Official Publication for the members of the Professional Bowhunters Society

UNITED WE ACT FOR THE PRESERVATION OF BOWHUNTING
THE GREATEST OF SPORTS

# PBS Young Bowhunters Program Announcement and outline for general membership.

#### Promotion and Perpetuation

I can't think of many things that I have done within the scope of my involvement in bowhunting that have been more important, or rewarding, for that matter, than being the mentor that took a youngster from the realm of being an archer to becoming a bowhunter.



The PBS, understanding the importance of promoting and perpetuating the values that we carry, has committed to an ongoing program called the *Young Bowhunters Program*.

#### What is the Young Bowhunters Program?

The *YBP* is an organization that is dedicated to preserving bowhunting's traditional values and heritage through introducing youth to the enriching experiences, wonders, and adventures of bowhunting.

- The YBP is committed to the strongest sense of ethics in all bowhunting endeavors.
- The YBP is determined that all members will learn, understand, and follow all game laws.
- The *YBP* will teach and practice safety first: from handling bowhunting weapons and in all facets of the bowhunting experience.
- The YBP will stress respect for all game and non-game animals.
- The *YBP* will emphasize the joy of sharing knowledge, experience, and opportunities with others who appreciate bowhunting.
- The *YBP* is dedicated to having its members provide the most positive image possible as role models for peers, both non-hunters and hunters.

#### What kind of activities will there be for members of the Young Bowhunters Program?

The *YBP* will have a place for the young hunters to voice themselves in the *YBP* section of the PBS Magazine. This section of the magazine will have stories by *YBP* members, "how to" from us "Old Timers", photo wall, archery and bowhunting history section, a youth profile, as well as a calendar of events.

*YBP* will host state, local, and regional activities as well from 3-D shoots, *YBP* Camps, youth hunts, Bowhunter Ed classes, and the expansion of our current Leadership training. A day camp is in the works for this year's "ETAR".

#### Who can be a Young Bowhunter's Program member?

The *YBP* is open to any young person who has an interest in bowhunting and vows to uphold the purpose and objective of the society.

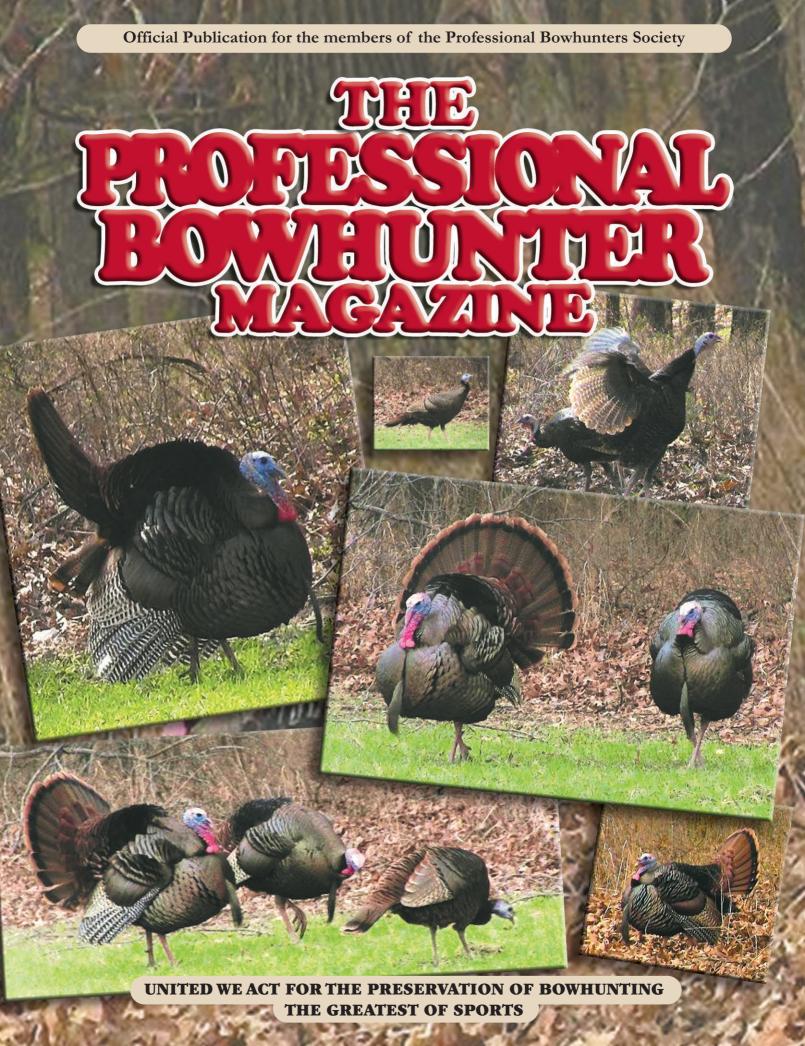
However, the *YBP* mission is not limited to young bowhunters, as many of our objectives and activities compliment young archers who are actively building their skills until they can meet their state's legal hunting age.

#### What can I do to help?

They *YBP* needs much help with getting this great and valuable program off the ground. Please contact us and join the *YBP* Committee. Mentors fuel the promotion and perpetuation of bowhunting.

#### How can one sign up or help?

To get involved please contact either Patrick Petinoit flatrock@cinergymetro.net 765-720-7857



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The views expressed in articles appearing in this magazine are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Professional Bowhunters Society\*.

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> Cover Photos by: Gene Wensel Libertyville, Iowa

# PROFESSIONAL BOWHUNTER MAGAZINE

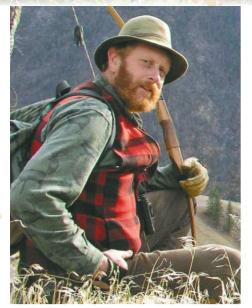
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**SECOND QUARTER - 2014** 

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As I write this we are just 2 weeks beyond the Cincinnati Gathering. For those of you not able to attend it was a "gala event." The entertainment aspect was great - with several excellent seminars and thought provoking Banquet speakers. Auctions were lively and donations for them were generous and of outstanding quality. The full Gathering profits were near identical to Portland in 2012 and only slightly behind Nashville in 2010. Having been on Council for 4 such events, I have become familiar with the sense of relief that comes about now – with the Gathering behind us! However, this break is short lived as we identified several action items during 2 membership meetings, some of which need immediate attention...such as the May-June ballot re-vote.

The Friday special meeting of Regulars went well. We overwhelmingly decided (98%), by a show of hands with 74 Regulars in attendance, that we needed to re-address the 2/3rds majority voting issue. Why? The last election produced a supermajority (86%) of support for a By-Law change, yet failed on the voter participation aspect, which has become a reoccurring theme for PBS. We evaluated the potential causes for there being 90 regular members (out of 352 eligible) not voting in the January election/ballot vote and speculated that 2 causes were most responsible: 1) A large component of Regulars are retired and traveling in the winter, so they don't get their mail on time and 2) the voting period is just plain too short to capture full, or near full, participation. As per the By-Law wording (Article XI – Amendments) of allowing the membership "at least 30 days" to vote in response to a proposed amendment change, the group again unanimously (>95%) supported extending the voting period to 60 days. These two

# President's Message

by Jim Akenson micaake@vahoo.com

# Where are we headed...besides St. Augustine in 2016?

meeting results will initiate a ballot vote starting as early as possible in May and running 60 days.

So here's the million dollar question, once we have a more effective voting system what will we do with it? The potential for great and radical change is real. I sense, and have heard directly, that there will be moves to change equipment standards - or establishing "traditional only" criteria for segments of the membership. Then, there are several financial aspects of PBS that could be challenged and potentially changed as well. We need to be careful, cautious, prudent, and respectful of how we came to this point in time -51years since the PBS inception. We need to keep in mind that we are a brotherhood... very similar in our philosophies regarding the ethics and responsibilities of bowhunting. I can't express just how similar we are – even though we define phrases like "traditional values" somewhat differently.

Recently, I have been serving on an Archery Review Committee in Oregon – representing PBS along with our Pacific West regional representative Tom Vanasche. This "ARPAC Committee" as it is now called, was comprised of state organization leaders, national organizations, and several bowhunters-at-large from around the state. We operated under specific rules and followed the "gradients of agreement" approach on decisions about

deer and elk bowhunting seasons, which is where I saw the system that we used during the Friday Special Meeting in Cincinnati. The "gradients of agreement" is a very effective method for reaching consensus where opinions are strong and emotions high. Of course, we likely won't be able to pool a large group of voting Regular Members again before the next Gathering. I am certain that we as PBS members have a heck of a lot more in common than our Oregon ARPAC group...which reached consensus on multiple contentious issues. I really feel – and strongly, that if we can just spend more time together we can bridge philosophical differences and perhaps regional events such as hunts and Odd Year Gatherings will bond us together tightly, so fixing the voting issue is just a step towards operational efficiency. Hopefully, when we meet again for the Biennial Gathering in St. Augustine, Florida we will be an organization with a crystal clear sense of our identity and distinguished place in the bowhunting world, I'd sure like to think

Enjoy your spring hunting opportunities – wherever they take you, and make just 1 fellow bowhunter a new PBS member!

~Yours in bowhunting~

Jim A.

#### **Professional Bowhunter Society Opposes Drones**

As an organization, the Professional Bowhunters Society (PBS) is in strong opposition to the use of aerial drones for any aspect of bowhunting. Using this highly advanced electronic device for the scouting of huntable game totally violates the fundamentals of fair chase. Drones employ every element that the PBS stands against – including: removing the necessity of being on equal terms with quarry, applying excessive technology to the act of bowhunting, and treating game with disrespect – as an object to seek out and destroy rather than to respect and attempt to bow hunt on fair terms. Using drones for bowhunting directly violates the ethical doctrine that we endorse as an organization and as bowhunters. PBS is a major leader in educating bowhunters, and we will speak loud and clear to our membership, and all current and future bowhunters we contact, that this device has no place in ethical bowhunting. We will fight against the use of drones for bowhunting at all levels of jurisdiction and in all places where we go afield.

Jim Akenson - President, PBS

# Vice President's Message

by Steve Hohensee

steveh.alaska@gmail.com • 907-362-3676

# MENTORING... in life and bowhunting

First and foremost I want to thank the dozens of members that pitched in to make the Cincinnati Biennial Gathering a success. There were so many of YOU that stepped up and pitched in to help your organization: thank you - thank you - thank you, again! Even with all the help we received the event was absolutely exhausting for me and it has taken me weeks to recover. I think I was more exhausted after Cincinnati than I have been at the end of an Alaskan sheep or goat bunt!

I'm sure everyone at the Cincinnati event noticed I was all gimped up post-shoulder surgery. I can't believe how many members in attendance told me they also had recently had shoulder surgery or had it coming up. I am now right at 3 months after my surgery and have surprised myself that with some struggling can actually pull my 50# longbow! That is good news for me after believing I was set to miss a second Alaska season

for family health issues.

My buddy and I were recently out scouting spring bear hunting opportunities and faced a near death experience when a driver came into our lane and I had to take the ditch to avoid a head on collision. We rolled and flipped my truck, end over end, and miraculously walked away with only a few scratches. Please everyone wear your seatbelts! The upside is I now own a new truck and one PBS member has a bear in the freezer as a result of the scouting mission (story Dr. Pinney?). PBS member Bill "Bubba" Graves is still in Moose Pass and working on adding a second bear to the meat pole; it was extra special to host a combat veteran on this Memorial Day weekend.

Initial spring ballot voting results are once again revealing the will of our membership. I haven't done the math but I suspect more ballots are still needed to assure that will is done.

Steve H.



#### Regular Membership Candidates

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 Dr., 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:
Mike Vines – Michigan
Mike Mitten – Illinois
John P. Gottler – Alabama

#### Professional Bowhunters Society® Council

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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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Whew. I am almost recovered from the Gathering in Cincinnati. All I can liken it to is a sheep hunt...INTENSE preparation, then exhaustive effort for the entire duration; every step saying to yourself, "what did I get myself into?" Sheep hunts are the only ones I catch myself wondering why I put myself in that position the entire time it is going on, but as soon as it is over trying to figure out how I can put myself back in that position as soon as possible! We have the most wonderful membership around. They are made up of not only the best bowhunters in the world, but master craftsmen and the most genuine and generous people I have ever met. I am so proud to be one of you. It is hard not to be positive after spending time with 3-400 of your best friends. I spent a lot of time thanking people as I took in donations. If I missed you somehow in person, or if you were a bidder or a winner, or even just made the effort to attend, please accept this generic "Thank You".

There were a lot of positives sprinkled thru the Gathering; not just all the donations, bidding, eating, and drinking! We are moving forward in the PBS; we have been stagnant for far too long. The "special" Regular Membership meeting on Friday was well attended and very productive. We will be having a special election basically for the months of May and June, to allow enough time for the Membership to vote on the 2/3 voting issue. In my mind this is such a simple issue. The people who care enough to vote should be the ones shaping the PBS, not the ones who do not vote. I really don't care if a member votes "yes" or "no" on any issue—I care that you VOTE!

The General Membership meeting was a big positive as well. Our members care

# Senior Council's Report

by Steve Osminski steveosminski@yahoo.com

#### **Progress**

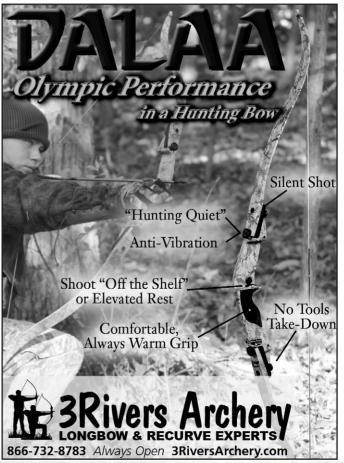
so very much about the PBS. They want our message to be front and center to the hunting and non-hunting world. There was much concern over our web and social media presence. Take a look at www.probowsociety.net when you have a chance...changes are already taking place. We have bolstered the Publicity Committee with some enthusiastic and motivated members. They have some great ideas and will need the membership to back them up! Moving this Queen Mary forward does not happen with the snap of a finger or the wave of a magic arrow. There are rules that have to be followed. If things aren't happening fast enough for you, maybe instead of complaining, try pitching in and asking how you can help?

I'd like to end this 2nd Quarter report on one last positive. This is my first swing at the Sr. Councilman Position. This position is the direct link to Regular Membership. If you are a Member Regular contact me. If you want to be a Regular Member, contact me! Our final positive is the Regular Membership Application process. We have streamlined it. There is a new application. You can still type it out if you want and send it in by mail to Home Office, or you can do it on the computer and e-mail it in to Home Office. However you do it, we are going to make it into a PDF file and have

Council reviewing it while the names are in the magazine for objections. Once the objection waiting period has passed with no issues, we will be able to move and process the applications in a very efficient way. We have taken a TON of delays out of the approval process. If the number of Regular Applications I gave out at the Gathering is any indication, I predict we have a record year for new Regular Members! If you are ready to step up to the next level, contact the Home Office or me and we will get you all set up.

Enjoy your spring hunts and all the preparation for the fall.

Steve O.



# Council's Report

by Tim Roberts

Tim@farrwestleather.com

#### Vendors...Thank You!!

It was really good to meet and visit with you all at the Gathering in Cincinnati! I just wish that time would have allowed for more visiting, but time was short, especially for those on Council and ground crew.

Please join me in thanking those that supported the PBS through being a vendor. Our organization is very dependent on these people and merchants for both products and, more generally, just being "bowhunting inspirations" through their writing, artwork, and craftsmanship which we saw finely displayed in Cincinnati.

Let's show them our gratitude through supporting their businesses and products throughout the year, and right up until St. Augustine in 2016, when we hopefully get to see them all again! The following is a list of the Cincinnati Gathering Vendors:

Know Hunting Publications,

Dr. Dave Samuel

St. Joe River Bows.

David and Tracy Balowski

Cedar Ridge Leather Works, Art Vincent

Uib Bowhunting Namibia,

Gert and Lin Coetzee

J&M Traditions,

Jim and Marcia Rebuck

Makalaan Hunting Safaris,

Antonie Louw, Russell Lantier

Robertson Stykbow,

Dick and Vikki Robertson

Hunter Image.

Teresa and G. Fred Asbell

True North Arrows, Joe Callahan

The Nocking Point,

Terry Lightle and Mike Horton



Surewood Shafts, Steve Savage,
Rourke Brown, and Bob Marshal
Blacktail Bow Company,
Norm Johnson and Alan Pope
Spring Creek Enterprises,
Don and Lori Thomas
Dunn-Lambson Books, Dennis Dunn
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La Rae and Tim Roberts

Tim R.

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First I would like to thank Greg Darling for his participation on Council. He and his wife Amy are strong supporters and do a ton of work for PBS.

Next an apology to anyone who has ever sent a comment to me on Facebook. I do not do Facebook and I am not sure how my Facebook even came into existence other than I would get emails saying so and so wants to be friends? In many cases I knew or heard of the person so not wanting to be unfriendly I hit yes or confirm. I tried to delete the whole thing a few times but could not figure out how. Then PJ told me he would walk me through how to manage it. Then in Cincinnati after hearing from some of our younger members I want to stay in and use it to promote bowhunting. If I can get rid of the political stuff and people sending "meaninglessthoughtful" moments I think it can be used to promote an uncluttered message.

Cincinnati: Great time! The Hyatt hit high marks on all food all week. I thought the hotel was very user friendly and all around a good choice. We have already

## Council's Report

#### by Cory Mattson

corymattson@windstream.net

made notes to manage time and scheduling better next time. The Council worked hard to pull this off as we would expect. Jack and Taska Smith, Holly Akenson, Rob Burhnam, Greg and Amy darling worked non stop as well. Many member volunteers were very helpful in working though this event. I enjoyed both guest speakers a great deal. Thank you Scott and Doug both talks were excellent!

A few member friends have asked for a "county fair" setting where we go to the fairgrounds and members stay in surrounding less expensive hotels. We are in St. Augustine FL in 2016 which is fairly high end. The gathering in St. Augustine looks to be desirable for wives, families and guests due to the vacation atmosphere in the area and other things to do. If members would like to look at a "fair setting" location in the west or Midwest start looking now for 2018. I would attend either setting. If you have a location you think will work get some information like cost, numbers the location can handle, surrounding hotels and prices and approach the Council. I am sure a banquet commit-

tee would appreciate the input and consider

Ladies Luncheon: The PBS Ladies Luncheon had strong showing. 50 ladies had a fun time visiting, eating and bidding on donations geared towards women. Ethan Rodrigue, Bryan Burkhardt, Ben Pin-Preston Lay, Kevin Bahr, Rob Peel and Josh Parchman did their best keeping glasses full and using their face as a landing for red kisses. Fundraising was successful as Bob Sneddon auctioned off item after item several of which were baskets representative of a particular area. Very interesting the thought and creativity our gals applied. There was even a very touching moment of sisterhood which is obviously strong in our group. All in all it was a great and successful luncheon. Can't tell you any more because what happens at the ladies luncheon stays at the ladies luncheon ©

2/3rds Voting: Special election this May/June 2014. Members support this change by over 85%. After March 31 our membership list will be accurate and will result in a more accurate election. Jim Akenson held a very organized meeting Friday morning in Cincinnati on this issue and the membership strongly feels a need to readdress this right away. Like most PBS members I hope this passes.

Yours for better bowhunting

Cory

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#### PBS 2015 Elections

Three positions will be open. President • Vice President Three Year Council Person

If you or some other Regular members of PBS would like to be considered for a position, please send your nomination to the PBS home office no later than July 31, 2014. This nomination must indicate the position sought and must include signed endorsements by five other Regular members.

The nominations will be reviewed by the Nomination Committee and the final Candidates will be chosen to run for the Office.

Candidate profiles will appear in PBS Magazines' fourth quarter 2014 issue.

# **Exhausted**

# Chaplain's Corner

#### by Gene Thorn

912 Kedron Rd., Tallmansville, WV 26237 (304) 472-5885 pethorn@hotmail.com

Every one of us PBSers can relate to the word exhausted. As bowhunters we tend to exert ourselves to the limits at times. Several times I have drove all night to get to Canada to spring bear hunt, set up camp, set treestands, cook and eat a meal, and be hunting that afternoon. After dark, we would track and recover a bear or two or three and get them hung up in camp. By the time we went to bed that night I would be totally exhausted. Packing elk quarters out of a canyon in Idaho, when the last of the meat was in the back of the truck, I was

used up exhausted. I have flown marathon trips with multiple flights and layovers to hunt in some far off place, and hit the ground running with no time to rest. Many like hunting days have brought recollected true high definition meaning to the word ex-

At the 2014 PBS Gathering in Cincinnati, Vice-President Steve Hohensee told me that he had a theme for my column... ..exhausted....LOL. So, here it is Steve. Putting on a PBS Gathering is an exhausting, but gratifying, time period for the officers and directors and all who are a part of providing such a wonderful reunion for us every two years. While it is a four day event for most of us, it is months if not years of hard work for those folks. We do

appreciate all of them!

hausted.

Life can be exhausting. We give out, give out some more, and keep giving out till we are drained of energy.....exhausted. The responsibilities of work, family, church, civic duties, etc. makes us juggle to even fit in time to recreate. If we did not pull from our inner reserve first and then ask God to strengthen and refresh us when all our reserve is gone, we would not be able to persevere to the end of the tasks at hand. The Bible reminds us as Christians to "not be weary in our well doing".

Galations 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

<sup>3</sup>For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

<sup>4</sup>But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.

<sup>5</sup>For each one shall bear his own load. Be Generous and Do Good

Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches.

<sup>7</sup>Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

<sup>8</sup>For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

<sup>9</sup>And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we

shall reap if we do not lose heart.

<sup>10</sup>Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

We have been admonished to not be weary in our well doing....so how do we avoid being burned out? The example that Jesus gave us in His own life is what we need. He would pull back from the crowds and go to a quiet place where He could be refreshed by reading God's Holy Word and let the Holy Spirit do His work. Each day we need to take time to get alone with God. We all need a "prayer closet" – a place that is quiet where we can be by ourselves for awhile. It will make us better men and women of God. It will make us better husbands, wives, fathers and mothers. It will make us better at everything we do. We bowhunters are good at going to the wilderness. It may look to others like the wilderness experience would not do its work of refreshing, but in spite of the hard work involved in camping, hunting, and fishing, it can be a place where we reconnect with God and He restores our souls. His wonderful, beautiful creation of woods, hills, mountains, streams and lakes are a getaway place far from the rat-race of

II Corinthians 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

<sup>8</sup>We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; <sup>9</sup>persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed— <sup>10</sup>always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.

<sup>11</sup>For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

We may feel like we are about to be crushed under the weight of all that is going on in our lives, but God's promise is that we will not be crushed. Rest in Him. Rise up and be refreshed..... do not stay exhausted!

### **PBS** Letter to the Editor

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.

Jack.

Over the past couple of months I have received numerous emails from Pope and Young members about the state of Pope and Young and their thoughts and opinions about how to "fix" it

Also, I have read writing from potential Council members and other PBS members about what they would do to "fix" it. IT being the PBS. What is interesting is, that the opinions associated with both organizations are so divergent. The one consistent thing is, however, in most of the opinions I don't hear much about "the ByLaws and Constitution" and what the dictates are in operating both organizations. Some of what is said is not consistent with the ByLaws and Constitution, unless you want to interpret the documents "at your choosing".

This is America and each person has the right to express themselves openly. So, I am doing so.

The PBS is not a political vehicle. It IS a fraternal bowhunting organization. PBS doesn't stand for Police for Bowhunting Standards. The founders of PBS wrote a set of ByLaws and a Constitution. These documents define membership and most other things about conducting PBS business. Ethics was a central tenet of both documents.

My personal thoughts are whatever a Council does MUST be predicated on the guidelines set forth in the ByLaws and Constitution. It appears though some think that if those documents don't offer the opportunity for change that some want, then just change the ByLaws and Constitution. That is similar to what is happening in our Nation presently. If the ByLaws

and Constitution are changed PBS will no longer be the organization the founders established. I want my membership to be in the organization I joined many years ago, under the guidelines given to me when I joined.

I have been on Councils where "change" occurred, and some of it I believe was not consistent with the guidelines set forth by the founders. I was truly disappointed over it.

I would encourage those that really want "change", outside the fraternal nature of PBS, to start their own organization. If you want a more hardline approach to what bowhunting is, then write a set of ByLaws and Constitution and see if people will join. If you want a more liberal approach then write a set of ByLaws and Constitution and see if people will join you. PBS doesn't need a savior, just dedicated bowhunters, to bowhunting and to PBS.

I ask the Council to lead PBS within the framework of the ByLaws and Constitution. I ask the Council to not interpret those guidelines to suit their agenda or political leanings.

Membership is defined in those ByLaws and Guidelines. Follow them, don't manipulate them for one's own purpose to redefine what PBS is according to an individual's thoughts. Hold to what the founders established. Keep PBS above agendas and politics. Let it be the fraternal bowhunting organization it was intended to be by its founders.

Louie Adams Tyler, Texas









To all of you who gave donations for the Cincinnati PBS Gathering it is very much appreciated – Thank You! Our great organization is dependent upon your generosity to financially fuel the offerings to our membership, including: our Magazine, our events and activities, and maintaining our Home Office staffing and service capabilities. A Thank You is also in order for those who purchased auction items or entered into the bidding activities during the Gathering weekend!

On behalf of the Executive Council and Home Office Staff, I would like to extend a Big Thanks to the people and businesses listed below who gave generously to support and promote the future of PBS!

Sincerely, **Jim Akenson PBS** President

#### Professional Bowhunters Society is grateful for the following list of donors:

ling Chen & John Vargo 3 Rivers Archery, Ashley, IN Jim and Holly Akenson Dennis Allman Fred and Theresa Asbell lim Avelis Chris Bahr Karen Bahr

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# Awards



Glenn St. Charles Award Presented to Doug Borland



John Rook Inspiration Award Presented to Dr. Dave Samuel



Tom Shupienis Award Presented to Sterling Holbrook



For many years of dedicated service to PBS Presented to Bob Seltzer



For many years of dedicated service to PBS Presented to Greg Darling



For dedicated service Presented to Tim Roberts



For dedicated service Presented to Kevin Dill



For many years of dedicated service to PBS Presented to Brian Tessman



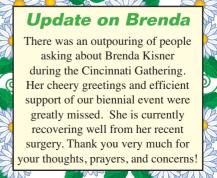
Artistic Arrow Presented to Mark Wang



Primitive Arrow Presented to Jack Keener



Three Arrow Set Presented to Mike Vines







Amateur Selfbow Presented to Sterling Holbrook



Amateur Recurve Presented to Greg Haskel



Professional Recurve Presented to Bob Brilhart



Professional Selfbow Presented to Jack Keener



Wildlife Photo Presented to Gary Rieck



Trail Camera Photo Presented to Jim Lindner



Youth Hero Photo Presented to Terry Receveur



Bowhunting Scenery Photo Presented to Sean Walp



Bowhunter Hero Photo Presented to Bruce Haukom



Youth Photo Presented to Terry Receveur

#### **Past Presidents**





Jack Smith, Bob Seltzer, Bo Slaughter, Wayne Capp, Doug Bourland, Jim Akenson, Kevin Bahr. Not pictured: Ben Dodge.



Life Members pictured seated from left to right are: Chris McFadden, Bill Terry, Bob Seltzer, Paul Shore, Jim Lindner, Steve Byerly, Sterling Holbrook and Jerry Brumm.

Middle row, left to right: Greg Darling, Scott Smolen, Bo Slaughter, Mark Viehweg, John Vargo, Gary Williams, Gene Thorn. Back row, left to right: Dennis Scicchitano, Bruce Jedry, Scott Koelzer.



# Ladies Luncheon & Auction





Waiters for the luncheon were: (left to right): Kevin Bahr, Preston Lay, Rob Peel, Cory Mattson, Ethan Rodrigue, Bryan Burkhardt, Ben Pinney, Josh Parchman.









#### **PBS Sisterhood**

Mark Wang made this box of arrows in the "official" breast cancer awareness colors for his wife, Susan (center) and then donated them for the Ladies Luncheon auction. They were in turn purchased by Amy Darling. The ladies picture with Susan and Amy are all breast cancer survivors.

Left to right: Donna Wensel, Vikki Robertson, Susan, Amy and Merlan Shay.

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# Cincinnati Meetings Summary

#### By Jim Akenson - for Council

There were three meetings held in Cincinnati that warrant reporting to the membership on: 1) the annual in-person business meeting of Council 2) the Friday meeting of Regular members to address the voting issue, and 3) the Saturday general membership meeting.

#### **Meeting Highlights:**

#### 1) Council Meeting:

Below are the general business items addressed. This summary outline does not cover the Gathering planning which comprises over 50% of the Council meeting time during biennial event years – such as this year.

- Annual Accomplishments:
  - Increased regional membership hunts
  - More interest and participation in odd year gatherings
  - Now have 700 registered website users with less problems
  - Magazine publication quality high with many compliments by members
  - Increased Committee involvement with Publicity, Bowhunting Preservation, YBP, and Conservation all expanding members and actions
  - Regional Rep program getting going with reps volunteering in 4 of 7 regions to date
  - Many more Regular Membership applications being processed with electronic option

#### • Concerns:

- Membership size, we need to stop reduction with positive action
- Voting participation still inadequate, need to determine why hopefully fix.
- Membership communication, old versus new, how to blend for effectiveness
- More efficient scheduling, for Magazine submissions, Council to-do lists
- Monthly Council conference calls help with communications and need to continue
- Council Reports distract from Magazines appeal or mixing organizational politics and entertainment for the membership
- Website "face page" is outdated, needs to transition from blog-site to website

#### • Actions Items:

- 1)Propose an off-cycle vote in May/June to achieve a ballot result that concurs with the will of the membership, or the "super-majority" (as per Friday Meeting)
- 2)Solicit for solutions, or ideas, on the shrinking membership issue (Saturday Meeting)
- 3)On membership, accomplish retention first, then "one new member per member" campaign, AND use increased activities (i.e., regional hunts) to sign up new members
- 4)Develop a prototype on the Council Report "pull-out" for Magazine
- 5)Help the Website Committee achieve the needed updates so our website is current and more informative about PBS

#### 2) Friday Meeting

This special meeting came about at the request from many (>20) Regular Members, made to the PBS President, to address

the issue of repeated unsatisfactory voting results, even when a super-majority (86%) voted in favor of a change, as occurred in the recent, January 2014, election and ballot vote. In sum, the official tally would have needed 11 more yes votes (235) to achieve a 2/3rds majority given an eligible to vote count of 352. This non-decisive vote was a result of insufficient voter participation in accordance with current by-law wording. The recent ballot item wording addressed making a change of the 2/3rd majority being determined from this wording: "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."

- Topic of discussion: Assessing the 2/3d's vote issue and proposing a solution
  - Attendance was 95 PBS members: 74 Regulars, 21 Associates
  - Regular members were seated separately for vote counts
  - Meeting was run in a manner called "Participatory Decision Making"
  - Flip charts recorded input (pro-con) on current voting process
  - Gradients of agreement were recorded on a scale of 5-1, with 5 strongly agree and 1 strongly oppose
  - Using the gradients of agreement, a show of hands was taken on 2 issues:
    - 1)The need for conducting a re-vote in May/June on the 2/3rds issue
    - 2)Extending the voting period on the by-law change issue to 60 days
- Comments Most frequently stated:
  - Voting period is too short for January when many Regular members (now retirement age) are traveling.
  - Must determine why 90 out of 352 eligible to vote, did not vote (traveling explanation most probable)
- Results; From the show-of-hands on above items 1) and 2):
  - 1) 5(68) 4(5) 3(1) 2(0) 1(0) (strongly support)
  - 2) 5(68) 4(0) 3(0) 2(0) 1(0) 6 abstained (strongly support)
- Action Based on show-of-hands:

To conduct a re-vote of the 2/3rds issue as soon as possible (May-June-July), AND given the By-Law wording for allowing a minimum of 30 days for ballot submission, extend the period for receiving ballots at Home Office to 60 days.

#### 3) Saturday Meeting

The intent of this general meeting of the membership was to update the current status of PBS, go over current findings and activities, discuss pressing issues and problems, and to propose solutions for broader PBS problems.

- PBS Status:
  - Membership is currently just below 1,200 (1,197), with 352 Regular and 845 Associate members
  - The Magazine is still the primary conduit of information received by all members
  - Over half of the membership (about 700) are currently registered on the website
  - Hear a lot of input from website users; need to hear from remaining 500 members

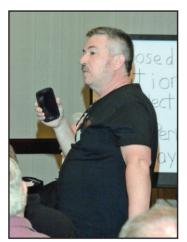
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- Friday meeting results: will conduct an off-cycle ballot vote on "2/3rds Majority Issue" scheduled for May/ June/July with an extended voting period of 60 days
- Status Comments/Solutions:
  - On membership: How about a 1 year trial at half price, or sponsored introduction also half price?
  - Membership: retention is as big of an issue as bringing in new members. We do need to find out why people leave, or decide to drop out.
  - Membership: website visitors turned off by bickering and negative discussions really need to clean that up!
    - More on membership: compound shooters are not feeling comfortable either on the website or at our events.
    - Magazines are getting damaged in mail, solution: a plastic cover
    - Need to apply current—day media more effectively: videos with/for youth, a stronger Facebook presence, a more complete website
  - Current Survey Findings:
    - Membership survey results: comparisons from 1996 with 2013 the battles still involve excessive technology,

- less crossbow and more everything else (all gadgets)
- Survey: Our membership is getting older (75% > 45 years old)
- Survey: >90% traditional bow users, but 25% of hunting partners use compounds
- Survey: >85% of membership approves regional representation
- Current Activities:
  - Regional Representation what we gain from it:
  - Organized hunts/contacts for associates with regulars/regional legislative awareness/more structure for OYG's/fostering regional identity
  - Bowhunting Preservation Committee applying the JOC:
  - Follow-up video productions: outside professional and in-house products
  - Other aspects; website development and connecting with all PBS committees, attraction for state-based organizations
  - Future products will be solely PBS endeavors with donors welcome

### Membership Meeting



Kevin Bahr



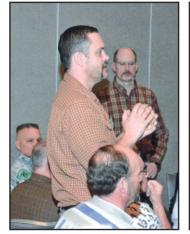
Wayne Capp



Top: Dave Watson Bottom: Dave Burpee



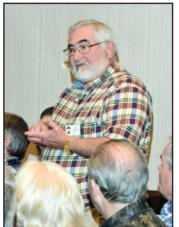
Don Thomas



Herb Higgins



Doug Borland



Bob Seltzer



Dr. Dave Samuel





# Enjoying Each Others Company































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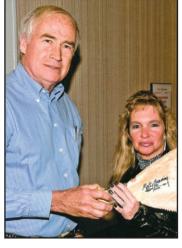




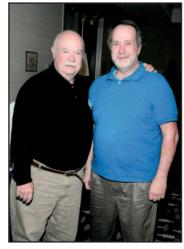


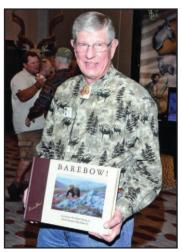
























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# Dealers









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HUGE SALE. I am selling out my King of the Mountain wool inventory at 20% off of the retail price. Call or email for prices. I have a few new and used Bighorns and Kota recurves, longbows and Little Bighorn bows. New recurves and longbows by Ron Foley of Foley Custom Bows. These bows by Ron are the quietest bows that I have ever shot and they are beautiful. Also the complete line of Swarovski optics, Badlands backpacks and traditional arrchery equipment. Call, write or email for prices. (BS)2 Enterprises, Gary Stefanovsky, 9805 26th St. NE, Bismarck, ND 58503-9783. Phone: 701-223.1754, Email: garystefanovsky@hotmail.com or woolking2000@aol.com. society.net/forum/viewfourum.php?f=7

There's room for your ad!



# \*\*UPDATE\*\* Ballot Vote \*\*UPDATE\*\*

Total Voting Members 352 ~ Total Ballots Received as of June 15, 2014, 289

# **UPDATE:** May Ballot Vote on 2/3rds majority By-Law Amendment

At this date June 15, 2014, the ballot item voting period has been open for 30 days. This is half-way through the 60 day period that votes will be officially counted.

There were 352 ballots mailed to voting members. So far 289 have been returned with the following results:

(261) YES

(25) No

(2) Abstain

(1) No vote

Please notice that this is an update on the voting progress. It is not a Final Result and it is very important to mail in to Home Office your vote if you have not yet done so. Thank you for your participation in this important matter.

~ Jim Akenson, On behalf of the PBS Council

# 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."

NO, do not change

By-Law ARTICLE XI

- Amendments.

☐ YES, change By-Law

ARTICLE XI - Amendments to above wording.

Abstain

Ballots must be returned to Home Office by July 15, 2014 to be valid.



# Who Are We?

# The simple answer, "We" are the Professional Bowhunters Society.

The simple answer, "We" are the Professional Bowhunters Society. For some time now there has been much discussion and talk with regards to the identity and what the Professional Bowhunters Society stands for. Each of us has either mentioned it in conversation or heard someone else say, "We don't know who we are." In truth who PBS is, and what it stands for, is spelled out in black & white in our Constitution & By Laws. There is no grey area or line drawn in the sand, it states ex-

Where the confusion arises is with our attempt to create an organization that will be all things to all bowhunters. PBS

actly "who and what the PBS

is all about."

is not the Pope & Young Club, it's not Compton's or any other organization for that matter. PBS is made up of the "Elite," the most ethical, most experienced bowhunters – period. The members of PBS are the "best of the best" and we need to stand tall and be proud of who and what this fine organization currently represents.

For far too long we have sat back and watched as the world of bowhunting rolls by – taking with it that which is so near and dear to our Society. It's time that we lead by example, roll up our sleeves and become pro-active. We can't sit idle any longer waiting for the next person to get the job done. PBS exists because a handful of dedicated bowhunters saw a need to create an organization that would stand for what bowhunting is truly about. Those first members entrusted PBS to the next generation who then passed it on to the next and so on. And now, we are 50 plus years later at a critical point, our very existence depends on whether we act or continue to question who and what PBS is about.

The demographics of PBS has changed, it has grown in age to the point that we are extremely top heavy with the Old Guard. We can only survive by recruiting bowhunters from our youth. We need new members from the younger generations and

**PROFESSIONAL** BOWHUNTERS SOCIETY "Knowledge through Experience"

...There is no grey area or line drawn in the sand, it (the Constitution and By Laws) states exactly "who and what the PBS is all about." By Rob Burnham

> we need them NOW. The Old Guard will eventually be gone and without the New Guard to pass the torch to – PBS cannot exist for the another 50 years!

> We need to lead by example. We need to show the uninformed and less experienced that there is a more rewarding way. If each of us took just one novice bowhunter under our wing and instead of pointing fingers about how they are hunting, show them how we hunt and why we hunt the way we do. We can win them over to our ways by taking the high road and being positive instead of black balling a person for hunting in a manner that is probably the only way they know to bowhunt. It's not what a person hunts with, it's how and why they hunt that matters. We tend to migrate to those that have similar values and ideas. If you would share a camp or hunt with a certain person then we need them to join PBS. If each of us would recruit just 1 new member a year look where we would be! If you say you don't know anyone that is PBS material then maybe you need to look in a mirror! Remember how you once were?

> Today's bowhunters are hunting the only way they know how, which is what they have seen on TV or learned from a friend. It's been ingrained that the kill is of utmost

importance, that one needs to use the latest and greatest equipment in order to be successful. How do we change that? One person at a time by teaching them that there is a far more rewarding way. The better way is the core of "Who We Are," it's not about what we hunt with, rather about sharing our "Knowledge Through Experience!"

Instead of walking around with our

noses stuck high in the air thinking we are so much better than everyone else, maybe it's time we start to act in accordance with our Constitution & By Laws. If you ask me this is a "No Brainer". It's not rocket science or something that is so difficult that we can't do it. We

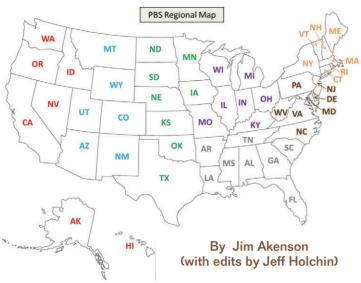
need to lead by example and be positive role models. We need to be forward thinking with our traditional beliefs. I truly believe that there are many good folks out there that are starving to have exactly what it is that we can give them. We just need to make them aware of the PBS and welcome them into the fold one bowhunter at a time.

We have some motivated members that are doing what they can to promote PBS. They give their time, money, and effort into building a better PBS. Instead of complaining about what they are doing, we should be giving them a helping hand. Some have complained about the "JOC" video and it's message. I say if you don't like it then get off your duff and create something better with the message that you think needs being said. Far too much time is spent being "Negative." How about let's be supportive for a change, roll up our sleeves and help out. There is a lot of work to be done, the more of us that pitch in the sooner we will see the returns on our efforts. As with a lot of organizations, there are a few that will do the bulk of the work and then there are the rest that sit back and complain about what the few are doing. Are you a doer or a complainer? That is

the question I ask of thee!

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# **PBS - Regionally Speaking**



<b>Region</b>	<u>States</u>
Pacific West	Washington, Oregon, Idaho,
	Nevada, California, Alaska, Hawaii
<b>Rocky Mountain West</b>	Montana, Wyoming, Utah,
	Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico
<b>Great Plains Central</b>	North Dakota, South Dakota,
	Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma,
	Texas, Minnesota, Iowa
Great Lakes	Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio,
	Michigan, Kentucky, Missouri
North Eastern	
	New Hampshire, Massachusetts,
	Rhode Island, Connecticut
Appalachia	Pennsylvania, New Jersey,
	Delaware, Maryland, W. Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina
Caralla East	9 ,
South East	Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama,
	Georgia, South Carolina, Florida, Tennessee, Arkansas
	1 CHILOSOC, 1 XI IXIIISUS

The first meeting of the newly formed group of Regional Representatives was held on May 28, 2014 via conference call organized by Jim Akenson. Joining the call were Ethan Rodrigue (TN), John Vargo (IA), Jeff Holchin (NC), Gene Thorn (WV), Mike Vines (MI), Steve Osminski (MI), Steve Hohensee (AK), Mark Viehweg (SD), Matt Schuster (GA), and Terry Receveur (NY). Topics covered included the following:

#### **Conduct Communications**

- For events: hunts, shoots, conservation efforts
- Reporting back to Council: monthly activity updates
- To inform all members in your Region: maintaining contact list
- To new members: to welcome, answer questions, encourage/engage

#### Coordination of Activities

- Involving membership to host all types of gatherings
- Maintain fresh information on the web-
- Have a regular feature in the Magazine under "Regionally Speaking"

#### Commitment of Duty

- Two years for Qualified Member leaders (1 per state)
- Two years for Associate Member leaders (2 per state)

#### Things To Do

- Identify motivated members to step up
- Identify activities/events/efforts

- Connect with Committees (Bowhunting Preservation, Publicity, Conservation)
- To have specific identifiable banners & booths
- To publicize events
- Promote PBS within state bowhunting organizations, specifically in their newsletters with PBS ads and articles that mention or promote the PBS
- To promote accomplishments

#### Our Goals

- Promote fraternalism
- Promote and communicate our identity (Bowhunting Educators with Traditional Methods/Values)
- Provide outreach by members on a regional level
- Recruit and retain members
- Small scale fund raising
- Promote outreach by connecting local level activities with the 50 year old mission of PBS and involving state organizations (Knowledge Through Experience)

The following is a summary of the meeting from Jim Akenson:

#### How many reps per region?

- Several commented to be as inclusive as possible.
- Caution against over-extending stick with motivated members, others can be participators.
- Concluded that a goal of one Regular member (leader) per state best for start-up.
  - More Associates (2 per state) to gain

involvement experience and help with event coordination.

#### **Job Description for Reps:**

- Communications on multiple fronts will need contact information for all members per region.
- Start-up events can range from carp shoots, stump shooting, to integration with existing shoots. Pig hunts, all forms of bowfishing, member hunts. Planned through the website and personal communication with results posted in the magazine and on website.
- Encourage/elevate PBS profile connecting to state org newsletters which typically are looking for material.

#### Reg. Rep. Program for Recruiting:

- Being able to demonstrate "Knowledge Through Experience" in person.
- Makes PBS mission relevant done with action.
- Will help new member retention especially after calls to "welcome-to-PBS" by regional reps.
- There's a pool of potential members in the state orgs. each rep on this call should reach out to their state's org leaders.
- Concurrence from call group that a major membership drive should wait until this program is well started, not to say that incentives can't be given out such as left over Cinci Gathering shirts, especially at ETAR Compton's with the purchase of a membership.
- Show advantages to having a PBS membership camaraderie, contacts for regional hunts, *~ continued on page 22* →

#### **PBS Regionally Speaking**

~ continued from page 21

magazine, website, etc.

Action Items and Other Considerations:

- Make banners and flags for regional events (KTE PBS Region)...stickers and patches too (examples provided by Mike Vines and Gene Thorn)
- Each region needs an updated booth both for region sponsored events and dove-tailing with existing shoots/or state club events.
- Fund raising can be done as a mini-banquet or at activity. Need to set goals, such as 10K combined for the regions, or 2K per region...these are for starters (and realistic).
- On donor approach, need to avoid over-asking the same donors that give generously at Biennial Gatherings.
- Get creative: Can have \$100.00 for hunt registration be earmarked for PBS programs, such as: Youth Hunt, Conservation, BPC video etc. Novelty shoots another mechanism for fund-raising.
- Reps should have PBS-regionally-oriented business cards to give out at events.

#### Next Call: TBD - Early July

- All prefer monthly, mid-week probably the best,
- Come ready to report on progress pulling in members, contacting state folks, identifying events and activities.

#### **Pacific West Report**

(Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, California, Alaska, Hawaii)

by Tom Vanasche - Regional Representative

During spring, Tom Vanasche and Jim Akenson served on Oregon's ARPAC advisory group - representing PBS and as the one national organization represented. This committee was brought together by ODFW to advise managers on archery season regulation revisions and to give input for the future direction of the states bowhunting opportunities.

Consideration is currently being given to break AK, HI, and non-US locations into a separate region – perhaps being called the Oceanic Region.

#### **Rocky Mountain West Report**

(Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico) No Regional Representative Yet

Craig Burris is again hosting a membership hunt for elk and mule deer in Utah this fall, as he has done the last several years. Elk tags are good for any elk and are OTC; mule deer tags are by drawing only. This area has lots of moose, a few lions and black bears, and even mountain goats at the peaks. The streams are full of trout. This hunt has a limit of ten bowhunters and the roster is currently full, but if interested call Craig at (435-770-9356) and get your name on the waiting list, in case somebody cancels.

In Arizona, Rick Wildermuth will be hosting a membership hunt in late December/early January for Coues and mule deer at the Buenos Aires NWR – see the PBS web site for details.

#### **Great Plains Central Report**

(North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Minnesota, Iowa)

By John Vargo (IA) and Mark Viehweg (SD) Regional Representatives

The Iowa Bowhunters Association (www.iowabowhunters.org) will be holding their summer rendezvous shoot at the Pine Lake Archers club just north of Eldora, Iowa, on August 1-3. Two ranges will be set up with 3D targets. Primitive camping is available on the grounds in addition to meals and vendors. You do not need to be a member to shoot. Camping with showers and flush toilets is available at the state campground (two miles away). Hotel rooms are available in nearby Eldora. We usually have a decent number of PBS members that shoot and camp together for the weekend. Camp fire each night with plenty of lies told. Come join us! Contact John Vargo (319-331-1997, john1597@aol.com) for more information.

We need other members to step up and help us with the Great Plains Central region. Please send news to John and Mark. Anyone got a good place for a carp shoot? Maybe ideas for an informal campout and shoot? Let's hear some ideas and get the ball rolling. Please remember that events that we want to advertise in the PBS magazine require a lead time of 3-6 months. For events that are happening sooner we can post on the PBS website but will be missing quite a few members. ANOTHER reason for all members to become active users of the website!

#### **GFP Commission Proposes South Dakota Deer Hunting Seasons,** Harvest Data

#### May 15, 214 GFP News

With decreased deer populations across the state, the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission has proposed to reduce the number of licenses and tags for many of the state's deer hunting seasons. The proposed East River deer season would result in a reduction of 7,240 licenses and a reduction of 20,560 tags compared to 2013. A substantial decrease in antlerless tags is intended to increase deer populations in several management areas. This management response is being implemented where deer populations have declined over the past few years due primarily to outbreaks of epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD), habitat loss and weather...

The Commission proposal for the Black Hills deer hunting season would have no antlerless licenses for 2014. The Black Hills proposal calls for 200 resident and 16 non-resident any deer licenses and 3,000 resident and 240 non-resident any whitetail deer licenses.

#### **Great Lakes Report**

(Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, Missouri) by Ron Lang

- Regional Representative and Mike Vines (MI)

This report is somewhat incomplete as I still have to make some contacts in other states. With that being said carp season and bow fishing has arrived here in Wisconsin and the rest of the Midwest. A few of us PBSer's and our wives got together at my place not far from the shores of Lake Michigan for our annual carp shoot



and shopping for the ladies. Good food and campfires completed the four day weekend over Memorial Day.

In Wisconsin as well as the other Midwest states whitetail deer and the issues that surround them are always on the top of the agenda. Fellow PBSer and current President

of the WTA Greg Szalewski attended the deer trustee meetings over many months that were created as a result of Wisconsin's Governor hiring a deer czar (Dr. Kroll) to help develop a plan to better manage Wisconsin's deer herd. Significant parts of that plan are now being instituted into the upcoming Wisconsin season this fall. I think Greg's participation on this project is an excellent example of how the PBS can actually have a significant voice on major conservation issues.

The crossbow continues to be a serious issue in Wisconsin as archery clubs now deal with crossbow shooters wanting to use the practice ranges. Former PBS councilman Brian Tessmann informed me that Ojibwa Archery Club of which he is a member is dealing with this issue. The Ojibwa club is where the PBS has hosted the last three of its regionally held Odd Year Gatherings. Brian has contacted many other clubs in Wisconsin and they are experiencing the same issue. Many believe that archery clubs across the state will lose membership and fade away as crossbow participation continues. Wisconsin now joins other Midwest states like Michigan, Illinois, and Ohio to name a few that have full inclusion or something close to it. The landscape for archery is changing as the numbers in the Michigan deer kill are bearing out.

Also, Chris Gault of Indiana is hosting a membership hunt for deer and turkey from October 18-26 in the Hoosier NF Dream Wilderness area of Indiana. Check the PBS web site for details.

#### **Northeastern Report**

(New York, Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut)

by Terry Receveur - Regional Representative

Spring has finally sprung here in the Northeast and after a long and hard winter I've been enjoying a fruitful spring of turkey hunting and striped bass fishing. Bowfishing season (can you believe they have a bowfishing season in NY) is now open and I will be going out often in preparation for a "Northeastern Region Bowfishing Extravaganza"!The event will take place the weekend of July 11th and 12th, 2014 in Hudson, NY. The plan is for any interested Northeastern area bowfisherman to meet Friday evening at my home, sort and consolidate people and gear, and then we will travel to the Hudson boat launch and depart to one of the many river islands to camp, swim, fish, and bowfish. If you have a boat please let me know and how many it can support. I have a large boat that can take 5 more bowfisherman and I have access to another boat that can host 5 more. I encourage our PBS members to recruit a friend and bring them along. Let's show them what the PBS is all about. This is also a great opportunity for kids and ladies. Bring your camping gear, favorite bowfishing bow, fishing tackle, food, and an attitude of fun. The camping is free and if you

restrict your bowfishing to the main Hudson River no license is required. A fishing or small game license is required if you go up into one of the many creeks. You can bowfish day or night. I'm a night bowfisherman so bring headlamps and spotlight if you have them. Please call (518-755-9119) or Email (Terrance.Receveur@Taconic.com) if you are interested in attending. This will be a fantastic opportunity to share a campfire and have some fun.

Following is a brief summary of the status of our Northeastern states:

**New York** – After a hard fought battle by the New York Bowhunters our spineless and anti-gun Governor Cuomo backdoored the inclusion of the crossgun into the archery season. He incorrectly believes throwing the crossgun bone to the firearm hunters will cause them to forget the "Safe Act" anti-gun bill he passed. We are very hopeful that true sportsmen remember what type of Governor he is. "Cuomo Must Go"!

**Vermont** – The moose hunt application period ends June 10th. This is a great opportunity for a fun bowhunt. Odds are slim, but you can't win if you don't play.

**New Hampshire** – The moose hunt application period ended May 30th. Plan now to apply for next year. The success rate in 2013 was 64%! Our own Jeff Holchin was successful on a moose hunt in New Hampshire and we have some locals that are happy to help out.

*Massachusetts* – The state's ban on Sunday hunting could be headed for the historical archives.

House Democrats are poised to bring forward legislation that would take a baby-step toward lifting the Sunday hunting prohibition by allowing the use of bow and arrows to hunt deer on Sundays during the last three months of year, which is deer hunting season.

Connecticut – Property owners in areas of the state overpopulated by deer would be permitted to hunt the animals on Sundays with bows under legislation approved by the House. The bill cleared the chamber with on a 111-30 vote after a short debate. Sunday bowhunting drew strong support from Republicans in the House, who succeeded in passing a similar bill last year. That bill was never acted upon by the Senate. This year's legislation is more restrictive. It only allows the Sunday hunting in "deer management zones" approved by the state Energy and Environmental Protection Department. The agency backed the legislation as a deer population control measure.

Rhode Island – The country's smallest state had a deer harvest of 960 animals in the 2013 season. Did you know archery proficiency testing is required every two years when bowhunting on Prudence Island, Patience Island, Block Island or Beavertail; or in the Town of Lincoln?



#### **PBS Regionally Speaking**

~ continued from page 23

#### **Appalachia Report**

(Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, W. Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina)

by Gene Thorn – Regional Representative and Jeff Holchin (NC)

I am excited that PBS is going ahead with a new regional approach to promoting interaction between PBS members in their area. I will be organizing a white-tailed deer, wild turkey, small game and black bear hunt for this fall, 2014, on the Monongahela National Forest in West Virginia for PBS members. If you are interested in participating, send an e-mail to me at pethorn@hotmail.com – this is a great area to hunt, and will be a great opportunity to camp and fellowship with other PBSers. Bring friends and family that are interested. Next summer, 2015, we will do our best to get together an Odd Year Gathering/Shoot for our region. We will be looking for help in making these events successful. Members will be hearing more from Jeff Holchin and me on coming events. Stay tuned!

Three states in this region are making efforts to either allow or expand hunting opportunities on Sundays. Voters in WV recently added more counties that allow Sunday hunting on private land, Maryland is now allowing Sunday hunting on specific private and public lands in four counties, and the Virginia legislature is moving towards allowing hunting on private lands on Sundays. North Carolina currently allows only bowhunting on Sundays on private land.

It is not too early to consider joining a PBS membership hunt this fall in this region. Rob Burnham hosts a great hunt at Rough Mountain, Virginia in late October (10/16 to 10/26), with many thousands of acres of national forest land to explore. This week long hunt offers good opportunities for whitetail deer, turkey and small game, and an excellent opportunity to arrow a black bear. Contact Rob at 804-402-6900 or rob@burnhamphotography.com, or check on the Membership Hunt page on the PBS website for more details.

#### **South East Report**

(Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, Florida, Tennessee, Arkansas) by Ethan Rodrigue – Regional Representative and Matt Schuster (GA)

After our first official Regional Rep. meeting I feel we are off to an exciting start! There will certainly be a learning curve along the way, but I'm sure this will be a very productive program for PBS. I would like to once again encourage all PBS members in the South East Region to get involved and be proactive in growing PBS and making our organization stronger and more relevant. We can all play a part in this by being more vocal in our state organizations, having a visual presence at local functions, and most importantly by introducing the PBS to someone you know that is PBS material. There are some exciting things happening in the South East Region, and some good ideas being discussed for our region including hunts and get togethers. Matt Schuster and I have been gathering information in various states within our region in an effort to keep the membership in this part of the country informed as to what is going on. We certainly welcome any input or infor-

mation members within our region may want to pass along.

*Mississippi:* Joey Buchanan has been busy down in the Magnolia State organizing a traditional bowhunting group that plans to have a once a year hunt/rendezvous.

Tennessee: A little known fact outside of East Tennessee is there has been an ongoing explosion in our bear population over the last 25 years or so. The unfortunate thing is concerted efforts by the hound hunting community has made an archery only bear season with no dogs all but nonexistent within the state. But this year State Wildlife Authorities are proposing a "wider hunting season of black bears in an effort to lower the population of bears in the Upper Cumberland Plateau area." This will be an archeryonly season with no baiting or hounds allowed. There are many large tracts of heavily forested and rugged public land contained on the Plateau and this combination should work out to good bear hunting opportunities in the near future.

Florida: Bowhunters around the state of Florida are excited about the 2016 PBS Banquet coming to St Augustine. The Sunshine State is seldom mentioned as a hunting destination but the state offers the chance to hunt the elusive and sneaky Osceola turkey, the ancient American alligator, as well as the Seminole whitetail. The Traditional Bowhunters of Florida hope to have a strong presence at the banquet and will be happy to share ideas with folks interested in hunting Florida. Recently, TBOF held its annual Spring Championship in the Ocala National Forest. Great fun was had by all and the event was highlighted by PBS regular member and Traditional Bowhunter Magazine founder TJ Conrads speaking about the "Ham Slam." I found it a bit ironic a fellow from Idaho would speak to a group of guys who were chasing hogs before they got out of diapers but TJ did a great job. For those interested in hunting on one of Florida's many quality WMAs, go to myfwc.com for more information.

Georgia: It seems that we went straight from winter to summer down in the deep south but that brings bowfishing and long hot days chasing hogs for those willing to brave the bugs and snakes. There are now at least four different traditionally-oriented clubs in Georgia including the very active Traditional Bowhunters of Georgia, and there is a shoot somewhere most every weekend for those that love to punch foam. Although the number of shoots has made it difficult for any of the clubs to develop one very large dominant event, it has helped strengthen our numbers statewide and bowhunting with stick and string is growing again in Georgia and that is good news. The Regional Rep Program will definitely help PBS grow in Georgia as current members will be actively encouraged, prodded, and bugged relentlessly to promote the PBS and all the things that make our organization special. It certainly does not hurt that the next gathering is nearby in beautiful St. Augustine either. Additionally, Georgia is ideally suited for holding hunting-oriented events because of the numerous in and off-season opportunities on both public and private land. Currently, Jeff Holchin hosts a very popular coastal hog hunt each February, but look for more hunting-oriented events in the future to get both our Georgia and traveling PBS members together for fun and fellowship.

#### **Oceanic Region?**

As a final note, the representatives are still fine-tuning the regions and it is being discussed that Alaska and Hawaii could break out separately from the Pacific West. If we pick up members in foreign places, such as New Zealand and Australia, we might want to call this 8th region "Oceanic." Stay tuned... \*



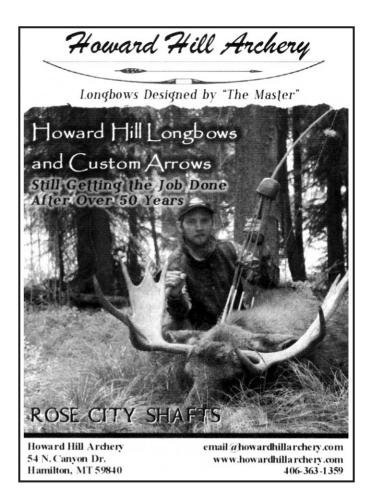
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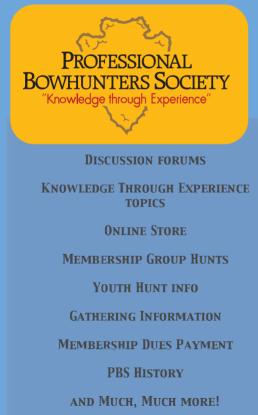
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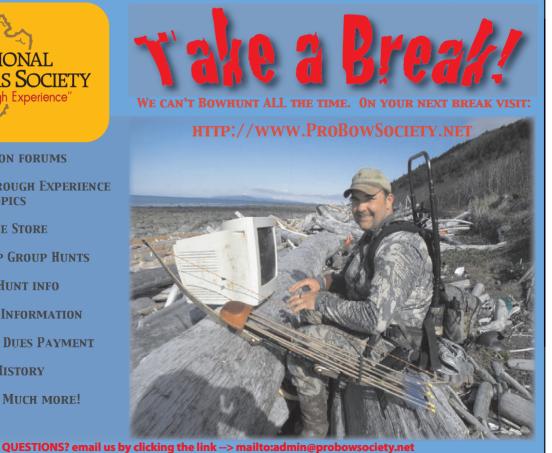
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### How to Grow a Bowhunter:



# Ownership and accountability, from a kid's perspective

By P.J. Petiniot

Last May, Ian came to me and asked if I would build a new target backstop that would allow him to practice shooting 3-D targets without the risk of losing arrows. This request came out of the blue, during baseball season, so I was certain that this topic was something that was important to him as baseball usually consumes his every thought during April and May. On the inside, I was proud that bowhunting was on his mind, and without any pressure from me. On the outside, I wanted my son to know that it's not only my responsibility to make sure the family has a new target backstop to stop our arrows, but he should share in the responsibility as well. My answer to Ian was simple and straightforward, after explaining that I had spent 90 dollars on a new 4'x4'x4" block of foam, I explained that WE need to build the new frame. Ian stated that he didn't know how to build a target frame, but he would help me if I would teach him. A deal was made and I just happened to have a pile of fresh 2x4's laying behind the garage.

While I gathered up the needed tools, Ian was sent to the pile of lumber and instructed to bring all the 2x4's to the front vard as we would be using our utility trailer as a makeshift work bench. With Ian's first board he was happy. His enthusiasm began to wane with every successive trip to the garage, the grumbling became louder and the excuses on why he may need to stop became ever more inventive. My role as head carpenter quickly turned to chain gang boss. Keep it moving, only a few more boards, if you don't help, I am not building it by myself etc. You know, typical Dad discussions to keep kids focussed on the reward of their hard work, in truth I was ensuring that I didn't have to pack the boards from the garage to the trailer in the front yard. After the tools were in position, Ian asked me, "Exactly how do you know how to build a target stand? How do you know how big to make it?" Well, I explained that we knew the dimensions of the foam backstop and we knew how much lumber we had and I had a pretty good idea how big the base should be so it wouldn't fall over when an arrow struck the foam, and I would teach him one of the best qualities of any really good bowhunter, the ability to "wing it" Ian asked what that meant and I told him that at times, you just have to figure out how to make things work, whether it was coming up with a solid design for a new type of target butt or repairing a broken tent pole on a backcountry hunting trip. To be a really good outdoorsman, times, you have to be able to "wing



lan helping construct our new target backstop.

Ian was 8 at the time and when he asked if he could run the chop saw, well, I didn't want to be the father that caused his first born son to be known as Lefty, so I explained that he could run the drill, the tape measure and the square and I would be in charge of the saw. The less dangerous chores seemed adequate in order to solidify his membership into the He Man, woman haters club. So I began to wing it, and Ian proceeded to watch and then, with his help, we had a fully designed and assembled target backstop stand within the hour. After we placed the foam target butt in the stand, we had a fine backstop to place behind our 3-D whitetail target and Ian no longer had an excuse not to practice.

This short, quick lesson of being part of the solution to a problem really sunk in. Ian felt pride when shooting into the target as he knew he played a role in its construction. With a 4'x4' backstop, I wasn't so insistent on being with Ian every time he was shooting his bow as the chance for wildly flying arrows getting lost in the weeds was lessened quite a bit with such a large backstop resting behind our deer target.

Another piece of the ownership, personal accountability puzzle came a couple months later when Ian was asking about getting a new bow. I asked why he wanted a new bow, as I thought he liked his current bow and told him he shot it well. The answer was typical of what you would expect

from a soon to be 9 year old boy. I was told Ian liked the way his bow shot and the way it felt in his hands, but he wanted a bow that looked more like my hunting bows, he didn't think he should use a bow with white limbs and a lighter colored handle. Ian stated he would like to get a new bow that was darker and more manly. (yes, a bow that was more manly were his exact words) Now, I know Ian is to the point where he will be needing a longer and heavier bow soon, but he wasn't physically ready to make that jump just yet and I wasn't in the mood to buy him a new bow just because the manliness factor wasn't to his liking. I knew I had to come up with a good reason not to buy another bow as well as a way to keep him comfortable with his current setup. I asked Ian if he ever thought about a camouflage bow, the raised eyebrows and instant spark in his eyes told me that I had just hit a home run. Ian asked "Do they make camouflage bows?" to which I explained, we can make your bow a camo bow. I assured Ian we could paint his bow and it would be cool looking and it would still be the same bow that he shoots so well. I went on to say that I had some camo paint left over from painting duck blinds a couple years ago and we could use it to paint his bow. Ian was pretty excited at the thought of having a camouflage bow and I was excited knowing that I wouldn't have to spend additional money on a new bow. I went out



to the shop, found the cans of paint and took them into the house to show Ian, figuring he would be content actually having seen the cans that were to forever help him transition from little kid bows, to manly man bows.

The next day Ian was full of questions as to how would me make the bow look like "cool camouflage" and not like a bow his dad just painted (thanks for the vote of confidence

kid). I explained how we had 3 different colors and would take some leaves or grass and make a pattern. I also told Ian he could do this himself, under my guidance and that really got him fired up. The thought of using a spray can and painting a camouflage pattern on his very own bow was something that was turning into a really big deal. Ian could hardly contain his excitement. I grabbed a piece of cardboard to lay the bow on as we performed our magic, as I didn't want to hang the bow up and allow overspray to travel throughout the neighborhood. I plucked a set of leaves from one of the large ferns in one of our flower beds and Ian's eyes almost popped out of his head, Ian whispers, "we are going to get in trouble if mom finds out you picked some of her flowers" I then explained I wasn't afraid of his mom and I would pick whatever flowers I wanted. Ian had that "Oh man, my dad has lost it" look in his eyes. Unbeknownst to Ian, I had already cleared the fern defacing with Leslie and all was good. About half way through the rebirth of Ian's bow his mother walked out to see what we were up to and my son's eyes got great big as his mother asked "Are those leaves from my ferns?" and before Ian could answer I exclaimed "I told Ian not to pick your flowers! See Ian, now we are going to get in trouble." And the few seconds that followed with my little guy not knowing what to do or say may have been a little mean, but it was pretty darn funny, too. Leslie and I started laughing, then serious Ian came out to play. "Dad, that wasn't funny. I thought I was going to get in trouble." I was trying to apologize, but the tears of laughter made it seem a bit insincere. Another lesson was learned from my apprentice bowhunter, practical jokes are as much a part of deer camp as the hunting and taking of game. I thought my young son should figure that out right away.

Eventually the painting session ended with a camo pattern that was really cool and unique to Ian's bow, one dead fern leaf, a couple of my fingers painted green and some pretty good memories that involved Ian, his mother and myself. I hope my son will carry those memories with him throughout his life, I know I will. We took the bow and hung it up in the shop from a string we have suspended from the ceiling for just such an instance. Then we cleaned up the mess and it was about dark. We went into the house to relax and while I was sitting on the couch, my son, who is trying so very hard to grow up too fast and be a man far before it's time, sat down beside me and then laid across my lap. While laving with his head on my lap, Ian looked up and told me he really liked the way his bow looks and he can't wait to shoot it, he then thanked me for letting him paint his bow and for teaching him how to do it. Now, I was getting to enjoy sweet little boy Ian. After a little goofing around and then some evening TV viewing, it was time for Ian to go to bed.

After Ian had gone to bed, I started wondering what I could do to surprise him when he got home from school, had worked hard on his bow and I was proud that he worked through a problem and didn't settle on buying his way out. Ian trusted my judgement and believed in my ability to help him turn his bow into the bow he wanted, rather than throw a tantrum or sulk. I thought Ian deserved a surprise, even if it was a small thoughtful gesture on my part. I remembered that Ian's bow was in need of a new rest and strike plate and decided that after the paint was dry the next day, I would make that happen. While I was digging around for rest material, I saw Ian's old longbow, the left handed bow we had when he was going through his ambidextrous stage. I was able to acquire an old stock, but brand new, Great Northern "Lil Quiver" in left hand and I jumped on the deal as at the time, this particular model wasn't being made anymore. Ian had been wanting a new bow quiver like the ones I use, as I shoot Great Northern Quivers on my bows. I really didn't have the extra money laying around to buy a new quiver for Ian, especially since this other quiver was just like new. I took the quiver off the left handed longbow and started comparing it to the angles on Ian's right hand recurve. After a little studying, it appeared that with minimal adjustment the quiver could be made to work on the right handed bow. I worked on things for a few minutes and with a bend here and a twist there, I had a quiver that would now fit on Ian's bow and it looked like mine and I knew he would really enjoy his surprise.

The next afternoon I heard the squeaking of the brakes on the school bus and I knew Ian was home. I was like a little kid waiting for Santa as I waited for Ian to walk through the door, I already had his bow sitting on the couch. Ian didn't get far inside the door before he noticed the bow and when he walked over to look at it he saw the quiver and got really excited. Ian asked if I bought him a new quiver and I told him I just made his old one work, at which he was both amazed and grateful. After all of the homework was completed, Ian asked if we could go out and shoot and we did just that. Ian was once again getting to reap the rewards of his hard work, he was shooting his newly customized bow and quiver as well as shooting into the target backstop we had built together earlier in the year.

Much like Ian's big sisters before him, simple adjustments to equipment and the freedom to make it his own substantially changed his outlook. Now Ian was truly shooting HIS bow, not a hand me down bow that was once his sisters'. Ian made the bow an extension of his personality. Ian's desire to shoot regularly was really making me proud, he was on his way towards realizing the dedication that it takes to be a bowhunter and was choosing to head down that path.

In the next edition of "How to Grow a Bowhunter" we will follow along with Ian as he helps craft his first bow string, signs his first hunting license and goes squirrel hunting for the first time.

Remember to "Keep it simple and Keep it fun"

*P.J.* ⋠





# It Can't Be Bought

By Mike Mitten

I wrote the following poem "It Can't Be Bought" for the concluding narration of the Primal Dreams film. It was inspired by my belief that not all short cuts are a good thing. A good friend told me about a private operation that taught young hunters the basics. In addition to learning how to shoot their bows and track animals, the youngsters learned woodsmanship, wildlife habits, hunter safety, hunting heritage and many other noble things to get them started as hunters. At the culmination of the week-long class, the youths were put into tree stands in a very small enclosure filled with many deer. They were allowed to shoot one when the time was right. Boy, oh boy! This program sounded good, right up to the point that organizers robbed the youths of their hunt. The enclosure was too small, so there was no challenge. Sure, the participants all made their first kill, but they also all admitted they really hadn't hunted. Some new hunters may expect to "buy" the hunt like they do nearly everything else in life. I hope this poem can convey the experience and feelings of the hunt in such a way so that the young hunters can know the truth and won't let someone rob them of their hunt.

#### It Can't Be Bought

When an exposed tine reveals the hiding place of a discarded antler, its extraction from an encasement of snow is met with watchful eyes beneath empty pedicels,

Wonderment cannot be bought.

When a calf moose struggles on restless legs, owing it's fate to a guarding mother, the perils of the first week as prey escaped, defining a lifetime for most,

Hope cannot be bought.

When a velveted buck emerges from dark timber and feeds uncharacteristically in brightness of day, fueling magnificent augmentations from seasons past,

Anticipation cannot be bought.

When solo spirits meet natures worst, kindled flames take on life, warmth battles back frostbite's march, sleep is welcomed and anxiety is relinquished, Self-reliance cannot be bought.

When a floating anchor results in targets missed, practiced form forces trained muscles, confidence replaces apprehension as marks are consistently struck, Responsibility cannot be bought.

When courtship-screams echo to predator's ears, and conflicts besiege attention, roles have changed from species propagated to the giving of life in the form of flesh,

Providing real sustenance cannot be bought.

When goals are achieved, the strenuous effort it took to get there intensifies and unites cherished rewards; accomplished feelings can't be acquired without the journey,

Pride cannot be bought.

When Wonderment, Hope, Anticipation, Self-reliance, Responsibility, Sustenance, and Pride can't be bought, we are left one with God's gifts, and a way of life where memories and dreams flourish.

Hunting is full of wonderment, questioning, and searching for answers. I can read about the natural world and search endless topics on the Internet, but challenging postulates and testing my own theories is much more rewarding if conducted in the field. When my curiosity is quenched through careful observations and puzzle pieces of an individual animal's life put together after much effort, the feeling of satisfaction is so gratifying. Gaining knowledge is a bi-product of the hunt, and often starts months and even years prior to the actual event. That's why I feel so sad for people who view the kill as the sole reason for the hunt, and end up purchasing the

knowledge of others to guide them to the kill.

I once met a "successful hunter" in Anchorage who was in the airport standing

next to the antlers of his recent moose kill. I asked him to tell me the details of his hunt, and I inquired whether that was the only moose he saw. His response caught me off guard. He traveled from Germany to hunt the Alaskan moose using a fully guided outfitter service. On the first day of the hunt he traveled up river in a boat with the guide. Rounding a bend in the river they saw a bull crossing the stream. Putting the boat to shore, the guide directed him to shoot. The hunter touched off the rifle round and fulfilled his long-time dream of taking a bull moose. He said that after collecting his trophy, he and the guide left right away. This hunter's experience left me kind of flat. Not only could he not describe what the animal was doing prior to the shot, but also he had no comments about the weather, terrain, vegetation, or other native wildlife. I know many other people who choose to hunt with a rifle and employ a guide to help them access the wilderness, but they come back from a successful hunt full of stories and excitement about their encounters. Some of them were also lucky enough to find their prey early during the scheduled hunt, but unlike the fellow from Germany, they elected to stay camped out to photograph wildlife and explore this unique habitat. I realize that for some people, hunting is a business and they must stake their livelihoods on the outcomes of the trips. So getting clients in and out of the bush as fast and as efficient as

> possible will put more money in their pockets. Of course, taking an animal will help promote their guiding service, but think of how far

reaching a successful hunt would be if the hunt and the kill were the result of an adventure. Even if the kill comes early, the adventure part needs to be addressed. This may sound ridiculous to some outfitters, but I feel the future of hunting needs to include the adventure fueled by wonderment and the enthusiasm of discovery. The outfitters could argue that they have no control over their client's emotions or predispositions. But I would rebut that it is their responsibility to plant the seeds of learning, which includes the desire for knowledge. Most of the successful guiding services that I know incorporate teaching outdoor lore with the hunt. In reality, that is one of the components they are getting paid for, along with accessing good habitat, which they directly or indirectly control. If

Fresh shed antlers depict wonderment and the anticipation of future hunts.



the service recognizes this and accepts this as a responsibility for keeping the hunt alive and a reality for their clients, then they would be contributing in a positive way to the promotion of the spirit of the wild.

While hunting spring black bear in Alaska, I came upon a newborn calf moose. You could say that the calf and its mother momentarily interrupted my bear hunt, but I would argue that they were not only part of the hunt, they were one of the reasons for the hunt. Yes, bear meat would help feed me and its coat could be used to warm me when cold, but hunting predators like bears will also help increase prey species like moose and caribou. Seeing the helplessness of a newborn ungulate, and knowing that Alaska allows predator control, inspired hope for its future. Those wishing to abolish hunting need only view the statistical mortality reports of various species in specific regions to realize that more than mere hope is needed to enhance survival and population growth. The controversial taking of predators is certainly warranted. In my mind, responsible and respectful predator hunting should be encouraged wherever appropriate.

A good hunt is often like a fine wine; it takes time to mature. The anticipation of the hunt is the yeast that ferments the sweet dreams produced from scouting. While alone in the woods I take my time and slow down to enjoy the finer things. As a kid I saw that my dad always seemed to have a feather in his hatband; it may have been from a grouse he shot or he may have simply found it in the woods. To this day it's difficult for me to see a feather and not pick it up to admire it and marvel at the uniqueness of its color pattern. I may carry it on my quiver or bow, or simply hold it for awhile and send it aloft. Finding a fresh shed, discovering huge rubs, watching a massive buck in velvet, locating wide bear tracks pressed deeply into the mud, or glassing a feeding ram with horns sporting huge bases that have yet to be broomed are all fruits of scouting that advance the expectations for future encounters in the fall.

These anticipations can't be bought, and are among the rewards that toast the do-it-vourself hunters.

I have had the opportunity to deer hunt the same property for multiple years, and the anticipation of the hunt is so much a part of me every time I get a chance to walk it. I knew many of the bucks and does that lived there, and that hope to cross their paths in the fall really motivated me. I hunted antelope in

Wyoming, but my thoughts were consistently on a whitetail buck I saw in velvet in August just before leaving for the antelope trip. Even though I never got a chance to take the buck, its presence not only added to the November hunt during the whitetail rut, but it added to the antelope hunt over a thousand miles away. In the simplest terms, anticipation is paramount to hunting suc-

Anticipation built up before the hunt cannot pull you thru the rough times during your hunt. Just as the sun brings reassurance and salvages a hunt after a storm, a campfire is universally comforting to a solo hunter going through some tough times. Regaining warmth following a wet, cold, and exhausting day alone can be achieved by crawling into a sleeping bag, but nothing corrects emotional or mental uncertainty and anxiety like fire. A focused heat source created by my hands sends a message to the harshness of nature that I won't be claimed as her prey. Instead, I still main-

tain my individuality as a participant in natural life. The licking flames bring joy to my soul.

After climbing to a high lookout, it started to rain. Even though I put on my rain gear, I still got damp and cold. Glassing for moose



Wild places become a familiar home. and cannot be bought.

grew more difficult by the hour, and I finally had to give up my post. About halfway back to camp the rain stopped, but the damage was done. The drenched vegetation continued shedding water on me as I made my way through the tag alders. My luck got worse when I slipped on some rocks and fell hard to the ground, spraining

my thumb. I hoped nothing was broken, and I knew I needed to find my way back to my tent before it got dark. Cold muscles and the slight mishap set me back a little, but when the ground fog took daylight away earlier than expected, I became very concerned. I knew my tent was directly across the river from a game trail crossing, but since this was the first time I came back to the campsite after dark it proved more difficult than expected. The tent was pitched at the edge of an opening that came down to the opposite shore, but my flashlight couldn't penetrate the fog far enough to reach the other shore. The game trail crossing that was so obvious during daylight was now among many other trails that made their way to the river. As I tried to find my way through the thick alders, anxiety and doubt began to set in. I questioned, "Would I have to check over a half mile of shore line? Would it be easier to cross the river, then find the right clearing? If I crossed at the wrong spot would the water crest my hip boots? Did the river rise too much due to the rain?" I could feel frustration set in because I didn't have a good answer for any of the questions, and my thumb and heel of my palm started to swell from the fall.

The rain washed out most of the sign in the game trail, and I was wondering how long it would be before the batteries in my flashlight would need changing. Twenty minutes of uncertainty didn't help me stay in control of my cold and sore body. My prayers were finally answered when the

yellow beam from the light revealed what appeared to be a heel mark in a flooded trail depression. This had to be it, my crossing at last! With temperatures in the thirties. the wet conditions were very dangerous. My hands were so cold, I had trouble manipulating the waterproof matches and strike plate. The moisture didn't affect the jelled alcohol, and soon a slow

blue flame worked its magic, igniting the dry spruce limbs in my fire pit. The rain had long since quit, and as long as I wasn't busting through the bushes anymore there was a chance to warm up and start to dry out. I can still feel the warmth of that fire on my face and see its glow cut through the fog, illuminating ~ continued on page 30

### It Can't Be Bought

~ continued from page 29

the exterior wall of my tent. Sure, I have had many campfires alone and with friends, but this one changed the nature of the hunt for me. Keeping my cool, I relied on my own instincts and my head to help me get back safely. During that hunt I saw over seventeen bull moose and passed up several legal ones at less than twenty yards, but sitting next to that fire while warming my body and simmering my supper will be one of the events I will always remember most when reflecting on that hunt. Self-reliance is not something found on a shopping list, but it must be with you on every solo hunt.

There are many variables during the act of shooting an animal that are not under our control. But shooting accurately and, more importantly, knowing our limitations are

our responsibilities. It does not matter what type of weapon we choose to hunt with; traditional and compound bows or rifle and shotguns all require shooting proficiency. I enjoy shooting traditional bows and accept the time dedication that is required by me to maintain my confidence during a hunting scenario. Sure, we all make mistakes and misjudgments, but going afield lacking confidence in ourselves and our shooting abilities is just setting up for failure. Hunting is more than a sport; it's a way of life that mandates honor

and respect for oneself, fellow hunters, and especially the animals we pursue. The thing is, we are all responsible for our actions whether we realize it or not. There are many instances in my writings where I describe errors I have made and momentary lack of control that often occurs during the heat of action. I write about them so that you get an idea of what can happen in reallife situations, and to alert you to similar conditions that you may be faced with. It's also therapeutic for me to talk and write about my mistakes so that I can learn from them and get past them mentally. To be better able to handle the mental portion of hunting, I focus on physical training and practice shooting many months prior to the adventure, so that my confidence is at its highest level before I lace up my boots and take to the woods.

Shooting a traditional bow is fun, but I don't practice to increase my shooting range; I practice to increase my confidence

at yardages I am already comfortable with. After forty-two years of hunting, I am

very familiar with my own limitations and effective range, but I don't impose them on others. However, I do encourage all hunters to know their limitations and understand the performance limits of the equipment they choose to hunt with. It's not good enough to just inflict a lethal wound; we must strive toward a quick and humane kill. With the act of buying a hunting license, I feel all hunters have accepted this responsibility and must do everything in their power to uphold high ethical standards.

Hunters have a long history of role-playing, and I am no different. I have been a love-sick cow moose, an overzealous teenager, a matriarch elk, a confident herd master, an insecure fawn, and battling bucks, all for the purpose of creating an il-



The feeling of achievement cannot be bought.

lusion that lures the unsuspecting. Every time I go into the woods I become a tree, bush, rock, or log in hopes of getting closer to my prey or observing nature in its purest form. The flesh from a kill may provide physical nourishment, but the means to that end is what sustains our spiritual fitness. Real sustenance comes in many forms including the awakening calls of songbirds, the fruiting body of morels, and gentle breezes lifting milkweed seeds from their pods. The process of the hunt can be more life-supporting than the final rewards. That's why true hunters exhibit intense pride in their ability to stalk, call, and anticipate the movement of their prey. Buying food at the market can't provide this kind of nourishment, the kind that feeds the inner self.

My brother Mark and I were at the Eastern Sports Show in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. We walked past a booth, which displayed an absolutely unbelievable bull elk mount. The non-typical antlers scored over 500 inches. We stopped to admire it, when an agent came over and ask us if we wanted to pay to "hunt" him. Confused, we asked, "What do you mean?" The guy responded that those are sheds, as he pointed to the mount, and we are looking for a client who wants to come up to our ranch in Canada and "hunt" him this fall. My brother and I said no thanks.

Later on that fall I saw pictures on the Internet of a smiling hunter and his two "guides" posing behind a great bull elk with the caption saying, "New Record Montana Bull." The antler configuration of the bull looked familiar, and after taking a closer look at the photo, I recognized one of the guides as the same salesman we met at the sports show. It looked like they did find a customer to execute the animal after all. Additional photos of the elk in velvet eating out of a bucket also surfaced, con-

firming a captive animal in a tight enclosure. At first these imposters posing as hunters turned my stomach because their actions are very detrimental to the continued privilege of the hunt, but then I started to feel sorry for men like them. No matter how much money they have to spend on buying what amounts to livestock with antlers, they will never be able to afford the feelings of achievement and accomplishment that come as bi-products of a sacred hunt. These feelings can never be bought.

I once showed a longtime friend the new recurve bow I was practicing with at the archery range. He looked at it and said, "A recurve? I used them things years ago. I don't need that romance anymore." That statement stays with me to this day, because that is exactly what I need. I need the romance of hunting with a bow I made myself, the romance of family traditions and shooting a deer out of the same tree that my son took his first one out of, the romance of wilderness once walked by Lewis and Clark, the romance of hand-medown bows, the romance of skinning a deer with a knife I made, the romance of drying jerky and cooking wild meat for friends, and the romance of stories at the campfire's ring while wearing a fringed shirt made from my first bull elk. I need the romance of the hunt!

Rich men can buy almost anything, but they can't buy romance. So I plead with all new hunters to ask themselves before they cave into the marketing of the next new product or system, "How will this product affect the romance I have with nature and the chase?" This gut-check will go a long way in keeping respect firmly bound to the ancient activities we know as hunting. So in the end it is fairly simple: we hunt because we must, and dreams can't be bought; they are free to those who have lived! \*



Romance of the hunt. I took a doe from the same tree that my son took his first one from. I used a bow that I made.

# What are Bowhunting's "Traditional Values"?

#### **By Gene Wensel**

Traditional Values concerning bowhunting are those thoughts, emotions, actions, and experiences that intrinsically *define the value* of the activity. They are what determines and establishes the boundaries of bowhunting in order to make it an *honorable* passion.

Bowhunting's traditional values mandate learning things such as acquired skills, woodsmanship, an awareness of bowhunting philosophy and self-imposed limitations, a knowledge of archery history and our "tools of the trade." It requires an understanding of the prey, so that the hunting matchup is a *fair balance* between man's prowess and the wild cunning of our quarry.

This fair chase equation *should set up every bowhunter to fail*, unless his or her perseverance, acquired skills, and professionalism *honorably* pave the way to success.

**Not** taking advantage of our prey's senses by way of factors such as shooting from extreme distances, not relying on 'sure things,' and not relying on use of gadgetry are the *only* ways traditional values can be maintained and preserved for the bowhunters of tomorrow. Re-education of the general public will be mandatory for the rebirth of bowhunting.

Traditional values are the essence of *pure and honorable bowhunting* defined. Anything else is something entirely different.





# Death in the **Tall Grass**

# A Hog Tale

by Ron Herman, PBS Associate
\*Photos by Jeff Holchin

I could not find any blood...the arrow I saw enter completely as the bright fluorescent green nock disappeared into the muddy hide was also nowhere to be found. Did it pass through and exit from the front of the boar or did it hit off shoulder and remain inside his body full length? Either way, there was no blood. I had a wounded boar in grass so thick you couldn't see the tip of your arrow when on the bowstring and ready to shoot. As I backtracked to pick up his trail yet again to try to pick out recent tracks from the multitude seen in the soft mud. I saw something that did not look right. A black form nestled on a parallel trail...I was 5 feet from it...peering through the thick grass. Jeff was behind me 20 yards searching for blood and zigzagging for what we hoped would be a dead boar and not one with fighting on his mind.

There I was, 5 feet from a boar that was hit hard, angry, hurt and watching his back trail for our arrival. I raised a hand in hopes Jeff would see it and not follow and alert him to my presence as I drew a second Douglas fir shaft tipped with one of my favorite 190gr Ribteks. The other end had some hand ground natural barred turkey fletching I had put together on the arrows myself months earlier. I nocked the arrow...tried to pick a spot for his heart but with so much obstruction from the reeds that were 5-6 feet tall and thick against my body - it was difficult at best. I could see his tail, his back ridge and what I thought was front shoulder as he laid in wait upright like a dog...alert and ready. I drew back and released...the arrow hit and Jeff yelled, "Did you hit him, did he move?!"

So was the beginning of the end...but where did this journey start? It started actually last year in February 2013 when I participated on my very first PBS Member Hunt. I am pretty much a loner...in hunting and in life. If not for my beautiful wife I would be content living and hunting a

mostly solitary life...well except for a couple important things not suitable for this magazine or audience. LOL. Anyhow, the hunt was a success even without any pork coming home last year in my cooler. I met new friends that are also fellow traditional bowhunters. I met those that were more experienced and much more successful than me even though I may have been doing it longer. Campfire discussions and weary bodies after a day of fighting the swamps and marshes wearing hip waders and backpacks. The last day of my hunting in 2013, Daniel Holchin and I both connected on the same sow but as we left her alone to die at the edge of the river in thick cane cover she succumbed to her wounds and either



slid into river, decided to swim for it, or was coaxed below with help from an alligator. The blood was thick and a slide of red despair was visible on the edge. My appetite was whetted until next year.

This was next year and it appeared that I would have to skip the hunt. Potential change in employment along with some medical issues for my wife that were all coming together the same 10 days through no lack of planning. Job start dates were moved up after my wife's surgery was postponed from December to January and now February. I told Jeff I would not know until the absolute last minute but a supportive word from my wife to go ahead and do it was incentive to try. So licenses were purchased and the packing began. Though hectic and hurried, I found most of my unused backpacking gear as this time I was not going to bring my freight hauler (canoe)...I did not want to waste 4-6 hours paddling up river or down river to camp and then worry about storms and whether tides were against me or helping me like last year. I wanted to maximize my time in field with only two days to hunt versus the four I had last year.

My arrival at the boat landing to meet Gary Royce (Jacksonville) for the first time followed by Bob (Ft. Campbell) was a great start. Soon Jeff arrived and the adventure began. We made it to camp- albeit slower than expected due to Gary's motor not cooperating and Jeff insisting that the "cut" through some islands was only for canoes and not powered craft...I disagreed but he was the boat Captain and we trudged on fully loaded for our lower camp. We took the long way around and 30 minutes became two hours it seemed but time is relative to the experience as Gary and I talked and watched eagles in nests and discussed the hunt. Nobody said "I TOLD YOU SO" when we saw the CUT...and it was huge and deep enough for a yacht...ha-ha. It gave us time to talk and speculate and enjoy the scenery of the marshes and wash away the noises and smells of the city with every mile we traveled.

Camp was soon established on an island and impoundment of dikes and levees. Everything was tidy as rain was expected later in the evening and I hate coming to camp tired and hungry to set up camp in the dark. Gary went off to search behind our camp towards some oaks while Duane (and his canoe) were off on an adjoining high spot of oaks and pine chasing his own pigs while I went down with Jeff and was dropped off about 2-3 miles from camp. The idea was to walk back along a dike trying to spot a pig down in the marsh on either side. I saw one small black spot deep in the marsh about 20yds away but it spooked without warning...the wind was good, so it must have seen my shadow against skyline above him. Pigs 1, PBS 0 (as I don't count Jeff's "SCOUTING" hunts where he always kills the biggest pig as part of the hunt ha-ha).

That night we enjoyed Dutch oven cooking by Gary...even though he said he was still practicing...it was tasty as we ate beans and rice with ham flavoring...as it appeared someone dug all the ham out of the pot back at home and left Gary with only beans and rice. LOL A tasty cobbler afterwards and more stories and laughter entailed until we all hit the bed early wondering how hard it would rain and made plans for the morning.

Saturday I awoke to the light sound of rain around 4am...not the heavy downpour I expected but rain nonetheless. It was a brisk morning and I heard someone passing my tent in heavy boots later in the morning suspecting it was Bob going for his early hunt. Someone else was tooting their horn after the beans and rice the night before so the rest of the birds and animals awoke to sing as well with the sun cresting the tree line to burn off the morning mist in the "bog of unbearable stench".

The plan for today was for me to go to Fat Sow Island where Bob hunted the day prior without luck...I was going to try and spend the entire day there but if it was slow I would text Jeff to pick me up by boat during his next trip. I hunted the left side first going to the edge of the marsh but heard and saw nothing...thinking it was much shorter to the end of the island than explained. I was confused but figured I just walked faster than the others. So I backtracked downwind and decided to hunt the right side towards the marsh that is next to the interstate. No sign at first but an hour or two into the stalk I saw a bunch of scat, rooting, cutter marks on lower portions of

trees and trails going into the jungle of reeds and marsh grass. The brush on the island's edge was a tangled mess reminding me of the Prince fighting the thorns, vines and brush as he struggled to rescue Sleeping Beauty and defeat the dragon. LOL Yes, I have two grown daughters but watched my fair share of Disney flicks. I always cheered when the big buck got shot on Bambi much to my daughters' chagrin.

Around noon after not seeing anything I decided to get some water and a protein bar and then find a place to heat some water on my portable burner. The delicacy of the day was some Mountain House goodness. As I was kneeling 20 yards inside the tree line...watching up wind and enjoying some water I saw a huge sow cross the trail. She easily weighed over 250 pounds with teats full of milk and possibly another litter on the way. I dropped my pack on the ground, put on my quiver, grabbed my bow and the arrow I had in a solo sheath while watching her travel as she headed for the marsh. Soon I saw 5 piglets all black except the last which was red...the size of footballs. Then 5-6 more came in various numbers of black and red. Then 3-4 more came all black or red except one which was a mottled white, black and red. All appeared to be similar in size but that would be way too many for a single litter I would think... maybe two litters or the mother of one was killed and the others were following. Anvhow I expected her to enter the marsh to feed on roots of the cane grass so I eased into the wind angling myself towards the edge of the island and the marsh. While I was kneeling to re-target her by sight or sound I noticed movement 40 yards out at the edge of the marsh....a black pig grunted and turned tail to run into the marsh, not sure if it was a sow or a smaller hog I cursed under my breath and gathered my pack and headed that way. Finding her path was easy with deep mud and her large tracks peppered by what looked like hundreds of miniature tracks from her brood. I tracked her and her group a hundred yards but never caught up and then lost the tracks...unable to determine if she went back into the island or deeper into the marsh. I was exhausted after hiking with heavy hip waders, a well apportioned backpack for the changing weather and what could be dangerous conditions (cold and wet) and realized the island was much larger than previously thought. The marsh I saw on left side was only a pinch point of island...and it went a couple miles further to the northwest. It was now 1pm so I decided to contact Jeff for a pickup around

After picking up Duane and Bob....Bob



decided to go to Fat Sow Island again to try his luck as I saw heavy rooting on the interior under the pines instead of in the marsh. Duane was dropped off on the island our camp was located that I first walked on Friday but he was put at the opposite end from camp a good 3-4 miles versus my 2-3. He was going to hunt the dikes and crossovers all the way to camp the rest of day and evening. Jeff dropped me off at camp where I changed socks, drank some needed fluids and started heating water for my Mountain House lunch. As soon as I finished and was gathering my thoughts for an evening hunt I got a call on the phone and it was from Jeff...saying he checked out Big Boar Island and it was hot with sign 15vds from the boat so instead of boogering it up he wanted me to hunt it as it was my last day. He had taken a ribbing from Duane and I on his VERY successful "Scouting" trips before each hunt where he shot the largest boar and yesterday shot a little 20lb piglet that was trying to tear his ankles. He claimed self defense but the arrow was through his side not his forehead so we were wondering about that story.

I had planned on heading down another dike behind camp as the wind was perfect and try to position myself off a main trail that the hogs were using nightly to leave their oak hammocks and marshes to feed. My hope was to catch them right before dark sneaking out and ambush them. Now this was on the back burner as I changed into stalker-hunter mode for the NEW ISLAND and grabbed my gear and headed to the boat.

Jeff and I were not whispering as we approached the island and bank. I told him I would text if I got a hog but otherwise would have on my headlamp as I was hunting until dark and to just cruise the coastline of the island to find me and I would tie a chemical glow stick up high for him to see.

I stepped off the boat and immediately saw a huge bed...thinking it was from a muskrat and then noticed the body of its owner was huge and laying on its side in the kidney shaped depression with lots of hog tracks around it...some fairly fresh.

## **Death in the Tall Grass**

~ continued from page 33

Did we bump a hog off his bed already? I changed into "scout" mode as hunting was not working for the past two years but Jeff was batting .1000 so now we were "Jeff-Scouting" for the win!

I adjusted my pack, checked my quiver, turned TRACK on for my GPS to help find my way out of this mess, took a compass heading that would get me back to the coast/edge of the island no matter where I was located...took a drink of water and eased into the thick grass. Once again this reminded me of DEATH IN THE LONG GRASS by Peter Capstick....I chuckled when I thought to call this, HOGS IN THE LONG GRASS a story of hunting swine in the marshes of Georgia. Then I heard it, a low grunt...not an alarm grunt but more of a contentment grunt...feeding, resting, enjoying the sun type of sound. It sounded to be about 15-20 yards directly upwind. There I was standing 10 yards into the island and I had a hog making feeding noises upwind at what sounded like less than 20 vards. The wind was a slow but steady 5-8mph so it should not be carried from too far away so I was convinced it was close. Then a low growl and grunt off to my 1 o'clock position. I did not realize hogs would growl but I just heard a low deep growl that lasted 5 seconds. Was it towards me...a dominant boar not being able to smell but wondering who or what I was in his kitchen? Thinking the hog was moving-- I side skirted the sounds heading deeper into the island keeping sounds and wind to my left as I moved parallel to the sounds. Suddenly I heard the same feeding grunt back at the first spot and realize I have at least two pigs nearby now. I stop to survey the wind on my feather on my upper bowstring....I pull an arrow in case they are moving as the second sounded louder. They continue to feed not moving very far....so I decide to move deeper in the island and try to come up beside the closest sound and see if I can get a visual. The area had been fed through recently with some heavy trails visible. Tracks were everywhere...some old...some fresh and some not yet filled with water so less than an hour old I suspect. Then I heard sounds directly in front of me but could see anything. The sun is getting lower and starting to shine in my eyes as I moved across the island with wind to my left...but I stopped and stared. I think I am seeing the topline of a black object. I think it is a hog's back as if they were laying down against a wall of reeds in a small opening about the size

of a small three person tent. I can't tell for sure and keep hearing sounds of hogs to my

left and to my 8 o'clock position (first two hogs) and know they are unaware of me still and calmly feeding with a grunt or squeal every now and then for assurance.

I ease forward arrow on string...tension taut with my fingers confirming the comforting feel of my tab against the string. I reposition my hand on the longbow's grip. I exhale to slow my breathing and focus on the spot--contemplating if I can get a little closer it would be less than 20 yards and there was a gap for a shot. I get closer and am 12-15 yards away when suddenly something walks in front of the opening. I am not sure if it is the first object that was black on the mud or a new hog but realize this one has lighter sides. I turn and position myself noticing a trail into very heavy reeds and grass about 10-15yds ahead with wind blowing from my left. I was in a thin area of grass so I think it might see me if it looks this way so I had to be ready.

The hog steps into the clearing and life went into slow motion. It is picture perfect as the hog stops...head partially into the opposite side of trail...back-end still in the original cover...hip to shoulder exposed as I draw my bow arm up and pull the string to anchor instinctively. I remember thinking, aim low behind the shoulder for the heart but I do not remember picking a spot or a hair or anything. Suddenly during my draw and right before I hit anchor the hog jerked his head towards me with that DEER IN HEADLIGHT look of OH CRAP! At that instant he spun and put his tail towards me angling from 7 to 1 o'clock...an extreme quartering away angle. I was in predator mode and changed my gaze to his rear ham that lined up with his front left shoulder and released. The arrow flew as he stood there for what seemed like an eternity. The fluorescent green nock disappeared into it's body a little higher than I wanted but was angling down towards his front shoulder as the pig gave a light huff and ran into the thick grass directly ahead. I stood there listening...hearing 5-6 footfalls then heard it going through water or deep mud for a couple seconds and then silence. Well, silence except the hogs still feeding to my left oblivious to the death I intended to place on their brother/sister. I heard a growl...much louder and from the bedding area where the hog appeared. Was it the one I shot coming back to fight or the original black object wondering what just happened and not too happy his friend ran away? I think the hog was a boar as I saw no teats and thought I saw cutters but was

not sure as his mouth and sides were blonde or that muddy dirty color of wet animals.

My heart was racing a mile a minute... adrenaline was pumping through my veins as I tried to remember if I picked a spot, the hit, if I saw any arrow protruding from the rear as he ran but I only remember seeing the fluorescent green nock disappear and go black. Did I miss completely? I eased up and checked the spot he was standing looking to see if there was in fact a black hog in that small bedding area he departed but could see nothing. I saw no blood and also did not see evidence of my arrow. So either it was still in his long body or it was buried in the mud. I backed out and marked the location I shot from with marking tape... two pieces on a reed. Then I texted Jeff to let him know there was a hit but thought it was a bit too high. I thought there was perfect alignment for the angle I was given but fear I shot too high and only caught one lung and missed the heart. I marked my trail to the edge of the water for Jeff when he was able to make it and help me track this wounded beast.

Later some other hunters came by boat that I mistook for Jeff and crew...put flagging tape on my longbow and waved it far above my head and they saw it and waved back...then departed. Three men in a boat...but the hogs were still feeding around me oblivious to the death I hope was presented earlier. This convinced me that in low to moderate but steady winds... noise is not as big of a factor as long as you take it slow with 2-3 steps at a time and keep good wind. They think you are another pig and continue on their way until they see you or smell you. Contrary to all of the hunting experts online and around town...pigs do NOT have poor eyesight. They might not be up to that of a whitetail at distances beyond 50-75 yards but they are able to pick out immobile hunters at distances from 20 vards or longer in thick marshes and woody cover just based on our outline or the slightest movement or a sixth sense.

Jeff arrived and I pointed with hands as he exited the boat and approached that there are hogs feeding upwind very close if he wants to shoot. He indicates he left his bow in boat. I show him the shot location, the hit location and what I remember the hog doing but I realized I was not as detailed at EXACTLY which portion of the 6 foot grass wall he entered. There were two or three distinct sets of very fresh tracks so we took the ones I thought were correct directly ahead of the trail where he was standing when I shot. No blood, no arrow on ground or partially above ground so we move in together talking and searching

frantically. I am thinking to myself that with less than an hour of daylight our ability to find the hog tonight in this jungle of reeds that are in some places 6-8 feet tall will be nearly impossible without blood... or blind luck!

I learned from Jeff later he was thinking the same thing but did not want to say it. We are 75yds...maybe 100yds inland and no hog, no blood, no arrow, nothing. I tell Jeff if he will continue going back and forth there where I think I last heard movement

that I will go back to the original shot location and start over with a more detailed survey of the tracks and area. I was intent on finding blood or my arrow before dark. As I am heading back I find a parallel trail of fresh tracks and follow them as they go back to the shot location. It looked like a hog went in and then turned and backtracked. No less than 20 yards into the new trail I see something dark up under the reeds lying down. Is it my hog or another swine unaware of our presence? How could it be there unaware still with us walking by a mere 10 yards to the side. We were talking and crashing and being as delicate and quiet as a bull in china shop? I get closer—about 5 feet away but still can only see a black tail and a black back through a thick wall of reeds that are as tall as I am (over 6 feet). I raise my hand and Jeff asks if I see my hog and is he dead but I can't tell. I decide to send another arrow into him if I can slip it past a wall of reeds into his vitals. I am doing the whitetail doe head bob trying to find an angle without moving my feet through the reeds. I picked a spot low on it's body to the left of the spine and release the heavy Douglas fir shaft tipped

with the 190gr Ribtek and guided by natural barred turkey fletching. A reed must have been touched the shaft as it diverted slightly and entered the hog at the base of the neck angling forward towards where the neck and head connect. He does not move...he flinches but does not squeal, grunt, growl, stand or more importantly attack as my hand is on my belt knife. I tell Jeff he did not move but is still balanced on his belly with legs under him like a dog so he must be hurt badly from my first arrow earlier. Jeff comes crashing through to me and as he gets 10 yards away the hog lurches up and stands broadside facing Jeff who was unaware he was the target of a wounded hog...I quickly pull a third arrow

and put it through both lungs even though the only shot I had was up higher in the lungs. It was not low as I wished but it was obstructed and did not want him to charge if he got a second wind (no pun) or go deeper into the reeds. At the passing of my arrow completely through his shield and body he fell onto his side in his tracks. Thinking he was done I try to move up but notice he is kicking and I hear a bubble blowing in the mud/water below him as his breathing is in short erratic burst...and re-



A tired and grateful pig hunter.\*

alize he will be done soon with his lungs punctured. He is trying to breathe and kick but cannot get up or catch his breath.

Damn, this hog is a tough critter! I hate to have an animal suffer like that so I decided to put my last arrow into him. He was still moving so Jeff and I decide to move in and finish him off by hand. All the while the beast is trying to slash Jeff with his cutters. The old boar went down fighting to his last breath when we finally saw the life flicker from his now still eyes.

Finally, the old boar is dead. A noble animal that fought until the very end. He surely was the old king boar of years past,

regal and proud but now replaced by much younger boars. I am exhausted, elated, an emotional mess while also wondering if this is really happening? We take a few pictures but the hog is covered in mud and blood. We are amazed at his tenacity for survival from what appeared to be good hits. I pull the arrow from his spine but the head remains while the shaft is not broken. Jeff pulls one from underneath that went through him broadside from the doublelung shot that was also undamaged and put

them back into my quiver muddy and bloody.

Jeff tells me he will help me get the boar to the boat and then leave me there if I wanted to go after one of the others that amazingly were still feeding and grunting and making noises all around us. Yes, the wind was steady and even as the sun was low on the horizon the other hogs were still unbelievably feeding north of us...much further away but you could still hear their grunts and squeals. I declined and told him I just wanted to enjoy the moment. The hard work, the sweat, the muscle cramps from two years of hunting these islands. I was just relishing the success and being thankful for the result and this was more than enough for me at the moment.

After the talking and movement and death...the hogs upwind or ahead of us in the crosswind are still oblivious to what was occurring. Now the work came as the sun was going down and Bob was waiting for a pick up from FAT SOW ISLAND and we had a 150+ yards to drag this hog.

I asked Jeff how big he thought he was and gave my estimate of 75lbs maybe and Jeff said no he thought he was 155-165 lbs at least

maybe bigger. It was hard to tell as he had a huge head but his hips were smaller and not a lot of fat on the hog like his red one shot a week earlier during one of his now infamous "Scouting" hunts. That is another story around campfire though... We love you Jeff....Scouting...yeah right! Jeff volunteered to drag him saying he was the hunt "GUIDE" and for me to just break trail ahead and carry my gear out. So we started with Jeff dragging and he made it 20 yards and was done. That was the world's shortest stint as a professional guide I have ever seen...even tips would not get him to do it the rest of the way alone and now the hog weight was mysteriously at 200 pounds easily. ~ continued on page 36

## **Death in the Tall Grass**

~ continued from page 35

I head to the boat alone to drop my backpack, bow, arrows, jacket, etc. to come back and help drag my boar out. I return and Jeff had not moved a bit (he says he went another 20 yards) and we had a good laugh between gasps for air in our own lungs and wonder if the pig was laughing at us now. We would grab a leg and go a few steps and stop as the boar's head was banging against my calf and stopping me from removing the boot from the mud and

almost falling. That and the fact that I have a few more pounds-per-squareinch and the drag was making me earn it.

Finally we made it to the boat and placed the pig on the bow amidst the mud, blood, sweat and heavy breathing. The hog had now grown to at least 350 lbs after that drag. Camp was 600 yards across the river and within sight immediately so we landed on land rather than the dock so I could unload the hog and wash some mud off before I started field dressing.

During field dressing I tried to do an autopsy to determine hit results without cutting myself wide open as I knew I had one broadhead near the spine somewhere still in the pig and still did not know where my original shot ended up. Did it pass completely through into the mud in front of him or did his body hydraulic-compression force it back out the entrance hole and it got pulled out as he went through thick grass and reeds? I found it unlikely it would get pulled out from the rear by fletching but we never found it on the ground under or near the hog. I also did not find an arrow or broadhead inside the body cavity though admittedly I did not dig through the organs in great detail looking for the broadhead. So the arrow was a mystery. I could not find an exit hole unless it hit bone and deflected out front or went out the lower portion of hogs chest or out of the neck area. Light was about gone and all I had was a headlamp to slice him open and remove the goodies so I gave up on a complete autopsy and started to work.

A short review showed his left lung shredded and liver sliced open. I am guessing this was from my first shot...and would explain him being alive still but hurt badly with one lung and liver shot through. It proves that a very sharp arrow with great penetration is a lethal hit and given a little more time and that hog would have been dead in the bed without the excitement.



The arrow I sent through both lungs was up high as expected. In one picture taken by Jeff during this shot you can see how close the boar is with my shot angle nearly at my feet. That is close and personal in anyone's book!

The heart had a single slice on one side from my knife that ended it all. I am disappointed with my first shot not being lower as I intended but I am positive I was more than a little excited and feel he was hurt lethally with the first shot and planted him nearby. Now whether he was watching his backtrail to counter attack or just to watch I will never know. I am inclined to believe he was going to die within minutes anyhow as he really did not move an inch with the second arrow leading me to believe that the first arrow caused significant damage to the liver and lungs and he was already almost dead on his belly... sitting still in the cold mud and water. Jeff's movement gave him a burst of adrenaline to stand and fight. It was over...I was exhausted and excited all at the same time. I stared over the water with the light reflecting on its glass black surface thanking God for my success and thanking the hog for sharing this hunt with me.

The group's bow rack and pig holder (above). The group enjoying a meal of pork loin and shoulder from Jeff's "vampire piglet".

Tales of the hunt and the shot were told over and over...but excited as I was about my own success I was just as excited in telling the others that I had hogs all around me up until we were dragging this one out and at that time we could hear nothing else but our heavy breathing and mud sucking boots.

Hogs were everywhere and unaware of our presence at least to the end and I truly hoped my brothers of the bow would bloody their arrows the following day.

After a meal of pork loin and shoulder from Jeff's "vampire piglet" that tried to attack him a day earlier and he only shot in self-defense-- I was ready for the bag and sleep. Sore, tired, and full of great food... I crawled into the bag with my hog lying in the grass nearby cooling in the temps already in the 30s for an overnight slumber. I fell to sleep or more like passed out as sounds of hogs fighting and feeding came across the marshes from the area I originally intended to hunt that day and thoughts of giving it a try next year with my vine maple selfbow.

The following morning I started packing up under heavy dew on the tent...eating a breakfast of Mountain House granola and blueberries. Packing my tent on the outside of its storage bag as it was still soaked and strapped it to my Badlands Sacrifice backpack. A pack I bought and never really used all year but it worked out great on this hunt. Carrying everything I brought except my bow, quiver and hip waders...it was packed full and ready for the boat ride to

camp and subsequently home.

Pictures reviewed, text messages to those still in camp eagerly awaiting responses as to whether they connected or not were responded to with negative success but dozens and dozens of hogs all around. Bob apparently had them so close he could almost reach out with his bow to touch them but the grass and reeds were too thick for a shot. Meanwhile Julian and Jeff had hogs swarming all around as well with no shots but one squaring off in a battle in the mud that Julian will have to share as I think it was a bit tense for a moment or two facing off at 10 yards with a huge boar.

The hunt is over for me this year again but the memories of the hunt, the new friends, and the feelings that washed over me when the hog finally took his last breath and submitted to my dominion over him was bittersweet. I regret not being successful in ending his suffering more quickly but thankful he was found and was not left overnight. The old boar is by now at the time of this publishing in my freezer in a mix of sweet Italian sausage and bratwurst and the skull has been returned to me in a European styled mount. The taxidermist asked how much of the cutters I wanted showing for the display and I was perplexed. I knew that the cutters had another 2/3rds of length inside the lower jaw but never thought of pulling them out further to ENHANCE the size. This is much like sitting behind your hog or deer where you can barely touch him to give a much larger representation than what is factual. I told him I wanted them as they were nothing more and nothing less...I wanted the honest representation of my trophy. This hog with my longbow was a trophy even though he has been called the "Ugliest boar in Georgia" and was as lean and tough as they come.

I guess the members of the PBS are a bit different than others around us in more ways than just equipment—even if that is the most readily discernible difference to outsiders. I wondered how many would pull another three or four inches out of the lower jaw. This explains why photos online show cutters flared out way beyond the lips and whetter's above them and wondered how that worked if they were constantly grinding together. Now I know. Deception and shortcuts are often more rewarded than hard work, honesty and faith.

I am already excited for next year and contemplating participation in other PBS Member Hunts I have been invited on (Missouri, Virginia, etc) and had to pass due to work, time and costs. Whether I ever go on another I am glad I did not have success last year this same time. I am glad that I walked miles and miles in heavy waders, deep mud sometimes up to my hips, and in cold temperatures that chilled me to the bone. I am glad that I could not just stroll out of camp with a haversack of small items and had to be prepared to spend the night alone on an uninhabitable island in weather from sunshine and mild to raining and in the 30s where hypothermia was a constant threat. I am grateful for the opportunity itself, and the health and the physical ability to make this hunt happen. I thank God that I was blessed in taking the life of His creature with memories and stories to tell friends and grandkids and their kids years from now and that I never gave up.

Long live the PBS and may our numbers swell with other like-minded hunters both old and young so the future is set and my nephew and grandchildren can one day carry a selfbow or longbow themselves. Possibly their broadheads would be some of mine passed down after my death or even one of my vintage Browning bows off the wall and chase hogs and make their own history, their own stories, and their own legacy for generations to come. They will understand the challenge and commitment of traditional bowhunting that sets us apart from those reliant on technology and shortcuts rather than perseverance and hard work. Until next year my dear fellows...it is my wish we all return including those from 2013 that were not able this year to once again chase swine and experience Death In The Tall Grass together in Geor-

Now let's eat some pork!!!!! ❖

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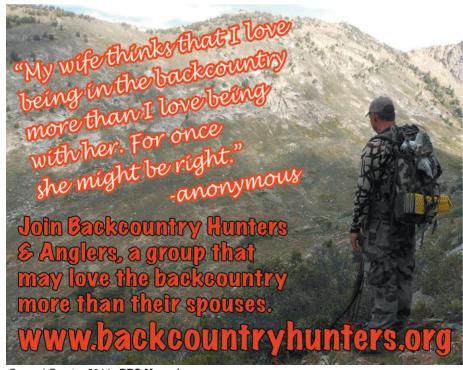
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# A Special Doe

#### By Randy Brookshier

I was lucky enough this past fall to finally complete a task that had been left undone for far too many years.

I have photos of me shooting my bow with my dad when I was four years old, 51 years ago now, and I have shot bows and arrows pretty much continuously since that time. I travelled from home and shot on my college archery team back in the late '70's and after graduation dabbled with compounds for several years. About 1987 I came back to shooting recurves full time after a phone call to Mr. Asbell.

I shot Bighorn bows for years. I then switched and shot Robertson Stykbows for a couple of decades. Along the way I shot the occasional Black Widow, Bob Lee, Thunderstick, etc. Like a lot of you reading this magazine, I was constantly searching for that perfect bow. Looking to add a little more challenge to my hunting, I transitioned entirely over to Hill style longbows and wooden arrows for several seasons. I also accumulated a fairly impressive collection of vintage Bear recurve bows. I hunted for them with almost as much passion as I did deer, bear and other big game. Although I know guys who have more bows and more impressive specimens, it is not uncommon for me to have fifty plus bows, mostly older Bears, hanging on my racks.

Over these several decades of bow shooting, collecting and hunting, one bow that I never managed to add to my stock pile was a Bear takedown. They were either out of my price range, I had other bow deals in the works or I simply had issues with spending the money that they were bringing for a "production" bow. My money went to the custom bowyers.

I was very excited to learn back in 2010 that Bear was revitalizing its efforts in the traditional bow market place, especially as they were bringing back the take down models at an attractive price point. I was one of the first guys to get in line for one and ended up with a very early production model of the black diamond wood bows. I set it up, sent a lot of arrows down range out of it and became more impressed with the bow's shooting characteristics at each shooting session. I added a couple more takedowns to my stable and although I still hunted with my longbows, I shot the Bears religiously during winter indoor and summer 3-D seasons.

I am fortunate enough to live in an area with an exploding deer population, long

seasons and numerous bow tags. Combine that set of circumstances with my addiction to bow hunting and it is not too difficult to tag 8-10 deer each fall fairly regularly. My family loves venison and it is a staple on our menu year round.

Last summer I reached an epiphany.... Although I have been bow killing several deer each year for almost forty years, and have a deep affection for Bear bows, I had never killed a deer, or in fact any animal, with a Bear bow. It was time to rectify that situation.

I set up an "A" riser with a set of 55 pound #1 limbs as my go to hunting bow for the season. An aluminum 2117 with a Snuffer on the end flew like a dart and grouped very well. I practiced daily during the late fall and anx-

iously awaited the opening of our bow season. The bow felt good in my hand, shot well and most importantly, it just felt "right". I could almost feel Fred himself smile when I made a particularly good shot.

The conclusion of this quest was in itself

fairly anti-climactic. I had done my homework and hung several stands that I had a lot of confidence in. One of the first evenings of the season I was perched in a brushy cedar tree when a good sized mature doe walked beneath me at about 5 or 6 yards. A short but very profuse blood trail, typical of a Snuffer, led through the briars and to my trophy.... and the completion of a quest that had been 40 years in the making. It was a quiet, satisfying moment for me. My first deer taken with a Bear bow.

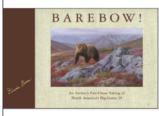
I went on to have a pretty good season with that Bear takedown, and hope to have several more down the road. I was able to harvest deer in



a couple of different states, including a 10 pointer that is one of my best bucks ever. But, that initial doe taken in early October with a Bear bow will always be a fond memory in my bow season recollections.

#### "A BOOK FOR THE AGES"

That was the title Editor Dave King gave to his Review of BAREBOW! in the August 2009 Issue of *Hunting Illustrated Magazine*.



"There have not been very many book reviews in the pages of Hunting Illustrated over the years. In fact, this is the first one and may be the last as well. However the justification to inform our readers about this magnificent book is enough."

Winner of six national awards since it first came out in the fall of 2008, Dennis Dunn's BAREBOW! An Archer's Fair-Chase Taking of North America's Big-Game 29 has now garnered more literary honors than any other hunting book ever published!

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## **Old Knobby Knees**

By Mark Mitten

In the last issue of PBS magazine, Barry Wensel wrote a story called "A 100 Year Old Man." It was about an ancient whitetail buck that had lived far beyond his prime. Last deer season, I had a similar experience.

It was mid-November during the peak of the rut. I was hunting out of a large oak tree adjacent to a scrape laden travel corridor.



One afternoon a wobbly gaited old buck moved in my direction. His knee joints were the size of baseballs. Mine didn't feel so bad after seeing his. Like the buck Uncle



Barry saw, this old timer was gaunt and having a hard time walking with arthritic knees, hips and a kyphotic (humped) spine. He had great brow tines but the rest of his antler growth was stunted. I decided to pass on him. Like I said, it was the peak of the rut. I was willing to wait for something to come along that had better head gear and more desirable meat. I have no idea how old this buck was. I don't think it was as old as the one Barry described. If I had to guess, I'd say 10 ½ or thereabouts. Like Barry, I sat and pondered as to how this living fossil survived hunters, dogs, coyotes, automobiles, trains, disease, etc.

As luck would have it, I was able to capture some images of the elderly warrior on a trail cam. As for the future, I hope we can reunite in the deer woods again. I wished him all the best.





## Logan and Hunter Anderson

#### By Logan Anderson

After a long trip to Utah from our house in Minnesota it felt good to get to camp. When we arrived Craig Burris was already setup and Doug Clayton was starting to setup his camp. After spending time setting up our tent and getting acquainted with some of our hosts my dad and I left for spike camp, which happened to be Guy Perkins camp. Morning came pretty quickly and with a little encouragement from the Elk Fairy we made it to our blind (a chair and small bush). We didn't have any elk come by us but we did have some moo cow's walk by. Guy took the opportunity to give me tips on when to draw my bow and how to remain still while animals are nearby.

On day 2 we went on a nice hike (steep and long) up a mountain. On the way back down I got a lesson on how to walk after Guy and my dad had enough of eating dust (I was in front). After getting back to base camp and getting settled in Hunter,

Daniel Osminski and I took out our bows and did some stump shooting and a lot of talking. Hunter and I had already spent time with Daniel shooting at the Odd Year Gathering in Wisconsin so we all knew each other pretty well.

When we got back from the afternoon hunt Jerry told us Hunter had shot an elk and some of us went out that night to track it. There was a lot of sign (blood) but at 2 am Craig decided to go back to camp and search again in the morning which came pretty fast. Most of the camp set out to help look for the elk and after a long search we finally found it and quickly processed it (very impressive) and hauled it down the mountain. It was mostly downhill which was nice because I found out elk aren't light.

The next day Rich set me up on another blind and I had two elk

come running in right before dark but they stopped about 200 yards away and would not come in any closer. After they left I started shaking from the excitement of watching them, it was very exciting even if they didn't get close enough for a shot. The next day my dad and I were sitting in a blind when I saw movement, I thought it was branches blowing in the wind but there wasn't any wind, it was a big bull. I haven't seen a lot of bull elk in the wild but his antlers were huge compared to our whitetails, I watched him come in to about 100 yards away. I knew I couldn't shoot so I enjoyed watching him until it got dark and we had to leave. My last day of hunting was pretty quiet but I did have a coyote come into us 50 yards away, well beyond my range but it was fun to watch.

This isn't the most exciting hunting story but it is the best hunt I have ever been on. The encouragement I got and all the hard work everyone put in to give all 3 of us opportunities was unbelievable. All the guides (Corey Wiley, Jerry Zesinger, Rich Roskelley, Craig Burris and Guy Perkins) were all so helpful

and went out of their way to help us. I would also like to thank Doug Clayton and Gary Wissmeuller for coming out to be our camp cooks, the food was wonderful and they really made camp a lot of fun. The 3 of us still owe Doug a lot of money for hijacking his camp chair, he started charging us hoping it would keep us out of his chair but it didn't work. Daniel Osminski is invited to go hunting with me anytime he wants. Daniel had an awesome attitude and was always cheering for us to get an elk. He also gave up his morning hunt to help look for Hunter's elk without a second thought about himself. And I'll take a guy in camp that can shoot as good as Daniel.

I'd also like to thank Steve Osminski and Nathan Fikkert for working so hard to set up the youth hunt that was supposed to happen in

Wyoming for pronghorn antelope that fell through. Maybe Daniel, Hunter and I could do that hunt as a graduation present (hint to dads). This last summer my family went to the Odd Year Gathering in Wisconsin and met up with Daniel and had a lot of fun shooting the course and getting to know each other, there were PBS members there who helped raise money so I could go on this hunt. I would like to thank all of you for your support of the youth hunt. I would like to encourage anyone with kids old enough for this hunt to apply for it; it is an experience you will remember forever.

By the way there is really an Elk Fairy but I can't say too much about it, you will need to talk to Guy Perkins about it for more information.

Thank You, Logan Anderson



#### By Hunter Anderson

After walking up the mountain, which felt like a 10 mile hike straight up for a flatlander from Minnesota, Jerry got me settled into the tree stand and he set up behind a little ways. Being 15 and a little impatient doesn't help a lot for tree stand hunting but after the hike or the anticipation of seeing elk had me sitting relatively still. After a while I heard a noise past the pond and 3 elk appeared, moving down the mountain toward me. A cow came into the pond and moved broadside to me. I don't know how she couldn't hear my heart pounding through my chest, I was so nervous. As I attempted to draw my bow the cow noticed my movement and walked forward and out of my range, I figured it was all over so I relaxed and watched the elk, then another cow who was following behind came into the pond with another chance for me. After waiting forever and watching her walk around she finally came into my shooting lane broadside. I took a deep breath and focused on a spot. When I pulled back the string it felt so easy and I didn't remember letting go of it. Although it looked like a good shot I was worried because of a poor shot that I had previously made. Jerry and I inspected the area and then went to camp to get help tracking the elk. After getting back to the stand with reinforcements we found a lot of sign but at 2 am we decided to go back to camp and wait until daylight. I didn't sleep much but Doug and Gary made a great breakfast for all of us and we had a camp full of people to help us track.

After a slow tracking process kept bringing us up the mountain it did not look good as we lost the blood trail. Craig and Rich decided to set us up apart from each other going up the mountain from the last sign we found. Going slowing and searching carefully Jerry found the elk within 100 yards of where we stopped. My emotions went from disappointment and frustrated to the most excited I have ever been. I'll never forget that moment. After getting a lesson on processing an elk we packed it down the mountain. Elk are heavy but my dad said it was worth it even for his knees.

I have so many people to thank for the elk I took. It was a team effort with everyone involved. Everyone worked so well together from setting up camp to guiding us and giving up their hunting spots so we could have the opportunity to hunt elk, to helping retrieve the elk and carrying it off the mountain, I'd like to thank Daniel and Logan for all of their help, they were both with me until 2 am and both of them gave up hunting time to help me find the elk.

I'd like the thank Gary and Doug for some of the best food I've ever eaten. And to Steve Osminski for helping me shake off the bad shot I made and helping to reinstall my confidence in my shooting, and also to Guy Perkins for giving me a bowl of carrots for my eyesight and getting me to laugh at myself. I would also like to thank Jim Akenson for encouraging us to sign up for the hunt and his help with the process.

I hope in the future I am able to go on more hunts with Daniel and Logan, maybe that antelope hunt in Wyoming soon or back to Utah for elk. Thank you to all the PBS members for your support of the youth hunt. It was an awesome experience that I'll never forget I would recommend this hunt for anyone who can qualify for it.



#### **Youth Hunt Bow**

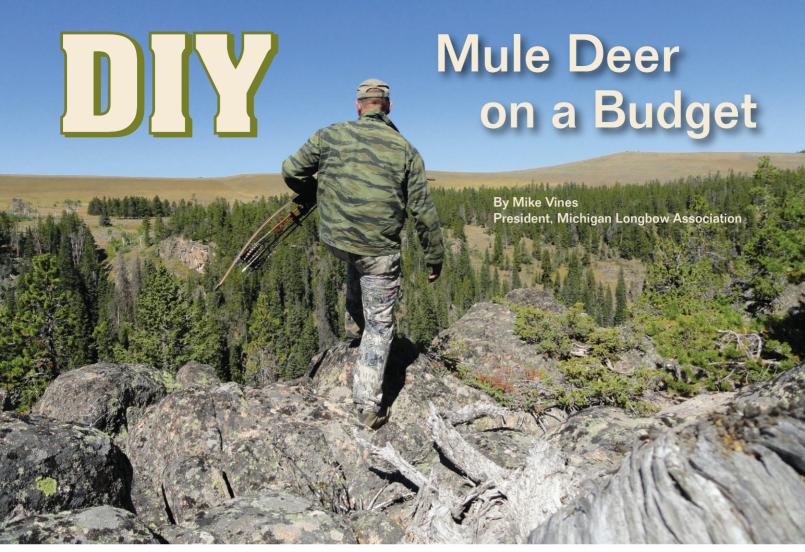
My brother Logan and I got to bring home the PBS youth longbow to use. Daniel Osminski actually outshot Logan and me but Daniel is wrong handed (left handed) and Logan and I are right handed so by default we got to use the bow. We don't have a lot of stories with the bow because of all the practice we did to get ready for the youth hunt we continued to shoot the bows we had been shooting for the fall archery deer season. But we did shoot the bow and used it on small game around the house. Logan and I would take turns using it on rabbits, squirrels, possum and whatever else we could shoot at.

Bjorn Ahlblad and David Lawson made some beautiful arrows to go with the bow and Blake Fischer donated Eclipse broadheads to go on the arrows.

Thank you to everyone who makes the PBS youth hunt happen.

Hunter and Logan Anderson \*





Lungs burning. Legs aching. Heart pounding at maximum rate. I had just completed a 1/2 mile sprint thru the Bighorn Mountains of beautiful Wyoming, and found myself hastily throwing a ground blind together because I knew they would be coming.

What had brought me here? Last December I was stuck in the house on a pretty typical winter day in Michigan. The weather had me homebound but wanting to hunt something, so my mind started to drift to hunts I have either heard stories of or read articles about.

Computers, I have learned, are your friend when you want to find out about anything. So if I could not hunt, why not do some hunt research? I started looking online for guided hunts and they ALL piqued my interest but I just couldn't seem to be able to justify to my wife the type of money I needed to go on a "guided" hunt . By no description of the word could I be considered "rich" but I am extremely lucky to have a beautiful and VERY understanding wife who not only understands the desire I have to do all things hunting, but actually supports me to do it. Like I said, I'm VERY

lucky

Knowing a guided hunt would be out of the question, I thought to myself...why not guide myself and make it a true Do-It-Yourself adventure? Now, there is absolutely nothing wrong with going on a guided hunt, but I really like to do things my way. Now, whatever happens, good or bad, there is nobody to blame except myself.

I went to my wife and said "If I can figure a way to go on a weeklong hunt to one of the Western States for under \$1000. would you mind?" Her response; "Sure, go ahead". Cool, I got the green light, so let's sharpen the pencil and get this thing figured out. Step one is contact some friends in the Professional Bowhunters Society (PBS) and start asking all the questions I possibly could to some of the best bowhunters in the world. The majority of the responses were to hunt three different animals; elk, mule deer or whitetails in a different state (in that order too). Well, I have had my fill of whitetails for now, and elk seemed like an animal I needed to build up to, so mule deer gained my earnest interest. A quick search found that mule deer inhabit a pretty good

amount of the western states, and cover all kinds of terrain and habitat. I just found what I wanted to hunt, now to work out the details.

The very next business day, I called the Game and Fish Departments of each state I thought would be a good place to hunt and asked to speak to a biologist who could answer some questions I had about mule deer. I had my questions written down on paper and asked the same ones of each state biologist I encountered. I wanted to know game density, terrain available, season dates, license drawing percentage, past success rates, etc. It took me a little over 2 weeks to reach the biologists from each state, but I wanted to have as much information available to make the best educated decision I could, plus it was the beginning of the New Year (2013) and I had 8-10 months to figure it all out. I narrowed my search down to two states from the info I had gathered from the biologists. Now it was time to speak to the guys who are out dealing with the animals on a daily basis...The game wardens (GW).

I was extremely impressed with the amount of information on the various West-

ern states websites. Just about anything you could possibly want to find is clearly and easily available; including how to reach the game wardens. I phoned them all and had more specific questions prepared than I had for the biologists. I wanted to know everything I could about the animals and potential areas I was going to hunt. I got a hold of one GW, and I mentioned what I was doing. His first question of me..."What are you going to use to hunt mule deer"? My response was, "Longbow and wood arrows". He found my response odd, and said he hadn't seen too many people have any luck with one of those, but he reckoned anything was possible. I liked him already. We talked about life and hunting in general, and I almost forgot to ask the questions I had prepared. Honestly, I didn't care what anybody else had to say, this GW was an outstanding guy and was a pleasure to talk to. I had just chosen the unit I was going to apply. According to my notes (it is imperative you keep excellent notes was a tip I received from another PBS Member), the area this GW was in charge of had a 100% draw rate last year and he was pretty sure the same would be true for this year. The archery season started September 1st (which would allow for the use of less vacation time due to the Labor Day holiday), and the deer density was pretty good, with tons of does, plenty of 2x2's or less, but not much in the larger "quality" bucks most people desire. Now "quality" is a relative term. When I go on a hunt, I never set the bar that high, this way any accomplishment means success. Honestly, having the animal I hunt within longbow range whether killed or not means success to me. I beat their senses and got within their "Danger Zone". I don't care if it's a buck or a doe. Heck I get excited about killing a squirrel with a longbow.

Soon it was time for applications to be sent in along with \$328. My Wyoming deer tag was 1/3 of the budget alone, and with my calculations gas was going to chew up \$800 which clearly put me over my limit. I have plenty of friends who hunt (actually 99% of them hunt, the other 1% loves eating our food). I offered the hunt to 3 of my friends who I thought would like

to join me. One was booked on hunting trips already, one was not able to get away from work and the last, Roger Norris, jumped at the opportunity. I didn't even have to tell Roger about the details. He thought the idea of hunting another state was a

good one and was fully onboard. Now, gas was just cut in half and I was left with \$272 and a hope that there would still be a 100% draw in the area we choose. Applications were sent in, and we waited.

I'm not one to sit around and do nothing, so being an ex Army soldier, I use paper maps exclusively, and because of that, I picked the center of our hunting area, got on the USGS website and ordered 6 adjoining maps (\$53 including shipping) and waited for their arrival: \$219 left in the budget. I have all the gear I could possibly need for a hunt like this, so extra equipment wasn't necessary which saved the budget big time, because good quality gear lasts, but isn't cheap. Finally, the maps showed up and I sat down with a guy who I would consider the best map reader I have ever met (you guessed it, another PBS Member), and he and I were able to put a pretty good game plan together for the hunt.

By now the middle of June arrived and information became available of the drawing results. Both Roger and I were drawn for tags, and the details of the hunt needed to come together quickly. The foundation had already been laid, now to just assemble the pieces.

A guy needs a place to stay, and seeing as there wasn't too much money left, a cabin/hotel was out of the question. Camping by tent was in order. Now we could have just pitched a tent anywhere we wanted for free, or we could use any one of the campgrounds available in the area for

\$15 a night or \$105 divided by 2 is \$52.50 (cheap price to pay to have fresh potable water), leaving \$166.50.

Now comes the food. Roger agreed to handle all the food because of all the other stuff I had took the reins on. We put our heads together and being avid outdoorsmen, we were able to raid both of our freezers and



come up with venison backstraps and burger, Michigan king salmon, fresh caught cobia from the Atlantic (I took my little guy to Florida to go fishing

for his 8th birthday a month and a half before the hunt), Vigo red beans and rice, and Italian sausage were the main meals. Healthy snack food we always have available. Food cost ZERO for both of us. ChaChing. I had done it. A western mule deer hunt for less than \$1000, barring any major malfunctions, it was a reality.

Which brings me back to the heart pounding and lung burning I had mentioned earlier...you see, I had just spent 5 days hunting some of the most beautiful country in the world, had well over 100 does, and 21 different bucks, 3 elk and 2 moose (good physical notes make up for a really bad memory) at less than 25 yards but nothing had offered the perfect shot, until...

Roger and I had come to the conclusion that the mule deer we were hunting needed to be hunted as if they were whitetails. This being said. I was sitting in a brushed in ground blind I had built a few days earlier and was watching a cowboy about 3/4-1 mile away moving his cattle into a pasture adjacent to the timber stand I was hunting. Thinking the cows were going to push the deer completely out of the area, I grabbed my USGS topo maps and commenced to poring over the topo lines trying to find the most obvious escape route from the area. There it was, plain as day, but it was 1/2 mile from where I was, and up and down terrain that was littered with deadfalls. Well, I hadn't come this far to look at cows, I had come to hunt. I was gambling everything I had on this one decision. I threw my pack on, grabbed my longbow, and took a quick compass read (only thing I use a GPS for is to get me where I need to park to go hunting), and I took off on a dead sprint.



## **DIY: Mule Deer on a Budget**

~ continued from page 43

I have no idea how I did it, but I never broke stride. I had to get there, and time was of the essence. I swear Barry Sanders (Detroit Lions fame) would have been amazed at my speed and hurdling abilities. I got to where I needed to be, and set up a quick ground blind where I thought the action was going to be, knowing I had just minutes if this was going to happen at all. I caught my breath, took a drink of water and nocked an arrow.

At 5:26 PM on 5 September 2013, I had eleven does come in what looked like a train formation on an old cattle trail that passed just 13' from me. I could see behind them and there were two 2x2 bucks, still in velvet, following not too far behind on a steady trot along the trail. As I was deciding what to do, I caught sight of a bruiser of a buck acting like the "caboose" of the train. At 30 yards, I picked my spot. He had a patch of hair about the size of a quarter located where an arrow would produce a double lung shot. I blocked everything out of my mind except that spot, and when that spot was at 13 FEET, I saw the white nock of my arrow enter the void that was just created

from my 2 blade Eclipse broadhead, and yes it was centered on the quarter sized patch I had focused on. I must have trained enough, because I honestly do not remember drawing the bow, hitting my

anchor, or releasing the string, but I sure know what I had just seen, and I watched the buck run another 30 yards in his intended direction, and stop. Doubt never had time to sink in. for it wasn't long and the buck's legs started to wobble and down

he went. had accomplished what game the warden had "don't said happen too much around here".

Field dressing complete, and the deer

moved to and loaded on the back of my vehicle, off I headed to not only pick Roger up, but let him know I had tagged out and could help him concentrate on filling his tag. I arrived at our pick up point, to find a "happy" Roger, because he too had filled his tag on another beautiful mule eeer doe. We compared our notes, and he had shot his deer 59 minutes after me.

Oh yeah, what happened to the \$166.50? We got home 26 hours after leaving Wyoming, I got a shower and clean clothes, rounded my wife and boys (8 & 9 yrs old) up into the truck, picked up my Mom, and took



Mike Vines with his 4x4 Wyoming mule Deer.

everyone out for a much deserved dinner where anything could be ordered. Laughs were shared, stories told by everyone, and the waitress got a pretty healthy tip too.

There you have it. A western mule deer hunt for \$1000.

Equipment notes:

Tall Tines 3-piece longbow, 50# @ 28"

Homegrown Motor City Machete Douglas Fir arrows tipped with 125 grain Eclipse broadheads (620 grains total weight)

Did I mention we ate really well?





CUSTOM RECURVES AND LONGBOWS BROADHEADS, BOWQUIVERS, LEATHER GOODS

# **Not So Obvious Detailing**

By Barry Wensel

One of the most common statements I get after doing one of my whitetail (bootcamp) hunting educational sessions is how much I "detail" a stand set-up. I always thought everyone did this but apparently not. There are many pieces of the puzzle to consider, in fact, too many for this short article. But I did want to touch on a few details to get guys to thinking. If nothing else it will make you consider some secondary options. I'm purposely going to try not to even get into the "big picture" regarding land contours and/or structural positioning. This will not be an "easy read". It might even seem confusing and possible questions will arise. But the fact is it will make you a better hunter. Feel free to draw out little schematics if it will help you to under-

Once in the right region you must pick the right tree. I've said many times before I prefer a mediocre tree in a great position over a great looking tree in a mediocre spot. The fact of the matter is it's not often you find a great tree in a great spot. One of the most important aspects of a great stand is an entrance/exit that will create as little disturbance as possible. Hunting an undisturbed area is fundamental. There is a normal rhythm in nature. When everything is copasetic there will be the normal "buzz." Background noises of birds, insects, frogs, etc. are accepted and expected in the everyday norm. Temporary silence is a sign of disturbance. Area wildlife will pick up on it. I learned this little tidbit from John Wayne. He was sitting around the campfire one night when his buddy (note... NOT his partner) said, "It's really quiet tonight." To which the Duke answered, "Yeah... TOO quiet pilgrim." That's one of the reasons I'm an advocate of arriving an hour early over a minute late in most stand situations. I want that buffer to lessen the adverse effects of my disturbance. Disturbing the "buzz" is also why I'm a big advocate of quietly remaining in position once the ambush has been established. Changing stands, leaving for and/or returning from a lunch break, a potty-break or whatever, will all disturb the normal buzz, thus costing you a half hour before common expected noises return. Game in the immediate area will definitely pick up on this.

A low impact entrance/exit is vital. The smart hunter must consider sight, sound and scent in his approach and departure. Let's use an example of each in illustration. Often your stand placement might be just off the crest of a ridgeline. HUMAN nature is for old logging/skid roads to follow the crest of a ridge. It just makes sense for ease of travel for humans and equipment. But it doesn't make sense for the deer. Although not always the case, game will shy away from being sky lined on a ridge top. They will normally tend to walk parallel to the crest on the downwind side. It will depend on the angle of the terrain and visibility (density) but usually they will prefer just far enough off to the side to keep their silhouette not obvious, yet passage where they can see downhill more so or equal to being crested. You'll also notice their passage will tend to be on the downwind side of the crest. Think about it. It's just common sense. They can see just as well or better downhill; they can wind/scent check areas upwind and still not be silhouetted. We, as hunters, must do the same thing. When entering a stand site along a ridge line it's easy to walk the logging road along the top. This is fine when it's dark (another advantage of stand approach before light). But when it's already light, or in the afternoon, you're usually better off picking your way in walking parallel to the crest.

If you do walk in on a logging road, I try to walk in the "tire track" of the downwind side. In other words, as an example, say the logging road is running north/south and the wind is coming from the west. You walk in the east tire track so the wind carries your residual ground scent off the road. This insures any deer that happen to be walking the logging road later will be less likely to smell your passage. Adjunctive to this, if you use a scent drag on approach you will notice it will benefit you even more so. Tie a scent soaked rag to a short cord off a four foot switch (or your bow tip) and drag it (in the example above) down the west tire track while you walk the east (downwind)

Because I'm a sweater I normally carry my extra coats/gear in a backpack. When I get within 100 yards or so of the stand I'll stop and put on my layered jacket, facemask, gloves and safety belt/harness. To ensure a silent approach I like to rake out steps to the stand. It's an obvious advantage on having your scent on final approach blowing away from the direction you think the deer will be coming/going.

For those of you who have hunted bears over a bait site you will notice when multiple bears are hitting bait they will approach it via specific foot prints. This is a dominant/subordinate situation. A subordinate bear knows if he is caught by a dominant bear on approach to the bait he'll get his butt kicked and it could be a fatal mistake. Therefore, if you look closely around the bait site you'll see distinct, separate foot prints/ pad marks that will ensure the bear a more silent approach. The subordinate will actually place his feet in the exact same footprint as a previous entrance/exit for a more silent approach. I like to do a similar thing when approaching my stand site.

After the foliage drops in the fall you'll have six inches of dry leaves covering the ground. Trying to walk though dry cornflakes quietly is pretty hopeless. If there is a cadence/rhythm to your gait it's almost impossible to keep your entrance/exit covert. Therefore, I'll use the "bear trick" to my advantage. Pre-season I'll take a regular garden rake (the one with the stiff teeth, not a vard/leaf rake) or a hoe and clear away the fallen leaves every couple feet for quiet foot placement. This is especially important on quiet days or if within hearing and/or sight of a known bedding area. Of course there are variables but I've often quietly slipped into a pre-set, preraked stand and taken advantage of the situation. You'll quietly climb into the stand and fifteen or twenty minutes later notice an ear twitch only 100 yards away. Binoculars will confirm it's a bedded deer and you'll suddenly realize there would have been no way in hell you would have gotten to that point and into the stand unknowingly had you not pre-raked your approach.

After I rake my steps in I take my trusty ratchet hand pruners and clear away any underbrush I might brush against going in/out. This is not only just for minimal scent retention but for less noise of the understory rubbing against the fabric of your pant legs

## Not So Obvious Detailing cont.

~ continued from page 45

This is all just common detailing.

I should note here I tend to weigh the odds accordingly. For example, on approach to a stand it's just smart hunting to not walk down or across game trails on entrance/exit. BUT if you think a circling approach will disturb too much area I opt for a more direct approach and actually cross the trail I'm hunting. For example, say you are hunting a main travel pattern running east/west. The stand is on the north side of the trail hunting a south wind. Your most likely approach might be to circle the stand and come in from the north. But if you do that you might be disturbing too much area and defeat your covert purpose. So, your best approach will be to walk in from the south where you have pre-raked and clipped a low impact entrance. When you hit the east/west trail, wearing rubber boots, just step across the trail leaving minimal scent and disturbance. Just to be on the safe side I ALWAYS in situations like this cross the main east/west trail right IN a shooting lane. That way if you should happen to leave any minor ground scent when crossing and deer stop to check it out at least they'll be standing broadside in a shooting

This is another applicable situation for "bowling for bucks." On the way into the above scenario I like to pick up a couple hedge apples (osage oranges) with gloved hands. For those not familiar with them, they are the fruit of osage trees. They are yellowish/green, about the size of a grapefruit, with a coarse texture on the outer surface. The outer surface is grooved in a squiggly pattern looking similar to a brain. To make it somewhat confusing, hedge apples and osage oranges are the same thing... when comparing apples to oranges. Farmers use the trees themselves for fence posts because they tend to take a long time to finally ground rot. Hence the term "hedge row." And of course we all know the osage wood is commonly used to make beautiful bows. Anyway, after climbing into my stand I'll take the hedge apple and run a bead of scent/lure around the fruit. By the way, those who don't have osage in their hunting area can use a regular apple. It's just that the grooved outer surface of the osage will accept the scent (especially a gel scent) better than the smooth surface of an eating apple. After running the scent

around the apple while in my stand I then throw/roll it across the trail right through my shooting lane. Using the same above scenario, if you approach the stand from the south with rubber boots, cross the east/west trail in a shooting lane, then roll a scent laden apple across the trail from north to south, the trap has been set. Think about it. The deer comes walking down the trail until it hits the residual scent laid down when the apple rolled across the trail. Because of his ability for directional tracking he'll stop in the trail and look the direction the scent was rolled/laid out. It will offer vou a broadside shot in a shooting lane at a standing animal upwind of you looking the opposite direction from you. Perfect. No directional, audible bleat needed.

As mentioned above, I'll often play the odds. Bear with me on this. Even though it might be a little confusing this is important stuff. Draw it out if it'll help. Lets use the same hypothetical set-up with an east/west trail, on the north side of a run, facing south with a south wind. Say it's more of a morning stand with the feeding area to the west and the bedding to the east. If it's a rut stand you might have deer movement east/west 50/50. But if it's pre-rut or post-rut 70% of the deer might be moving west to east in the morning and 70% movement will be from east to west in the afternoon/evening. I like to play the odds in my favor. Therefore I'll have two additional shooting lanes cut for multiple options. Say you're looking straight south. If you want a broadside shot with the deer going west to east I cross the trail a few yards to the east and roll the hedge apple from straight north to south in order to stop the deer broadside before he cuts my track. This way you are playing the 70% odds over the 30%. If you prefer a quartering away angled shot I cut two additional shooting lanes. Again, you are facing straight south so I'll cut a shooting lane to the southeast for morning movement and another to the southwest for evening movement. If you prefer the quartering away angle you then cross the trail in the morning in your southeast shooting lane and roll your scent ball accordingly across the southeast lane. The exact opposite is used for the afternoon sit with entrance via the southwest lane. Clear as mud right? Play the odds in your favor.

I also play the odds with hinge-cuts and

blockages. Before we get into hinge-cuts let's talk about girdling. For those not familiar with girdling, it's a practice where someone cuts a circle all the way around the bark/trunk of an upright living tree. It can be done with an axe, hatchet, handsaw or chainsaw. This will cut off the life-blood and kill the tree. It's a practice used to kill a tree, which will eventually fall and open up the canopy, therefore allowing more light to enter the surrounding grounds to stimulate a thicker understory and better habitat densities. Yes, the tree will die, the problem is it will fall whatever the direction the wind happens to be blowing that particular day. You have no control over it. Whereas, with hinge cutting you create the same effect but are able to control the drop angles to your benefit. If you do any girdling or hinge cutting make sure you have total permission from the landowner and he/she understands what you are doing.

I much prefer hinge cutting so I am in control of the angles. My definition of hinge cutting is cutting the upright tree straight across horizontally until it can be dropped/pushed over in the right direction. Because the tree is not girdled nor cut all the way through, it hopefully continues to live. Yes, the tree will be horizontal to the ground but it should still be able to draw water and nutrients up from the soil. This opens the canopy allowing sunlight into the surrounding area, yet the still alive tree allows for continued leafing and promotes supplemental feed as well as ideal bedding/cover with increased ground level densities. You get the benefit of both

I prefer to use a handsaw on trees that are usually six to eight inches in diameter and usually under forty or fifty feet tall. The hand saw is tougher but it allows me to control the horizontal cut and keep it minimal until I can push the tree the exact direction I want it to drop. Normally I will make my cut just under four feet above ground level. I want to use the hinge cut as a blockage in order to nudge normal deer movement whichever direction I want. I prefer the hinge cut at about four feet because I want the blockage high enough to shift their movement, yet low enough they'll not duck under the obstruction.

Because I only hunt with a recurve bow I prefer my shots to be at 12 to 15 yards. Not under 10 yards and not over 20 yards... but that's just me. Using the same directional example of a stand set-up as we did

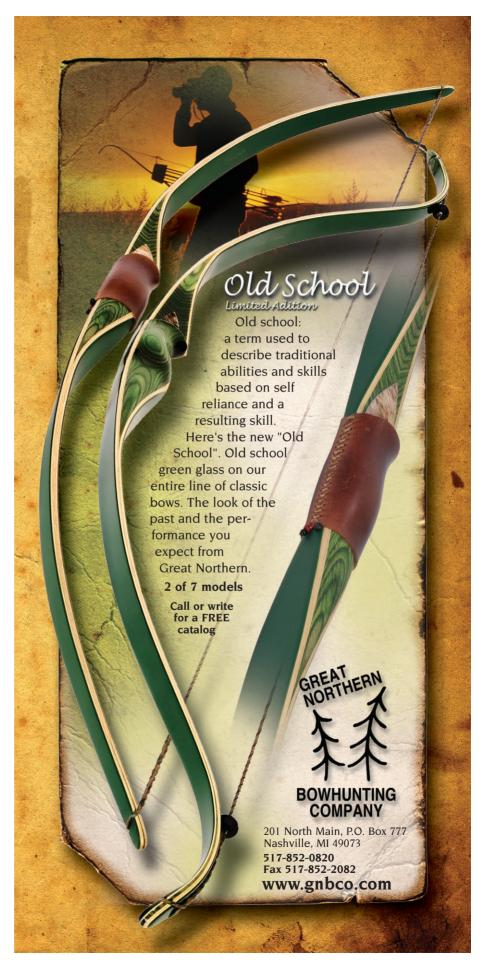
earlier, bear with me on this. The stand is overlooking an east/west trail and you are facing south. But the trail is, let's say, 25 yards from your stand and you want to shift the 70% W/E morning movement about 12 yards closer to you, offering a 13 yd. shot. You pick a tree on your side (north) of the E/W trail and with your saw cutting four feet up, saw until you can swing the drop of the top of the hinge-cut tree to the southwest. This angle is very important. You want the brushy top of the tree (which is wider than the base main truck) to make an obvious barrier to the west to east (70% morning) walking deer. If you drop the tree straight north to south the perpendicular angle might just force the deer to jump over the blockage. If you drop it to the southeast it might angle him away from your stand defeating your purpose.

Whereas dropping it at a SW angle will nudge the deer closer to your stand as he angles along the blockage. If you would have dropped the tree in a SE angle on a west to east moving deer he may just swing wide and not give you the shot at all. The obstruction laying SW (in this case) will offer you a 13 yard shot rather than a 25 yard shot.

If you want to make sure the E/W (afternoon) movement also is nudged closer to your stand you need to hinge cut a second tree about half way up the SW laying barricade. Drop it so the top faces southeast rather than southwest. Just make sure the base of the second tree is close enough to the first tree so an E/W traveling deer won't slip between the two trees and angle away from you again defeating your purpose. If it will help you to understand please draw these little schematics as explained so you truly understand.

The same effect can be reached if you want to shift a deer's movement AWAY from your tree. I personally don't like really close shots at under ten yards. Therefore, you can create an angled blockage right under your tree in order to shift him from five yards to maybe twelve yards.

I apologize if this was a little hard to follow along. It's actually very simple but sometimes hard to explain. The bottom line is there will be a lot of satisfaction in your efforts. Not only will you watch a deer react exactly as you wanted and intended him to, but your efforts will hopefully shift his movement into a position where you almost can't miss the sucker-shot. And that in itself will help bowhunting success rates tremendously.



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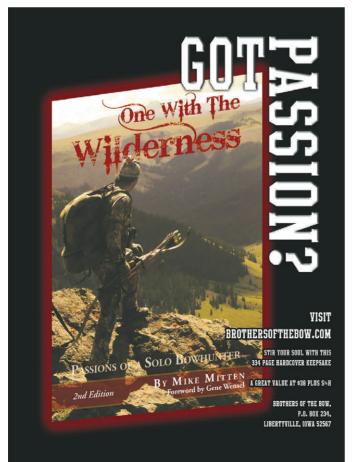
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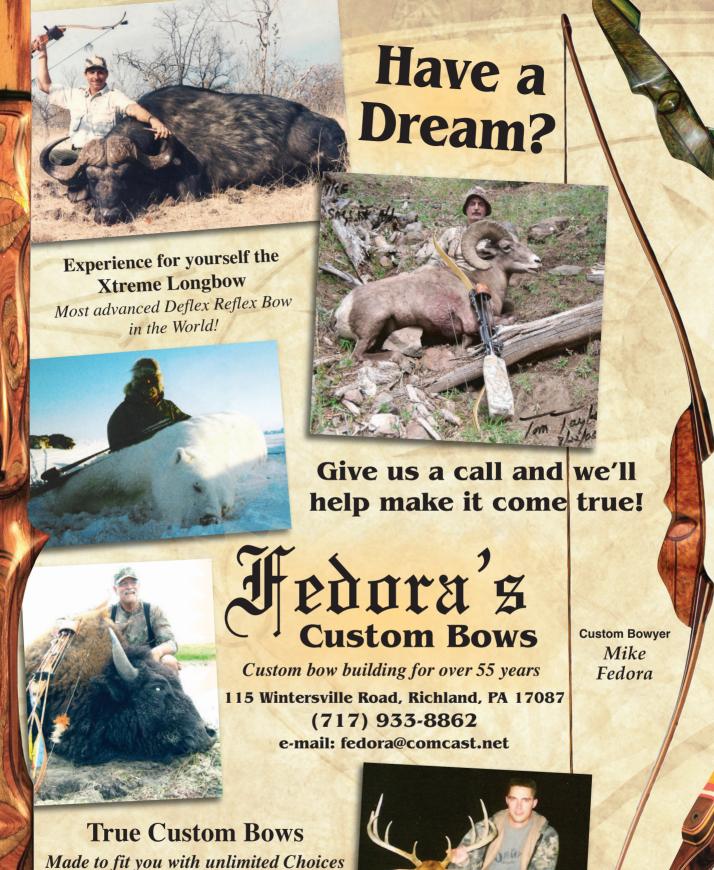
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