voice of my cry, my King and my God, for to You I will pray.

³My voice You shall hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning I will direct it to You, And I will look up.

⁴For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness, nor shall evil dwell with You.

⁵The boastful shall not stand in Your sight; You hate all workers of iniquity.

⁶You shall destroy those who speak falsehood; The LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.

⁷But as for me, I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your mercy; In fear of You I will worship toward Your holy temple.

⁸Lead me, O LORD, in Your righteousness because of my enemies; <u>make Your way straight before my</u> face.

⁹For there is no faithfulness in their mouth; their inward part is destruction; their throat is an open tomb; they flatter with their tongue.

¹⁰Pronounce them guilty, O God! Let them fall by their own counsels; cast them out in the multitude of their transgressions, for they have rebelled against You.

¹¹But let all those rejoice who put their trust in You; Let them ever shout for joy, because You defend them; let those also who love Your name Be joyful in You.

¹²For You, O LORD, will bless the righteous; with favor You will surround him as with a shield.

We need to ask the Lord to make His way straight before our face, just as King David asked. The thing about David that is apparent in reading scripture concerning him was not that he was perfect, for he surely was not; it is that God loved David and continually favored him, protected him, and brought him back from his failures to the right path. God favors his people, every single one. It is not our striving; it is His grace and the Holy Spirit working in our lives. That includes you and I. All we have to do is ask. Lord, take these imperfect vessels of clay and make us into straight arrows!

PBS Website Committee Report

By Doug Clayton, Chair ~ dclay33@cox.net

First off a big thank you to Kevin Dill whose oversight, as my predecessor Chair for this committee, guided the Forum through a growing stage to where it is today, a place for all PBS members to come and discuss topics ranging from hunts, equipment and such, to ones that are directed to Society Business, biennial Gatherings and other related topics.

Out of our total membership of just over 1300 we now have 696 registered users which is over 50%. The requests for forum activation has been slow but steady. Since the last report the Forum has seen more than 2250 additional posts and the topics have increased to 1773 from 1600.

With our membership scattered all across both North America and several oceans, the Forum offers a chance experience the fraternalism that is at the main core of PBS. Take advantage of this great opportunity to connect with fellow PB-S'ers on a daily basis.

There are several items that will be addressed in the future to help improve the Forum and make it a place that every PBS member will want to visit on a daily, if not more, basis. Remember, it is your Forum!

And, don't forget to check out the Forum for up-to-date information on everything related to the Cincinnati Gathering.

7

PBS Letters to the Editor

1959 Bear Kodiak

To the Editor.

Having been a member of the society for many years I read the magazine the minute it gets here to my office and low and behold I saw something that might be of interest to the members.

The picture on the cover got my attention, the 1959 Bear Kodiak. In the article "I Miss Captain Ed" on page 28 there is a picture of Fred Bear getting onto Ed's boat for another hunt in 1959. He is carrying a box of arrows from Bear Archery. These are Port Orford cedar arrows produced by Bear Archery when they had an arrow factory in southern Oregon.

At the ATA show a couple of years ago I approached the staff of Bear Archery and proposed to them that we produce arrows for them from the ERA of the 1959 Kodiak bow they were about to reintroduce. After a couple of years they and we agreed on a contract for us to do this. One of the provisions was that we reproduce not only three designs of the arrows that Fred used on these hunts, but that we reintroduce the box exactly as it was made in the day (1959). We now produce those arrows and have had the box made exactly as it was.

Throughout the years, costs have reduced the quality of a lot of things in traditional archery, but Bear wanted to go first class and that is what we have done. The box is the same, the arrows are the same down to the cresting, crown dip, feathers and colors.

Bear Archery wanted to bring back the tradition that was there when Fred was traveling around the world promoting archery. What we now call "traditional" was common every day stuff.

Anyone interested can look at our web site and see what has been done

The PBS is a great society, the magazine is first rate and I am proud to have been a member for quite a few years.

Good Hunting, Jerry Dishion PRES/CEO Rose City Archery, Inc.

PBS Membership

Dear Sirs.

I have finally found time (to myself) to sit down and read my PBS Magazine. I used to find time to frequent the PBS website. Jim, I met you at our UBI banquet a couple years ago, and Jack, we have had some correspondence in the past in my submissions to the PBS magazine. As I read my recent magazine and saw how the organization has moved forward I realized my lack of presence for several years may be perceived as a member who has lost interest. Nothing could be further from the truth. The proverbial candle has been burning at both ends and it is getting mighty short. In 2011 I campaigned and was elected as the President and Business Agent of Boilermakers Local 483. The position is considered part-time even though I have 10 shops, 220 members to represent, travel in assisting our international, lobbying in Washington DC, along with still holding down my position as a welder at Olin Brass Corp. When I can be there. I am enjoying the Union work tremendously though I have sacrificed most (all) of my free time which was previously dedicated to my interest in archery. I just wanted those who are carrying the responsibility of ensuring our organization's future to know my cause of absence in participation. I will continue to hold my membership as a Regular member and hope to again find time to participate.

With best regards, I remain fraternally yours, *Glenn Reinhardt*

It is the objective of the Professional Bowhunters Society to be a forum for the free expression and interchange of ideas. The opinions and positions stated are those of the authors and are not by the fact of publication necessarily those of the Professional Bowhunters Society or the Professional Bowhunters Society Magazine. Publication does not imply endorsement.

Bowhunting Preservation Committee

Joining Forces

By Mark Baker, Committee Chair - classicbowhunting@live.com

It's time to follow up our efforts with the "Journey of Challenge" video that we produced last year. That short 4-minute tease has made its mark in piquing the interests and sentiments of bowhunters across the country who share in its concerns and have become frustrated with the current state of bowhunting and want to do more to promote the true intent and spirit of what bowhunting is supposed to be.

Right off the bat, we had support for this effort from the Traditional Bowhunters of Montana, and we soon followed with support from the Traditional Archers of Wisconsin, and now even the Oklahoma Selfbow Society. All they needed was a request from us to give generously towards our efforts of creating a presence that lawmakers, game officials, state agencies, state

bowhunting organizations, industry folks, and rank and file bowhunters...could learn and re-educate themselves as to what the "journey of challenge" means, and why it is so important to preserve. It's a fledgling effort at best now, compared to the mountain of mis-information and hype that opposes us. But it's one that has merit, has followers, and cries out for attention from all. All good things start small.

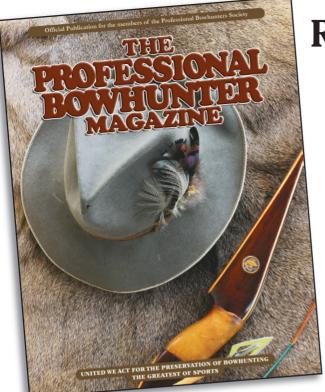
We are currently working towards raising funding to continue with our mission to "get the word out" through the best mediums we can afford and imagine....to reach as many folks as we possibly can. This is PBS leadership at its best, in my opinion, putting to use the "knowledge and experience" we proclaim, and rallying as many like-minded organizations and individuals

to our efforts that we can muster. It takes money, folks, to do this stuff. And we need every PBS'er to help in getting word out to your state organization, and your friends, and your local and state officials...that this is a worthy cause. We need their support financially, and we need their "endorsement" to our efforts to insure we have a strong and loud voice collectively.

I am willing to take any questions any of you might have....to listen to your ideas, and to do my level-best to get this effort off the ground and make it something that PBS can be proud to hold high for many years to come.

Feel free to contact me, with your inputs and concerns....

- Mark Baker, committee chair classicbowhunting@live.com



Remembering Fred Bear

The cover of the 2013 Fourth quarter magazine is a great photo of Fred Bear's personal hunting hat. Gary Logsdon mentioned a fellow from Kentucky bought the hat from Dick Lattimer's daughter and drove all the way up to Grayling, Michigan to pick it up rather than have it mailed.

They say a picture is worth a thousand words... here are a few of ours about the man behind the legend.

Alaskan. I assume Fred brought it back from one of his polar bear hunts.

In December 1968, Donna and I spent our wedding night at Stouffer's Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky in honor of Fred and Henrietta Bear... ..well, sort of. By the time you

read this, it will have been over 45 years.

Gene Wensel

In September of 1968, Barry and I were in a restaurant on the top floor of what was then Stouffer's Hotel in downtown Indianapolis. The place was one of those all glass affairs that allowed patrons to look out over the city. As the sun was setting, Barry said to me, "Hey, look at that guy over there." I turned to see a tall figure standing at the window, obviously absorbed in watching the sunset. "Look at those ears," Barry said, "Look at the shape of his head. Look at the size of those feet..... that guy looks like Fred Bear!" Sure enough, it was Fred Bear himself. When we introduced ourselves, Fred was gracious enough to invite us to join him at his table, where his wife Henrietta and daughter Julie were waiting. Fred ordered after dinner drinks and we ended up spending over an hour talking bowhunting. What an unique opportunity! Henrietta Bear seemed to like us for some reason. The Bears were on their way back to Grayling, Michigan from Florida, where they had looked at some property to relocate Bear Archery.

A month or so later, Donna and I were sending out invitations to our upcoming December wedding. Mostly as a joke to Barry, I sent one to Fred. Two weeks later, I got a hand written letter from Henrietta, telling me that Mr. Bear would be unable to make the wedding due to him hunting musk ox on our big day (the nerve of him!). Fred had instructed her to send Donna and I an enclosed wedding gift. It was a polar bear, hand carved from walrus ivory by a native

Gene has already mentioned our fateful encounter, the day we met Fred and his family on the way home from Florida where they were looking at some property to eventually move Bear Archery from Grayling, Mich. After that coincidental evening in 1968 Fred always acknowledged Gene and I with the, "Yes.. I do remember you guys" line (not sure if that was good or bad). Fifteen years or so later in the mid-1980's Gene and I shared an elk camp with Paul Brunner and Charlie Kroll in the Big Hole River drainage of Montana. Before I get into that, I should mention we were hunting a ranch that was owned by actress and sex symbol Raquel Welch's ex-husband (they were then divorced). Brunner pulls Gene and I aside and lectures us not to ask Raquel's ex any embarrassing questions...what? Like Brunner is a classy guy? Right! Anyway, for those of you who don't know, Charlie Kroll was Fred Bear's son-in-law. He was also VP of Bear Archery at the time. Super nice guy. I found it interesting he shot a recurve although compounds were the new rage about then. While sitting around the campfire I asked Charlie what Fred's opinion was on the new compound bows. He said, and I'll try to quote exactly, "Fred's not quite decided on those vet."

We had a great hunt and although we didn't shoot any elk we had several close encounters with big bulls and Gene shot a bear. Charlie had as much fun flyfishing for spawning brook trout as the elk hunting. Sit-

ting around the campfire the last evening, I said to Charlie, "So, with Fred being your father-in-law you must get to go over to his house fairly often?" He answered yes. My mental wheels started to turn. So I said. "Well listen, next time your over at Fred's house steal something for me. Nothing really valuable or anything but maybe something personal of Fred Bear's." He just stared hard at me and then started to laugh. A month later I get a delivery from Bear Archery. Not only was it a brand new Black Bear model (black wooden riser) compound bow but the care-package included: a bloody kill arrow; Fred's toothbrush and a single dirty sock. The first thing that I looked at was the sock. It was white cotton and the foot part was really, really long. You know what they say, "Long feet..... long socks" or something like that. The kill arrow was a feathered cedar shaft with a green Bear Razorhead attached. The toothbrush was obviously very used and if I recall correctly it was blue. When I called Charlie to thank him he laughed and laughed. I'm not so sure if it was the sock and toothbrush as much as it was now the fact Wensel owned a compound bow. So not too long afterwards PBS was having their national banquet. I honestly don't remember which one it was but I attended as I have all of them. I also donated Fred Bear's personal toothbrush to the PBS auction. Everyone in attendance thought it was a joke (imagine that!). I distinctly remember Jim Emerson, who was a dentist, bought it for either \$5 or \$10. Afterwards I mentioned to Jim that it was in fact really Fred Bear's toothbrush. He laughed and said, "Yeah.. right!" So, there you have it, another Fred Bear personal item/tidbit. A hat here, a toothbrush there. I'll tell you one thing, I bet the gentleman from Kentucky who bought Fred's old hat paid more for it than Emerson paid for Fred's toothbrush.

BW Barry Wensel

PBS - Regionally Speaking

We are gaining momentum with the regional representaprogram PBS. Four individuals have taken initiative as lead reps. in their respective geographical regions. Following is a map of the nation which provides a visual display of the proposed regions. Also are comments from member-leaders taking on an active role with program startup. The key for this program is keeping grass-roots PBS activities closer to home and more doable for in-person events coordinated locally. Activities will vary by region and season, but can include hosting "odd year gatherings," membership hunts, smaller scale

youth hunts, providing a voice for promoting ethical bowhunting, and giving regional news updates for the Magazine and PBS Website. Please look this over and consider getting involved in your region. We'll have more discussion on this at the Gathering in Cincinnati, so stay tuned!

~Jim Akenson

Tom Vanasche, Pacific West:

The bowhunting political news from Oregon is somewhat encouraging. After much testimony and gnashing of teeth a coalition of hunting groups including the Professional Bowhunters Society, represented by myself, was able to get the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to table an introductory crossbow archery season. Though it was billed as for "disabled only," we felt it would rapidly escalate as it has in many states, including our neighbor to the north, Washington. I also want to give a tip of the hat to fellow PBS member Mark Baker from Montana. He provided me with valuable information from the battle that they had recently in their state. Rich and Kevin Thompson of Traditional Archers of Oregon were instrumental as well.

On other political action news, Jim Ak-



enson and I have been appointed to a public archery advisory committee to review and develop a long term plan for management of Oregon's elk and deer populations. There are 16 members of this group so we felt privileged to represent PBS in this important endeavor. So, try to get involved. Only you can make a difference!

Ron Lang, Great Lakes:

In Wisconsin we are still trying to deal with the fact that in 2014 the crossbow season will run current with the regular statewide archery season which runs from the second Saturday in September to the end of the first week in January for whitetails. The Wisconsin Bowhunters Association was responsible for a last minute change to the legislation to make it a separate season with its own license. You still are allowed only one antlered buck during the crossbow and bow archery season regardless of which weapon is used. After you buy your regular archery license you can purchase a crossbow license for \$3.00. The crossbow license will be sold to anyone old enough to buy a license (full inclusion). Reportedly, after two years the impact of the crossbow will be evaluated to determine if the season needs to be altered.

Terry Receveur, Northeastern:

One of the greatest benefits of membership in the PBS is the opportunity to meet and interact with like minded individuals. This often results in lasting friendships and many fun bowhunting adventures. An excellent way to facilitate this even further is via membership hunts. There has been resurgence in the number and variety of these recently and the results and response to such hunts has been extremely positive. The biggest downside to the hunts conducted recently has been the geographical challenge for those wanting to attend. Some of the hunts are just too far for some to travel. While this has not deterred some, for others the cost is prohibitive. More local opportunities would certainly help alleviate this obstacle. The creation of regional representation and leadership is intended to increase the number of opportunities for membership hunts, odd-year gatherings, youth events, and other fun activities.

Youth activities hold a soft spot in my heart having had the opportunity of raising four active bowhunters. They are now either married, working fulltime, or in college and my chance to participate in a youth hunt has waned. I therefore, must make opportunities to share time with youth and pass along a bit of what I might have learned and to simply share in some fun. It is with this in mind that I will be scheduling a late summer bowfishing extravaganza in the Northeastern Region. I am fortunate to have a large bowfishing boat and have a few other good friends that I can rope into participation as well. Other PBS members with boats and gear will be recruited for support also. I plan to host up to 10 youth for a weekend of fun and of night bowfishing. Please watch for details in the next PBS magazine.

If you are in the Northeastern Region and would like to participate in the youth bowfishing event or have an idea for another membership hunt or activity, please contact me anytime.

Terry Receveur 134 Rabbit Lane Kinderhook, NY 12106 Phone: 518-755-9119 Email:

Terrance.Receveur@Taconic.com

Ethan Rodrigue, Mid-America

The PBS has decided to establish Regional Reps in order to help members across the country keep tabs on issues effecting bowhunters as well as make it easier for members from each region to coordinate group hunts. This will give us all a great excuse to get together with our fellow PBS'ers, and they're loads of fun! The pig hunt Jeff Holchin hosted down in Georgia was a huge success, and he's already making plans for the next one. I am currently planning a hunt here in Tenn. as an odd year gathering for next year. (Details soon...) And there are many other great opportunities for us here in the South!

These events will help keep our membership excited and active within our own region, as well as help PBS'ers from other regions experience what Southern hospitality is all about! I'd like to ask the membership in the south east to help out and get involved in our PBS. This is a great opportunity to grow and improve ourselves as an organization. From my experience, in all things PBS, the efforts are always returned 10 times over! Please contact me with any suggestions, questions, or comments!

Ethan Rodrigue woodsmanbows@yahoo.com 423-290-3930

Fraternalism, Commitment and the Net Effect...

By Greg Darling

You can give a man a fish and he'll eat for a day. You can teach a man to fish and he'll eat for a lifetime.
You can be Fischer and heck who knows what will happen!

I was thinking

I was thinking the other day about how the heck I ended up here in the PBS, why, and how? I mean heck, since 2002

mean heck, since 2002 I've been involved in some form or fashion

in the PBS, either as a committee chair, or banquet staff. 12 years of service. But, who and how?

Twenty years ago in March I formally met a man, who would for all intents and purposes change everything in my life as it relates to bowhunting.

PBS Banquet 1994, Traverse City. Besides attending I was selling my first real decent hunting recurve, it was an early 70's Wing Thunderbird 50#@28" I drew about 58#'s out of her and she was a deer and small game killer, seasoned and proven. I had a for sale sign on her as I was looking to go bigger and hopefully a custom. Larry Fischer approached me and started asking me questions about her and told me he had a kid back in Boise who was a lefty that he wanted to gift her to. A deal was made and she went back west with him.

So began my trip that Larry started for me some 20 years ago. Off and on we would run into each other and talk about bowhunting and getting kids involved. I'd see him at the Great Lakes Longbow Invitational, the Eastern, again in Charlotte, North Carolina at the PBS. Whereever the magazine went to promote itself, if I was there we'd catch up.

In 1997 David, my son, killed his first deer. It happened to be a bit more than the average newbies' deer. Weighing in at 225# dressed with 8 points it was a hog and for David, all ninety pounds of him, it was a real moose and news worthy according to both Larry and T.J. Conrads. I wrote the story and it was published in TBM. Larry continued the "legend" by advertising with David in the marketing ad over the course of 4-5 issues of Bowhunter Magazine.

In 2000 David won a spot to go to Lee

Haven in Alabama in the essay **TBM** contest. We were fortunate to hunt with both T.J. and Larry there that December of 2000. In February 2001

I attended the PBS

Doug Kerr Youth Leadership Hunt in Texas with my daughter Meghan. It was about this time Larry started suggesting I start getting involved in the PBS.

I ran for President against Larry as well in the early years of the new century. When he became PBS President it wasn't long before he had me chair the Anti-crossbow Committee. At the San Antonio Biennial Banquet, I started getting involved in the auctions and the input of data and auction preparation on site during the Gathering.

In that time Larry took the time to get me introduced to Guy Perkins of Utah, another now brother separated by the miles of interstate and a lot of fly over country. I have stayed in the cabin outside Yellowstone, visited Boise and watched his kids grow into adults. I look at Blake as one of my favorite younger PBS'rs.

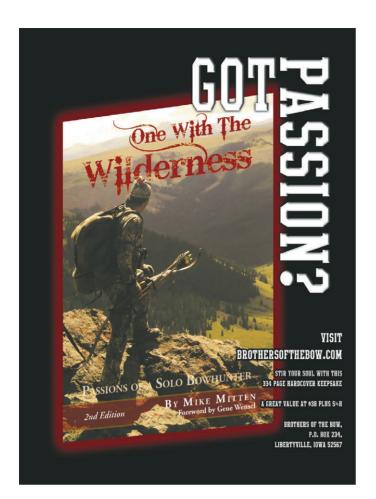
There were some core elements to all of this, number one was friendship and number two was fraternalism. Larry, without planning or designing, did this as part of his day to day life. It is almost like a Frank Capra screenplay the way this all worked out.

I guess it takes a moment of reflection to think about things like this. I guess I know I am one of many, and probably have started some similar chain reactions in life as well. But as I look back over my service years in the PBS I can truly credit a lot to Fischer for his influences and coercions.

I can say this, some people have come and gone, and others have stuck and for that I am truly thankful. My years in the PBS have been rewarding and the friendships made have stood the test of time.

No regrets Larry, I owe you a lot for what you did and the influences you had. Thanks for being that guy!

Greg *



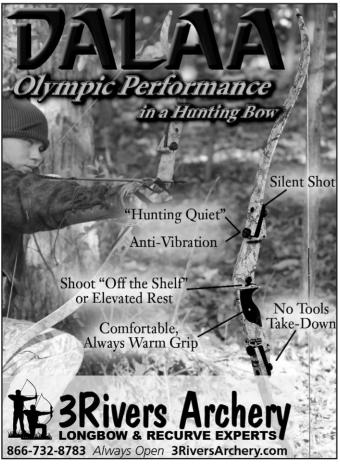


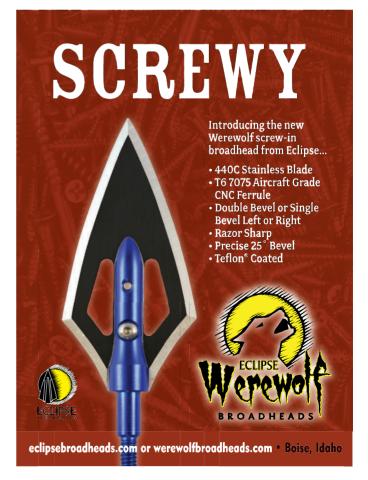
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low, offers visitors a glimpse into our nation's rich history. Guests of our downtown Cincinnati hotel can stroll through charming walkways at the Bicentennial Commons, catch a football game at Paul Brown Stadium, visit Fountain Square to enjoy live entertainment, see a baseball game at the Great American Ball Park or visit the National Underground Freedom Center to learn

about Cincinnati's role during the Civil War.

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Host 1,200 for an elegant banquet in the city's largest hotel ballroom, walk across the second-level skywalk to Saks Fifth Av-

enue, Tower Place Shopping Mall, and Duke Energy Convention Center or relax and recharge in our glass enclosed heated indoor pool and 24/7 StayFitTM gym.

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breakfast just for you, when you're ready to make a move.

Menus • Menus

THURSDAY

Welcome Social: Steamship round of beef carving station with a starch, vegetable, rolls and a sauce; Graeter's ice cream sundae bar that includes 3 types of ice cream, nuts, cherries, sprinkles, Oreo crumbs, hot fudge, caramel and whipped cream

FRIDAY

Life Member Breakfast: Homestead Buffet: Scrambled eggs with roasted tomato and thyme compote, smoked apple wood bacon and Bob Evans sausage links, roasted potatoes with sweet peppers and caramelized onions, sausage gravy and house made biscuits, cinnamon rolls, local and seasonal fruit, selection of chilled fruit juices, coffee, and Tazo tea.

Friday Night Banquet: Three-course plated dinner with pork tenderloin; baby romaine with shaved manchego, teardrop tomatoes and lemon oil and thyme vinaigrette; bittersweet chocolate or crunch cake

SATURDAY

Ladies Luncheon/Auction: Three course plated meal with tuna steak; butternut squash soup with root vegetable relish; roasted Fuji apple crumble with vanilla bean ice cream

Saturday Night Banquet: Three-course plated dinner with peppercorn crusted filet; spinach and frisee salad with apples, Stilton, walnuts and a pomegranate vinaigrette; and a banana bread pudding with rum sauce

SERVICES & FACILITIES

- Hyatt Express Check-In Kiosks
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- Assistive listening devices
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- Currency exhange
- Laundry /dry cleaning
- Valet parking, self-parking
- Gift Shop
- Full-service salon in connecting mall

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- Great American Ball Park home of Cincinnati Reds
- US Bank Arena
- The Aronoff Center for the Arts
- Newport on the Levee
- National Underground Railroad Freedom Center
- Eden Park and Krohn Conservatory
- Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens
- Macy's and TJ Maxx
- Kings Island Theme Park
- Cincinnati Art Museum
- University of Cincinnati
- Xavier University
- Beach Waterpark
- Riverbend Music Center
- Coney Island amusement part
- Horse racing at Turfway Park and River Downs
- Historic Mainstrasse Village



Cincinnati Information Central

Donations: PLEASE consider sending someone on Council an e-mail or giving us a call with donation pledges. Our Society relies on the generosity of the membership for donations towards our fund raisers—THANK YOU!

Banquet Registration: See the front inside cover of THIS issue of the Professional Bowhunter Magazine for your registration form. Please send your registration form in early to reduce Council's and Home Office's anxiety! (Notice there is a few minor edits between the Q3 and Q4 editions and the edition in THIS magazine).

Hyatt Regency Cincinnati: The hotel has now substantially completed a \$20 million remodel (see details in this issue)

Room Rate: The room rate is \$115 per night

Phone Reservations: 1-513-579-1234

Online Reservations:

http://resweb.passkey.com/go/CBOW

General Raffle: Your Council has decided to give out an additional 25 general raffle tickets with each half draw package and an additional 50 general raffle tickets with each full draw package to help offset the increased hotel and meal price from previous events. Tickets will be held with registration packets awaiting your arrival.

Parking: An unfortunate reality of a prime down-town destination. The Hyatt covered valet parking rate is \$26 per night but numerous city/private lots are close by and only charge \$6-\$16 overnight. A list of parking options is provided in THIS issue..

Airport: Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport (AKA Greater Cincinnati Airport), code CVG, is located ~20 minutes south of the hotel in Covington, Kentucky. Ground transportation with "Executive Transportation" (800-990-8841) is \$22 one way or \$32 for a round trip; I suggest you make reservations online or by phone.

Updates to Contests: The Jerry Pierce Bowyers contest, the arrow building contest, and the member photo contest have updated categories and rules.

Thursday Evening Welcome Social: Food, drink, and the opportunity to catch up with other members, oh and Graeter's ICE CREAM!

Friday Banquet: Long-time Regular Member, Scott Koelzer from Montana, will entertain the Friday evening banquet crowd with tales from his many adventures bowhunting the Rockies to the far northern reaches of Canada.

Saturday Banquet: Long-time Life Member and past PBS President Doug Borland of Alaska, will be our keynote speaker for the Saturday evening banquet.

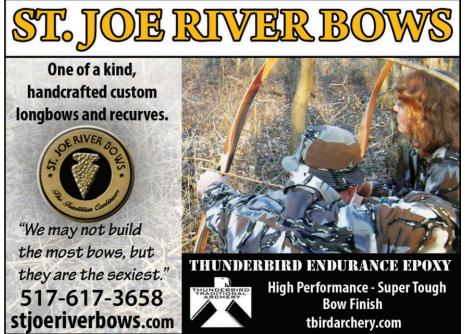
Banquet Seating: Friday and Saturday banquet seating will once again be available by first come, first served sign up on a table diagram like in Portland. Repeating a past success!

Ladies Offsite Event: A riverboat tour and luncheon has been arranged with B&B Riverboats on the Ohio River (See ad for details in this issue).

Shopping: No planned trip is necessary, awesome shopping opportunities exist literally FEET away from the hotel, so close you won't even need to go outside!

Seminar Speakers: See this issue of the Professional Bowhunters Magazine for the most up to date list of seminars and speakers (See ad in this issue).

Donations: I know, I listed Donations twice, they are that important. PLEASE consider making a donation, large or small, for one of the PBS fund raisers! Please send donation (or bring to Cincinnati) to Steve Osminski (address in this issue) and let Steve Osminski know of your generosity so they can enter data into the auction software. Pre-knowledge of donation details ahead of time helps your Council reduce the workload at banquet crunch time.







Guest Speakers

Friday Evening Speaker: Scott Koelzer

Scott Koelzer is 63 years young and has been shooting a bow since age 8. A native Montanan, Scott resides in the small town of Three Forks in the southwest corner of the state. For the past 35 years the bow Scott hunts with is a Schafer Silvertip recurve made by his good friend Paul Schafer. Paul also took Scott to British Columbia on his first Canadian hunting trip and he has been fortunate enough to go back many times in the years since. Scott is an active member of PBS, P&Y, Compton, Montana Bowhunters Association and Bowhunters of Wyoming. See you in Cincinnati!



Saturday Evening Speaker: Doug Borland

Doug Borland, a serious longbow enthusiast who joined PBS in the early 1970's, has over the years served on the PBS Council and also served as past PBS President. He is a longtime Alaska resident who, while trying to balance the ups and downs of running his own business, has spent his leisure time as much as possible in the Alaskan wild. He is one of the founders and a past officer of the Alaskan Bowhunters Association; he helped start Moose John Outfitters in Alaska, offering wilderness adventure for bowhunters; he helped publish the Alaska Bowman magazine; and then in the early 1990's, he spent three years in Russia as a guide and outfitter for bowhunters and flyfishers. With around 50 years of bowhunting experience, he has learned that the wilderness is the safest place to hide from the terrors of the internet, the traffic of the city, the trauma of TV and other "realities".

Cincinnati USA Convention & Visitors Bureau	CINCINNATI - DOWNTOWN PARKING CHART - 2013	Cincinnati USA Convention & Visitors Bureau

Convention & Visitors Bureau Cincinnati - Downtown Parking Chart - 2013 Convention & Visitors Bureau Cincinnati - Downtown Parking Chart - 2013							
GARAGE	Address	DAILY RATE - up to 8 Hours	8 hours - 24 Hours	PHONE #	DESCRIPTION	Hours Staffed	Height Clearance
Central Parking Garage	609 Elm Street	\$8.00	\$10.00	513-357-4463	Garage - entrances on Elm Street and Sixth Street	24 Hours	6'8" - 1.8288 m
Central Parking Garage	605 Plum Street	\$8.00	\$8.00	513-357-4465	Garage - entrances on Plum Street and Central Avenue	Staffed from 11 AM - 7 PM M-F. \$5.00 required to the auto- cashier only after 7 PM.	6'8" - 1.8288 m
Central Parking Garage	212 W. Fourth Street	\$10.00	\$15.00	513-357-4460	Garage - entrances on Fifth Street and Fourth Streets	24 Hours	6'8" - 1.8288 m
ABM System Parking	Plum Street - between Fifth & Fourth Street	\$8.00	\$8.00	513-929-9200	Open Lot with entrance on Fifth Street	Will have to pay every 24 hours. Large vehicle prices will vary. Please call to check prices.	N/A
All Pro	30 W. 4th Street	\$10.50	\$15.00		Garage	7 AM - Midnight	6'8" - 1.8288 m
Fountain Square South - Tri State Parking	416 Vine Street	\$15.00	\$15.00	513-352-4066	Garage - Located under the Westin Hotel	24 Hours M-Sun	6'6" - 1.8288 m
Central Parking - Fountain Square	520 Vine Street	\$15.00	\$15.00	513-381-3410	Garage - Located under Fountain Square	24 Hours	6'6" - 1.8288 m
Fountain Place Garage - Central Parking	Sixth & Race Streets	\$15.00	\$15.00		Garage is located under Macy's - entrance on Race Street.	7 AM - 11 PM	6'6" - 1.8288 m
ABM System Parking	580 Walnut Street	\$15	\$16.00	513-721-5528	Garage - entrances on Walnut Street and Main Street	6 AM - 11 PM M-F / Sat limited hours staffed - Auto Cashier after 11 PM will need cash or credit card to exit garage	6'6" - 1.8288 m
Central Parking	29 W. 7th Street	\$8.00	\$9.00	513-241-9155	Garage	24 Hours / M-Sun	6'6" - 1.8288 m
Central Parking	222 W. 7th Street	\$6.00	\$6.00	513-421-0768	Garage - Opens at 6 AM and closes at 12:30 AM.	M-Sat 6 AM - 12:30 AM/ Sun 8 AM - 2 PM	6'8" - 1.8288 m
Central Parking	600 Vine Street	\$12.00	\$15.00		Garage - entrance located on Vine Street between 6th & 7th Street	Auto cashier - will accept credit cards or cash	6'6" - 1.8288 m
Garfield Place Garage	13 W. 9th Street	\$6.00	\$6.00	513-352-6372	Entrance to garage is located on 9th Street	24 Hours/7 days a week	6'6"





Seminars -

Joining the Hunt

Moderated by Krista Holbrook; Featuring Olga Borland

This seminar is ideal for men and women looking to broaden their outdoor opportunities with their partner. Olga Borland will discuss overcoming her apprehension and the physical demands of accompanying her husband on an arduous sheep hunt deep in Alaska's Brooks Range. Olga will also share her experiences foraging for wild edibles. Professional photographer Lori Thomas will discuss opportunities for non-hunters through the medium of nature photography. Questions and answers will follow.

DIY Alligator Bowhunting

Terry Receveur, NY & Jeff Holchin, NC

"Chootem' Elizabeth"! The cry for action comes from Louisiana alligator hunter Troy Landry of the reality TV series "Swamp People". The show is extremely popular and has caused a surge in the number of people who would like to hunt alligators. This seminar will provide all the information needed to help you start planning for a Do-It-Yourself (DIY) Florida alligator bowhunt. You will learn about the following topics: how to apply for the limited permits; the specialized equipment necessary; hunting techniques; safety awareness; judging the size of a gator; trophy and meat care; and estimated costs. Actual hunting equipment will be available for review and demonstration.

Alaskan Moose

Monty Browning, SC

Monty is one of bowhunting's finest speakers and we are fortunate to have him recreate the experience of the unforgiving bush from his extensive trips into interior Alaska. In Monty's search for solitude he will face drama, potential life ending challenges, bears, and a whole lot more.

Hanging for Deer: The OTHER Treestand

Joey Buchanan, MS

PBS's second favorite southerner, Joey Buchanan, stopped standing in stands several years ago and has started "hanging for deer". Joey will have three different models on hand and will share his secrets for climbing trees safely, tree sling selection, hunting safely, and efficiently moving into position for the shot. Hear Joey's secret for staying in his tree all day while SAFELY being able to take a mid-day nap! Joey says that hanging for deer is "hotter than two mice cracking in a wool sock", what that means we do not know. Joey says he will be prepared for wise cracks from the peanut gallery and to bring it on!

Why in the World Would I Need a Blood Tracking Dog?

Walt Dixon, NY

Walt Dixon is a PBS Regular member, a Life Member of Deer Search (NY), and a member of The United Blood Trackers in North America. There are about 23 states and some Provinces in Canada that allow the use of dogs to trail wounded big game, but the regulations vary. In NY a leashed tracking dog is used and both the handler and dogs must be licensed. Walt will present a discussion on the history, training, techniques and usage of dogs to help recover wounded big game animals in North America and Europe and will review the states and provinces that allow tracking and the resources available for identifying, locating and training dogs.

How to Improve Your Shooting

Mike Fedora, PA

Mike Fedora has been doing professional shooting seminars for over 50 years. Results are world record animal and state, regional national, international champions. Mike will cover instinctive, gap, and bare bow shooting styles.

Utilizing the Whole Animal

Monty Browning, SC

Monty has been cooking wild game for years. The audience can look forward to tips on how to get the most from your wild game.

The State of the Art of Bowhunting

Gene Wensel, IA

The Cincinnati crowd will not want to miss Gene reminisce about how bowhunting and hunting in general has changed during his lifetime. Gene will share some stories from his youth and some additional thoughts on his recent thought provoking article about hunting versus shooting. Additional topics will provide some observations about technology, and thoughts on the future of hunting, outdoor commercialism, observations on how America and society has changed, and food for thought. The presentation is intended to lean toward ENTERTAINMENT rather than try to sway opinions.

The North American Archery Super Slam

Dennis Dunn, WA

Aside from considerable luck and some financial resources, Dennis will reveal what it takes to achieve a North American Archery Super Slam.





Banquet Donations

The Cincinnati Biennial Banquet weekend is now less than a month away. These biennial events are critical for our organization on several fronts, including: enriching membership camaraderie, making contacts for bowhunting opportunities, purchasing items directly from vendors, educating our members through guest speakers and seminars, providing one-on-one interactions with like-minded bowhunters, allowing for in-person participation in a general membership meeting, and generating the funds necessary to maintain and operate the business of our organization.

As most of you are aware, the Banquet weekend includes two primary dinner auctions - Friday and Saturday nights, the ladies luncheon and auction, and various raffles. Please consider donating items for auction or raffle. Items can be of your choosing, such as: various art and craft work, bows, arrows, hunting accessories, hunting and fishing trips, collectible items - old bowhunting books and pictures, opportunities to accompany a PBS member on a local hunting or fishing trip, and may also include non-hunting related trips.

The big event will be March 27-30th, 2014 so reserve those dates! On behalf of the PBS Council and Home Office I want to sincerely thank you for your donation and hope to see all of you in Cincinnati. Your generous donations are vital to the continued success of PBS!

Please communicate with the appropriate Council members listed prior to mailing your donation.

Again, thanks in advance for considering a donation for the upcoming Biennial Banquet!

Sincerely,

Jim Akenson **PBS** President

More Seminars ~ continued from page 18

Decades of Elk

Mark Ulschmid, ID & Doug Chase, ID This one will be a presentation by a pair of Idahoans that have quietly gone about the occupation of arrowing elk for several decades. If anyone has unlocked the secrets to effective elk bowhunting it is these two. Wolves and lions have nothing on these guys!

PBS Membership Hunts 2010 – 2014

Rob Burnham, VA & Doug Clayton, IA Rob and Doug will show selected highlights from some of the many membership hunts that have taken place in the past several years, let the membership in on upcoming 2014 hunts and offer a little bit of encouragement and advice to organize a membership hunt.

North Carolina's "Bow Only Zones"

Cory Mattson, NC

Cory Mattson will talk about a new program (BCRS) of certified and insured bowhunters who offer their free service to help landowners and homeowners reduce deer numbers. This is a "win-win" situation that has had huge success and the result is today's bowhunters are in demand and 'invited' to hunt.

2014 Biennial Banquet Contact Info

Donations may be mailed directly to:

Steve Osminski 7473 Marsack Dr. Swartz Creek, MI 48473

(Steve O. will receive and store donation items and will trailer the donated items to Cincinnati. Having some items in hand prior to the event will allow him the opportunity to enter donation information into the auction program software ahead of time.)

Donation Commitments and Donation Details:

Steve Osminski steveosminski@vahoo.com

Greg Darling stykbowhunter61@yahoo.com 269-806-9873

810-875-4100 **Dealer Space:**

General Inquires & Questions

Tim Roberts tim59729@gmail.com 406-220-2051

Steve Hohensee steveh.alaska@gmail.com 907-362-3676



51@28" 58" Recurve 2 pc. T/D with the Bow Bolt. Riser is Osage with a Black Phenolic Ibeam with a thin slice of red elm between the osage and phenolic for an accent. Limbs are Osage laminations under clear fiberglass. Donated by St. Joe River Bows.

"Molokai Madness"

7 days of sun and fun on uncrowded Molokai, the "real Hawaii"

Doug and Olga Borland will again donate their 2 bedroom condo for a one-week stay on Molokai, along with longtime contributor Walter Naki from Molokai donating his services for 3 days of guided bowhunting, fishing or diving. Axis deer, wild pig and feral goats above the clear blue ocean; fish for your supper from the beach in front of the condo; and enjoy the view of the sunsets from the upper deck of this luxury accommodation. Dates optional but limited to May through September 2014. Trip will be auctioned off at the Saturday evening banquet in Cincinnati!





"Pack of Dreams" Raffle Items

Limited Edition Great Northern Super Ghost

Donated by Great Northern Bowhunting Co./Jerry Brumm

Matching Green Great Northern Quiver

Donated by Great Northern Quiver Company/Bob Brumm



Matching Custom "Tippet" knife

(forged high carbon steel and bow riser handle) Donated by Jeff Springer

4x4 rattling antlers

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HuntMore 360 16" Chair

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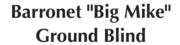
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Donated by Sitka Gear



Donated by Jay's Sporting Goods

Bison Gear Pack - Gray Elk Hunter

Custom Arm Guard

Donated by Farr West Leathers/Tim Roberts

Custom Turkey Call

Donated by Chris Latona

Get your Raffle Ticket now!

Ticket information can be found on the inside back of the dust cover.







Total Value of Items \$4500





Ladies Riverboat Tour & Luncheon

The PBS Council is excited to announce an extraspecial ladies event for the 2014 Cincinnati Banquet, a river boat tour and luncheon on the Ohio River!



Ladies that elect to sign up will be transported to the dock at Newport, Kentucky which is just minutes away from the Hyatt Regency. The ladies will have either a private room on the "Belle of Cincinnati" or the entire "River Queen" which are operated by BB Riverboats. The riverboat tour and luncheon will be held on Friday March, 28, 2014. Ladies may sign up for this event on the Ticket Order Form on the inside cover of the Third Quarter - 2013 Professional Bowhunter magazine.

Itinerary

10:00 - 10:30 AM.	Meet Karen Bahr in Lobby
	Bus to dock in Newport, KY
	Boarding
	Sailing
	Return to Hotel

Luncheon Menu

- * Turkey ala King Topped with Fresh Baked Biscuits
- * Mixed Green Salad with Accoutrements with Ranch and Italian Dressings
- * Sliced Glazed Ham
- * Southern Style Green Beans
- * Riverboat Style Rice
- * Assortment of Fresh Baked Breads
- * Homemade Bread Pudding with a Vanilla Sauce
- * Assorted Fresh Baked Cookies
- * Coffee, Tea & Ice Tea
- * Full Cash Bar

See what's happening at www.probowsociety.net



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- **4. Tall Tines Bow** to winner's specs.
- 5. Fedora Bow to winner's specs.

A Bonus has been added to the Big Five Bow Raffle!

One dozen custom cedar arrows & 6 Eclipse broadheads will be going with each bow. Donated by True North Arrows & Eclipse Broadheads.

Drawing to be held Sat., March 29, 2014 at the PBS Banquet in Cincinnati, Ohio. Do not need to be present to win. Options available at the winner's expense.

Please send payment and completed ticket stubs by March 21, 2014, to: \$5.00 each PBS, P.O. Box 246, Terrell, NC 28682 6 for \$20.00

The ticket order form can be found on the inside back of the dust cover.



There will be a Regular Membership Meeting at 9 am on Friday during the Gathering.



See what's happening at www.probowsociety.net

- Knowledge Through Experience Topics
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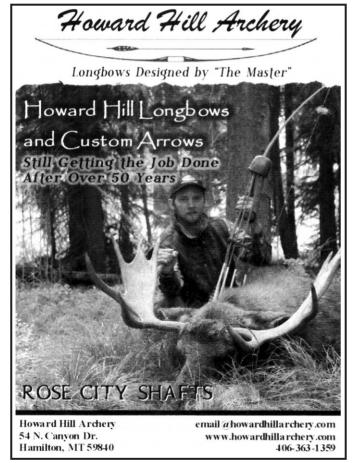
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What is the PBS Identity? and a Pie in the Face

By Ron Lang

This article was originally written to be posted on a website thread that dealt with the question of "What it takes to be a Regular PBS Member." Below is more than a week of some thoughts I have had while following this thread.

Just about every imaginable point has been made about PBS voting rules and PBS going traditional only. Most if not all who have commented on the voting issue at the very least want it resolved one way or the other. It is easy to understand the frustration the PBS's current voting rules bring about to those who desire change. To some this change is seen as necessary to make the PBS relevant in today's bowhunting world and move the PBS forward. Is it possible the PBS founders in their wisdom made change difficult for a reason? Can you imagine our government at any level if through a simple vote and majority a change was possible? While you can certainly argue that this gets things done quickly isn't it also true it does nothing to protect the rights of the minority? Often the majority today is the minority tomorrow. Just as an example think of our own demographics in our country today and how that has and will continue to affect the vote. Could it be that the founders of the PBS like the founding fathers of our nation demonstrated great wisdom in making change difficult to maybe protect us from ourselves?

If the door opens to make change easier through the voting process those advocating the PBS identity as traditional only will surely bring this to a vote. In my opinion it is difficult to determine who the clear majority is in this discussion. In my opinion both sides at times seem to be using the same so called facts or evidence to support their argument or give things their own spin. Even a graph appeared! Thanks Larry. In my opinion most of this argument seems to be driven more by personal emotion than actual fact. You can argue that a vote will decide all of this but one could also argue to be careful what you wish for, you might get it.

On the issue of PBS being traditionalonly versus inclusive I believe the PBS should at the very least remain inclusive to compound bows at the 65% let off. Actually I don't care what the let off is determined to be set at. According to the poll conducted most of the current PBS membership use traditional bows and that to me is a "personal choice". Regardless of why you made the choice, who cares? Listening and reading into some of the remarks about how strongly some people feel towards using traditional equipment and making it a requirement to be measured by really makes me nervous. In my opinion this narrow view at times sounds a bit "cult" like and sometimes downright "righteous". I mean no disrespect but did Jesus use a longbow? I heard His dad was good with wood so I guess one can't rule it out. I think you get the drift!

In my opinion, traditional only organizations seem to do okay but in all honesty their impact on even state level bowhunting issues seems to be minimal. There are exceptions of course and Montana Bowhunters would possibly be an example of that. Wisconsin sells over 250,000 bowhunting licenses a year and Wisconsin Traditional Archers membership (WTA) is about 400 members. What does that tell you? WTA seems to be a reservoir or a place those who want to make the "personal choice" to take on the added chal-

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lenge and journey in bowhunting. Organizations like WTA serve to help people learn about the traditional challenge and be around like minded people. Fraternalism is strong here. Beyond that our impact is small.

I rejoined the United Bowhunters of Illinois (UBI) last spring at their convention and found out from people that their membership has fallen since they went traditional only. I think this is an important example because the UBI is a first class state organization and in my opinion a miniature PBS. I don't know what percent they dropped but people I talked to said it was significant.

As I don't represent these organizations

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and cannot officially speak for them you can read into all of this what you want. ATHA was a traditional organization that wanted to be a strong political voice and that did not last long. Was there a lesson there to be learned?

Declining membership in bowhunting organizations, recruitment of new members, declining whitetail deer numbers in the Midwest, increasing wolf, bear, and other predator populations in my opinion have one thing in common. They all have a lot of experts that claim to have all the facts and can agree on nothing. If there are facts there that should be heard they are often drowned out in many of the super charged emotional arguments where common sense and clear thinking should have prevailed.

The idea of making the PBS a traditional only organization even if it only applied to making it a requirement for qualified membership hits me hard in the gut. I say this because in the real world I know it affects people. I am not talking about Dr. Dave or M.R. While I have seen these fine gentlemen at convention I really don't know them on a personal level. I do know someone else though on a personal level this could really affect.

The lady I know is an accomplished outdoors person. She can pack a mule and ride them too. She and her husband are active members of their county mountain-rescue team. She can carry a pack much more than her own share. She is a wilderness expert and can put up and take down a camp better than many experienced outfitters. She is a biologist and has spent 21 years with her husband in the remote Frank Church Wilderness of No Return on the Taylor Ranch working for the University of Idaho teaching young people the ways of good conservation, self-sufficiency, and a deep appreciation of the wilderness. She has captured and radio collared more wolves, cougars, and bears than most of vou would see in a life time. She is currently serving on the Oregon State Fish and Game Commission being appointed by the governor for that task. She is an accomplished hunter with both a gun and bow. Her mentor besides her husband was the late Vern Struble. Vern set her up with a 43 lb. longbow that she hopes to shoot again someday. Due to some shoulder and arm issues she shoots an older model compound at 50% let off now - with her fingers and no release, and will probably have to continue unless the shoulder problem clears up. Those of you without shoulder problems are blessed. Those of us who have to deal with them know otherwise. I find it almost a joke and shameful the PBS would look at Holly Akenson any differently now because she doesn't quite meet or measure up

to the requirements some would promote. I am sure there are more like Holly out there. To be honest with you if a person like Holly isn't qualified enough for the PBS then surely I am

not either!

I would strongly caution all those who would promote change that would restrict or close doors and a chance for people to enter the PBS world of bowhunting because of the kind of bow they carry in their hand. I have no secret solution for recruiting new members but looking down on someone and slamming the door shut in their face is definitely not the answer.

I do believe the PBS, unlike state organizations and despite our small membership, can still be a significant voice in the bowhunting world. Being visible would be huge! I believe the strength of the PBS is in its membership who through their knowledge, ethics, and fraternalism set the example for others. Our strength is in these things mentioned and our history. Speaking of history if you have not visited the P&Y Museum in its new home in Minn., vou need to do that! About 95% of bowhunting history there is traditional archery through the people you know that brought it back. In my opinion we missed a huge chance to further our cause and get our message out when the cooperative effort to work together failed.

My last thoughts before I punch the key and send this into cyber space (and who knows where) is: A quote, and I can't remember who said it, "But anything taken to the extreme often brings the opposite result." The other point is something my Dad told me a long time ago. He said; "Ron you will rise or sink to the level of the people you hang around with." I think of those words often. Being in and part of the PBS has caused me to continue to rise to that level the PBS through its membership is an example of. Hope to see many of you in Cincinnati and get recharged.

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BOOKING LIMITED NUMBER OF HUNTERS FOR 2012

This article may spark some controversy among some of my PBS brothers. To put some fun in all this serious conversation I thought it would be nice to extend a hand to those who might disagree with things I have said and give them a chance to put a pie in my face at

We could auction the privilge to do this at maybe the Friday night dinner. I would suggest another person to volunteer from the opposing point of view and give themself up the same way.

the PBS Gathering in Cincinnati.

We could possibly generate some laughter and genuine PBS fraternal spirit and donate any money raised from this to the PBS youth hunt or whatever worthy PBS cause you want.

A 100 Year Old Man

By Barry Wensel

On the morning of November 19, 2012, I had a really interesting, thought provoking experience. As most of you know I've been a whitetail fanatic for over fifty years. That morning I passed up an old veteran buck which I believe was the oldest whitetail I've ever seen. I obviously have no way to prove it but he looked absolutely ancient. The big nontypical I shot in 2011 was judged to be 9 1/2. This buck could have been his grand daddy. His antlers had degenerated to next to nothing, I'm certain barely a shadow of his prime years. They were basically massive spikes with a bunch of heavy beading, no main beam but a slight bladed tiny fork at the top of his one antler.

All alone, I watched him come to me from a hundred yards through the open hardwoods. He was a "slow walker" but not because he was waiting for thermal currents. He was obviously in pain. It took him a solid fifteen minutes to walk a hundred yards. I considered doing a mercy killing because he looked in such poor shape. I took video footage of him at fifteen vards that hopefully you'll all get to see someday. You could see the age/pain in his face and eyes. He was gaunt and having a hard time simply walking with arthritic hips and a kyphotic (humped) spine. I knew he wouldn't make the winter but you have to respect an animal like that. I wondered what he looked like when he was in his prime; how much he weighed; how big his rack was; how many trophy bucks he'd sired; how many times he survived sub-zero temperatures with winds howling at 25 MPH while he hunkered down under a pine as his only protection, with a basically empty stomach; how many orange coats he made it by; the gang bangers, the in-line muzzleloader guys with their "primitive" weapons with thumb hole stocks, bipods and scopes who can shoot them in the head from 200 yards, only to find it's a shed mature buck. Then there are the packs of deer running dogs, coyotes, bobcats, increased vehicular traffic and the rednecks who just closed the local bar heading home with a spotlight out the window.

Harsh conditions, drought, severe heat/humidity while wearing a fur coat,

floods, ticks, chiggers, flies, etc. He was a true survivor. I also guarantee he watched me in the woods many more times than I watched him over the years. I had plenty of time to think about the situation.

In 2006 I was after a beautiful buck I'd nicknamed Rocky. I, in fact, wrote an article about that pursuit for PBS and even donated a chapter in my book, "Once Upon A Tine" after having eleven (yes, eleven) encounters, including four close calls that season. I later found out one of the neighbors ultimately killed Rocky during the late gun season and he ended up measuring 173 inches typical.

Because I only had a single Iowa buck tag in 2006, and had my heart set on Rocky, I passed up several outstanding trophies that year. One I recalled was very special. It was hard for me not to kill him but my constant close calls with Rocky kept me on track. He was a basic 4x4 frame but he had extreme mass at the bases and a conglomeration of multiple extra points protruding forward between his brow tines and pedicles. It appeared he had a "cluster" of extra points around his bases. I remember thinking the potential damage an aggressive rack like that would do to a stout rubbing tree. I estimated him as likely 5.5 years old and in his prime. In fact, I took some video footage of him one afternoon as he passed by me at 18 yds. He was a heavyweight contender too, likely to dress out at 250 solid pounds. I actually passed him up twice in 2006 while I hunted Rocky, both times as he followed a pretty doe, with obvious intentions.

Later that winter while visiting with the local neighbor/landowner I brought the subject of that particular buck up. Because of his unique antler configurations, he also knew of him. He informed me they almost got him in an organized drive but he got away and they "ran him out of the country." I didn't see the stud the following two years in his old turf. I figured maybe one of the fragments of flying lead maybe unknowingly found its mark after all. Or like so many other specific bucks we watch, he just melted away.

Around 2009 we started seeing another "similar" buck in a big block of timber almost a mile north of where I hunted Rocky. Probably should have recognized him but enough years had passed, the land had been bought and sold and I no longer had per-

mission to hunt it. Frankly, I forgot about the 2006 buck. I don't think this "new" buck just showed up as much as the fact we started hunting where he lived more frequently. We even nicknamed the new heavyweight "Knarly." His body size was enormous. I had several close encounters with Knarly in 2009 and 2010 but I only had one tag left and I was in hot pursuit of Hurley. I remember thinking if Knarly and Hurley ever went head to head it would be a great match. Although Hurley's rack was bigger, Knarly had the bigger body and more mass in his beams. In fact, I feared there would absolutely be broken tines skipping through the leaves.

Could this ancient buck I was now looking at possibly be the same buck I passed in 2006? Could multiple close calls with the gun hunting and organized deer drives on the adjoining farm actually "run him out of the country" to give up his original home turf to timber less than a mile away that was bowhunted only by a couple fat guys? If my original estimate was correct and he was in fact 5.5 years old in 2006, that would calculate out that I was looking at an 11.5 year old true survivor.

As I watched I felt genuinely sorry for him. I've had to put good dogs down in the past. I hated it. I even thought about justifying the kill. But the meat would likely not even be palatable. I have a thing about old animals. I have absolutely no desire to shoot an elephant because he'd likely be older than I am. That's just me. I have soft spot in my heart for old animals. Yes, I managed the farm he lived on. We gave him the chance to grow old by keeping it limited to bowhunting only. I was torn. I know we are supposed to be stewards of the land and the game. Maybe I'm getting soft in my older years. Even though I now had an extra tag in my pocket I felt sorry for him. Maybe I got too good of a look at his face and his eyes.

I ultimately decided to let him walk, to live out his life as nature intended. As I watched him slowly walk away I honestly got choked up. I'm still not sure I made the right decision. But I'll tell you one thing for sure, God did good when He made bucks like that and granted us the opportunity to pursue them. Thank you.

Get mugged...PBS style!

Limited Edition stoneware mugs available now

For 2014, PBS is offering a special collectible mug to its members. These mugs are all made by hand here in the USA. They are 100% quality stoneware mugs, which hold 12 ounces or so of coffee or your favorite drink.

Each mug will display a customized emblem representing "Professional Bowhunters Society" and our KTE tag-line in

bold relief. They will also be dated for the year 2014. The exact color combination, the mug style, and the appearance of the custom logo are

being kept secret at this time, but you can be assured that they will represent PBS and our outdoor lifestyle very well

Well.

The PBS website has full details on the ordering process. Just go to www.ProBowSociety.net, enter the Forums, and click on PBS Cyber Campfire.

The price per mug is \$29.00 and that includes shipping to any member in the USA. You may also order your mug by calling our home of-

fice at 704-664-2534. Payment is expected at the time of the order, and you may order as many mugs as you wish. Your order and payment can also be mailed to our home office if you wish. Your order must clearly indicate:



Collectible PBS Mugs - Series #1, and it must contain your shipping address.

Our plan is to offer a new collectible PBS stoneware mug series each year. This first round will be called Series #1, and will be offered for a limited time, then discontinued. When Series #1 is gone, it's gone. Thus far, we've sold around 50 mugs through the website, so get your order in now! The mugs are currently awaiting production, and your mug will be shipped as soon as we receive them.





There is a speck of public land in southwest Michigan that really isn't worth the effort to hunt on or write about, but I do both and often. I've hunted it going on four seasons and know it better than any other piece of land in the area. I call it "The Burg." My attraction to it has mostly been due to the absence of people rather than the presence of game. I've seen deer and turkeys often enough and the squirrels are always abundant, but even if that were not the case I'd be there at season's open. When hunting, I treasure my privacy above all else, but I don't mind sharing the woods if the company is respectful enough to keep their distance. Fortunately, I've had little cause to complain.

One of the most interesting characteristics attributed to The Burg is the loyalty of its hunting population, which I've found most peculiar. I've encountered the same

A beautiful piece of land isn't always easy to share, especially when you spend so much time there.

regulars every season since my first but know them only by the make, model, and condition of their vehicles. There is really only one legit parking area on the entire WMA and it fits only three vehicles. It is completely surrounded by private residences and you can't park on the road without getting sideswiped by anything larger than a scooter. Ultimately, unless you live on a bordering property, you're parking in this lot and we've seen each other.

Most of the hunters I've met or seen aren't visible enough to write about. I may have bumped into them once or twice but don't have enough of a sample size to make any conclusive observations regarding their character. I know where they hunt and I'm fairly certain they know where I hunt, as

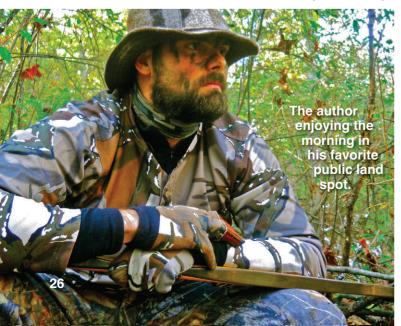
we've never crossed paths save for the occasional rendezvous to and from the woods.

"Ol' Doug" was one of the aforementioned until recently. All I knew of him I derived from his car: an old, rusted, skyblue sedan with a Michigan Parks decal of some kind on the windshield and an old bow case resting on a nest of dirty travel mugs in

the back seat. Doug always arrived 20-30 minutes before me and was always gone before I left, which led me to believe he was a creature of routine. I respected that predictability and there were other similarities as well. The coffee for instance; he was obviously fond of it and found it necessary to have a cup or two or three on the drive in. I had a similar situation in my back seat beneath backquiver and bow sock. We were also the only guys driving old four-dour sedans rather than Jimmies and pickups and could understand each other's plight. I often wondered if he too had crammed a fresh kill into his trunk. I bet he had.

We finally met on a cold but rainy Sunday morning in late October. The local buzz indicated we were on the cusp of the "rut" but it was evident nothing hooved got the memo. I woke earlier than usual to the disappointing sound of rain on the window, but knew it would pass by shooting light. Not that it mattered. I'd been rained out the day before and was hunting regardless. I was excited about it too, leaving the house well before the normal hour. I was sure I'd have the woods to myself given the soggy conditions, but was shocked to see taillights as I swung into the grassy lot. It was Doug's car, only this time Doug was in it, sipping his coffee by dome light and watching his windows fog up.

I pulled in next to him, killed the engine, waved, and stepped out of the car to get ready for the woods. He did the same,



reaching into the back and pulling his bow and quiver from the case as I strung mine. It was the oldest compound I'd ever seen. most likely from the early 80s and therefore much older than my longbow. His camo looked every bit as ancient. He was a man who'd found something that worked and stuck with it despite the world moving on around him. I respected that. We were cut from the same cloth. We introduced ourselves and chatted a bit as we fumbled through our trunks to find the rest of our gear. It was still plenty dark and no reason to hurry.

Doug was the first one to break the ice. "There's a buck in here man..." he said. "A real monster. I've been hunting here for 30 years and usually a few miles south, but seeing this guy in the field across the street brought me back." I chuckled. "I know the deer you're talking about. I've been seeing his tracks all over that ridge. I'm certain that's where he's been crossing."

I was shocked by his honesty. Who in

their right mind would share information like that with another hunter in the area? "Well let's hope one of us gets lucky in this weather," he said excitedly. "I bet he'll be moving this morning."

There was really no way to sugarcoat my next question and I didn't think he'd answer. but asked regardless. "So where are you hunting Doug? I've got several spots out here and would rather stay out of your way." He paused a second and pointed down the ridge to the west edge of the property. "I've got a little nest for my blind down by the creek there. That is really the only place I hunt when I'm here."

I smiled, relieved. "I'm nowhere near you..." I said, pointing the opposite direction. "I'm South of here, two or three ridges away. I've got another spot

near you but I'll stay clear when I see your vehicle, there's plenty of land here for the both of us."

He nodded and pulled his mask down over his face. "I'm leaving the woods around ten this morning. Be alert! I may kick something your way."

"Thanks, Doug! I appreciate that, By the way, have you seen that little spike that's been running around up here by the cars? I passed on him a few weeks ago and I really hope he makes it through the season." His eyes lit up. "You mean that little guy I kick

up on the way in every morning?" He laughed. "Yeah, I've seen him around...cool little deer. Not so much lately, but

they're all moving around. He's probably finding trouble." I laughed. "Or avoiding it. Well good luck Doug, we better get going."

"Same here Nick. Nice meeting you!" We shook hands a second time, grabbed our gear, and headed into the darkness on opposite paths — him with his compound and me with my longbow. You couldn't have painted a more metaphoric scene. I've only seen him a few times since, but true to his word he's always in the same spot and I hope he shoots his buck. I really do.

We represent each other whenever we go afield. We are ambassadors whether we like it or not.

~Nick Viau

choose your bow — cammed or limbed —



Gear choice means

very little if it doesn't

and unintentionally offended more than I would care to admit, but I've also done the same

in turn.

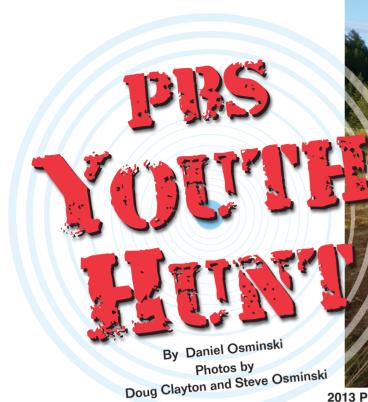
with other bowhunters. I've been ridiculed

The reality is once you've stripped away gear preference it is the nature of the individual that truly matters. Honor, ethics, respect for the animal, and the method of pursuit are what make the hunter. These things will always supersede the tool used. Whether or not you buy into the "Big Tent" mentality is your prerogative, but at the very least remember the Golden Rule. You are going to share the woods with others regardless of what they shoot. You might as well be civil. That is really all we can afford to be. Better to represent and educate than condemn. 🕏

Nick lives in Rockford, Michigan with his wife Jessica and two lit-

tle girls. He hunts public land almost exclusively and serves on the Michigan Longbow Association council. Check out more of Nick's writing at www.lifeandlonghows.com.

Hunters, like turkeys, have a tendency to flock up and get flustered when scattered — bowhunters in particular. You are a member of a specific sect the moment you



2013 PBS Youth Hunt participants Logan Anderson, Daniel Osminski and Hunter Anderson with their dads. Steve Osminski and Steve Anderson.

The PBS youth hunt is a time where experienced hunters take time to teach young hunters like me about the art of bow hunting, and the skills required to be successful at it. I have been shooting a bow since I was three years old. I started hunting deer with my dad 4 years ago and have killed a fall turkey in Wisconsin with my TallTines recurve.

I applied for the PBS youth hunt last winter and was fortunate enough to be picked to go. In the application I was asked what I would do to improve the sport as a young leader. I stated my views against crossguns and the other issues such as getting more young people involved in the sport by being a positive influence. The hunt was in Logan, Utah and it was for cow/spike elk. I shoot a TallTines 56 pound longbow that my good friend Brian Wessel made me. My arrow heads were 200 grain single bevel Werewolves that my friend Blake Fischer gave to me. I practiced with them every day. My friend Mike Theis gave us all really cool compasses and my dad picked up topo maps of the area so we wouldn't get lost. A big part of any hunt is preparations; one of the most fun parts of preparation was the shooting. My favorite part of shooting practice was when we went to the Michigan Traditional Bowhunters Jamboree. The highlight of the MTB courses is their 2D hand painted life-size

animal targets. My dad and I always stay to help take down the 2D course. the benefit of that is we can take home a target or two. I choose the big bull elk! The drive out to Utah from Michigan was long and I slept almost the entire time while my dad and Mr. Gary enjoyed the peace.

When I arrived I was greeted by the people that would be helping and teaching me on

> this hunt; Doug Clayton, Craig Burris, Jerry Zesiger, Rich Roskelley, and Corey Wiley. The other two boys who went were Hunter Anderson and Logan Anderson and their father Steve Anderson from Minnesota. These were all the best guys a guy could have to be on a hunt with. They

Daniel picked up this 2D hand-painted, life-size bull elk target by helping at the Michigan Traditional Bowhunters Jamboree. Hunter killed his cow

taught me so much. I learned how to trail a blood trail and to take it slow (I was a little excited when I was trailing Hunter's Elk). Rich taught me to still hunt, which was very interesting. Jerry also took me to his spot that he had nicknamed the "Garden of Eden" because it was so beautiful and he had killed seven elk from it. Hunter also killed his elk out of the Garden.



The first two days of the hunt Craig took me out. I experienced what it was like to hunt out of a natural ground blind that I had never experienced before (we hunt out of tree stands and Double Bull blinds at home). I had to be very still and quiet. I saw two mule deer fawns that came within ten vards of me, and because I was absolutely still and was covered head to toe in the cool

> camouflage that Sitka Gear donated to us, the fawns didn't see me. After





For the first two days of the hunt Craig Burris showed Daniel what it was like to hunt out of a natural ground blind.

whole time we were in Utah. After a couple of days we decided to give the Garden a rest and Rich took my dad and me to what he called "the Root Beer Stand". It was a beautiful spot but it

was very hot. Around 6:30, I heard some grass rustling and I looked up and saw a cow elk and her calf walking down the trail. I started to shake all over. She suddenly looked right at my dad, who was video taping the whole thing. I was at half draw at this point. I thought she was calmed down

and I was about to shoot when she looked directly at me. I was probably the stillest I had ever been in my entire life. She started to drink again and I shot. When I shot (as we saw later on video) the cow ducked about 12 inches and what would have been a kill shot became a high shoulder shot. I was very disappointed in myself, but I learned a very important lesson from that experience which was not to shoot at an alert animal.

~ continued on page 25

Jerry started taking me into the Garden. It was about a mile and a half hike up the mountain. The second day, Jerry and I were hunting, two forkhorn mule deer walked into the watering hole. They were right under my stand. I practiced moving and drawing my longbow, and they never saw me. When Jerry and I got out and started walking down the mountain, we were talking about the bucks. He called them two points and I asked him why they were two points when they had four tines. Then he explained to me the western count.

We all came back to camp around eleven am and went out again around three, during that time we had our main meal. Our camp cooks were Gary Wissmueller and Doug Clayton. We all ate like kings. They were great cooks and also patient and super successful bowhunters, so even in camp we learned from the best. That was pretty much the schedule the

We ate like kings with camp cooks Gary Wissmueller and Doug Clayton. They were great cooks and patient, super successful bowhunters.

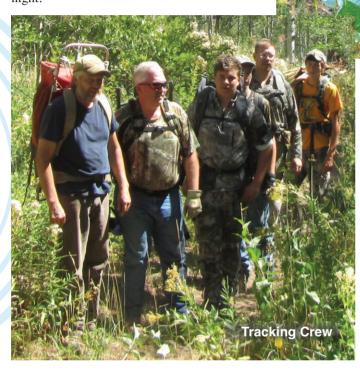


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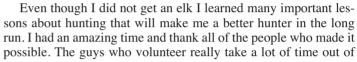




When we got back to camp it was about 11:30p.m. because of the hike and drive out. We all discussed the shot and went to bed planning to go out to track the next day. After hours and hours of tracking we decided that the cow would be fine and we went back to prepare for that night.







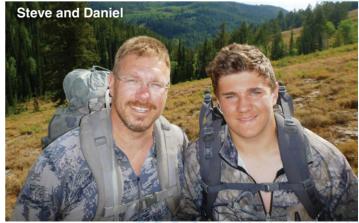
their own hunting season. Many companies donate items to make our hunt better. Sitka Gear donated us all amazing camouflage that keep us warm, cool, and dry. Kuiu donated amazing packs that packed up our gear and the elk. Extreme Elk Magazine gave us hats, magazine subscriptions, calls, DVDs, and shirts. Columbia River Knife and Tool Company



gave us engraved knives as well. Even though we are young, the youth that went on this hunt understand what a great opportunity was presented to us and are grateful that people gave up their time and money to help us become better hunters.

I was able to send all of the people who came on the hunt and the companies that donated items thank you cards, but the PBS does fundraisers that help fund the youth hunt and even though I don't know everyone who gave, I thank you all!

Daniel Osminski 🕏



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Never miss a chance... to make a difference

By Ron Lang

With the 2013 Wisconsin archery deer season winding down and the holiday season over I finally had a chance to think about other things rather than should I hunt today (silly question) or what direction is the wind this morning and where should I sit? For the first time in a long time the cold seemed to make a difference in my decision making. It seemed harder to leave the warmth of bed and the wood stove. With a 22 day September elk hunt out west behind me and yet more paper tags to eat, I now had a chance to ponder all the good thoughts of that hunt as well as the days spent afield at home in Wisconsin. Like many of you can relate to, the good friends we share time with and the wonderful memories we make are far more important than any game animal we possibly kill and bring home. Success especially among traditional bow hunters with traditional values I know is measured more by the journey we take and the adventure itself. The Wisconsin archery and gun season were good to me and the freezer has enough venison to keep my wife Annee and I well nourished.

Like many of you, my thoughts of the next hunt and adventure are already in motion as the hunt really never ends. Already my thoughts have turned to the tracks in the snow and the sign left from this last season. As I take stands down I am pleased to see there is plenty of evidence that next year's hunt holds plenty of promise and I am already making adjustments in my mind how I will hunt this particular property.

Technically the major hunting season has ended but there is always plenty of something going on in a traditional bowhunter's head. For me anyway, now is the time to catch up on some reading and bowhunting web sites I have neglected because I was hunting. A stack of magazines like Traditional Bowhunter, Primitive Archer, Traditional Archery World, PBS Quarterly, Stump Shooter, and of course Wisconsin Outdoor News

await me. This is also the time to look at equipment, fix or replace what is broken, get in some boots on the ground scouting, make plans for attending conventions or shoots, make new arrows, and of course read all those sales fliers we get from Cabela's and Gander Mountain encouraging us to buy and use all the latest gadgets to make life easier in the outdoors and remove all the effort and challenge in hunting.

Even with that said I found myself at the new Green Bay Cabela's checking things out. It was either that or shop with Annee at TJ Max. I love Annee but at times we both need our space. This is the new Cabela's store built on a wetland in the same location Bass Pro decided not to build on because of it being classified a wetland. When you think

of good conservation and who could set the example this does not look good. I thought good ethical hunting values and good conservation went together. Truth known though, good conservation or not, I actually enjoy going there if for nothing else because of the displays and the fact they carry a lot of good and sometimes necessary equipment. I guess that makes me part of the problem, if one exists, too.

I usually do much more looking than buying because number one: my pockets are not deep and number two: because Annee has challenged me to do more with less trying to teach me to be more in line with my traditional values. Why this is necessary I have no idea but I love her for doing it! I used to hunt with just a small fanny pack at most. If it did not fit into my pockets you did not need it. Now like others I find myself with a backpack full of stuff and that's just for a morning or evening hunt. Hunting has become too complicated and simply too much stuff. I found myself down the same slippery path I laughed at others for doing. At times I am a hypocrite and that is not a good feeling. Even out west elk hunting this year close friend and fellow PBS bowhunter Jim Akenson saw me constantly checking my GPS and encouraged me to turn it off and put it away and to rely on my inner compass and a map and real compass if necessary and realize we can navigate just fine without all the gadgets. I guess all problem solving starts in a mirror and I need to take a long hard look. Thank you Annee and Jim! Sometimes all we need is a good reminder or mentor.

I wandered into the archery department at Cabela's and not to my surprise found only a few possible things that would be related in any way to traditional archery. They did have fletching glue and a small supply of fletching. Beyond that the whole department is very high tech. With Wisconsin being the latest victim to fall to the invasion of the crossbow



and full inclusion into our 2014 archery season what should one expect? The one very startling fact was the number of younger customers looking at and showing interest in crossbows. Not just looking but buying. I shouldn't look at people this way and judge anyone else but let us just say they looked and fit the part. Most were 30 to 50 years old, physically in a little need of conditioning, and it would be safe to say probably out of breath before they could walk to the front door and check out. Good thing there are not stairs in this particular store or maybe Cabela's was thinking ahead and did a good job profiling this market. I thought profiling wasn't legal! The so called experienced clerks were even more interesting. Some were maybe two years out of high school still suffering from acne but still knew all there was to know about bowhunting and how to get that animal on the ground with as little effort as possible. Well maybe I am exaggerating a little but I think you get the picture. In reality I think they meant well or were doing what they were trained to do but in a sense they had not a clue.

I was about to leave the archery department for greener pastures in the gun department to check out the new tactical rifles with a 50 round clip and night vision scope for deer hunting. This is a truly must need for those in Northern Wisconsin forests who see no deer and have to deal with frustration. I spotted a lone customer looking in the back corner of the archery department at the only two recurve bows in the store. I was awe struck as you can imagine realizing the store carried more than glue and fletching. With guns and bullets now not occupying my mind I wandered over to see what was going on as one of these previously described young clerks was attempting to aid this man on a possible sale of a bow. The clerk was nervous as he looked back at the host of people who needed help with the purchase of a \$500.00 to \$1,000.00 crossbow and the gizmos that go with it and then back to the one lone customer who was looking at a pre-packaged take -down recurve for \$150.00. The lone customer had some very difficult questions like should I go with a 40lb bow vs. a bow at 50lbs. For most of us a very easy answer for expe-

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rience has taught us the virtues of being over bowed. As for the clerk the blank expression on his face said it all.

It was none of my business and I actually thought I was just going to leave when a little voice in my head said, "Damn, Lang. Help this guy!" Usually this same voice encourages me to do other things I cannot mention in this article. Anyway, so help this guy I did and I think the clerk too! The clerk looked relieved when I said to the customer I am not an expert by any stretch of the imagination but I shoot these things and I think I can help you. The clerk somehow vanished like a beautiful genie in a bottle when she saw the smile on my face and realized what my first wish would be. That's right guys a new Black Widow bow what were you thinking?

I introduced myself to him and his wife and daughter who happened to be sitting nearby. They both seemed to be quite relieved someone besides the clerk could help dear old dad and husband. He talked about possibly not buying the bow on the shelf and looking for a much more expensive Bear model. I encouraged him for now to stay with the less expensive model he had been looking at in the 40lb range and learn to master that first. I pointed out to him that developing good form and eventually your own shooting style were far more important and in time he could always upgrade if necessary. We talked for a good 25 to 30 minutes and I won't go into all the detail and questions we dealt with. I did encourage him to visit web sites like tradgang, PBS, Three Rivers Archery, and the WTA. I assured him there he would find a wealth of knowledge and information plus a lot of fellow bowhunters far more knowledgeable than myself who would be more than happy to help him. I encouraged him and his family to attend one of our WTA shoots throughout the year. I told him there he would find people willing to help him and make friendships he would cherish for life. He told me he had always wanted to step back into traditional archery but for one reason or the other never did. I told him actually he would be stepping forward into a whole new world of challenge and tradition. I encouraged his wife and daughter to go with him and possibly try it themselves. His wife

responded that she had gun hunted with him but had never for whatever reason thought of the bow. I told her actually a lot of wives and young girls were involved one way or the other in these outdoor activities.

My cell phone rang and it was Annee reminding me to pick her up at TJ-Max and that I better have not bought any more unnecessary "stuff". I assured her she could trust that I had not made any such purchases but if she needed to do a car search that I was okay with that. I said good -bye to my new found friends and wished the man well on his journey in our Traditional World of Values. I left the store with nothing in hand but carried a great feeling that just possibly by chance I made a difference not only for this man and family but maybe for traditional values and bowhunting as well.

By Gene Wensel

Editor's Note: "The following does not necessarily reflect the opinion of PBS."

I once saw a sign in a restaurant that said, "Tipping Is Not a City in China." It wasn't exactly subtle but regularly brought smiles from customers.

The subject of tipping is always thin ice. Those on the receiving end are quick to claim its necessity, while those on the giving end grow tired of assumption and being taken advantage of.

In my opinion, tipping is essentially a good thing. It not only encourages good service, but is a means of expressing appreciation. It loses its entire purpose when others start deciding who should be giving or getting tips and even dictating how much to tip.

When I was younger, tipping in America was fairly standardized at 15%. Somewhere along the line it was raised to 20% and now anyone who leaves under 25% is considered tight. Many "fine" restaurants add an automatic 18% gratuity to their check for parties of six or more, hoping the customer doesn't notice it and tips twice. I don't know how, who, when, where or why national business meetings take place that decide on gratuity percentage increases. I suspect these meetings are brought on by liberals, people who eat alfalfa sprout sandwiches, bran muffins chompers and those who won't drink wine from a bottle with a screw on cap. I like to think that 15% is 15%. It seems like the rising costs of meals or any other service should automatically provide and compensate for unnecessary percentage raises.

Who actually deserves a hand out? In my opinion, the person who builds your sandwich deserves as much, if not more, than the person who delivers it. Why am I expected to leave a tip to the person who takes away my plate after I leave a restaurant, when its often not even the same person who served me? In my eyes, tipping at a buffet need not be as much as that at a full service restaurant. I have friends who actually leave "chamber maid tips" at the bedside of motels they stay at. Seems somewhat suggestive to me unless they have lifelong bed wetting issues like my brother.....

In the hunting industry, tips have become customary. That being said, a tip is still a reflection of quality service given, and is not necessarily mandatory even though it might be assumed.

This article is going to deal with tipping during foreign hunts, especially those in Africa, where in my opinion, tipping is now often out of control. Seemingly, from the minute you step off the airplane, Africans will immediately identify you as an American and have their hand out, palm up.

Although I quit counting years ago, I've made well over a dozen trips to Africa. Two or three decades ago, at the end of a hunt, many clients left a box of ammo, a knife, optics, clothing or some other material item as a courteous gratuity. As professional hunters accumulated gear, standard tipping rates soon became cash and started at 10% of the daily hunting rate. They continued to climb until now, where they are not only expected to be a part of your hunting budget, but often abused or become completely out of control. Tipping amounts are frequently "suggested." Many American clients are made even more uncomfortable by being told face to face that their offerings are not enough. It has gotten to the point where foreigners think all Americans are filthy rich. Granted, some are wealthier than others, but most American bowhunters are much closer to middle class citizens. Many have saved money for decades for what is often a once in a lifetime adventure. The bottom line is that most foreigners have their palms up for a slice of the American pie. Our present American economy has made tipping, both domestic and abroad, an unrealistic challenge that, in my opinion, often becomes more of an assumed, yet genuine, pain in the butt.

Interestingly, when many Africans come to America, they often think of themselves as our "guests." When we go there, we are always "clients." I've dined at African restaurants multiple times with four to eight Africans. When the dinner check was delivered, it became very obvious that because I was "the American," everyone at the table assumed I would pick up the tab.

Many African outfitters and professional hunters annually visit American sport shows to book hunts. Since many hunting



shows take place in January, twice I offered to line up reasonably

priced cougar hunts out west for visiting African hunters. Both times they were all but offended when I informed them the going rate for a cat hunt. Yet, if we add spots to the same sized African cat, the animal costs four times as much to hunt!

Why tipping is important, who all deserves a gratuity, how much and how best to hand it out are the main reasons I'm writing this article.

Why is tipping important?

Although tipping is customary and still a choice, PHs, trackers, skinners and camp staff derive much of their income from client tips. Always remember they work as a team. Tipping creates an incentive for them to deliver at peak levels, not only for yourself but for those who hunt after you.

Gifts are not tips.

I make it a habit to bring along inexpensive gifts that should be handed out during, not at the end of, an African hunt. Sunglasses, reading glasses, pocket knives, candy, hats, flip-flop shoes, Dollar Store toys for children, cheap flashlights, cigarettes, used clothing and even dog biscuits all bring smiles of appreciation. Note, many (most) Africans smoke. If you bring a carton of cigarettes, hand them out one pack at a time during your hunt, not all at

Being friendly and respectful to your "hunt team" from the first day of your trip will probably do as much for the outcome of your hunt as the tip itself. Remember, camp staff will often be talking about you among themselves when you are not around, especially the first few days of your hunt. First impressions count!

Who might deserve a tip and who does not?

Anyone directly providing service to you during your hunt should be considered. Your professional hunter, trackers, skinners, vehicle drivers, the cook and other camp staff. People like your skinner and laundry/maid service are not often seen but worthy of attention. Salaried employees like gardeners, lawn care, mechanics, maintenance or swimming pool cleaners are non-service personnel and are not your responsibility.

Unethical practices.

Two common practices are, once again in my opinion, way out of control. The first has to do with an outfitter "suggesting" unreasonably high tipping amounts. It's one thing to share information on average tipping procedures or guidelines, another thing altogether to tell you how much to tip or even go so far as to inform you that your tip is "not enough."

The second problem has to do with any outfitter who "pools" all tips until the end of the hunting season to be distributed by himself accordingly to whoever he feels is most deserving. First of all, this makes him look like Santa Claus. Secondly, the tracker who busted his butt to find your wounded kudu does not know how much or even if you left him a tip. Thirdly, I seriously doubt a big percentage of tip money ever reaches the right hands, which as far as I'm concerned, is no less than theft.

The primary reason they always give for pooling tips is that direct tipping often causes workers to "take a vacation," or spend their tip money on booze, neither of which are our problems as far as I'm concerned.

One other unethical thing is very rare but has happened to at least one friend of mine. Every effort is made to find and finish wounded animals, as the unwritten law in Africa is to charge the trophy fee for any wounded/lost animals. If you are sitting in a blind with a tracker and happen to wound an animal with a poor hit, if your tracker offers not to say anything about the loss in exchange for part of the trophy fee, don't do it! If the animal is later discovered dead due to vultures, etc., it can prove very embarrassing for both you and the tracker, who will very likely lose his job. Honesty is always the best policy.

Distribution of tips

Although tipping part of your gratuity to camp staff during the hunt (especially to people like skinners or trackers) builds motivation, I don't recommend it. I suggest waiting until the end of your hunt except for handing out material gift items.

When an outfit tells you their "policy" is to hold or pool tips, I suggest telling them it is "your policy" not to. It becomes a control thing with them. Handing your tips over directly to whoever you feel deserves them not only gives direction and connection, but prevents others from dictating who gets your tips. This not only builds incentive for them to perform, but maintains the connection between their efforts to you and compensation from you. Some clients prefer to bring small envelopes to hand over sealed tips, which is fine but not mandatory. If you choose to use envelopes,

b e sure to write on each one to avoid giving the wrong tip to the wrong person. By the way, U. S. funds are fine, although local currency is easier for many of them to deal with.

How much to tip.

This is a touchy subject that can not only get confusing, but embarrassing to ask about, at least face to face. Your Professional Hunter should get the best tip. It should be determined by a percentage of your daily rate and trophy fees combined, excluding VAT tax. Again, these are only my suggestions and can be adjusted up or down according to your instincts and overall satisfaction. For your PH, 5-6% is very fair, 7-8% is generous. Your tracker and skinner should get somewhere around \$8-\$10 per person per day. The cook should get somewhere around \$12-\$15 per day. \$5 per person per day is fair for food servers (kitchen help), laundry and maid. Bear in mind, I'm going by 2014 costs of what I consider fair and reasonable tipping amounts for a plains game bowhunt. Use your own judgment. That being said, in the rare instance where you feel someone does not deserve a tip due to human error, disrespect, etc. (not weather), be sure to inform your PH of your dissatisfaction.

Discretionary tipping is a normal and beneficial thing. Never leave an amount you are uncomfortable with. A tip is nothing more than an expression of your satisfaction. Hopefully your hunt will be fondly remembered the rest of your life. I hope this information helps and clears up some confusion.



Reunion with the Yellow Jacket Bow

By Tony Sanders

This story actually starts back in 1997 when I had just acquired a Yellow Jacket recurve bow that was built by fellow TBM (Traditional Bowhunters Of Maryland) club member (Fred Dolinger). When I received the bow from Fred, I was more than pleased with the bow. The handle is made out of Bolivian rosewood, with a yellow accent stripe.

Once I had the bow in my possession, I had only shot it a few times. My plan was to hunt with it that fall but unfortunately ill fate intervened into that plan. While up in Glen Burnie, MD at a friend's apartment, fate entered the picture. Sometime later when I came out to leave, I did not see my truck where I had parked it. You know, you say to yourself, "I thought I parked my truck right there". Then I suddenly realize that my truck was gone. I called the police and filed a stolen vehicle report. They sent out an officer and took my info. Well folks, I tell you, I was really bummed and upset about the whole matter.

After going through all the emotions during a time like this, with questions of why and how, it really hit home hard when I fully realized that my new Yellow Jacket bow was in that truck, along with other hunting gear. Two weeks to the day that my truck was stolen, I got a call from the police in another county, saying they had found my truck. Of course when I was able to get the truck back a couple days later, my Yellow Jacket bow was gone, along with a lot of other hunting equipment I had in the vehicle. The thief even snatched the rear differential out of the truck and stuck another one in its place that was no good. Needless to say, he or those that stole the truck were never apprehended or identified. I was glad to get the truck back, but at that time I would have been even happier to have gotten the bow back than the truck (truth). At times over the years I thought about the bow, but never expecting to ever see it again. I was even hoping it would turn up in a pawn shop, or I might even see it at some of the shoots I attend, but that did not happen.

Now let's jump ahead to the evening of May 6, 2013 (16 years later). A phone call came in, and my wife (Deborah) looked at the number, and since she did not recognize the number, she was not going to answer it, but decided to answer it anyway. When the person on the other end asked to speak to Tony Sanders, she knew then that it was someone that knew me. That person on the other end of the line was none other than our very own Stan Trice, who is the Editor of The Traditional Bowhunters Of Maryland newsletter. A person by the name of Robert Trapps had called Stan about getting in touch with me, because it had something to do with a bow with my name on it. So Stan told the guy he would pass on the info to me along with his phone number, which he did and I in turn called Mr. Trapps. Mr. Trapps proceeded to tell me that he came into possession of a bow with my name on it. Of course at the time he did not know who I was, neither did I know him, and I certainly wasn't thinking about the Yellow Jacket bow that was stolen 16 years earlier, when he mentioned a bow with my name

He then told me that the bow had Yellow Jacket written on it. I then asked him was it a 3 piece takedown bow, and he said it was. The only one that I knew that made Yellow Jacket bows, was Fred Dolinger, and I knew that the bow Fred had made for me was named Yellow Jacket. Folks, I cannot describe in words the feelings and emotions that came over me as I could not believe that this could possibly be the same

and get rid of what's left in the houses. And bow that was stolen that many years ago, one of the houses that he was cleaning out Sixteen years after his Yellow Jacket bow was stolen, **Tony Sanders was** finally able to go hunting with it!

and I could not wait to see it just to be sure that it was the one and same bow. So we agreed to meet

2013 I met Mr. Trapps at his home. We each greeted and introduced ourselves. We went inside. he told me to have a seat. He went to the basement and



he is an avid archer who has been shooting

a bow since the sixties. He is 62 years old

and still shoots a recurve today. I then

asked how he came to have the bow. Well

his brother does the kind of work where

they go around and clean out old houses

was located in Baltimore County, and this particular house had this bow there among the stuff that was to be thrown out. Since he knew his brother shot bows and was into archery, he gave it to him in the month of October 2012. I asked him how he knew to contact Stan. Well Mr. Trapps kept mentioning someone he called "TP". And come to find out the TP that he was talking about was/is fellow TBM club member Tom Parsons, who also is the owner of Kim Sha Archery.

But before going over to see Tom, he had taken the bow to Fred's Sporting Goods down in Waldorf, MD. He took the bow there because someone had twisted the bottom limb of the bow quite bad, and he was hoping

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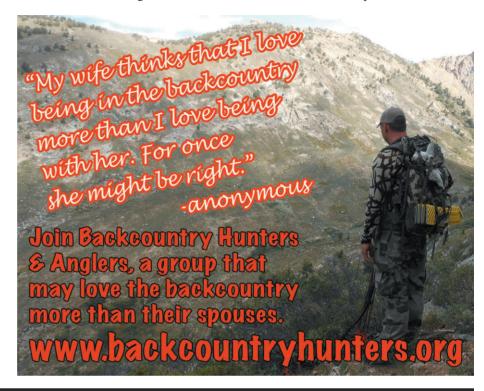
they could help him out. They being a modern archery shop told Mr. Trapps that they could not help him and recommended he go over to Kim Sha Archery. After looking the bow over and assessing the problems with the bow, Tom told him he would not try and shoot the bow. Tom saw my name on the bow and told him he needed to get in touch with me about what he wanted to know about the bow. So Tom gave him Stan's number, because he did not know my number, and Stan in turn called me, and as they say the rest is history.

I really want to thank Tom, Stan and Mr. Trapps for following through so that I could be reunited with my Yellow Jacket bow. Praise be to God through his Son Jesus Christ, that there are still good people in the world today. Mr. Trapps did not want anything in return, but I gave him something anyway and he was very thankful and was glad that he could help out. He also had someone break into his house and steal a bunch of his archery equipment, so he could identify with me and know how I felt. I also sent him some brand new arrows to show my appreciation. Once I had the bow home in my possession. I worked on the bottom limb to try and straighten it out. I ran the bottom limb under both hot and cold water while twisting it in the direction it needed to be, and after doing this over a few days, I was successful in getting the

limb straight and tracking right in the center of the string groove. I have been out shooting the bow quite a bit, and so far it is shooting quite well, and it is still tracking well. I never had a chance to hunt with this bow, but Lord willing I sure plan to hunt with it some this coming 2013/2014 sea-

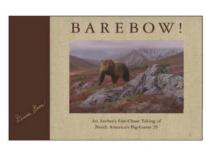
son. Shoot straight and good hunting.

Update: The 2013 Maryland archery deer season is underway and I was able to take the Yellow jacket bow out and take the first deer with it after all these years of never being able to hunt with it. I shot a nice doe with it on Sept 24th.

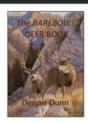


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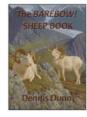
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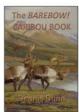
















Since those long hours in your stand or ground-blind can get awfully boring, on occasion, why not engage in two big-game hunts, simultaneously? Now, at the very same time you're hunting Whitetails or Pronghorn Antelope, you can also be hunting elk, caribou, sheep, moose, Muskox, Mountain Lion, or Grizzly Bear!

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country. I wouldn't sleep in any backpack tent if I were you." That advice was offered by a local, weathered Alaskan resident to me and my bowhunting companions Carey Price and Clarence Shrewsbury when we told him we planned to hunt black bear and moose in the area.

He told us there was a cabin about three miles up the mountain in the National Moose Range that was open to the public. The cabin had been built by a prospector who was later killed in a plane crash. The Alaskan sourdough then graciously offered us his ancient row boat to cross the glacial stream to the trail head opposite his cabin. I remember thinking that the boat must be as old as its owner. Exposure to the elements had taken its toll on it.

My hunting partners and I had hired a pilot to drop us off and pick us up ten days later on Tustumena Lake on the Kenai Penisula. Tustumena Lake is about 25 miles long and six miles wide. It is fed by Tustumena Glacier, a fact that later became very apparent to me.

After an arduous climb carrying our backpacking equipment, bowhunting gear and ten days of food, we located the cabin. It was a sturdy structure with two bunk beds, a couple of chairs and a wood-burning cook stove. The cabin overlooked a small, scenic lake. I could readily understand why someone had built a cabin there.

We spent the first day glassing with binoculars and a spotting scope from a vantage point near the cabin. We saw mountain goats on distant slopes and moose nearer the lake. The area near the lake was heavily wooded and interspersed with many marshes.

Small game was plentiful. On a few nights we supplemented our freeze dried meals with squirrel and grouse. One day while crossing a feeder stream we saw fish at the confluence of the tributary and lake. We decided to fish there the following day. The fish were Dolly Varden trout (technically char). In a few minutes we caught enough fish for a meal. Within an hour we were eating them. They were a huge improvement over our backpacking food. On several days thereafter we stopped at the feeder stream en route to the cabin and caught our supper.

We saw moose and black bear nearly every day, but getting within bow range and having an ethical shot was difficult. The bears usually winded us and the moose usually heard us. A highlight of our day was discussing our individual encounters after dinner.

We spotted a huge bull late one day and decided to hunt him the following day. We awoke to heavy winds and driving rain. All of us were thankful to be in a snug cabin rather than in backpacking tents. At about noon, the wind and rain subsided and we climbed to our lookout point and began searching for the bull. We soon located him with a cow at the edge of a small clearing. The wind was in our favor and we had a covered approach. We quickly closed the distance to about 50 yards and ran out of concealment. We watched the bull walk to a large tree and lower his rack and effortlessly shear off limbs. He then moved to the opposite side of the tree and repeated the process. It was an awesome display of brute strength.

It was Carey's turn for a stalk. Clarence and I remained in place concealed by brush while Carey belly-crawled closer. We watched him get to about 25 yards and raise to his knees to shoot. Before he could release, a young bull that none of us had seen

rushed between Carey and the big bull. The dominant bull and his cow fled across the clearing and disappeared. So close!

One evening as I was returning to camp, I nearly bumped into a black bear sow and two cubs in the thick underbrush. The sow immediately huffed a warning to her cubs. The larger one streaked to the nearest tree and climbed it. The smaller cub didn't move until the sow cuffed it and sent it sprawling. When it stopped tumbling, it began squalling and quickly joined its sibling in the tree. The sow then turned her attention to me. I didn't like what I saw. She began swinging her head from side to side and popping her teeth. I felt adrenaline surge through my body. The protective mother charged but stopped a few feet from me. If her intent was to intimidate me, she succeeded admirably. I began to slowly back away from her. I wanted her to know that I was no threat yet not move so quickly that I would trigger her impulse to pursue. After a few tense moments, she called her cubs and they disappeared into the brush. I stood there in the growing darkness to allow my heart rate, blood pressure and respiration to recede. I was anxious to share my experience with my partners in the security of the cabin.

Early one morning while glassing from the knoll near the cabin, we saw smoke rising from the cabin chimney. We had left the cabin before daylight with no fire so we knew someone else was in the cabin. We went to investigate. We found that two gun hunters and two guides had moved into the cabin. They told us they had been hunting mountain goats and got caught in a storm and needed to spend the night to dry their clothing and equipment.

As we were talking to the four newcom-

ers, a float plane carrying two game wardens landed near the cabin. The wardens checked all our licenses then briefly questioned me and my bowhunting companions. Next, they questioned the gunhunters and guides at length and then left.

The senior game warden didn't have full use of one arm, his face was scarred and one evebrow and scalp were askew. After the wardens departed, I asked the guides if they knew how the warden had incurred his injuries. The older guide said the warden was backpack bowhunting moose with his wife. The warden was awakened at night by his wife screaming. A brown bear was dragging her from the tent. The husband began kicking the bear which then dropped the wife and pulled the warden from the tent and mauled him severely. The bear broke off the attack and vanished. Although the warden was seriously injured, he was able to walk. He told his wife they needed to get out of the area because the bear would return. They stumbled to the nearest road and the warden was taken to a hospital. Game Department personnel went to the campsite the following day and found it destroyed. The bear had returned.

Sometime during the night we shared the cabin with the mountain goat hunters, I was awakened by one guide and the hunters. They told me that the older guide had suffered a heart attack. He needed to get to a hospital. No one had a radio or any other means to contact rescue personnel. The younger guide asked me if I would accompany one of his hunters, Joe, off the mountain and seek help. I told him I would and that I knew where two cabins were located on the shore of Tustumena Lake. My hope was that one of the occupants had a radio or boat that could be used to secure medical help.

Joe and I set off in the dark headed for the closest cabin three miles down the mountain. I left my bow in the cabin and carried my .44 revolver. Joe carried a rifle. We arrived at the trail head opposite the cabin at daybreak. Fortunately, the rowboat was beached on our side of the stream. Unfortunately, the glacial stream was at flood stage. We removed our packs, coats, boots and guns and tied them inside the boat. This later proved to be a prudent action.

With grave reservations (no pun intended) we embarked on what became a brief but harrowing experience. The surging current swept us out into Tustumena Lake where the stream's force eventually diminished and we were finally able to steer the sluggish craft toward the cabin. Joe and I frantically paddled and bailed. In spite of our best efforts, the lake won. We

sank. Fortunately we were near shore and were able to reach dry land and salvage the boat and our gear. We were cold, exhausted and on the verge of hypothermia.

We staggered to the cabin hoping to warm ourselves inside and see if the owner had a radio. No one was home and the cabin was locked. What a disappointment! With great difficulty we managed to start a fire. We huddled around it and gradually restored our core body temperature to a safe level. I was thankful for my wool clothing and waterproof matches.

I told Joe there was another cabin several miles down the shore and asked if he was willing to go there. He said he was. I then reluctantly told him we would have to cross the glacial stream again to begin our trek along the shoreline. He exclaimed, "You have to be kidding (paraphrased) me."

With full knowledge of what faced us, we shoved off in the old boat and made a wide detour around the mouth of the raging stream. We paddled and bailed furiously fighting both the current and a strong wind. And once again the lake prevailed and we sank near shore. I wasn't surprised. I recalled that expression, "Insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result." We dragged the boat onto the rocky shore, built another fire, poured water from our boots, packs and weapons and wrung out our soaked clothing for the second time that frigid morning.

Our plan was to travel the shoreline to the cabin and hope we could hail a fishing boat for help. We fought our way through nearly impenetrable brush for hours. Brown bear sign was abundant and we were on high alert. We finally heard the roar of a stream and I knew we were near the cabin. As we approached the stream something erupted from the water. I yanked my .44 from my holster and Joe quickly unslung his rifle. The frightening noise we heard was from ducks taking flight. We breathed easier. We eased up to the stream bank and checked for bears. Thankfully, we saw none!

The cabin was nearby—and vacant. To say we were dejected would be an understatement. We had checked the only two cabins in the area and found them empty. We had nearly drowned twice and had narrowly escaped hypothermia. We had fought our way through brush for miles in prime brown bear habitat and failed to see a boat within signaling distance.

As we stood on the lake shore cold and exhausted but not yet beaten we considered building a huge signal fire that could be seen by both aircraft and boats. We planned to use logs and rocks to form an

SOS on the beach in hopes a plane would see it. Before we could begin implementing our plan of action, we saw the game warden plane circle over us and land.

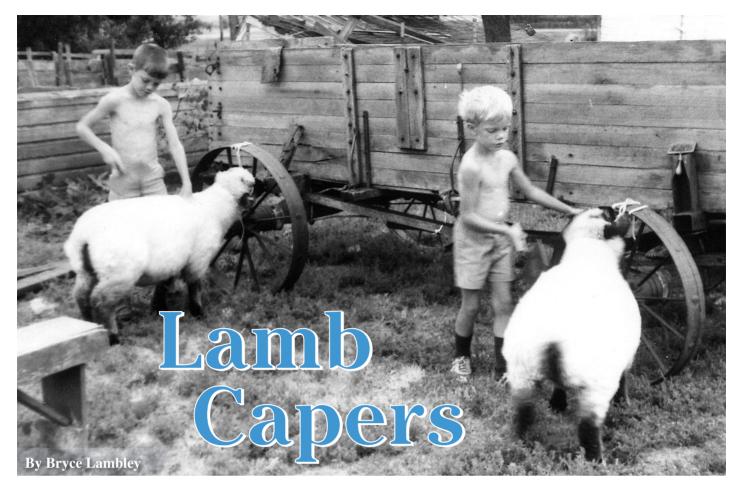
The game wardens had landed on the small lake near the prospector's cabin and flown the older guide to an Anchorage hospital. My partners told the game wardens that two of us were looking for help and where we planned to go. The wardens then came looking for us. The pilot warden said he would fly us one at a time to our cabin. He then told his deputy to take the rifle from the plane and stay with Joe until he returned.

While flying me to our cabin the warden told me that the previous day when he landed on the small lake he was looking for someone who had shot a mountain goat and abandoned the carcass without salvaging the edible meat, a serious game law violation. After questioning the goat hunters and guides, the wardens flew to Anchorage and obtained a search warrant. As previously mentioned, when the wardens returned the following day and learned of the older guide's condition the senior warden flew him to a hospital. The deputy remained behind and searched the hunters' packs and confiscated a mountain goat hide and horns. Then they began searching for Joe and me.

On the last day of our hunt Carey, Clarence and I hiked to our pick up point for our float plane ride back to Anchorage. The sun was shining and we could see for miles across Tustumena Lake. It was the first day it hadn't rained on our hunt. Our pilot had agreed to pick us up at about noon. As the hours passed and no plane arrived, we began pondering what might have caused the delay. I proposed that the most likely explanation was foul weather in Anchorage. At sundown we pitched our tents. We all spent a restless night wondering if the pilot had forgotten us or if some mishap had occurred that prevented him from coming for us. Our plane arrived the following morning. The pilot told us that he was socked in the preceding day.

While waiting in the Anchorage airport for our flight home to Virginia we were discussing what and where we wanted to hunt next. I told my partners that I was agreeable to anything as long as it did not involve a glacier lake and a leaky boat.





Whenever it becomes county fair time, it always takes me on a stroll down Memory Lane, this one regarding our involvement as kids in the 4-H sheep shows in Pierce and Boone Counties when we were young and lived near Plainview and Albion, respectively.

My dad grew up in Tekamah back in the day and showed sheep in the Burt County fair as well as the big prize of all, the Fremont 4-H Fair. Sadly, just as Nathan

Arneal bemoaned in his column in this week's North Bend Eagle, I similarly fear that as the county fairs continue to struggle for survival, we are losing a bit of our history and tradition that we are unlikely to ever recover.

While bonafide farmers' kids are often involved in the 4-H programs, one can still feel like a farmer while

raising livestock on a smaller scale and also learn many life lessons, a number of which are similar to those gleaned while caring for pets. The responsibility factor is there, as are the dealing with life and death and separation any rancher goes through with animals he or she regards as important.

Since my grandfather raised registered Southdown sheep, I think it was only natural that Dad got into showing those same animals. And I suppose with our last name, it was doubly appropriate.

What was probably not appropriate was the double duty which our sheep – for a very short time – also were subjected to.

It was while at Plainview that we lived on a great acreage that included a full-size barn with hay loft and all the outbuildings a family with four boys could ever want. With plenty of adjacent timbered pasture, we generally had a flock of perhaps 15 sheep, mostly Hampshire-Suffolk cross as I recall.

...I knew better than to shoot at our sheep...unless of course I put broken pieces of corn cobs on the ends to make them blunt...

We'd of course pick the strongest young lambs each spring to be our 4-H "fat lambs" for competition, and also groom and work with them so we'd also compete well in the "showmanship" division as well.

It was this latter division that probably suffered most for the aforementioned and inappropriate double duty.

You see, it was also at this time that my brothers and I discovered the bow and arrow, probably because this was about when Dad felt the rifle was getting too easy and wanted to try archery for deer. Whenever we got the chance, we'd pound wooden arrows into deer, fox, squirrel and bluejay target faces pinned to some straw bales. I remember learning to wrap my three shooting fingers with white athletic tape to prolong the activity before pain set in.

Eventually we began to look for other targets, but the rats that lived under the corn crib down the lane were pretty nocturnal,

and all the local birds that I never connected with but certainly harassed were getting wary. I did manage once to surprise a raccoon in the crib, and made a perfect shot between the eyes only to see my arrow glance off and the now-wiser critter scurry to safety. Pretty exciting stuff for a fourth- or fifth-grader.

Those early little Bear fiberglass recurves were probably in the 10 to 20 lb. draw range and not capable of doing much damage. Still, I knew better than to shoot at our sheep...unless of course I put broken pieces of corn cobs on the ends to make them blunt and incapable of damaging anything. This discovery of a makeshift bludgeon head immediately gave me the idea that we could and absolutely should hunt our sheep in the pasture.

And for a short time--a very short time--that's exactly what my brother Kevin and

I did. We'd stalk the wooded pasture, and when we'd closed the gap sufficiently, we'd loose our cob-tipped arrows at the woolly sheep. I've got to say even after all these years it was probably the most realistic form of practice ever devised. And connecting on these deer-sized animals was a great coup.

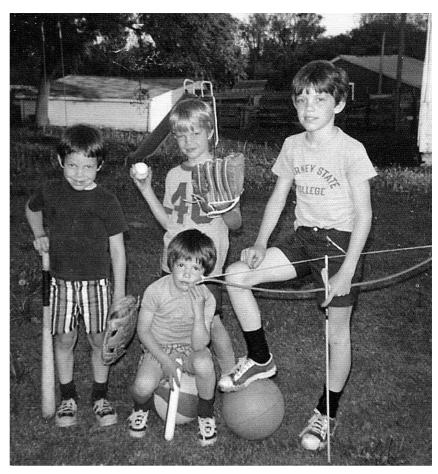
That is until Dad happened to witness us in the

Punishment was swift and severe enough that we never considered doing that again. It joined the scrap heap of other bad ideas right alongside that of branding one's own initials into the hair of the pigs with a hot stick. The biggest problem with that brainchild was that it was hard to deny your involvement once my neighbor's dad saw our signed work.

Mr. Kenney's punishment was equally swift and terrible, and being the neighbor kid did not mean I was spared the spanking his son got either.

In the end, it was probably best that we got caught early, as it was making the sheep so wild that our chances in the showmanship division of the county fair were slim and none. And there are few things as embarrassing at the county fair than being dragged around through the livestock droppings in the show ring by your lamb. *

This is one of 101 chapters in Bryce Lambley's most recent book. Platte River Driftwood. For more information, see the author's website at www.brycelambley.com





Primetime



By Ron Tandy

Because bowhunting hogs is a year round endeavor in many, if not most places in the U.S., perhaps a true "Primetime" doesn't really exist. But for the last several years a group of buddies and I have been chasing these "made for the bowhunter" critters where I live, in SW Florida. We also like to hunt in South Texas, during the winter months. I've also had some fun "takin' bacon" along the Flint River in Georgia.

February and March is a time of year when there isn't too much for bowhunters to get excited about, enter the feral hog. Many places where we hunt in South Texas are inhabited by the elusive javelina as well. Both of these animals have provided a great deal of fun for those of us who get after 'em, not to mention some excellent table fare.

Where legal, hogs can be baited with almost anything edible; they are not picky about their diets, sort of like the guys I hunt with. When baiting I have used dry pre-sweetened Kool-aid, molasses, honey, left over camp-food, or most anything that is either sweet or odiferous. Again, kinda like our group of bowhunters. Corn is a good "go-to" bait. Here's a tip about corn some of you may not know about; if you bait hogs with corn, I suggest digging a deep, small diameter hole and filling it with corn. I have used a post hole digger with good results. I try to make a hole about 2 feet deep then I fill it with corn. I top the corn off with dry Koolaid or molasses, once they find it corn alone will keep them coming back. Once they locate the corn, I swear that some of these bait sites have looked like a 155 Howitzer round exploded. Sometimes I'll dig another hole to freshen up the site. Another advantage to filling a hole with corn; if you are in a tree stand, a ground blind, or some other kind of ambush site, the hogs will be "very" occu-



A mature javelina the author nicknamed Scarface checking the wind.

pied in rooting up the corn and their preoccupation with digging will often times give you ample opportunity to get into position to draw your bow or even slip into a better position for a shot without being detected.



Personally, my very favorite method to hunt hogs, and especially javelina, is to quietly slip around the area using the wind and binoculars to my advantage. I've witnessed some of my buddies mimicking pig sounds by grunting or squealing like...well, a pig. I am not very good at this technique but I have seen animals respond so I know it can be effective. I have seen "pig calls" advertised but I haven't tried them.

Although a hogs eyesight isn't as good as some of the other animals we pursue... DO NOT... believe everything you have read or heard about their "poor" eyesight. My experience is that they will pick up movement far better than most people believe, even from an elevated position, especially inside the 20 or 30 yard line. Like feral hogs, javelina also have much better hearing and a far greater sense of smell when compared to their vision, so move very slowly and as quiet as possible once you've spotted them and by all means... get down wind.

In my opinion camouflage clothing is largely overrated, at least for hog and javelina hunting. For hog hunting I generally wear a pair of heavy weight 16 or 18 ounce cotton upland jeans, either blue denim or brown denim, that have "nylon facing" to help protect my legs against brush, briars, thorns and those dad gum prickly pear cactus. At least one of these plants, trees, bushes or cacti seem to always be present and trust me, they WILL get your attention. Some of the guys wear chaps and most of us like to have a short pair of gaiters to tuck our pant legs into, the gaiters help keep insects out. If nothing else, I will tuck my pant legs into my socks.

My favorite footwear for the hard, rocky soil commonly found in Texas are Chukka style boots that have a VERY soft gum sole type foot bed. I only wear these boots in the field because the soles will wear out quickly if worn around town or on concrete surfaces. I once stepped on a thorn of some kind and it worked its way into the bottom of my foot, so if you choose to wear soft soles be aware of your foot placement. These type soles are absolutely whisper quiet for stalking on hard, pebble strewn, rocky terrain. In Florida and Georgia the areas we hunt are often very wet. Here I generally wear canvas

ankle high gym shoes. They are comfortable and will dry overnight.

The weather in February and March is often very comfortable in the deep South and sometimes it's hot, so a tee shirt is usually adequate. This time of year rain is not normally a problem but then again... there has been snow on at least two occasions during our Texas hunts. Wear what is most comfortable for you. I have worn camo clothing and even a ghillie suit at times, but mostly, jeans and a tee shirt work just fine for me. One final note on clothing, because I often walk for miles at a time, I've found that sewing buttons on my jeans and wearing suspenders to be a great comfort, especially when my pockets are full of "stuff." I like to travel light but on full day outings a fanny or day pack is handy.

We all have our opinions on the best bows to shoot, arrow weights and broadhead type. I prefer reasonably heavy arrows, mine range from 600 to 750 grains, I only use "cut on contact" broadheads and mine are "shaving" sharp. Most of my shots are inside 20 yards so light arrows and a flat trajectory aren't important to me. One year a fella from a different group of guys was shooting a 70# compound bow. He shot it at the targets in camp pretty well, however and this is the absolute truth, he was using some new "latest and greatest" expandable broadhead. He NEVER had more than six inches of penetration and never found any of the 6 or 7 hogs he said he hit. He was very discouraged after he lost ALL of his expandable broadhead tipped arrows, many of which were last see sticking in hogs as they ran off. This guy left camp early. You be the judge. With large hogs your shot placement must be behind the





Bill Terry Sr. with a great Texas hog and two "camp followers"

the big ones is highly recommended.

One particular trip in 2011 I was hunting from a ground blind about mid-morning on the first day. I was watching a large area that I had "trickled" with corn for 50 or 60 yards in several directions. From above, it would resemble the spokes of a wheel with me at the "hub." Soon, a group of a dozen or more javelina hit a trail of corn and fed their way straight to me. They can scarf up corn quickly and they never stopped walking while they ate. Once they were within 20 yards I picked an animal, concentrated on a spot and before I realized it, I had drawn and released. The shot looked great and of course the rest of the group hightailed it outta there. After only a few minutes wait I took up the blood trail and walked about 35 yards to my javelina. While admiring the animal suddenly I began seeing the rest of the group dodging back and forth among the prickly pear and mesquite in their attempt to regroup. I am not a great "game caller" by any means, but I remembered someone saying that if I found myself in this situation, squealing will oftentimes trick the animals to begin reforming...on you! I thought "what the heck" and tried it. Immediately, and I mean immediately, the javelina began forming on me and two or three ran by within several feet of where I was standing. I had an arrow on the string and one animal stopped about ten feet from me and I drilled it. That was a very cool and exciting experience; I could hardly believe how fast it all happened. The Texas limit on javelina where we hunted that year was two, so I was done hunting these little guys in about a five minute time period on the FIRST day. Excellent!

Snakes, I am speaking of rattle snakes, are not usually a problem in winter months but over the years we have had some encounters and several have been taken with our bows. Some of these snakes were breaded and pan fried in butter, they are actually quite good,

Primetime Hogs

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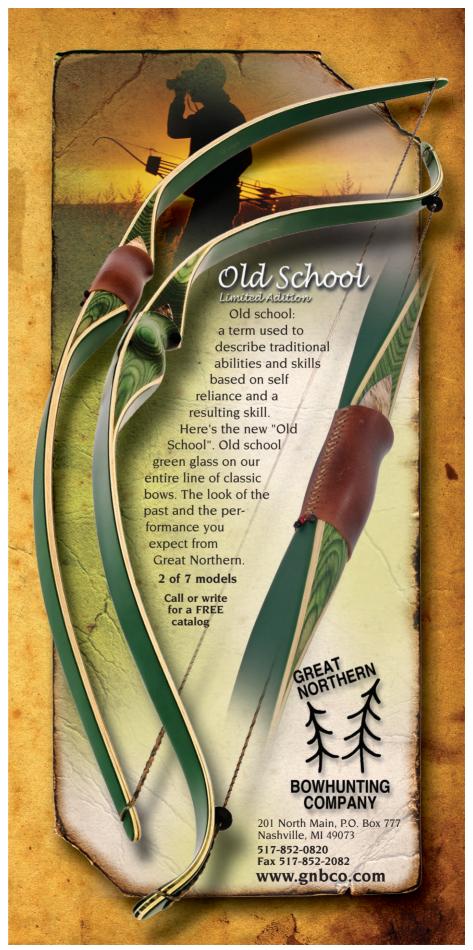
they taste like...you guessed it, chicken. And of course the skins make great additions to bow limbs. On one trip a guy flipped over a piece of corrugated metal roofing and found a den that contained several rattle snakes. I suppose caution would apply here.

I have heard that javelina are not very good eating. I beg to differ. I have prepared it several ways: grilled with a homemade BBO sauce, pan fried with a little olive oil and red wine with onions, and my favorite, slow cooked in a crock pot with sauerkraut. I don't know if they are better tasting at a particular time of the year but those I have prepared were good, my buddies in Florida thought so too. I soaked the back straps in salt water prior to cooking. I don't recall when or where I heard about soaking the meat in salt water and I don't know if it was a key step in preparation but all the methods/recipes were quite good. Caution is necessary however when skinning javelina because they have nasty smelling glands. They can also be infested with fleas and ticks. I found this out the hard way but that's another story, one in which my buddies Gene and Barry made me ride in the bed of their pick-up with two flea ridden javelina.

In addition to hogs and javelina it is usually legal where we hunt to take predators too. Coyotes and bobcats are present and some areas have LOTS of jack rabbits, cottontail rabbits and we usually see armadillo's. Cottontails have been known to make a last minute addition to the camp menu.

If you can arrange it, do yourself a favor and try bowhunting hogs and/or javelina during the slow winter months. It's a great reason to get away from the snow and cold for you Northern folks and it's a lot of fun.







The Brave Little Bobcat

By Tim Jones

On more than one occasion, I've heard deer snorting frantically in a way that is even worse than if they were in the presence of a human, only to see a bobcat in the area. I've often wondered if the bobcat ac-

tually scared the deer that badly, or did it just happen to be there when something else was in the area? Then this year, the mystery finally unfolded.

On November 24, I was sitting in a pignut hickory tree around 7:30 AM (one hour after daylight). I had plans of calling and rattling in a rut-crazed buck. I began my calling with a shortseries of grunts. About five minutes later, I heard something running in from behind me. I couldn't see anything even though the sound of rustling leaves seemed to be just the other side of a twenty-five inch white oak about fifteen yards from my stand. Then all got quiet for a while.

I couldn't believe I couldn't see antlers or some part of a deer around that tree. After all, what else would come running in to a buck grunt, but another buck? Then quietly, to my surprise, a bobcat came sneaking out from behind the tree. She was moving rather quickly and crossing directly behind my tree. When she got directly behind the tree, I managed to turn so that I could get a shot as she was leaving.

The top of an ironwood tree with branches everywhere was

between the cat and me, so I had to bend my knees to lower my position and find a hole between the branches. I made a grunting sound with my mouth and watched as the cat paused just long enough for the arrow to connect. The shot looked perfect, just behind the shoulder in the baseball size target. Instead of falling dead or running, this cat went into the wildest series of flips and somersaults I've ever seen. She did this for about fifty yards in a matter of a couple of seconds. Then all was quiet and the cat was out of sight.



The enticement of a venison breakfast turned out to be the downfall of this brave little bobcat.

Since I was deer hunting and the rut was coming to an end, I opted to stay in the stand and hunt for the next couple of hours. Unfortunately, the smell of bobcat in the area kept all the deer away. I climbed down from my tree thinking the cat was where I

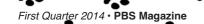
last saw her, but she wasn't there, nor was there a blood trail. I scanned the woods around me and spotted a weed moving. I went to investigate. Thirty yards from the weed and past a big oak tree, I heard something growling about three feet behind me. There was my cat - still alive! I felt bad

that I had let her suffer for two hours, and I quickly put her out of her misery with another arrow. Apparently, my first arrow had hit the bottom side of the backbone and somehow went above the lungs.

This is the fourth bobcat that I've taken with a bow and arrow in the past 15 years on my farm in West Tennessee. All of the cats were taken while I was deer hunting. I have also seen two others before the season for bobcats was open. I was eleven when I took my first bobcat while hunting squirrels with a shotgun. I suppose these Eastern hardwood forests provide good habitat for bobcats. I am convinced that this little eighteen pound cat wanted venison for breakfast and was willing to attack a two-hundred pound buck. And some people think stickbow hunters are crazy, ha-ha.

According to the National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Animals, bobcats can be found in almost all of the forty-eight continental states and the edges of Canada and Mexico. They can weigh as much as 68 pounds. Its main food source is rabbit, mice, squirrels, porcupines, and cave bats. It even occasionally preys upon livestock.

On this hunt, Regular Member Tim Jones used his homemade laminated bow and his own arrow shafts with wild turkey feathers and a Zwickey broadhead.



Sowing the Seeds of Our Future

By P.J. Petiniot

This is the first installment in a series of articles where I will chronicle the journey of my 3rd child on his journey towards becoming a bowhunter. This particular article will focus on how I have introduced all three of my children to archery. After this initial piece of the puzzle is laid out, the next installments will jump forward from introducing a small child to archery to the building of a solid foundation of outdoor and bowhunting related skills for an older boy or girl that will eventually lead to them becoming a fully accredited bowhunter. But it is my long held belief that a strong love of archery is paramount to the development of a true bowhunter and not just a person that hunts with a bow. I am certain that every person reading this knows there is a distinct difference between the two sorts of hunters.

It has been my long held belief that bowhunters are grown, not made. I am speaking of true bowhunters, not guys that happen to occasionally hunt with a bow. I will use my personal experience on how I was introduced to archery and eventually bowhunting as an example. I was born into a completely non hunting family, not an anti-hunting family, a non-hunting family. When I was born, there was not a single living relative that had ever pursued a living creature with a gun or bow with the intentions of killing and eating it.

I had survived to the ripe old age of almost nine and never gave hunting a thought, that is, until one rainy Saturday afternoon. As a young boy, house bound due to a summer thunderstorm I was relegated to watching TV for my afternoon entertainment. It was during an early 1970's equivalent of channel surfing when I saw a man on a boat with an M1 Carbine shooting bottles and I stopped to see what the show was and it turned out to be "Kodiak Country" being aired on TV. Those of us that have seen the old Fred Bear movie Kodiak country know that it has some of the finest, most action packed footage I have ever seen and it was my first introduction to the modern bow and arrow.

My fascination with the bow could have ended that day but the following weekend I was visiting my grandparents and they lived at the edge of town where people had slightly bigger yards than in the city where

I lived. While I was hanging out in my grandparent's back yard, I heard an odd sound coming from the neighbor's vard, twang----thump, twang---thump. I snuck over to the fence behind the garage and saw a guy shooting a bow into a straw target. I watched my grandfather's new neighbor shoot his bow for what seemed like an eternity, but what was probably a couple minutes then the guy noticed me watching as he walked up to the target to pull his arrows.

This guy looked at me and said "Hello, would you like to shoot?" I was over the fence in a single bound and was introducing myself to my grandfather's neighbor. This

kind man was giving me a speedy lesson on archery safety and all I wanted to do was launch my first arrows. The seemingly 9 hour safety course ended and I was finally able to fling some arrows. The bow was a light weight target bow that I, an average size almost 9 year old boy could get back to full draw without too much effort.

I got to shoot several quivers full of arrows before my grandmother called me for lunch and ended what was, up 'til that moment in time, the best day of my life. Once again, it may have all ended right there on that late June day except for the fact that my 9th birthday was coming up and later that evening my mother asked me what I would like for my birthday.

My answer to my mother's question came without hesitation "I want a bow and arrow for my birthday" and after discussing it with my father, and my father being completely ignorant to the hazards associate with the bow and arrow said to my mother "it's only a bow and arrow, what harm could come from it?" and on that July day a new archer was welcomed into the fold.

As my personal example has illustrated, at times, all it takes is a little exposure, a



...it's not about you having a good time, it's about THEM having a good time...

little kindness and a little luck to ignite a small spark that eventually turns into a lifelong flame. We can fast forward through my years of just being an archer, through my beginnings of an aspiring bowhunter and to the point that I finally knew what I was doing, at least to some degree.

I was 28 when my wife Leslie and I had our first child and I also had 19 years of life behind the bow; so archery, more importantly bowhunting, was a big part of my life by that time. Our daughter Kendra, our first child was destined to become an archer and a bowhunter if she were to choose that path. Kendra received her first bow for her second birthday, much to the chagrin of her mother. I needed a reason to construct a target in the yard and this was the perfect excuse.

Kendra shot her little fly-weight fiberglass bow for 2 years and then she moved up to a more realistic looking and better shooting bow that was crafted by a bowyer from Ohio named Sonny Iman. Sonny put more bows into the hands of more children than any single person I have ever met. I would really be interested in knowing how many hickory board longbows Sonny turned out over the years. Sonny's bows were affordable, good looking and performed very well with the 1/4" raminwood arrows he built and sold along with the bows. Kendra's enjoyment level went up immeasurably after receiving her first REAL bow with arrows that were actually matched.

Up until our bow and arrow purchase from Mr. Iman, I had never given any real thought to Kendra's arrows. I just used scraps, parts and pieces of my arrows and

although my daughter never complained, they didn't fly well and she always had a hodge-podge of my scraps and never a set of arrows to call her own. I noticed instant success with my daughter's new bow and arrow setup and her enjoyment level increased dramatically.

The days that followed saw Kendra becoming an archer, not just a little kid that shot a bow. I watched and beamed with pride as my daughter not only became proficient with her longbow but truly began to enjoy every aspect of her archery experi-

ence. This experience was my first of many teachings that would be handed down to me by my children where archery/ bowhunting is concerned. Having a bow that fits the child, that they can get all the way back to full draw without struggling, as well as a handful of arrows that will fly well out of the bow are paramount to the enjoyment of all involved. There are countless old youth bows out there from companies such as Bear Archery, Ben Pearson Archery, Shakespeare etc., not to mention a good selection of currently active bowyers and archery companies that make vouth bows today. You don't have to spend a lot of money, in fact, you can build a rattan or a board bow yourself and have little time and money invested, but you will still have a great shooting bow that fits the child's needs much better than some of the options we have all been guilty of providing.

There were more lessons handed down from Kendra and eventually our second born child Samantha, the first and most important lesson of all was, it's not about you having a good time, it's about THEM having a good time. If the kids are having fun, you will have fun, but if you gear the activity around your personal fun time preferences, many times the kids will get bored and a bored child either gets grumpy or seeks out trouble. No grumpy,

trouble seekers allowed on the archery range, so gear the outing around known enjoyable activities. Second on the list of lessons learned the hard way was to **keep the activity period short enough that the child doesn't lose interest**. Do not take your 3 year old child out for the afternoon club outing that includes a 40 target 3D shoot in a Midwestern woodlot with creeks and rolling hills and expect the child to stay focused, alert and joyful for the next 3 hours.



Remember, you are trying to build a foundation, instilling a strong desire to make archery, and eventually bowhunting a life-long activity and this will only be accomplished if you are mindful to what makes an enjoyable experience for a small child. We need to make sure we instill safety practices, acceptable range behavior etc., without making this activity seem like Marine Corps boot camp. I discovered that short sessions in the yard were what worked best for really young children and the bow and arrow. A child 5 or under is not going to have the attention span nor the maturity level to go out for even an hour and do nothing but stand in front of a target or targets and shoot arrows. We need to introduce young archers and hunters to these activities with realistic goals on our end. We need to realize that a young child under a certain age (that is usually child specific) just can't go out for a day of archery/ bowhunting fun and stay focused, engaged and happy.

You might be able to get your sibling to go out on an all-day whitetail hunt at 13 and keep him engaged and attentive, but when he was 8, if you are honest, you know it wasn't going to happen. We need to make sure we gear outdoor and hunting adventures to each individual child. I have three children ranging from ages 21, 16 and 9, and each of them had completely different

attention spans and desires when it came to our outdoor and archery related activities.

My girls were both shooting a longbow by age two, they liked it, wanted it and could go for hours by age five; my son Ian really didn't even have an interest in shooting the bow until he was closer to four or five. He had other interests. He had a bow, he would go along, but flipping rocks over to catch bugs, throwing sticks, and making animal noises were all things that interested him more than the flinging of arrows. It

took me a while to realize he was still learning valuable outdoor lessons doing such things like chasing butterflies, throwing rocks at frogs, and sneaking up on rabbits. By the time my third child came along, the other two had worn me down to the point that I followed their lead on such topics.

An important point that bears repeating: make the early forays into the wild places about the child and not about you or how you think it should be and you and your child will both have a much more enjoyable experience. I

have had to watch my wife laugh at me as I pull back into the driveway after only being gone maybe an hour after some fishing, bow shooting or hiking expedition. Usually it took me longer to gather up all our gear, or dig worms or fill the cooler with drinks and snacks than the time spent afield.

At first, it would aggravate me to no end, but eventually I realized how to make the best of it and make sure we all had a good time. Once again, I will reaffirm an ongoing theme, make the time spent about the kid's fun and not exclusively about what your idea of fun is and all will be good.

Remember, what a five year old finds entertaining is not always what a 40 year old thinks a fun day in the woods is all about. Just roll with it and try to ensure that every trip to the target butt in the back yard or to the local archery range ends in at least one lesson being learned, either by the child or you, either way, all is good if you achieve this goal.

We all know there are steadfast rules we all must live by when shooting a bow and arrow. We know there are safety rules, range rules of etiquette and individual family rules that may vary depending on where we are, who we are shooting with etc. When a small child is being introduced to the bow and arrow, I like to keep it simple and keep it fun.



The hard rules that we all must follow about only pointing our bow at an approved target, not putting an arrow on the string until we are prepared to shoot etc., well, those are the sort of seeds we plant on day one. The rules we teach when shooting with groups, on a range, well, those are better suited for older children that have been shooting for a while and this is why I really don't like to take a child to a public archery range during an event until they are five or older, and then, only if they have been shooting for a while. My reasoning for not taking a 2-4 year old out on the range with a lot of other shooters is twofold, plain and simple. First off, it's a safety hazard.

A three year old doesn't grasp the concept that if he runs out in front of somebody

Sowing the Seeds of our Future

~ continued from page 47

at full draw because there is a butterfly on a wildflower that it could possibly end their life, and secondly, there are just too many inflexible rules that a child must follow, like not screaming "Boo" when the man in the group in front of you has attained full draw.

My personal experience with my kids has made me settle in on the age of 5-6 for hitting the public ranges, the child has been to daycare, kindergarten or Sunday

School and has been introduced to the concept of following rules that affect others, rather than just worrying about rules that affect themselves. I am not suggesting that we allow our children to run roughshod over us at the beginning of their archery experience, just that we keep it simple, with as few external rules and distractions as possible so the joy of shooting the bow and watching the arc of an arrow in flight has time to sink in before we bombard them with three pages of rules on how they must talk, where they must stand, how long they should take while pulling arrows and such.

My goal is to share Ian's journey to becoming a bowhunter. It was important to set a standard, a baseline if you will, where we all must start from when we are introducing a child to bowhunting, and in my opinion, that standard is a strong love of archery. In future columns I intend to focus on bowhunting and woodsmanship skills as well as other major events such as taking a hunter's education course, buying the first hunting license as well as archery practice with the goal being to become a better bowhunter, not necessarily a better target archer.

The next edition in this series is about how to put forth the concept of "ownership" of the values we are trying to instill in our young bowhunters as well as allowing them the freedom to customize their tools of the trade.

Making a bow, an arm guard, a set of arrows, all their own by allowing the child to personalize their gear is something I have encouraged Ian to do and it is paying great dividends in how his attitude towards the entire process of bettering himself and his personal skill set where bowhunting is concerned

Until the next time, remember to "Keep it simple and keep it fun."

P.J. ⋠

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