

Official Publication for the members of the Professional Bowhunters Society

# THE PROFESSIONAL BOWHUNTER MAGAZINE



**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  
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**UNITED WE ACT FOR THE PRESERVATION OF BOWHUNTING  
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# THE PROFESSIONAL BOWHUNTER MAGAZINE

## CONTENTS

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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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This magazine is published as part of the overall program of the Professional Bowhunters Society® to educate its members and other readers. It is also a purpose of our publication to provide information and opinion that is timely, practical and readable. As it is also one of the objectives of the Professional Bowhunters Society® to be a forum for the free expression and interchange of ideas, the opinions and positions stated in signed material are those of the authors and are not by the fact of publication necessarily those of the Professional Bowhunters Society® or The Professional Bowhunters Magazine. Publication does not imply endorsement. Material accepted for publication becomes the property of the Professional Bowhunters Society® and may be printed in the Professional Bowhunter Magazine and PBS's electronic media. No material or parts thereof may be reproduced or used out of context without prior approval of and proper credit to the magazine. Contributing authors are requested and expected to disclose any financial, economic, professional or other interest or affiliations that may have influenced positions taken or opinions advocated in their articles. That they have done so is an implied representation by each and every author. Manuscript preparation guidelines may be obtained upon request. The editors welcome submissions.

Trail Cam Cover Photos by:  
Fred Richter, West Virginia (Coyote)  
Gene Wensel, Iowa (Deer)

### Departments

<i>President's Message</i> .....	2
<i>Vice President's Message</i> .....	3
<i>Council Reports</i> .....	4
<i>PBS Contact Information</i> .....	4
<i>Bowhunting Preservation Committee</i> .....	6
<i>PBS Publicity Committee Report</i> .....	7
<i>Index to Advertisers</i> .....	48
<i>PBS Merchandise</i> .....	48

### Regular Contributors

<i>Chaplain's Corner – Only One</i> by Gene Thorn .....	8
<i>PBS – Regionally Speaking</i> .....	9
<i>PBS – Member Photos Section</i> .....	29

### Special Features

<i>Regular Membership Candidates</i> .....	5
<i>Remembering Larry O. Fischer</i> .....	14
<i>Upcoming Election and Voting Items</i> .....	15
<i>Election Candidate Profiles</i> .....	16

### Articles

<i>Thank You to Magazine Contributors</i> .....	22
<i>Sweet November</i> by Gene Wensel .....	23
<i>DEFINITIONS Adding enough of them together = KTE</i> by Jim Akenson .....	24
<i>My Moution Lion Hunt in Mexico</i> by Alejandro Castañeda .....	26
<i>Venison Blade Roast</i> by Cory Mattson .....	29
<i>Garlic Mashed Potatoes</i> by Cory Mattson .....	30
<i>How to Grow a Bowhunter: Big Boy Toys</i> by P.J. Petiniot .....	31
<i>2012: A Beary Good Year</i> by Sean Bleakley .....	33
<i>Wisconsin Firsts</i> by Steve Osminski .....	36
<i>Appalachia Odd-Year Gathering</i> .....	37
<i>A Solo Moose Hunt &amp; Memorial to a Friend</i> by Mike Mitten .....	38
<i>Buck Recovery by Canoe</i> by Tony Sanders .....	40
<i>Trail Cam Tidbits... Ones that Got Away</i> by Gene Wensel .....	42
<i>Rack Pedestal</i> by Steve Hohensee .....	45
<i>The Ridge</i> by Ben Pinney .....	46





# President's Message

by Jim Akenson  
micaake@yahoo.com

## Time Change & Bowhunting

Interesting how a simple act such as turning back the hands of a clock, switching back to fall-Standard Time, can trigger other thoughts and extrapolations. We know we cannot turn back "time" very far. So really, we are stuck with our current time and place – bearing in mind that time is always moving forward. Back on bowhunting, so where does PBS fit in today's "state-of-bowhunting"? Some questions that come to mind on this topic: Are we still at the forefront of understanding this sport in today's world of mass communications and technological advancements? Are we reaching out to new members as effectively as we did during past decades? Will our current course of action, or organizational direction, put us in line to be leaders in bowhunting in 2024? And finally, are we still relevant?

From the perspective of understanding bowhunting in today's world, I think we certainly do understand it, but our "outside recognition" of that knowledge may not be as prominent as it once was – such as in the 1960's when we (PBS members) played a key role in banning the pod-tipped arrow. In more recent times we certainly have fought the crossbow in some keystone battlefronts. Also recently, we expressed concerns in front of western states fish and wildlife decision makers about the overall application of excessive technology to bowhunting, and we used the JOC video to help visually illustrate our presentation. Good efforts all, but probably not changing the state of bowhunting in America very much – yet anyway.

So, why is there not more current-times effectiveness with this effort? Two reasons, the way I see it: 1) we do not have enough showy media products, and 2) we are just getting started launching "targeted

and grassroots" regional contact efforts. We are addressing these two areas of concern through the PBS committees and programs, but we have a ways to go on all fronts. However, progress is being made and I encourage you to check out the latest from the Bowhunting Preservation, Publicity, and Conservation Committees and the burgeoning Regional Representative Program on the website and in the magazine.

On recruitment, this still is an issue of concern, but we have had encouraging results from the newly developed booth displays and one-on-one presentations from booth attendees. Again, I think our Regional Program will help a lot through pulling people together so PBS members can positively influence non-members – in person, directly. There is no doubt that our new member attracting efforts need to focus on the "quality" of bowhunters over the "quantity" of bowhunters. Always remember, a prospective member's ethics should be the first consideration when recruiting!

On relevance, this is a constant battle with today's rapid technological advances. Can you imagine how we will be communicating with each other in 2024? Where will the act of bowhunting fit in society in another decade? I suspect email will be obsolete and Facebook will be many generations advanced, if not morphed into something else. Maintaining relevance will involve much more than our views on bow design, arrow type, and supportive devices. We need to stay abreast of changes in communication, and hopefully, the outdoor appreciating segment of mankind will need a break from the daily techno-stimulation. It is our duty to help those who "seek challenge" in a quest to gain the basic rewards of hunting for food on equal terms with game animals. What will wildlife detection cameras be able to do in just a decade? I'm not getting into that one, there's already a lot to ponder!

For us folks who are enjoying the "sun-

set years" of our bowhunting career, WE NEED TO be encouraging of those who are in their "prime-time" years. I'd sure like to think that we can stay abreast of the communication advancements – including our own media products, while maintaining our traditional values, plus expanding into a more robust membership – with a diverse age structure! We can only turn back the hands of time a minimal amount and it is our responsibility to bring our bowhunting philosophies forward in time utilizing whatever communication methods are mainstream – and adapting them to our centuries-honored-act of "simply bowhunting" for good food!

While I have your attention, if you are a regular member, please VOTE. There are some important ballot items to address, and we have an excellent slate of candidates displayed in this magazine issue. Carefully look over the ballot items and candidate profiles and make your selections. Also, whether they win or lose on the vote tally, each and every one of these prospective Council members is a winner for stepping up to the plate as a candidate. Please extend to each of them a big "Thank You" for running when you have the chance.

In closing, most of you are aware now that our PBS past-president Larry Fischer passed away in mid-October. For several decades Larry has contributed greatly to the direction and well-being of our organization, and from many different perspectives. To honor his dedication to PBS, the next magazine edition (1st Quarter of 2015) will be devoted in his memory with several articles and photos which capture some of his life's journey in the world of bowhunting.

I hope your late-season bowhunts are both safe and memorable...

Happy Holidays!

**Jim A.**



# Vice President's Message

by Steve Hohensee

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## Prudent Investments in PBS' Future: I Made a Motion

In the Third Quarter, 2014 issue of The Professional Bowhunter Magazine, I stated to the membership that I intended to make a motion to the Executive Council to allow the voting membership to determine whether to amend or not amend the By Laws, on how Life Membership funds could be invested. Our current situation is that the By Laws imply that only interest bearing investments may be made with Life Membership funds, which restricts the organization from making prudent investments that outpace inflation. Unfortunately the intent of the program was to help financially stabilize the organization with a trust but the opposite has occurred.

Currently our Constitution and By-Laws states the following (**emphasis added**):

### ARTICLE V - Executive Council

Section 8. Funds derived from Life Membership dues are to be invested per the authority given to the investment committee by Council. These funds can in no way be used by the organization for any general expenses, collateral assignment or other purpose. Only **interest** earned from these invested funds can be used by the organization.

A few Life Members have made it clear that they feel they have a contract with the organization to have their funds invested in interest bearing accounts only. In recognition, the Council has done additional legal research, deliberated, and determined that we would follow a three-step approach which would include: 1) A proposed amendment to the By Laws for investment of future Life Member funds and current consenting Life Members; 2)

An "opt out" option for those current Life Members that choose to have their fund contribution invested in interest bearing investments only; and 3) Reestablishment of a Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) qualified Investment Committee and prudent guidelines for investments that meet prudent investment standards for West Virginia, our state of incorporation.

Based on discussions that occurred in a recent Executive Council conference call, the final motion that I presented is provided below and was unanimously supported by the Executive Council. The motion I presented to the Executive Council is as follows:

1). An amendment to the PBS Constitution and By-Laws as follows (**emphasis added**) be placed on the upcoming ballot before the voting membership:

### ARTICLE V - Executive Council

Section 8. Funds derived from Life Membership dues are to be invested per the authority given to the investment committee by Council. The **principle of these** funds can in no way be used by the organization for any general expenses, collateral assignment or other purpose. **Life Membership funds are to be prudently invested in accordance with West Virginia laws for non-profit organizations. Earnings may be reinvested or used with discretion in support of the Society's Purpose and Objectives and maintenance of life member expenses. Individuals holding a Life Member-**



**ship established prior to January 1, 2015 may elect to have their remaining funds remain in interest bearing accounts.**

2. Any current Life Member may have their contribution of Life Membership funds prudently invested per a signed release form which will be made available from the Home Office or on the PBS website if the amendment passes. No action on the part of any given Life Member will be considered status quo or the "opt out" option and those funds contribution will remain in interest bearing investments. An individual's funds contribution will be determined as a proportion that individual paid, versus the current fund balance as of January 1, 2015 since the rate has changed over the years.

3). The Executive Council will update the current Policy and Procedure Manual for "Life Membership Investment Committee" to provide guidance for prudent investments under West Virginia law for non-profit organizations.

Once again, our Society's financial health and well-being is on the line with this important decision!

**Steve H.**



# Senior Council's Report

by Steve Osminski  
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## Of Regular Members

2014 has been a good year for the PBS. We have reformed, revised, and improved many of our archaic and time sucking practices. We have not thrown out the past, just tried to shape it up a bit and make things more efficient. After 50+ years, think of it as sending your favorite bow in for a refinish and take off 5 pounds...

In my opinion, probably because it affects me directly just about every day, our new Regular Membership application and the corresponding approval process is the top improvement. Our old application allowed the applicant to tell his or her story, sure, but thanks to Kevin Bahr, Dan Mathis and Gene Wensel, we get all the old applicant information plus new and more relevant information in a more efficient package. Ease of use is built into the process now for the applicant as well as the Council reviewers. You can still fill

out your application with a pen and paper if you want. It is much easier for most to request the Microsoft Word version from Home Office or myself. Doing your application via computer allows you to insert all those great photos that help tell the story of your hunting life. Composing and editing your application on-line makes things even look more "professional". If you are still old school, you can write it out long hand...once we get it, it WILL become part of the 21st century. We will scan it into the computer and save it. This document is saved in a way which is secure and cannot be changed. Once I have this file, I can send it out to the rest of Council for them to review. We all can look at the same document at the same time. No more delays from the post office or sitting on someone's desk waiting for them to send it by mail to the next one in line while they are off on a moose hunt for 3 weeks. We have basically one waiting period now instead of four plus the USPS. Folks are seeing the progress and applications have been brisk. Thanks go to all the Sponsors—we've had to make very few clarifications and refinements to the applications. Thanks also go to ALL the fine

Associate Members, some LONG time Associate Members for stepping up to Regular Membership. I am proud to have been part of the process that brought Dan Russell, Jeff Holchin, PJ Petiniot, Rob Burnham, Mike Mitten, Mike Vines, Johnny Gottler, Tony Sanders, and Sean Bleakley into PBS Regular Membership. Every one of these men is actively doing something right now to make the PBS better.

There are quite a few of you with applications in progress. Hunting season is winding down...get them done and in! Why such an increase in the Regular Membership applications? I believe it is the other major improvement we have made in the PBS in 2014.

Voting.

Regular Members that vote now set the direction of the PBS. We have the opportunity RIGHT NOW to vote. There are proposals along with Council seats to be voted on. If you do not vote, your voice is not heard, so do your duty and return your ballot. Thanks!

**Steve O.**

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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



corymattson@windstream.net

A photograph of a man in military camouflage gear, smiling, with a black strap across his chest.

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# Bowhunting Preservation Committee

By Rob Burnham, Chair – 804.402.6900 – Rob@RoughMountainOutdoors.com

I am full of apprehension and excitement, as I write my first column as the Bowhunting Preservation Committee Chairman. There is no doubt we are living in a very technological time, and bowhunting, like it or not, has changed because of it. Let me first give a resounding tip of the bow hunters cap to Mark Baker, for his dedication and hard work while leading the Bowhunting Preservation Committee. His efforts with regards to the "Journey of Challenge" video were a giant step forward and a solid foundation on which to build.

Like just about everything else in the world we live in, technology has played a huge role in how we as a society go about our day to day lives. The "Easy Button" is getting worn out. I dare say there is not one aspect of our lives that has not been changed to meet the demands of the fast paced civilization we live in. We are intimately connected through our cell phones, computers and the Internet. How this has affected and how it will affect bowhunting down the road is the question I ask myself. Can bowhunting continue to accept technology and survive as we know it? I'll go out on a limb and tell you that I don't think so for those of us who cherish bowhunting for what it was originally meant to be. I do however have my safety harness on.

Think about the previous two sentences for a minute. This is a perfect example of how technology has been good for bowhunting. When I first started bowhunting in 1978 we either didn't have a safety system or it amounted to tying a rope around the waist and hoping that it would work if needed. As you can see, not all technology is necessarily bad. However, not all advances have been good for bowhunting. The sad truth is that what we know and love about bowhunting is irrelevant to the manufacturer. It appears their only concern is the number of 0's on the end of their bank account balance.

How do we, PBS, compete against such a financially backed machine? The bottom line is we can't. What we can do however is to focus on what we believe in and share with anyone that will listen to our ideas on what bowhunting was and is meant to be. We don't believe in the "Easy

Button". We do things the hard way not because we are elitist or snobs, but because it is what we hold so near and dear to our soul.

What is PBS trying to preserve? Bowhunting in its purest form and the seasons that were created for those who accepted the challenge. Our brothers of the bow who established the first archery seasons worked long and hard with wildlife agencies to show that a person with dedication and woodsmanship could effectively harvest game animals with a simple stick, string and sharp broadhead. This was the principle reason the Pope & Young Club was created. At the same time, PBS was actively promoting ethics in bowhunting. We fought against the poison tipped arrow, as well as flying and hunting on the same day. Our battle cry has been "the fights" that deal with ethics. It is my belief that we have come full circle and must once again prove to our wildlife agencies that the simple bow & arrow are effective and that technology is not necessary.

As the newly appointed Bowhunting Preservation Committee chair, my first task with the help from the committee, will be to draft a memo or letter expressing our concerns with regards to modern

technology and its affect on bowhunting moving forward. A copy will be sent to every wildlife agency, DNR, as well as state archery organizations and clubs. Through team work with the newly formed Regional Rep Program we will build relationships with other organizations with the hopes of sharing our message with as many individuals as possible. A follow up video to the "Journey of Challenge" will at some point in the near future take place, but this will require the help of many of you. Additionally, the history of PBS will be made available to not only all of our members, but to the entire hunting community.

The goal of the Bowhunting Preservation Committee is to preserve the heritage and history of bowhunting and we The Professional Bowhunters Society. United we act for the good of bowhunting. If you truly care about the future of bowhunting please consider how you can help make a difference. We are interested in hearing your thoughts, suggestions and ideas.

*"The history of the bow & arrow is the history of mankind."*

*Fred Bear*

May all your arrows fly true

>>~Rob Burnham~<<

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# PBS Publicity Committee Report

This is my first committee report since accepting the position of PBS Publicity Committee Chairman. Since this is my first report, I will give a brief overview of what this committee will be working on in the upcoming months as well as what other members have agreed to join me on the Publicity Committee.

When I was asked to assume this responsibility I immediately started thinking about who I wanted to join me with this challenging, yet important committee appointment. Ted Kinney, the past chairman has moved on after several years of dedicated service, Rob Burnham, another Publicity Committee member that had served with Ted and myself had accepted the Chairman position on the Bowhunting Preservation Committee so that left John Sanderlin III and myself, assuming that John was still willing to stay on board.

After confirming that John was indeed willing to remain on the Publicity Committee, I already had a mental list of a couple potential new members and reached out to them in order to gauge interest. I was pleased to have enthusiastic acceptance letters from both people.

I am pleased to say that Tracey Balowski, and Shane Close have both agreed to join John and myself on the Publicity Committee. Tracey will bring both a female bowhunter's perspective and an archery/bowhunting manufacturer's perspective to the table. Shane is one of our

younger members that managed to discover the PBS even though we haven't done what I would call an adequate job reaching out to his demographic.

The Publicity Committee is currently putting the final touches on phase one of the relaunching of the Young Bowhunter Program. The YBP will be completely restructured and the emphasis will not only be on the young, but the bowhunter portion of the program. Without getting into the details, the gist of the new YBP will be to teach kids interested in acquiring the skills needed to become proficient bowhunters and woodsmen as well as exposing YBP members to archery tackle craft. (ie. building some of their own equipment or archery tackle)

The main thrust of the new YBP will come from the grassroots level via the new Regional Rep Program. We will remove many of the obstacles that exist when trying to organize youth hunting opportunities at a national or international level. Once we have the basic structure of YBP in place, we will then work with our Regional Reps to promote the program locally and expose as many interested young bowhunters as we can accommodate via local small game hunts. Rather than focussing our time, energy and capital exposing a few kids a year to a bowhunting experience where a single arrow or two are loosed, I would rather expose hundreds of kids to bowhunting experiences where thousands of arrows are

loosed per year and dozens of young bowhunters are able to pose with their first rabbit, squirrel, frog, groundhog or carp harvest. We can structure the program in such a way that older YBP members are able to eventually earn a spot on localized big game hunts. These opportunities can be earned through service to the YBP such as running for office in the YBP, helping out the PBS and YBP by working a local or national event or by submitting content for our website and magazine.

The goal of the YBP initially was to foster a relationship between young bowhunters and experienced PBS mentors as well as to help ensure the future of the PBS by instilling a sense of purpose by utilizing our time tested methods of Knowledge Through Experience and creating a sense of commitment to the PBS and ethical bowhunting by teaching leadership skills to youngsters at the local level.

Since I have mentioned the PBS Regional Rep program, I may as well explain how the Publicity Committee will be working hand-in-hand with this group to ensure the success of their program as well as future success and growth of the PBS.

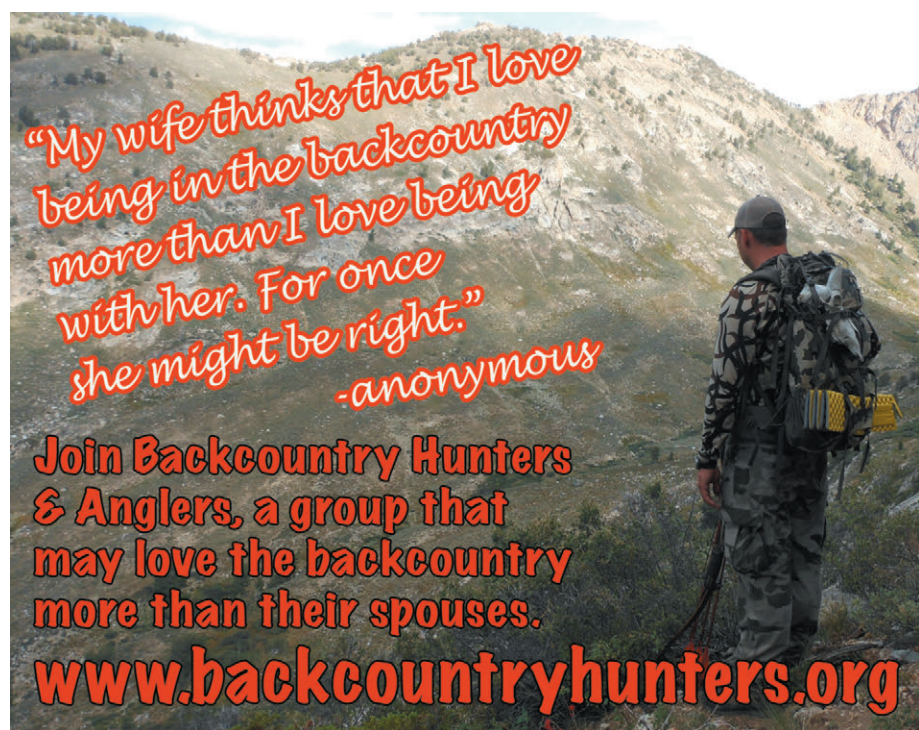
The Publicity Committee will support the Regional programs via manpower and promotional material. If there is a regional event in the future, the Rep responsible or in charge will contact my committee and we will help them promote the event in the magazine, on our website, in print media, as well as helping put together any promotional material such as flyers and brochures.

The Publicity Committee will also take on an expanded support role of the 2016 biennial banquet and all future banquets. We will support the Vice President and his Banquet Committee in a multitude of ways to ensure that the 2016 Banquet is the best PBS event ever.

We have other ideas and long term plans, but they are still in the raw and rather than mention them in this report, I will save them for future reports when they have evolved from mere ideas and desires into solid plans that will help the PBS membership grow and regain our place as the pre-eminent national/international bowhunting organization.

I am truly excited and encouraged by the current direction of the PBS. Once again we seem to be on the move.

Respectfully Submitted By  
P.J. Petiniot



*"My wife thinks that I love being in the backcountry more than I love being with her. For once she might be right."*  
-anonymous

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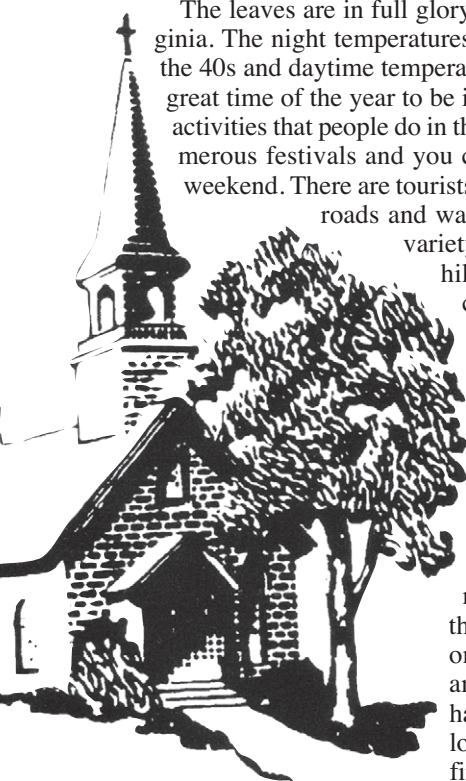
# Only One

# Chaplain's Corner

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The leaves are in full glory this week in West Virginia. The night temperatures are dipping down into the 40s and daytime temperatures in the 60s. What a great time of the year to be in the woods. There are lots of activities that people do in the fall. In our area there are numerous festivals and you could pick one to go to every weekend. There are tourists that trek here just to drive the roads and walk the woods just to view the variety of colors that paint the WV hills in October. Our State Park campgrounds are full of leaf watchers. Our streams get a fall stocking of trout and native brook trout are in their spawning color glory so fly fishermen are working the streams. Grouse and woodcock hunters are following their favorite bird dog. The list goes on and on of the multitudes of things folks do in the fall woods. But....there is only one thing that we PBSers are focusing on right now. We have thought about it all year long and prepared all summer to finally get to bowhunt in the fall.

Whether it is elk, deer, moose, antelope, caribou, or small game that we are pursuing, the time has now arrived!

*1 John 5 <sup>19</sup>We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.*

*<sup>20</sup>And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.*

*<sup>21</sup>Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.*

We who are servants of God must create a balance in our lives. There is nothing wrong with passionately pursuing a wholesome activity like bowhunting. It is healthy exercise, provides meat for our families, and is sanctioned by God in His Word. We just have to make sure that we line up our priorities in a manner that please God. Anything we put before Him becomes an idol. John's last admonishment to us in 1 John was to keep ourselves from idols. He knew human nature and how prone we are to getting things out of order and worshipping something more than the Only One that deserves to be worshipped. We are to separate ourselves from idolatry; being pure and holy in our love for God. When we put God first and our families second and line up everything else accordingly, bowhunting will have its place and God will bless it. PBS brothers and sisters - enjoy this season, enjoy bowhunting, but put God first; **He is the Only One!**

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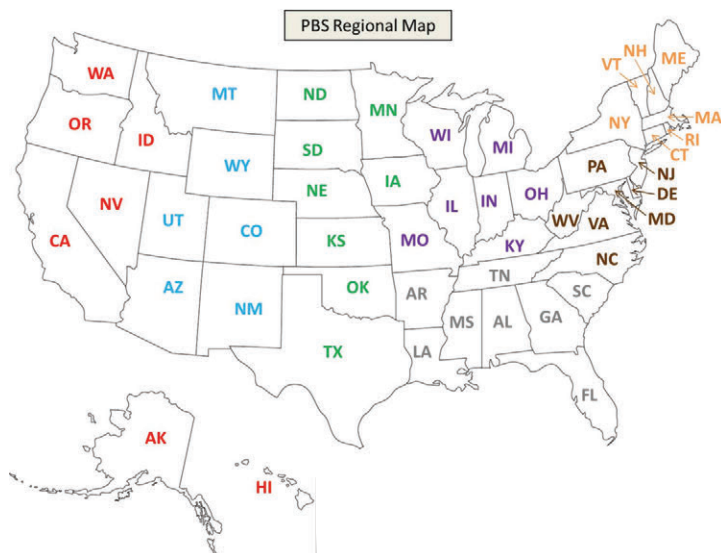
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# PBS – Regionally Speaking

By Jeff Holchin and Terry Receveur  
Fourth Quarter 2014



The Regional Representative program continues to move forward. There was a conference call meeting held on October 19, 2014 and following are the meeting minutes:

**Present:** Mark Viehweg, Jeff Holchin, Gene Thorn, Jim Aken-son, Rob Burnham, Ron Lang, Tom Vanasche, Mike Vines, Richard Flett, Terry Receveur, Matt Schuster, Mike Schlegel, Steve Hohensee

- Moment of Silence for Larry Fischer
- Announcing the appointment of the Regional Program Co-Chairs (Jeff Holchin and Terry Receveur)
  - Co-Chairs will hold master list of membership contacts and listing of what's going on.
  - They will also be responsible for ensuring the regional program activities are well communicated.
  - Will oversee media releases/program articles for the Magazine and website.
- 3 way relationship of Regions - Committees - Council.
- Actually a 4 way due to the relationship with the State agencies.
- Ensure they fit with the mindset of the PBS.
- Hope to get the other Committees involved as well.
- Need to understand better how we can communicate with the States.
- Discussed how we want the regional activities displayed on the website.
  - A special section has been established on the website.
  - Take a look and respond to Jeff or Terry with comments or suggestions for improvement.
- Rob asked the question as to the direction the Website is moving. There is a plan to evolve. Rob has an in with a provider that can make many improvements and have a very dynamic site. This would be at considerably less cost than another outside provider (\$2,000 to \$3,000).
- Steve Hohensee is the Council liaison to the website, he has been given administrator capability.
- Several regional areas were modified and redefined. See section above for the current break out.

## Region

## States

<b>Pacific West</b> .....	Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, California
<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
<b>Great Lakes</b> .....	Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky, Missouri
<b>North Eastern</b> .....	New York, Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut
<b>Appalachia</b> .....	Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, W. Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina
<b>South East</b> .....	Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, Florida, Tennessee, Arkansas
<b>Pacific Rim</b> .....	Alaska, Hawaii, New Zealand, Australia, Pacific Rim Islands
<b>International</b> .....	Canada, England, France, Italy, Mexico, All Other Countries

We continue to seek interested members from all the states and other countries to serve as state representatives and help the regional representatives. Your job will be to (1) keep the regional representative updated on bowhunting news and happenings in your state, (2) help welcome new members from your state and keep in regular contact with all PBS members in your state, (3) assist the regional representative in regional hunts if possible, and (4) assist the regional representative in some sort of annual regional gathering/jamboree/rendezvous that includes shooting bows and arrows, good fellowship and food, and fundraising for the PBS to help take some pressure off the biannual Banquets as our only real fundraiser.

## Pacific West Report

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

by Tom Vanasche – Regional Representative

The bow elk and mule deer seasons have passed bringing good fortune to some [including yours truly] and misfortune to others [such as your esteemed President]. Just teasing Jim. One of our members even slew a mountain lion in self-defense while elk hunting. I have yet to hear the story directly from him but apparently he was compelled to use a sidearm. As you members to the East prepare for your whitetails, hopefully you will not have to be dodging grizzlies and big cats!

November does bring the blacktail season from California to Alaska. Many of us will be braving the rain and wind to try our luck on these primarily nocturnal [at least where I live in Oregon] creatures. With November comes the rut and they may come out of their hidey holes a little bit longer.

As 2015 will be upon us soon we will probably be tackling the

# PBS Regionally Speaking

~ continued from page 9 ~

crossbow issue again in Oregon. Wish us luck in this endeavor.

May all have a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas.

**Idaho:** Mike Schlegel has agreed to cover Idaho as the PBS State Representative.

## Rocky Mountain West Report

(Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico)

By Bryan Bolding

**Colorado:** Coloradans, keep your edge after the hunting season ends and visit the new Cheyenne Mountain State Park archery range.

The Cheyenne Mountain State Park Archery range opened in the spring of 2014. Located in the southeast corner of the park the archery range is accessed off of Highway 115 at Pine Oaks Road, directly across from Fort Carson Gate #5. All vehicles MUST display a valid parks pass and self-serve day passes are available on site.

The field range and 3D range located on the South side of Pine Oaks Road is now open to the public! A \$3 individual permit is required to access the Field/3D range, available for purchase on-site, and must be kept on your person for inspection at all times. This area features a mix of field targets and life-size animal targets along a walking trail.

The static archery range, located on the north side of Pine Oaks Road features targets between 10 and 80 yards, with a sun shelter to provide a covered shooting line. No permit or additional charge is required to use the static range. A youth target range, limited to bows with 35-pound-or-less draw weights, will be completed shortly.

Annual Field/3D Range Individual Permits are available for \$30 at the visitor center. For more information, please call (719) 576-2016.

**Utah:** Guy Perkins has graciously been volunteered to serve as Utah's PBS State Representative.

**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. For specific information feel free to contact Rick directly at 602-327-2291.

## Great Plains Central Report

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

By John Vargo (IA, TX, MN, OK) and Mark Viehweg (SD, ND, KS, NE) Regional Representatives

Members in the Great Plains region are busy with the fall hunting seasons. Two PBS pig hunts are planned for mid-February

2015 (Feb 16-20, 23-27) at the Spike Box Ranch located near Benjamin, Texas. Openings are still available for both hunts. Contact John Vargo for additional details (john1597@aol.com, 319-331-1997).

**Nebraska – Bryce Lambley:** The Nebraska Bowhunters Association, largely behind the efforts of longtime traditional bowhunter Craig Schoneberg of Grand Island, has a program that has given bowhunters a real public relations shot in the arm while also providing a hugely-appreciated service to soldiers overseas.

The original idea for the Jerky for the Troops project came in 2009 when Schoneberg was visiting with a friend whose son had just returned from his third deployment to Iraq. That son purchased an archery deer permit, shot a doe, and had the entire deer processed into jerky. Why? "I'm sending it to my friends still in Iraq - jerky is like gold over there and a package from home means the world to them." This got Schoneberg to thinking that this would be something that the NBA could do.

After gaining board approval, Schoneberg located a packing plant that would give us a price break on processing. Sargent Pack from Sargent, NE stepped up and gave us a really good deal. With encouragement from Robin Conrads to proceed and the funding will take care of itself, that's exactly what has happened.

The 2009 season produced 900 pounds of venison for the project, and Schoneberg received monetary donations from hunters and non-hunters once word spread about the project. The NBA's Conservation Committee has supported part of the project, and major funding has come initially from Grand Island HS where NBA member and teacher Greg Kush and former Principal Dr. Kent Mann started several fund raisers to get the project off the ground. Since that time, the entire Grand Island School System holds an annual fund raiser to support the project.

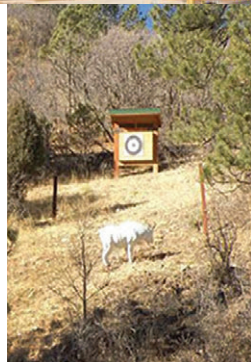
2014 will mark the beginning of the sixth year for the project. To date, a little over 4,000 pounds of finished venison jerky has been sent to all branches of deployed Military Personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan. Schoneberg and the NBA have received many emails and letters from jerky recipients, and also included was a flag that flies in front of Schoneberg's home, sent by a Helicopter Med Evac Unit that received some of the jerky. One letter from a US Army Brigadier General in Afghanistan said in part, "...As an avid bowhunter it is especially kind of you to help me think of home. We greatly appreciate your support and dedication to keeping soldiers' morale high while we are deployed..."

## South Dakota – Mark Viehweg: GFP Commission Proposal on Statewide Spearing of Game Fish

PIERRE, S.D. — The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission is proposing to open up game fish spearing statewide. The proposal was made as a result of an outside petition received from spearfishermen. The Commission will consider adoption of the proposal at their Dec. 11-12 meeting in Fort Pierre.

The Commission proposed the following rule amendments for game fish spearing for 2015:

- Allow spearing and bowfishing of all game fish species (except paddlefish and sturgeon) in all inland waters.
- Establish a year-round game fish spearing and bowfishing season.
- Make game fish spearing and bowfishing regulations on boundary waters match those of adjoining states.
- "No inland waters are exempt from the current Commission proposal, meaning spearing and bowfishing for all species (except paddlefish and sturgeon) could occur in all inland waters including urban fisheries, small impoundments, trout streams and large lakes





and reservoirs,” stated John Lott, GFP administrative chief for fisheries. “Harvest of game fish by spearkers and bowfishers is not a biological issue. It is a social issue.”

Currently, the following regulations pertain to game fish spearing on inland waters:

- Game fish spearing and bowfishing season is open from June 15 to March 15, inclusive.

- Waters open to the spearing and bowfishing of game fish (except sturgeon and paddlefish) during the established spearing season in 2014 included:

- Lake Oahe;
- Portions of Lakes Sharpe and Francis Case;
- Angostura and Belle Fourche reservoirs.

- Spearing and bowfishing of northern pike was open in all inland lakes in 2014, except those managed for muskies, during the June 15 – March 15 game fish spearing season. As of last week, the Commission finalized that for 2015, the spearing and bowfishing of northern pike and catfish in all inland lakes (except those managed for muskies and areas of the Missouri River system closed to game fish spearing) and the Grand River immediately below Shadehill Reservoir, is allowed year-round. The Commission also added Shadehill reservoir to the list of waters open during the June 15 – March 15 game fish spearing season.

- “By proposing a statewide, year-round season for spearing and bowfishing of game fish, the Commission has provided the public an opportunity to comment on how much spearing and bowfishing opportunity for game fish there should be,” concluded Lott.

The GFP Commission will act on this proposal Dec. 11-12 at the Fort Pierre Holiday Inn Express in Fort Pierre. Written comments on this proposal can be sent to 523 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, S.D. 57501, or emailed to [wildinfo@state.sd.us](mailto:wildinfo@state.sd.us) or [gfpadminrules@state.sd.us](mailto:gfpadminrules@state.sd.us). To be included in the public record, comments must be received by 12 p.m. CST on Dec. 11 and include a full name and city of residence. A public hearing before the Commission will be held for those who want to publically comment at 2 p.m. CST at the Fort Pierre Holiday Inn Express on Dec. 11.

CONTACT: Emily Kiel at [Emily.Kiel@state.sd.us](mailto:Emily.Kiel@state.sd.us)

## Great Lakes Report

(Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, Missouri)

by Ron Lang (WI) – Regional Representative and Mike Vines (MI)

It is the end of October as I write this report with the landscape changing from its fall colors of maple and oak to a more barren winter looking scene. In NE Wisconsin where I live the leaves are down and even a touch of snow is in the forecast this week. With that said the Wisconsin archery / first crossbow deer season is in full swing. With the rut fast approaching and the amount of hunter activity increasing a lot of people are thinking about what effect, if any, the crossbow will have on deer harvest numbers. The WI DNR is seeing an impact. Go to the following link to see what they are saying. <http://www.wbay.com/Clip/10826053/dnr-starts-seeing-crossbow-impact#.VF4yFJ2cnSk.gmail>. The 2014 Wisconsin deer season has many other changes besides the use of crossbows. The state did away with deer management units numbering well over 100 and divided the state into three separate zones. Within those zones each county will locally set its own goals. Tags for antlerless deer get a little more complicated as one will have to apply for tags on private land and public land separately. The Northern zone, which is about one third of the northern part of the state, is bucks only this year. The Central farm zone, in which I

am located, has an abundance of tags and opportunities. What this all demonstrates is that if you have hunted Wisconsin in the past or want to hunt it in the future you will have to look closely to what is going on to make a wise choice as to where to hunt.

The Wisconsin Bear season which started September 3rd is now history with some big bears taken. One was officially listed at 628 lbs field dressed! Wisconsin allows both bait and hounds for bear hunting. This year the bait hunters got the first week of the season. This switches annually and next year the hound hunters get the first week.

Wisconsin also had its second ever wolf season with lower numbers set for harvest this year. As in other states, wolf season still tends to be a hot bed of debate and controversy. The number of wolves in the state seems to vary a lot depending on who you ask. Hunters have one number, the DNR has one, and of course wolf activists have another. Wolves can be hunted with bow or gun, trapped, and this may surprise you, but the use of hounds is, after much controversy, legal.

The Wisconsin Traditional Archers (WTA) held its annual deer hunt in northern Wisconsin with many in attendance. I am not sure if a deer was killed but I was told the food was great and the fraternal atmosphere not lacking.

Please note and mark your calendar for the 2015 Midwest Odd year Gathering July 17th, 18th, and 19th. Hosted by the Ojibwa Bowhunters of Milwaukee. This is the 4th such gathering and having attended the first three myself, I can guarantee you will have a great time. You can find all the details to this amazing event on page 18 of your last PBS magazine (3rd Quarter 2014).

One last note on Wisconsin news, for those interested, the former world record Jordon buck was honored this year in Danbury Wisconsin celebrating the 100th anniversary of this great buck. It still ranks as Boone and Crockett's (typical) number one buck taken in the United States.

~ continued on page 12 ~



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**BOOKING LIMITED NUMBER OF HUNTERS FOR 2012**

# PBS Regionally Speaking

~ continued from page 11

James Jordon took the buck when he took a track in the snow and while still-hunting took this buck. Even though he took this great buck with his 25-20 Win rifle it stands as a great feat when you consider all the latest technology in the last 100 years and all the advantages hunters have today that this mark has not been surpassed. I think there is a strong message there!

Mike and I would like to encourage all in our region to keep us updated on future hunts, gatherings, and happenings etc. in your state. Get that information to us and we will make sure it gets included in our regional report. Together all of you will make us stronger!

**Michigan – Mike Vines:** A proposal to allow a wolf hunt in Michigan in 2015 is now on the table and up for a vote. Proposal 14-1 would allow the NRC Natural Resources Commission to set a wolf season and define it as “game”. Upcoming events in Michigan concerning bowhunting will be posted on our website as they come up. If you are in the area I would love for you to join me and my boys for rabbit hunting or bowfishing. If you have a local event and would like some company, please let us know we would like the opportunity to join you. Michigan deer season is in full swing and of course the crossbow has been allowed there for a few years now.

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## Northeastern Report

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

by Terry Receveur – Regional Representative

The Northeastern region is currently in the middle of the deer hunting seasons. Most are reporting good numbers of deer seen and some even harvested. The moisture levels were well dispersed and adequate during the antler growing season and it appears the bucks are sporting decent head gear.

Please be safe and wear a safety harness if hunting from a tree-stand.

The Northeastern region is looking for a few good men. If you are interested in serving on the committee to represent your state, let me know. Also, if you have an idea about another PBS hunt or would like to assist in setting one up, please call (518-755-9119) or Email (Terrance.Receveur@Taconic.com).

**Connecticut:** Bill Terry Sr. has agreed to serve as Connecticut's PBS State Representative. Connecticut seasons are underway and Bill is busy trying to fill his deer tags. I do know one nice buck has fallen to a well placed arrow.

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## Appalachia Report

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

by Gene Thorn – Regional Representative

We still need reps for Delaware and New Jersey – if interested in being a PBS State Representative contact me at pethorn@hotmail.com.

**West Virginia – Gene Thorn:** There is an abundance of information about the hunting seasons, regulations, WV Big Buck Contest, harvest reports, maps, WMA info and lots more at the WV DNR website. <http://www.wvdnr.gov/Hunting/Hunting.shtm>

**Pennsylvania – Tim Denial:** Northwest PA deer season is starting to heat up as the bucks are starting to chase does. Some snow has fallen in a few areas, which gives us nimrods a picturesque map to track the whereabouts of the deer we chase. With the capture of fugitive Eric Frien, suspected of gunning down two State Troopers, the PA Game Commission has lifted the temporary ban on hunting and trapping in the concerned area.

A Bellefonte PA man has been sentenced up to 18 mo. and \$20,000.00 fine for poaching 3 elk, one of them among the largest ever recorded in PA.

I heard from a very reliable source that a buck shot up in the far NW corner of the state, only about 20 miles from me, tipped the scales at 250 lbs field dressed. That's a monster for our area.

**Virginia – Randy Brookshier:** The ban on hunting over bait in Virginia has recently been upheld. Virginia is one of 28 states that currently bans hunting over bait. Several groups recently petitioned the Senate Rules committee to have this ban lifted. The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, along with backing from the Virginia Deer Hunters Association, the Virginia Department of Health and the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, submitted to the Senate committee a presentation unanimously upholding the state wide ban. Several reasons were cited with perception by non-hunters being one. Hunting in Virginia is approved by 80% of Virginians, but that approval rating drops to less than half that when hunters are perceived as having an unfair advantage due to baiting. The Department of Health and Department of Agriculture based their position on decreasing the risk of Chronic Wasting Disease spread at bait sites.

**Maryland – Tony Sanders:** **Gardner Road Park CWMA Open to Hunting** – There is a new public deer hunting opportunity available in Prince George's County. The 120-acre Gardner Road Park Cooperative Wildlife Management Area (CWMA) opened today to regulated archery hunting for deer only. The site will follow the season dates and bag limits in the 2014-2015 Guide to Hunting and Trapping in Maryland. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Maryland National Capitol Park and Planning Commission created this new opportunity to provide managed public hunting access to this deer-abundant area.

To access the Gardner Road Park CWMA, hunters must possess a seasonal permit and schedule their reservation in advance via the Myrtle Grove WMA office. They must also park in the designated parking area. For more information, to reserve access, or to apply for the DNR Southern Region Public Hunting Permit, call the office.

**Maryland Adds 356 Acres to Rural Legacy Areas in Somerset and Worcester Counties** - The State permanently preserved 356 acres of woodland and farmland, eliminating 19 developmental rights through the Rural Legacy Program. Governor Martin O'Malley and the Board of Public Works approved funding for the two easements in the Dividing Creek Rural Legacy area at today's meeting in Annapolis. "We are grateful that these landowners have shown their commitment to conversation and preserving Maryland's valuable natural resources," said Governor O'Malley. "Rural Legacy easements provide habitat for critical plants and animals, protect forests that clean our air and water, and save beautiful landscapes from development so they can continue to be enjoyed by future generations."

In Somerset County, the 192-acre Dolan property links other protected areas to create a contiguous block of preserved lands in the Dividing Creek Watershed. The easement extinguishes nine developmental rights and permanently protects the habitat to a variety of plant and animal life, including forest interior dwelling



species, raptors and migratory song birds. The protected land will also improve water quality by protecting 6,600 linear feet of riparian buffers along Dividing Creek, a tributary of the Pocomoke River. In Worcester County, the 165-acre Brummitt property links other protected areas to create a contiguous block of preserved lands in the Dividing Creek Watershed. The easement extinguishes 10 developmental rights and permanently protects the habitat to a variety of plant and animal life, including forest interior dwelling species, migratory song birds and raptors. With the addition of these easements, 33 percent of the 23,000-acre Dividing Creek Rural Legacy Area is currently protected.

## South East Report

(Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, Florida, Tennessee, Arkansas)

by *Ethan Rodrigue – Regional Representative*

By the time this edition of our quarterly reaches you, I'm sure you will have already added great memories from this fall. As usual, it's been really hectic between work, family, and of course hunting. For those of you that don't frequent the PBS website, we have some really cool hunts planned in our region. I have been in contact with several members from around the Southeast region who have volunteered to help out, but we can still use more help. If you would like to help out in anyway, please feel free to contact me at any time. It won't require much of your time, and as the old saying goes, "you get out of something what you put into it". This couldn't be more appropriate within OUR PBS!

**Tennessee:** I have laid out details on the website for an upcoming spring turkey hunt here in Tennessee. This will be held at Fall Creek Falls State Park, the most visited park in our state, and for good reason. This hunt is an archery only hunt and there is roughly 4,000 acres available to hunt. The hunt will be held April 4 through 12. The limit is one turkey per day, not to exceed two birds. License fees for non-residents are;

7 Day All Game - \$175.00, Annual All Game - \$251.00.

Fall Creek Falls has several thousand additional acres that are "additions" and are managed like wilderness areas. Anyone interested in hunting these areas will need an additional "type 94" special season/WMA nonquota big game license at a cost of \$21.00.

Group lodging, primitive camping and modern campsites are all available as well as a modern inn complete with a great buffet style restaurant. This would be a great chance to take your wife along for a mini-vacation. At well over 200 feet the park boasts the largest waterfall east of the Rocky Mountains, as well as many other falls, cascades, and caves waiting to be explored. We are an hour drive from Chattanooga so there will be plenty of opportunity for shopping, sightseeing, or visiting the large aquarium, Imax theaters, and beautiful downtown river front area. My wife Trena has volunteered to take any "significant others" on a tour the Saturday of the hunt. As the dates get closer and we have a better idea of how many people will be coming we can nail down specific dates.

**Georgia – Matt Schuster:** The 2014 PBS Blackbeard Island hunt is drawing near! We have 12 bowhunters scheduled to make this hunt. Reservations have already been made for the boat charters to the island. Anyone that hasn't already made arrangements for this hunt, but wants to go needs to contact me (matt@dixenterprises.net, 404-386-2229). You can also check the PBS website for updates

**Louisiana – Russell Lantier:** There is a bowfishing trip in late March/early April. This will be a chartered night trip in the coastal marshes of South Louisiana. Bowfishing will be on two nights for primarily red fish as well as drum, sheephead, and alligator garfish. Space is extremely limited because of available space on the boats. Total costs of the trip is around \$275.00 per person, per night. This includes lodging. When you consider the costs of the airboats, maintenance, and fuel this is quite a bargain. If you've never been bowfishing on airboats at night time in the Louisiana marsh, trust me, it is a very unique experience and one that will not be soon forgotten! Anyone interested can contact Ethan and he can get you in touch with Russell (woodsmanbows@yahoo.com, (931) 239-3890).

## Pacific Rim

(Alaska, Hawaii, New Zealand, Australia, Pacific Rim Islands)

by *Steve Hohensee – Regional Representative*

**Alaska:** Steve recruited Tim McKinley to serve as our PBS State Representative for Alaska. Tim is a ADFG biologist too so we get two for the price of one

Beginning July 1, 2016, all hunters using bow and arrow to hunt big game, IN ANY HUNT, must have successfully completed a department-approved bowhunter certification course. (International Bowhunter Education Program (IBEP) or equivalent certification; ADF&G recognizes approved hunter education courses from other states). I'm not sure of which actual standard will meet their needs, but one should be aware of this new regulation so you will not be surprised should you be planning a trip. They also have banned drones and exploding salt licks for those of you that were planning on using these tactics! 🦋

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# Larry O. Fischer

March 22, 1957 – October 18, 2014

The Professional Bowhunters Society® lost one of its most passionate and energetic brethren with the passing of Life Member and Past-President Larry O. Fischer. Larry had fought a valiant and courageous battle with pancreatic cancer in the fourteen months prior to his death. On October 18, 2014, Larry “set up hunting camp in Heaven’s backcountry” while surrounded by his loving family.

Larry was born on March 22, 1957 in Richfield, Utah and later moved to Boise, Idaho with his parents, Bernie and Pat Fischer, and younger brother, Tony. He attended college at Utah State University, where he met and married Belinda Lee Shores. Larry and Belinda were blessed with four children, Blake, Diana, Jake, and Rebecca.

A lifelong hunter, fisherman, and outdoorsman, Larry’s passion was traditional bowhunting. In 1989, Larry helped to bring about a traditional bowhunting renaissance when he co-founded Traditional Bowhunter Magazine© where he continued to serve as Advertising Manager and Co-Publisher until his death.

Larry served PBS as a Councilman, Vice-President, and President and was instrumental in developing and implementing the current PBS Code of Ethics, which exemplifies the high ideals and ethics of fair-chase bowhunting that every member of PBS aspires to achieve. He was tireless in his efforts to preserve bowhunting traditional values and was always ready to lead by example. In addition to his leadership position with PBS, Larry also served as Past-President of the Treasure Valley Bowhunters, Past-President of the Idaho Traditional Bowhunters, and Past-President of the Idaho Irrigation Equipment Association. He was an active member of the Idaho Traditional Bowhunters, Traditional Bowhunters of Montana, and Traditional Archers of Oregon. At the time of his death, Larry served on the National Board of Directors of the Backcountry Hunters and Anglers.

Larry traveled the world with bow in hand, hunting throughout Alaska, Canada, the United States, and Africa. On each and



Larry on a moose hunt in British Columbia, Canada.

every adventure, Larry turned strangers into friends and was a true ambassador for traditional bowhunting and the ethics of fair-chase.

Larry is survived by his loving wife, Belinda, their son Blake, grandchildren Marlie Jane and Cash Owen; daughter Diana (Hans) Buckner, granddaughter Oakley Rose; son Jake (Sarah), granddaughter Charlee Elizabeth; daughter Rebecca (Hank) Harrison; brother, Tony, and; his mother, Pat. He was preceded in death by his father, Bernie, and his beloved bird dog, Buddy.

PBS extends its deepest sympathies and condolences to Larry’s family. He will be sorely missed and never forgotten.

## Larry Fischer, My Friend

Frankly I am not certain when I met Larry Fischer. Of course it was centered around a bowhunting event. It was, I believe in the 90’s at the Youth Hunting trips held by PBS. For those of you who knew Larry, you already know his passion for bowhunting, mentoring, and living life in an exemplary fashion. So, I am not going to belabor any of those. Bowhunting, without question, is better for having the likes of Larry Fischer press the virtues of our sport. Many of us are better for having known Larry. But that is not what I per-

sonally want to say about Larry Fischer.

What I will speak of is Larry’s personality. I know a lot of bowhunters. I have associated with many men that are great mentors to others less skilled in bowhunting. Also, if you were ever around Larry very long, it was evident he was a genuine fine man.

Larry’s character caused me to gravitate to him, because he was whom he appeared to be. There are people that didn’t like Larry for the passion he had for the outdoors. Some didn’t like the way he fought

ATV access to the “wild places”. Others didn’t like his staunch stance for traditional equipment, in opposition to the technology side of the sport. But I truly believe anyone that found themselves at odds with Larry, or his positions, could never say, “he was in it for himself or personal gain.”

So much of the sports world has become a boon for people wanting to make a buck off someone else’s passion, or just elevate themselves in another’s eyes by touting their prowess. Larry was never an opportunist regarding the outdoors or his pas-



sion, bowhunting. Of course he was involved with a magazine, but that involvement wasn't about making money. It was about furthering his and others' interest in the sport of bowhunting.

In life of course we meet many people. For me, my relationship with Larry was the type of relationship I seek in the person I call "friend". There was a quality in Larry where I knew what he said was not said with animus, envy or spite. What he spoke was from the very core of who he was as a man, and that is a rare quality today. Some are driven by pride, deceit, agendas and other such issues. Not so with Larry Fischer. His speech and actions were considered before speaking or acting. And, we held each other mutually accountable.

Before Larry passed, I had the opportunity to visit in his home and spend time just talking. We discussed, barring a miracle, the cancer would be his end.

It was then I told him that I admired and respected him as a man. It was the truth. Larry and I didn't always see eye to eye on issues. But we always saw eye to eye on our relationship as friends. That relationship was predicated on truth and trust. There are few men I have known in life that I could have the conversations I had with Larry and know that when we walked away we were the same friends we were before the conversation.

Some of you will not understand what I am about to write. Some of you will.

In my visit to Larry's home in September, there were a couple of times Larry and I were alone together in his living room. We talked openly and frankly as we always did. During one of these times Larry leaned forward in his chair in great pain from the cancer. I got down on my knees on the floor in front of him. I took Larry's hand and

sat there. He squeezed my hand and began to cry, two grown men, sharing pain and crying together. Larry was, and is, my friend. When my wife and I drove away from Larry and Belinda's home, we, the four of us, knew it would be the last time we saw them both together. They stood on the porch, Larry, with his arm around Belinda, smiling and saying good bye.

I hope you have a friend that you can take their hand and cry with them. When you do you will know you have a friend, a true friend, with a friendship based on truth and trust.

Larry and I hunted together, and shared our passion for bowhunting through the PBS. I loved Larry Fischer. And he loved me. We told each other so. Larry Fisher, my friend.

*Louie Adams*

# Upcoming Election and Voting Items for January 2015

## Candidates Running for Office:

### President:

Jim Akenson  
John Vargo

### Vice President:

Norm Johnson  
Cory Mattson

### 3 Year Council:

Terry Receveur  
Matt Schuster

*There will be a 20 day period  
for return of ballots  
for election candidates.*

## Ballot Items (Proposed By-Law Amendments).

A thorough description of each By-Law Amendment will be including in the ballot mailing. The ballot initiative votes must be returned within 30 days after mailing from Home Office to be counted. A brief summary of the ballot initiatives are as follows:

- 1) Elimination of the 50# minimum for Regular Members.
- 2) Proposed amendment for investment of Life Membership Funds, offering a "prudent gains" investment option – for current and future Life Members. Current Life Members would have an opportunity to "opt" in-or-out to this.
- 3) To reconcile the current discrepancy between Council candidate election return-time allowed (20 days) and ballot initiative (30 days) and make them both (30 days) for a return ballot postmark, plus an additional allowance for receipt by Secretary-Treasurer of (45 days).



# Candidate Profiles

## President Candidate

### Jim Akenson

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Phone: 1-541-398-2636 Email: micaake@yahoo.com

It has been, and still is, an honor to serve the PBS membership as president for the past couple of years. The obvious question is why would I want to take on another term as president having served all the Council offices and now president – again? Even my wife Holly questions why I would want to volunteer to do this! In all seriousness it relates to finishing, or in some cases better starting, unfinished business. And, very importantly, maintaining a strong working relationship between the Council, the Home Office, and the Membership – including Committees. I see this relationship as an “iron triangle” with each point, or cornerstone, having equal importance.

I feel there has been much accomplished recently to revitalize our organization. This current Council has built well on the accomplishments of previous Councils, capitalizing on opportunities of the current times. This includes; establishing a more responsive voting process, beginning a program for strengthening regional identity and involvement, and moving towards a more positive communication structure. I feel that these recent changes will better bring the membership together and provide more “membership rewards,” such as participating in group hunts, gatherings, and regional events. As an organization our strength is our “Knowledge Through Experience,” and the promoting of this is best done face to face where we can demonstrate the merits of participating in bowhunting the PBS way!

So if re-elected what are my top priorities or goals? I’ll lay out the top ten ones that I think have the highest importance:

To unify our membership to restore our organizational identity. We need to hallmark those things we do that make us special, and find common ground throughout our diverse membership.

To fulfill establishing regional representation of PBS with an active schedule of hunts, events, and other activities which foster strong fraternalism.

To promote ethical bowhunting – both regionally and nationally. And to carry this message to state and national bowhunting rule makers.

To update our website so it is more versatile and informative for members and visitors alike.

To grow our membership while holding to our time-honored bowhunting standards and traditional ways.

To continue to work closely with Home Office to ensure that our dedicated staff has the resources needed to do their job of serving the membership and running the day-to-day operations of PBS.

To expand membership involvement in PBS leadership. The regional program will be a major asset through members having the chance to be representative leaders. Building and activating our established committees will also provide more leadership opportunity. Ultimately, I see this enhanced involvement as a tool to both engage our membership and identify and train future PBS leaders.

To pursue diversified funding sources to augment the existing framework provided through Biennial Gatherings and other auctions. We need multiple types of smaller fund raising activities to broaden our funding base, and a better regional structure should augment this goal.

To facilitate the goals and ambitions of the Committees. The Publicity Committee has improved our show booths and is revving up for St. Augustine in 2016. The Bowhunting Preservation Committee is gearing up to produce PBS



specific media products. The Conservation Committee will get back to supporting actual conservation projects. And, the newly formed Regional Representation program will be launching many regional events. They all need membership participation and Council support.

To help ensure that our magazine maintains its high level of quality and is even more usable as a recruiting tool.

I think that outlines my intentions in pursuing re-election. I would be honored to serve another term if elected. Also, I consider it an honor to run against John Vargo for this important position. John has been a champion of PBS for many years and he has contributed in many ways to the well-being of our beloved organization. I think we have a great lineup of candidates in all three open Council positions. I would welcome serving alongside any of these candidates. So, please look over the credentials and views of each candidate carefully – and then most importantly VOTE!

Sincerely,

**Jim Akenson**



## President Candidate John Vargo

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Phone: 1-319-331-1997 Email: John1597@aol.com

I am a candidate for the office of President. First a little background on myself. I began shooting a bow and arrow as a teenager in the late 1960's and progressed to bowhunting being my primary interest a few years later. I joined PBS as an Associate member in the mid-1970's. I was accepted as a Regular member in the mid-1980's and became a Life Regular Member when that program was initiated. I served one term as PBS Councilman in the early 1990's. I have been a very active member over the years: writing numerous articles for The Professional Bowhunter magazine, serving several years as chairman of the PBS Anti-Crossbow Committee, setting up and helping man the PBS booth at numerous archery/bowhunting-related events to recruit new members, attending every one of the PBS biannual Conventions/Banquets since they began in 1986. I like to think that I have a pretty good perspective regarding the history and roots of this organization as well as having insight regarding the desires of the membership.

These are difficult times for PBS. Membership is at an all-time low. Our relevance and leadership among the bowhunting community is not what it once was. In-fighting amongst our membership over equipment issues and organizational direction threatens to tear this proud organization apart. Strong leadership is needed to revitalize our organization and membership. Choose your Council wisely. They are the ones that will be providing the direction and leading the effort to revitalize PBS.

Recruitment of new, qualified members has to be one of our top priorities, as well as retention of existing members. We need more members. More members provides us with more clout as an organization and helps provide better financial security. As an organization, we need to be more proactive in defining who we are and do a better job getting our message of ethical bowhunting out to the masses. PBS is not for most bowhunters. We need to be selective and focus on recruiting experienced, ethical bowhunters that are receptive to our message and what we stand for.

PBS is first and foremost an organization where experienced, ethical bowhunters can gather and associate. We are primarily a fraternal organization and need not apologize for it. We are not the NRA of

bowhunting and do not have the clout/resources to try to be. Some would like for PBS to be the "equipment police" of bowhunting. I do not support this. We need to spend more time explaining to bowhunters what we stand for and spend less time preaching about what we oppose. We are becoming defined by what we oppose rather than what we support. "Knowledge through experience" is what we have to offer our fellow bowhunters. Another motto that I like to use for how I think PBS should operate is "Leadership by Example."

In-fighting over equipment threatens to tear PBS apart. It must stop. I do not support the vocal minority that want PBS to be "traditional only". There are other organizations that persons of this mindset may join and support if they desire. PBS is, and should be, a refuge where ethical, experienced bowhunters may gather. The bow that you carry should not be considered a litmus test for whether you can belong or whether you can qualify to become a Regular member. All qualified members should be treated with the respect they deserve, not scorned or ridiculed because they choose to use legal equipment that some prefer not to use.

Part of our mission as an organization should be the promotion of ethical bowhunting and traditional bowhunting values. Our partnering with the Pope and Young Club to produce the video "Journey of Challenge" is a great example of how we can get our message out to other bowhunters who know little of us and what we stand for. We are a small organization with meager resources (membership numbers and finances) which limits our ability to effectively get our message out to others. Partnering with other responsible organizations can help us get our message delivered to bowhunters who otherwise would not hear it. We need to work with other groups if we want to once again be relevant in the bowhunting community. Working with others does not mean we have to abandon our principals and core beliefs...but it will require us to be more open-minded, tolerant, and respectful of opinions that may differ from ours.

Several other new benefits/programs are worth mentioning. (1) The PBS website is a great benefit to the organization,



providing a place where members can socialize, get the latest up to date information regarding what is happening in PBS, membership gatherings and hunts, etc. We need to continue to invest resources in maintaining and improving our presence in social media as this is how many people now communicate and gather information they need. Information can be posted there much faster than paper mail or the magazine. All communications on the website should be conducted in a civil and polite manner. (2) Off-year gatherings, in the form of organized shoots or hunts, are becoming more frequent and are providing members with more opportunities to gather and socialize. The recent Regional Representatives program further expands on the concept of providing members with more opportunities to gather with fellow members. When asked "Why should I join PBS?" or "What do I get for my money when I join?", we should point out the opportunities that new members gain to socialize with other like-minded bowhunters and participate in such activities.

Should I be elected by the membership, the decisions that I make will always reflect on what I think is in the best interests of PBS and bowhunting in general. I think Jim Akenson, our current president, has been doing a good job and is providing the effective leadership that this proud organization needs. He deserves a second term as President and I hope that you will support him in this election. Should you decide you want a change in leadership, I will happily accept your vote.

**John Vargo**



# Candidate Profiles

## Vice Pres. Candidate Norm Johnson

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I'd like to start by saying it is an honor to both serve in this great fraternal organization and to be asked to run for PBS Vice-President. I had the wonderful opportunity and experience to serve a 3-year term on Council from 2009-2012. I was privileged to work with past Presidents Kevin Bahr, Bob Seltzer and with our current president Jim Akenson. The exemplary professionalism, leadership skills and unwavering work ethic of these men have given me a strong foundation on which to build.

I am 51 years old and have been married to my wife Kathy for 29 years. We have 3 great kids (all married) and 2 grandchildren. I am a life member of the Traditional Archers of Oregon. I have also served as an Elder for the Reedsport Christian Church for the past 11 years. My faith and my family come first in my life.

I have been strictly a traditional bowhunter for the last 27 years. Traditional bowhunting is my way of life. Like so many in this organization I began by making a lot of my own hunting equipment early on. I founded the Blacktail Bow Company in 1991. It has been a full time job (and then some!) from day one. I recently acquired a partner, fellow PBS member Alan Pope, and we have expanded with another bow manufacturing facility in Bloomington, Indiana.

Like so many organizations, whether hunting related or otherwise, the changing times have presented many issues with holding and growing membership. Competing with the internet and social media have made the old ways of staying connected and exchanging informa-

tion obsolete. The PBS has made some great strides with the current interactive website and the newly formed regional representation program. The regional reps program is a wonderful opportunity for like-minded members to get together – whether to share a hunt, shoot a 3-D course, or other outdoor activity. Doing “real activities” is something the internet and social media can't compete with. I believe the PBS will need to move forward the inception of these types of programs to keep members connected throughout the time between our biennial banquet gatherings.

There is a lot of interest in more shared hunting opportunities for the membership body. The sharing of our time and our knowledge on a face level is key to the survival and growth of the PBS. It will take leadership with a strong vision and active members to help bring these experiences to light. For some it can fulfill a dream.

In my 3 year term on Council I felt it was of utmost importance to keep up good communications with the membership body. That meant being available to answer any questions or concerns whether through email or phone calls. If elected I would treat this term no differently.

The PBS represents an organization like no other. There is a reason, or in fact a number of reasons, it has survived for over 50 years. “Knowledge Through Experience” and the expected conduct of professionalism, while representing the sport of bowhunting, are the 2 pillars



that set our organization apart and above any other bowhunting or pro hunting organization in existence.

I recognize that a big role of the VP is to coordinate the biennial gathering. I am up for this and excited about the prospect of being in Florida in March, 2016! One thing I learned from the three past presidents mentioned above is to delegate tasks. Ultimately, by involving as many members as possible it becomes apparent that this event is *for the members – by the members*. These Gatherings are our celebration of who we are: the world's most dedicated and knowledgeable bowhunters!

In closing I want to express my gratitude to the membership for this leadership opportunity. I also want to vow, as in my previous term, that I will uphold the constitution and bylaws of this organization to the best of my knowledge and ability and finally pass on a quote so fitting of this organization, “Show me your friends and I'll show you your future.” (JR Briggs)

Sincerely,

**Norm Johnson**



**Vice Pres. Candidate  
Cory Mattson**

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Phone: 1-919-895-8106   Email: [corymattson@windstream.net](mailto:corymattson@windstream.net)

## PBS MOVING FORWARD

Some thoughts.

Trade ad space with each state organization: Develop a trade of business card sized ad space with each state traditional organization. We run their ad each time we print. They run ours each time they print. I do not want to get into whether an organization prints one, two, four or twelve times a year. Trade a year and go. If there is a mainstream state organization interested in PBS we welcome the trade with them as well.

Sponsor a banner on Tradgang.com. If PBS does not bring in enough new members in one year to offset the cost we stop the program.

Talking about Tradgang reminds me that our website is operating way under potential. Friends, PBS is trying to limp along using members to carry a box of rocks for free and this is not working. We need to hire a professional who can really do stuff and want to do it and appointed website committee members and a Councilman or two can make changes to keep it real time.

I think we should print PBS business cards and ask each member vendor we have a strong relationship with to put one in each box they ship. Maybe give a pile of brochures too for guys like Dick Robertson, Jerry Brumm, Black Widow Bows, Dave Windauer Silvertip bows.

ATV policy: I would support dropping the ‘unstringing bows and casing bows’ language and will put that in front of our members for vote.

I will propose 5 years as a member the minimum to run for Council.

I will propose that 10 years a member be the minimum to run for president.

Magazine participation: I was thinking we should get a gift or prize or hunt of considerable value given by raffle to all who send in articles that get published. The authors name goes in each time an article is sent to the printer. Council reports do not count. The prize or hunt should be drawn annually. The winner would be asked to write an article about the hunt if that is the prize won. The winner would be allowed to give the hunt away.

Put the CONSERVATION back into the Conservation Committee with real work that is legitimately conservation. I remember when we were involved with moose trap and transfer. Somewhere along the line our committee came off the rails and got to the point we were giving our members hard earned dollars away as supposed scholarships. For years I was assigned this task and can see first hand how so many people used PBS money in a way that has nothing to do with PBS, bowhunting or conservation. We should also require our conservation chair and committee to provide real time updates on conservation issues.

What is the status of our relationship with TBM?

Virtual PBS Library: I am thinking we need a virtual digital library. Instructional shorts and maybe “This Is The PBS Youtube channel? Topics would be woodcraft skills, sharpening broadheads, building bows, stitching leather, building fire, making water safe to drink, food plots construction, treestand safety. Thinking we add only approved shorts. Selling e-copies of the classics like Alaska Bowmen and books like Floating Alaska’s Rivers, 1000 Campfires and out of print stuff would be very helpful I think to inspire individuals to adventure and communicate our ethic and attitude.

Internally we PBS members applying for qualified/voting we should add that the number of animals presented as part of the qualified/voting member must be harvested with traditional archery tackle. Recurves, longbows, flatbows. Arrows using fixed blade designs and the broadhead / arrow combination must have a minimum weight of 435 grains (1 oz). Arrow shaft materials acceptable are wood, aluminum, glass, graphite, composites, bamboo, cane, reed, and hex spliced.

These criteria presented there is no bias against nor censorship from use of (aiming-sights, replaceable blade heads, primitive arrows, stone points, organic bows and other equipment purchased or homemade)

The main reason and purpose of this new organized benchmark of what is needed to become a “qualified/voting”



member is to demonstrate to the mainstream hunting public these traditional designs are effective tools in the disciplined woodsman's hands. We further remind decision makers that these are the tools which "bow-only" seasons and "bow-only areas" were created for. At a time when game stocks were much depleted the traditional hunting archer was the conservation minded steward purchasing licenses and giving fair chase. Much of the success of modern scientific wildlife management can be attributed to the ethics and participation and self restraint of these bow hunters. The PBS continues to recognize and promote this conservation ethic.

Associates who have decided to become “qualified/voting” members of PBS should begin immediately after making their decision to document their journey using traditional archery tackle. Understood most will have already done this if they are drawn to PBS.

I am not a fan of the youth hunts but can see the value of these if the regional representatives program absorbs these. Not saying it was a bad idea I just don't see the success. We do have excellent members who have attended but these would have become so anyway.

These are a few thoughts. Last year we established approving regular applications in weeks instead of months. Some more follow through is needed on this issue. 2/3rds is a reality and no longer will this be the excuse for inaction. St. Augustine is coming and I will be busy working that too.

Traditionally Yours for better bowhunting,

*Cory Mattson* 



# Candidate Profiles

## 3 Year Councilman Candidate

### Matt Schuster

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Phone: 1-404-386-2229 Email: matt@dixenterprises.net

First, I appreciate the confidence and support of those who asked that I consider running for this office. Wayne Hoffman recruited me into the P.B.S. almost thirty years ago, and the organization has become increasingly important to me. Many of my most memorable hunts came courtesy of guys that I never would have met were it not for the P.B.S., and I have had the pleasure of hosting quite a few members in the swamps of Georgia to chase hogs as well. I belong to several other outdoor-oriented organizations but the only one in which I am active is the Traditional Bowhunters of Georgia where I have served as newsletter editor, vice-president, and president.

My main goal if elected is to support and strengthen the state representative initiative started by the current officers. The success of this program is critical to insure that our organization stays a healthy, vibrant, and relevant organization. We have dropped from a high of 2800 members to below 1300. Quantity is not everything, and there will always be those who join for whatever reason and drop when they realize they don't belong. 2800 may not be the right number, but we do need to recruit and retain the right kind of bowhunters, especially some younger ones that can continue the work as many of us age. Right now, I fear many bowhunters who belong in the P.B.S., especially younger ones, just do not see much reason to join. They can network and meet like-minded bowhunters over the internet, and may not realize what they are missing by not giving us a hard look. I am not suggesting we recruit any and all bowhunters, but we do need those that believe in our core values – woodsman-

ship, patience, short-range bowhunting, earned success, and a reliance on traditional bowhunting methods. We need no fundamental changes to these core values, but we need to achieve some smart growth by changing our image a bit, and attracting the right kind of bowhunters.

We do that by relentlessly promoting the things we believe in a constant and overwhelmingly positive way. I once asked a very qualified bowhunter why he was not in P.B.S. and he said, "Oh, you mean that group that is against everything? I am not joining a club just to be told what not to do." Now admittedly, he did not know or understand the P.B.S., but he thought he did, and that is a big part of the problem. There are many qualified traditional bowhunters out there who should be in P.B.S. but have a misunderstanding of what we are about. I believe we need to spend our efforts telling folks what we are for, over and over again, and not what any of us is personally against. I believe the regional rep program offers the perfect vehicle for this effort. Already our club has a number of new ambassadors throughout the country talking about the P.B.S. and this is leading to more P.B.S. group hunts and off-year gatherings. This can't do anything but help all our members feel more connected and more likely to actively recruit folks they believe belong on our team. The more P.B.S. members gather, for any reason, the stronger we will get. My guess is that very few members who regularly attend our Biannual Gatherings or a group hunt ever drop out. We also need to make a



conscious effort to market ourselves with state traditional bowhunting organizations, and on Tradgang, Leatherwall, and any other sites where traditional bowhunters gather. Not to recruit everyone, but to reach the right ones. And I do mean traditional bowhunters because P.B.S. is a traditional bowhunting organization. I personally don't care if we officially declare ourselves to be traditional or not because any involved member knows that in practice we already are. That said, I know several quality P.B.S. members who shoot compound bows, but they all do so because of age, physical problems, or target panic, and they all have one thing in common. They understand what P.B.S. is about, accept our values, and they should always be welcome with us.

The P.B.S. is important and relevant. Our sport needs a voice promoting the joy and feeling of accomplishment one gets when successfully bowhunting in the way we all know it should be done.

I appreciate your consideration.

Best,

**Matt Schuster**



# Candidate Profiles

## 3 Year Councilman Candidate

### Terry Receveur

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Cell: 1-518-755-9119

Email: Terrance.Receveur@Taconic.com

The purpose of this profile is to describe a little bit about whom I am and what I believe. So, I guess I'll just start with the most important things. I believe in God, family, country, and outdoor pursuits! I try to live my life in support of all of them. I'm very active in our local Church and include family in my outdoor adventures. I love the good old USA, although I've been quite embarrassed by its recent leadership. I've been married to my wonderful wife Tina for 27 years and she has always been very supportive and has on many occasions (from Alaska to Africa) followed me into the field to ensure my safe return. She has also stayed behind many times to raise our four wonderful children.

I'm the youngest of 3 kids born in 1962 in Indiana. I was the 1st Receveur to ever go off to college and earned a BS degree in Animal Science from Purdue University. I then continued on, while working for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, TN, to earn an MBA in Finance. My career has led my family and I to live in TN, VA, PA, IN, and now NY. I am currently the Global Director of Production and Capacity Planning for Taconic, Inc. I'm also a volunteer fireman and treasurer for our local fire company.

I've always tried to be active in state and national bowhunting organizations and am currently a member of several. I've been extremely fortunate to have been able to travel a bit for hunting or

fishing and have been to at least 25 different states including Alaska on nine different occasions. My dad's good friend Mack Collins was the one who got me hooked on bowhunting and I have now been at it for nearly 40 years.

I love the PBS for the opportunities it affords its members to interact with and learn from some of the best bowhunters in the world. Best is NOT defined by who has taken the most animals or by those who have their name in a book more than anyone else. Best are those who pursue game in an ethical and sportsmanlike manner. It's those who recognize the hunt is in the journey and not the destination. It's those who understand the complex relationships between man and nature. It's those who know there are no shortcuts to success. A faster bow, brighter sight, smoother release, or clearer trail camera do NOT guarantee success. In fact, it can detract from what truly defines success; the hunt! Best are those who go afield to enjoy nature, learn about and respect the game they pursue, meet the challenge of the environment, and are just happy to be there. Best are those who know that life isn't about stuff, it's about making memories (that's all we can take with



us). Best are those who know the kill is simply icing. I have been extremely fortunate to hunt with some of PBS's BEST and look forward to many more.

Bowhunting is the solitude of an awakening morning, the sounds, smells, and sights associated with the myriad of God's great creations. It is the ability to have quiet reflective thought and to rejuvenate and reconnect with nature. It is stress reduction, sharing time with family and friends, and matching wits with a wary quarry. It is very good tasting venison, hard work to become proficient, a huge responsibility, and it is FUN!

Please don't forget the most important things in your life and represent all bowhunters in a way to preserve the sport for future generations.

My name is Terry Receveur and I am the PBS. If elected to Council, I'll do my best!

***Terry Receveur***

**Your vote doesn't count if you don't cast it!**  
**Watch your mail for the ballot and make sure you count!**

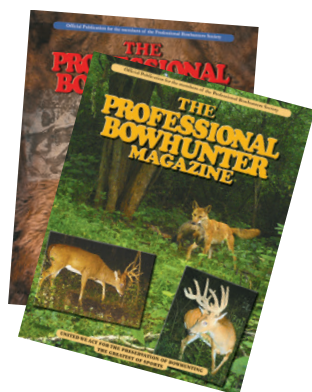


## Thank you for your magazine contributions in 2014!

Gene Wensel  
Barry Wensel  
Fred Richter  
Kevin Bahr  
Jim Akenson  
Steve Hohensee  
Steve Osminski  
Cory Mattson  
Bob Seltzer  
Brenda Kisner  
Gene Hall  
Kim Bucknell  
Gene Thorne  
John Vargo  
Jerry Leveille  
Guy Perkins  
Ted Kinney  
Mark Mitten  
George Belvin  
Matt Schuster

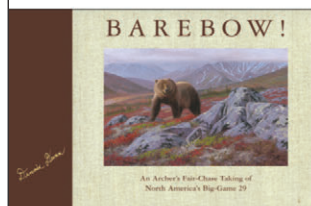
P.J. Petiniot  
Mike Vines  
Johnny Gottler  
Jeff Schulz  
Nick Viau  
Greg Darling  
Ron Lang  
John Stockman  
Ron Tandy  
Tim Jones  
Rob Burnham  
Mike Mitten  
Ron Herman  
Randy Brookshier  
Logan and  
Hunter Anderson  
Louie Adams  
Ben Pinney

Sean Bleakley  
Terrance  
Receveur  
Tony Sanders  
Wayne Capp  
Bryce Lambley  
Alejandro  
Castañeda



### "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*.



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# Sweet November

By Gene Wensel

The second weekend of the magical month of November found me at my brother's home for a few days of serious hunting. The first morning brought 30+ mph winds. Barry said he was going back to bed. I did too but couldn't get back to sleep, so at dawn I decided to take a ride. I didn't get very far down the rural road before I saw deer moving everywhere. I turned around, went back to the house, ate a breakfast, made a lunch, showered and dressed for an all day sit in the wind. I chose a stand we had recently put up called Red Pond Knob. It is located in mature hardwood timber with good structural terrain features and accompanying ground brush.

I was no sooner in the stand, belting myself in, when I saw a basket-racked 4x4 pushing a doe hard through a thicket about 50 yards west of me in the hardwoods. They both moved away. A few minutes later, I spotted a really good buck walking down the adjacent hardwood finger ridge about 60 yards from me. When he hit the doe track, he turned away to follow it. Twenty minutes later, a 4x4 walked behind my stand until he came to the same doe scent trail. A few minutes later, a bigger 5x4 followed. Those two bucks met up about 45 yards west of me when I saw a third buck, the same bigger one I had seen earlier, enter the ring. The three of them started posturing. I turned on the camcorder expecting a fight but the big 6x5

quickly ran off the smaller 4x4, then turned to face the 5x4. The wind had died down a bit, so I wheezed. The 6x5 looked toward me, then turned back to face the 5x4. When I wheezed a second time, he immediately started toward me. Showtime!

He was going to cross broadside on the back side of my stand at about 17-18 yards. I turned the camcorder on and prepared for my shot. Since I had my Bison pack hung on the tree on my left side, I leaned out far enough to clear the pack with my riser. What I didn't account for was my lower limb tip. Upon release, my lower limb tip hit the side rail of the stand with a loud "CLANG!" My arrow missed by five or six feet. Due to the wind, he didn't spook badly, so I let him walk off into the brush.

I saw a total of 14 different bucks that day, mostly before 10am and after 4pm. Only two does were being chased aggressively. Most of the bucks were just cruising.

The next morning I decided to pack in a two dimensional doe decoy. I arrived well before pink light to set up the decoy facing me at about 16-17 paces. I added two wooden clothes pins on her head to make her look like a runt spikehorn buck.

I never saw a deer for over an hour, when two cups of coffee encouraged me to empty my bladder. This stand is hung in a double trunked oak, with the second trunk, half again the size of a telephone pole, just off my left knee. I had hung up my bow and was just zipping up when I turned to adjust my camcorder tree pod, only to see a nice 5x5 standing not 15 feet from my decoy with his ears cocked back. He was locked and loaded! He had approached quietly from directly behind the tree trunk off my left knee. I got my

**When Gene's lower limb hit his ladder railing this buck with a forked G3 walked away.**

Fourth Quarter 2014 • PBS Magazine



bow in position and turned on the camcorder, only to get a warning message that shows up occasionally, something about backing up previous recordings. When that happens, I have to turn the camcorder off to restart it. Right then, the 5x5 made his move on the decoy. As he circled the fake spike from 17-18 yards, a shot was presented slightly quartering away. My Tall Tines spit the quills clean through him so fast I wasn't exactly sure of the hit. The buck took one hop, then started walking away, looking unhurt but confused. He had no idea what had just happened to him. I got another arrow on the string but there was some brush in the way so I just turned on the camcorder. In all honesty, he did not look hit nor hurt whatsoever. It was a good testament to the lack of pain with many vital pass through shots. He appeared confused more than anything. Then he started flicking his tail. I knew it wasn't happy tail wagging. The buck walked out to the 25 yard line and simply laid down. He didn't fall over. There was a depression there so all I could see was his antlers. A few moments later, the rack laid on it's side so I could only see one antler. I still wasn't positive he was hit well so I watched the still antler for 30 minutes. When it didn't move for half an hour, I knew he was toast. My Woodsman had entered four ribs in front of the diaphragm and exited eight ribs up.

I didn't measure him nor weigh him but he's a nice buck, either 4 ½ or 5 ½ years old. I sent his teeth in to be cross sectioned last week. Time will tell, but he's good enough for an old fart running out of deer seasons! 🍂





# DEFINITIONS

Adding  
enough  
of them  
together  
=KTE!

Photo by Holly Akenson

Article By Jim Akenson

It had been a vigorous pace going up to the timbered bench and I was amazed that Vern could stay close to me given the fact he was over twice my age and had been living at sea level on the outskirts of Corvallis, Oregon. By then (1987) I had spent 5 years living amidst the biggest and most rugged wilderness in the lower 48 states – in the heart of central Idaho’s Salmon River Mountains. I felt tuned and ready for any terrain! “Let’s drop our packs over by Cliff Creek and see if we can’t rattle in a buck, I said.” Vern said back, “I think I’ll just still hunt around the east side of the bench, this powder snow is perfect for still-hunting and there’s a lot of sign here.” I said sure, figuring that Vern just wanted some space to apply his blacktail hunting skills, even though our quarry was mule deer. My hunting style at that time was “run and gun mixed with spot and stalk.” I was all of 30 years old in 1987 and I hadn’t figured out yet that bowhunting could take on many different methods, and some of those entailed patience and wise choices. “Vern, maybe I’ll pop on up to the ridge top – do some antler rattling and meet you back here at camp about dark.” I took off quickly but glanced back to see Vern – clad in Army

green wool, pulling an olive green wool balaclava over his head. “Sheesh, I thought, I’d cook in that outfit...sure couldn’t cover any ground in that garb!”

I came into camp a bit after dark and Vern was cuddled up under a big fir tree with a little camp-fire going. “Do any good?” He whispered as I moved into the fire-light. “Oh I jumped a couple of bucks but nothing seemed interested in the antler rattling, how about you?” He said, “I shaved hair on the chest of a nice 4 point at about 12 yards...over on the edge of the flat.” “How’d you get so close?” “Oh, just still-hunting, real slow, over where all those tracks were that we saw coming in this afternoon. I also didn’t really pick a spot – guess he caught me by surprise!” After some dinner and a customary shot of blackberry brandy I asked Vern, “So, how do you define still-hunting?” He said back, “Well, simply, you spend less time moving than you do stopped and looking for game, and you can adapt the pace of travel to the situation. He continued, “Really the key is to move slowly – not noticeable, like the second hand of a clock.” I said, “It seems like it needs a different name, like slow stalking or something like that.” “No, I think it makes sense once you get into the pattern of it, I’ve shot more game that way than any

other method...I can’t believe I didn’t pick a spot – it’s so simple and so basic!” I didn’t comment back to Vern, especially on picking a spot – been there, done that! Yet, I logged this conversation in my memory bank...and under the category of bowhunting definitions.

As I lay in my sleeping bag listening to the rain on the roof of our Alaknak wall tent, I reflected back to that hunt with Vern Struble 27 years earlier. It was now September, 2014. Vern passed away 2 years earlier but I frequently thought of things he had said. Vern was my sponsor for PBS regular membership and that trip mentioned above is when I asked him if he’d endorse my regular membership application. Those were great memories! Back to the present, it was exactly the middle of Oregon’s elk bow season and I hadn’t called in a single bull elk in 2 weeks of trying, and calling was something I was usually fairly effective at. I was hunting the same place in Oregon’s Cheshinmus Unit that Wisconsin bowhunting friend Ron Lang and I had hunted the year before. Ron and I had more action, but conditions had been better with intermittent rain throughout September. Actually, Ron and I were able to be fairly effective still-hunting along well-worn game trails, hmmm. I could hear Holly stirring in her sleeping bag

and saying, "It rained pretty hard last night, didn't it?" "Yep, and I'm going to try some still-hunting today, given this rain, and forget about calling in these silent bulls." She said, "That sounds good" as I slipped out the tent flap into the darkness.

The air felt wonderful, and smelled great too – cool, damp, and earthy smelling. As I walked down the dirt logging road I noticed in my headlamp beam the distinctive track of a cougar made a short time before. I thought to myself – and given these red-hot cat tracks, probably not a good time for cow-calf talk anyway! I quickly hiked the half mile to the spur ridge with the intent of very slowly "still-hunting" down slope with the prevailing wind in my face. It felt good to have wet ground under my light weight hikers and fleece pants brushing against tall grass. I thought of the cougar and its hunting method – very similar, but with the advantage of being low to the ground. My focus was on spotting elk parts while intently looking through the narrow alley ways amidst dense forest. Then wait,

there's movement! Sure enough, at 80 yards was the back of an elk. Soon I saw the antlers of a 5 point bull who was actively feeding on low-lying fescue grass with his eyes concealed by taller, courser grasses. The wind was still favorable, the ground was quiet under foot, as I moved through light but adequate cover. The bull moved to a patch of fir trees with dangling lichen hanging from low branches. He intently pulled off the lichen and ate it as if it were cotton candy. Time went by, in fact, I noticed almost 30 minutes of time had elapsed since I started this stalk.

The wind was shifting as the sun began filtering through the trees. I had an arrow nocked and ready and the range to the bull was well inside 30 yards. I needed to make this happen. His feeding had taken him into heavier cover so I moved a bit more deliberately while looking for a shooting window. Once, I started to draw when his head and shoulders went behind a big pine tree but I couldn't see the crease of the shoulder which only provided me a liver hit option at best, not good enough so I let the string on my recurve back down. Finally with his head reaching up in the branches I saw a "doable" shooting window. There were two dead-sticks that caught my attention that diagonaled downward across the bulls chest, but 5 yards closer to me. If I threaded them my shot would be angling forward into the lungs. My focus was shifting between the little branches and the crease behind the bull's shoulder, a mere 25 yards distant. I held at full draw until the arrow dashed from my fingers. There was an explosion of elk and branches breaking as the bull headed off on a run. Instinctively, I snatched up my Sceery cow call and gave a short calf squeal. I heard the bull stop and then I saw him walk cautiously into an opening - 45 yards distant. I had to cut yardage off if another shot was possible. On my hands and knees I mixed crawling with occasional calf-elk calls. After 12

yards or so I was totally out of cover. Amazingly the bull still stared at me from the opening, just a shade over 30 yards I figured. This would have to be it, if I were to shoot again. The bull was perfectly broad-side. Only problem was another pair of pesky branches were in the way. Shoot over or under them? I opted for just clearing them. The arrow looked perfect as it almost touched the fir branches and cut a straight line right behind the bulls shoulder. Thump! The arrow sounded like it hit home perfectly, and the bull ran off like a scalded cat – a good sign!

I bided some time before following up on the second shot by looking for the first shot arrow. I concluded that the dense moss in the old growth forest had inhaled my arrow. After 30 minutes I went over to the second shot and quickly found the torn-up ground from the bull accelerating – post shot. Looking downslope I saw the bright yellow fletch of my arrow...penetrated well into a half rotten log. Dang...another miss! What had I done wrong? I sat on the log and ate some snacks. Reflecting, I really hadn't picked a spot – on either of those shots! Something so simple, so basic - as spot picking, had been forgotten, truly amazing! As I walked back to camp I couldn't help but ponder my recent events and putting them into a broader context. You would think after 44 years of elk hunting I would know better. What had I failed to do? It was so obvious. I had failed to pull together enough of those bowhunting definitions that we live by. That PBS generated phrase "Knowledge Through Experience" (KTE) comes to mind. Hmmm, I thought, I've always tried to make more of that saying than meets the eye. What it really means, plain and simple, is wisdom! Even after so many years it seems we can forget our basics. There are all kinds of phrases and definitions within our PBS bowhunting world: true instinctive shooting, traditional values, professional conduct,

conservation of wildlife, just to name a few. Maybe the KTE concept is just one equation which represents many bowhunting definitions? I know that post-elk season musings can turn into ramblings, but somehow doing the act of what we talk, and think about all year can give us a refreshed focus and clarity of definition. ✦

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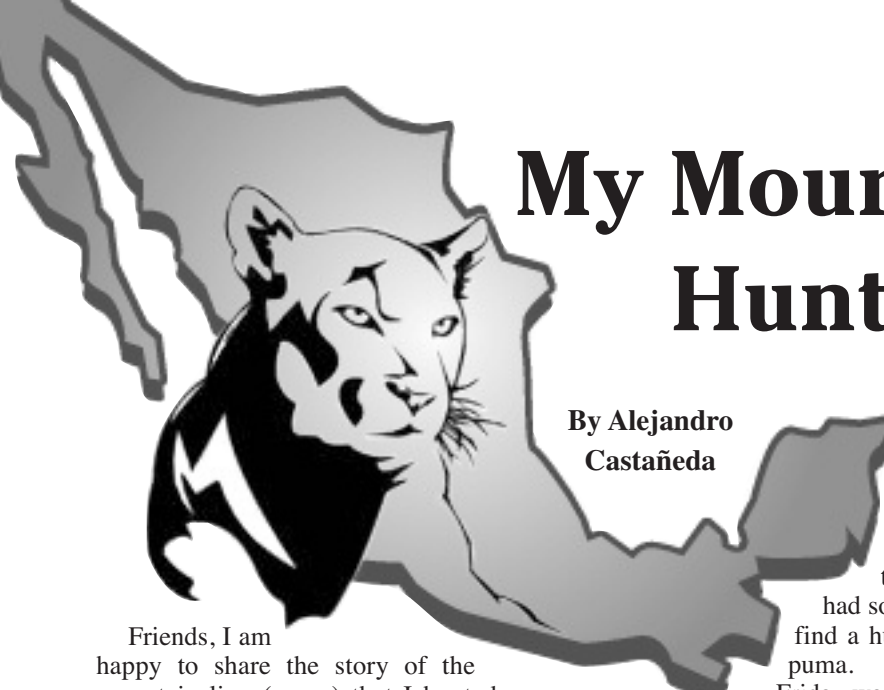
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# My Mountain Lion Hunt in Mexico

By Alejandro Castañeda

Friends, I am happy to share the story of the mountain lion (puma) that I hunted one year ago in the mountains of Mamulique, Mexico.

The adventure began on a Thursday, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. One of the boys from the ranch called me on my cell phone, and told me he was on a routine horse ride watching the cattle, when suddenly on the edge of a canyon, found a very fresh kill. It was a young deer covered by several branches and grass (in Mexico we call this "el tapado") and he immediately knew it had been taken by a puma. The rancher had already called "Chapita", a renowned game tracker with a reputation that goes back over 40 years of tracking game with his dogs, or as he refers to them as "his kids". Chapita agreed to arrive at the ranch the next day at 3:30 in the afternoon. But Chapita made it clear the hunt would begin late in the evening of that day, when the animal returned to eat because he had to ensure we could catch him with a fresh track.

After getting the government permits, I took out my outfitter's client list and started calling all of them, including a lot of friends who always wanted an opportunity to hunt one of these animals. I spent all day calling and encouraging each and every one of them trying to find who would be the brave guy who accepted this challenge, but for my bad luck none of my calls were successful. All of the calls ended in a phrase such as "Chiiingado I am out on a business trip", "Chiiingado I have a hernia in my back", "Chiiin I am coming out from the hospital with my wife and newborn daughter" and so on... I remember one of them, the only one that said yes, had everything packed and ready to go (also convinced a few compadres to join him on the hunting trip), but his wife stopped him immediately at the door because he had forgotten they had to attend an important event that week-

end. I was getting more and more frustrated with every rejection, because I had so little time to find a hunter for that puma.

Friday was almost over.

At 5 o'clock I decided to pack my stuff and head to the ranch, just to be ready in case I had to do the job myself. Secretly hoping it could end like that, I talked a little bit to the guy from the ranch before heading out on the highway, and he told me that nothing had happened yet. I remember Chapita saying on the phone, "Have dinner at home, and just bring a few things for breakfast and lunch because this is going to be over tonight". I never imagined what this puma had in store for me.

I packed a little bit of everything with me: video camera, my longbow, arrows, and some food. I arrived at 6:30 p.m. to the ranch at the hills of Mamulique, and Chapita wasn't even there yet. I got a little anxious because he should have been there three hours before me, so while waiting I decided to drive up to the ranch house to fix dinner. Finally, by 9:00 p.m. I received news that Chapita's dogs had just finished a previous tracking job in a neighboring state, so he could not make it to the ranch that day. We agreed to meet very early at 5 o'clock next morning. I went to bed that night with some anxiety, desperation and a mixture of feelings, trying to get some rest, since it looked as if the next day was going to be a very busy day for us.

At 4:30 a.m., way before sunrise, I drove the ten kilometers to the entrance of the ranch. Chapita was already there waiting at the gate in his Dodge diesel, accompanied by six running Walker hounds and a 4x4 Mule UTV. Right away we made a plan that started by releasing the dogs where the tapado was found. Only a few minutes after that, they were running into the thick brush. The dogs began to bark hysterically because they had found trace, but it was so faded that they stopped in seconds. Buzzards were already eating the

deer and Chapita said the dogs were struggling a lot because the puma did not come to eat last night, and that is why the trace was dull. Hopefully I thought, when the animal kills again we could follow a fresh trail, and then go after him with more certainty. And so we did, we waited and looked for any sign of the puma until the dogs got tired. By noon the sun heated a lot and they needed to eat and rest. We decided to go back to the house. Later we could take a stroll in the 4x4 Mule to check for any buzzards flying above a dead animal, any footprints or some excrement.

The strangest part was that at this point I really wasn't tired at all. I was very excited and happier than ever despite the fact we had to do a lot of walking and climbing throughout the beautiful hills of Mamulique. I was enjoying every step of the way and every second of the adventure.

After lunch, we went out again, and like we said, we went up the mountain on the Mule 4 x 4 with the dogs in their cages. Somewhere over the dusty road we found some excrement with hair and the "brama" (according to Chapita, before a cat defecates, it makes a dirt clod with its paws, where you can clearly see the scratches and the excrement with deer hair above). I felt incredibly good when he turned his head and smiled to me while saying, "Chinito (one of my nicknames), this is from your puma, we cannot be wrong with this...let's follow him! But my hope went downhill again after the good news by the sound of a pinched tire and we were so far in the mountains that there was no cellphone signal to call for backup.

I was feeling a little disappointed, but then Chapita told me not to worry, we could continue the search by foot. I grabbed my bow and arrows, he released the dogs and with some luck they could catch some scent. A few minutes later the dogs got scent and started tracking again. We had walked no more than a mile when suddenly while passing by a creek the dogs began to bark like crazy. But this time was different; the barking was stronger and louder than in the morning. The six dogs ran through the creek and we both ran several hills behind them with nothing to guide us besides the noise they were making, be-

cause we had not put the GPS collars on the dogs. When the barking was fading into the distance, Chapita told me it was time to go back to the road. His dogs actually had found something, but it was getting dark and we had no equipment to continue; it could be dangerous because of the rattlesnakes and all the deep canyons Mamulique has. Instead we returned to the mule and waited for the dogs to come back. Alejandro, Chapita's assistant, decided to go ahead and seek help, and luckily on his way he was able to hear the dogs. He went behind them and for his surprise he found a 350 pound dead calf just killed by the puma.

Only as reference, at that time Alejandro (his helper) was 30 years old and Chapita 70. Chapita is an old man with lots of experience in cougar tracking in Mexico, someone who knows and truly understands the boondocks and this animal's behavior better than anyone I know. I was grateful to be guided and accompanied by him through the entire journey because every minute I spent with him I learned something.

Returning to the story, Alejandro came back to the mule and told us about the freshly killed "tapado" he had just found. Chapita smiled again and said "Chinito, tomorrow we have work to do very early in the morning, let's go to the house and get some sleep because this cat eventually has to come back for dinner, and guess what, if it does that, then it is going to be OUR cat!" We left things as they were, and about 10 p.m. one of the ranch keepers picked us up. We had dinner and had a very much-needed rest because we wanted to be at the tapado site at 4:30 a.m., before sunrise.

We arrived completely in the dark, and found that in fact the puma had returned for dinner and had eaten the two front legs, the entire neck and the face; at that moment Chapita released the dogs and they ran into the canyon. A few seconds later we could only hear the echo of their barking through the canyon, showing us that they were already following the puma's

track. The beat of my heart was getting stronger and stronger with every second that went by, and all I could do was sit, wait and pray. My mind was racing, and most of my thoughts were something like these: "I hope the dogs can reach him... I hope it is a good prey... hopefully I could release an arrow on him... hopefully I can finish it quickly.... Or at least give it a try".

There I was lost in my thoughts, so anxious and tired of waiting, when suddenly out of the blue we lost the signal of the dogs' GPS collars! We realized they had separated, four dogs stayed in an area near the tapado and two others (a male and a female), kept running through the hills until they reached the cañadas, an area where the brush is so dense you can barely walk through. That is why we lost the signal and that was the exact moment when Chapita

told me these precise words: "Chinito, I am sure my kids (his dogs) already have it above ground; we need to find them and help them..." "Let's go!" were the only words I could say, because of the very big smile on my face.

We rode the 4x4 Mule to a very high hill in order to see if we could hear something, when suddenly a very clear echo resounded in the distance. Obviously they had it treed, and Chapita told me one more time we needed to go after them straight away and help them, because we could not leave them alone with the puma for so much time... So with no more thinking I grabbed my longbow with 5 arrows on the quiver and began to go up and down several hills by foot. Every step the barking sounded closer. Then Chapita tells me: "The job is done my friend, the dogs are already planted" (because the barks were heard at the same place by now).

At that time my emotions and adrenaline were all over the place. Abruptly Alejandro (the assistant) shouts, "Look, there he is, at the top of that yucca." We were only three hills away from them, about half mile, and oh my God, I could not believe what my eyes were looking at... that puma was so big and beautiful! I started running toward him when Chapita said: "Relax Chinito, we are going to be there in a little while, remember I'm an old man!" He was right, but I was so nervous and excited I could not contain myself, so I slowed down my pace. While I was climbing the hills, I tried to remove all the branches on the way for him so we could get there faster, and friends, what a beautiful scene was waiting for us... when I reached the peak of the last hill and saw the puma only 65 yards away, sitting on the top of that palm like the king of the whole area, I just stood there admiring that beautiful creature. I only reacted when Alejandro said it was a very large animal.

With the video camera on and my heart racing I got closer and closer to that palm tree. I took my time, we saw each other, (and yes, the look



**Alejandro Castañeda with the fierce puma that gave him an incredible lesson on strength and determination.**

~ continued on page 28





# My Mountain Lion hunt in Mexico

~ continued from page 27

of the cat feels so heavy and penetrating); took a deep breath, and prepared the first arrow... then I took three more deep breaths, slowly drew the bow, sighed and let the arrow go. It flew just above its back. Quickly I took the second arrow and released it directly to his chest; the puma made a shrinking motion with the hit, and I grabbed another arrow as quick as I could and released that one too. Finally, this arrow had hit him in the neck, just behind the ear, and we saw him falling from the yucca. I was so happy and we started celebrating, thinking that I had finished the job. But to our surprise, the real fight was just starting. The puma ran a little over 20 yards with the dogs running after him, so he climbed to the top of a mesquite. I calmed down as much as I could, then drew my bow and released the fourth arrow hitting him right in the shoulder. He fell down and again I thought he was done.

But this fierce puma was giving me an incredible lesson on strength and determination. The dogs kept running in circles around him, and with my last arrow in my quiver the last chapter of this epic fight began. He was lethally injured, so he would not climb the mesquite, it was going to be a face to face fight right there on the

ground. But every time I tried to get closer in range, he jumped, growling and pulling/slapping dogs faces, and sometimes passing so close to us we could feel his breathing. For one reason or another I could not get a clear path for the arrow. He was moving around many branches or a dog was in front of him, or simply I could not approach him because of how deep was the cañada (creek).

At that point I was feeling calm and confident (even knowing I only had one arrow left) because the puma was bleeding heavily, and after almost an hour of trying to finish the job, I managed to approach to about 10 yards. I shot that last arrow and hit him right in the middle of his back, I thought he must be dead by then but no, I was so wrong again. He kept trying to escape from the dogs, injuring them repeatedly. Finally, after one of the puma's last attempts to run, he collapsed on the ground.

I realized that was the moment and thought he won't be able to get up again, but just before he died he slapped one of the dogs, "Claudio", which was standing near him and grab him with his claws. Poor Claudio was hooked from his ribs, like a fish with a hook in its mouth. The puma was pulling the dog towards him, and Claudio was trying to escape with all his heart. I was standing two yards away, and clearly saw when the puma bit Claudio on his head. I did not know what to do; I had nothing else on me to help. I do not understand how, but a few seconds later, Claudio managed to escape. Finally, at that moment the

puma appeared to have given his last breath. But it only appeared as if he was dead, because when one of the guys approached him to confirm his status, the puma immediately turned his head throwing a bite at him. I took a split second reaction and placed my bow in front of his face trying to stop the spontaneous bite, and the puma bit my longbow and broke it. Of course, I took this as if this was just the gold seal for the incredible fight we had had together that day.

As you can imagine, we were extremely tired, with four dogs injured by the puma, a bitten bow, a destroyed new pair of boots, many blisters on my feet, a good video of the hunt, and a humble and very happy hunter. Without any doubt, I can say this was the best hunt of my life. One of my friends said this puma was meant to be mine, which is why no one else could go that day. Maybe he was right. I remember each detail of the adventure as if it happened yesterday, and every time I remember, I get goose bumps. I also learned with this experience that hunting is not going to be easy all the time, but it will always be exciting and rewarding.

Finally, I want to mention that until a few years ago hunting these animals was not allowed in Mexico, but now ranch owners can get a special tag (legal permit) for hunting them. Today, I remember this adventure often every time I see the big puma beautifully mounted in a special place in my house. 🐾



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# Venison Blade Roast

This is technically a venison shoulder blade pot roast. This is the braising method similar to making a stew but we will slow cook this in an oven for a few hours. The idea is to simmer the roast until the meat falls off the bone, fork tender. 350 degrees of dry oven heat will hold a perfect simmer of your roast liquid keeping it around 190 degrees. Keep this in mind as you check your roast periodically. This is also a one pot meal which I like and these come in handy for hunt camp meals and meals that can be copied and similarly produced with Dutch ovens or crock pots.

The shoulder of a deer is an underutilized piece of meat, at least in terms of its potential. A lot of guys cut off the front leg and use this trim in the grind bowl, which is OK, but for our family we much prefer getting a meal or two of pot roast as opposed to having more ground burger meat. This method of using the front legs and shoulder also utilizes the leg bone which is very nutritious. The flavor is mild and excellent. The meal, although hearty and well rounded is essentially fat free. Indeed venison is excellent table fare and one of the very best things you can integrate into your diet for the health benefit.

As a bowhunter who prefers broadside or slightly quartered away shots at game and my subconscious habit of always aiming at the opposite shoulder I blow up a lot of shoulders that get trimmed away and given to coyotes and vultures. On this more common hit I usually get one clean shoulder that will make it to the table. I had 6 deer just this season and last year that I hit front of shoulder, lower neck and none made it further than 40 yards before crashing. On these deer both shoulders were clean and usable for the table. Even on badly hit shoulders I would say to consider keeping that shank piece and we will cover that another time. Heavily hit shoulders can obviously be trimmed of bloodshot meat and the rest cut off in pieces for the burger bowl.

**At the gambrel:** Separate the shoulder with a small to medium sized knife. There is no bone to bone connection. Lift the leg and apply your knife work filleting the leg by lifting and at the same time separating meat at the ribs and then following the ribs up to where the back strap has been removed. Saw off the foot. Next you can separate the shank with a knife through the knee joint. For someone who works one or two animals a year this can be a little confusing. For hunters who take multiple deer each year as well as other game this is a snap. If you are unsure it does no harm to make a mistake but it can be rough on blades so know it is fine to use a saw too.

I age whitetails 5 to 7 days in ice. I use plastic coolers and we put frozen water bottles in the bottom to keep meat off the bottom. Add ice between each hind quarter. I put back straps, tenderloins and the heart directly into the ice as well. The direct contact with ice does no harm, the meat ages perfectly and when you are ready to cut, wrap and freeze the meat is already mostly rinsed. I do tilt my coolers by putting a brick on one end while the other end has the drain plug open.

There is another thing to pay attention to when processing game. Glands, particularly lymph glands, these should be trimmed out when you break your hind quarters into muscle sections. Inside the front shoulder there is a gland you should remove. You'll find it since it's about twice the size of a 12 gauge pumpkin ball. Simply trim out and discard. Any sketchy looking membrane can go with it but for the most part shoulders are clean. Also note that an average 4 year old whitetail doe here in NC weighs 80# live weight. This is the size animal we developed this on. Most of you are probably working with larger animals so at a minimum skip the shank when you make this meal using larger deer. Also if it helps to fit the meat into your roasting pan it is fine to cut the leg with a saw.

## Ingredients:

1 shoulder cleaned and trimmed  
1 shank cleaned and trimmed  
½ a bunch of celery – I chop mine about ½ an inch  
8 carrots – peeled – ends trimmed off  
4 medium onions – diced equal to the celery – should be 3 cups  
1 28 oz canned tomatoes  
1 14 oz chicken stock with no msg  
1 14 oz beef stock with no msg  
1 pint Red Wine – Burgundy is good  
Salt  
Pepper  
Roasting pan large enough – last one I did the pan had 4 inch sides x 16 inches long x 12 inches wide

## Method of preparation:

First have everything ready to go already prepped and already measured out.

- 1 – Salt and pepper the meat and sear on high heat with little oil brown all sides and reserve.
- 2 – next cook the onions until they get translucent. If the edges get brown that is good too but don't waste time this should only be a few minutes
- 3 – add and cook the celery and carrots until they get hot.
- 4 – add the seared meat and start building the vegetables around your shoulder roast in the roasting pan.
- 5 – add stocks, tomatoes and wine
- 6 – bring to a simmer
- 7 – cover with a lid or aluminum foil and place into a 350 preheated oven
- 8 – roast/simmer for approximately 3 hours. Meat should be fall off the bone fork tender

You should be good to go. If there is too much liquid you can remove the meat and place the roast pan on a burner and cook off some liquid. This reduction will make the liquid more flavorful. You can adjust the seasoning with salt, pepper, worse, Tabasco but I made a batch the other night that needed no reduction and no adjustment of seasoning.

*Potato option:* You could add diced potatoes after about 2 hours if you like potatoes in your braised dish. I usually make a batch of mashed potatoes on the stove top and keep in a low oven until I am ready to serve. My Garlic Mashed Potatoes recipe can be found on page 30.

This makes a great dish for hunting camp. If you bring all the items prepped you can easily pull this off during mid day and leave in a low 170 oven for easy service at dark:30

This recipe with a NC deer will feed 8 hungry people. Bigger deer will need a bigger roast pan and you could double the ingredients accordingly. The last doe I got in WV was nearly 150#. This dish also re-heats extremely well and indeed I think sometimes it is even better made ahead and re-heated in camp if you want to get the cooking behind you.

By: Cory Mattson



# Garlic Mashed Potatoes

This is a recipe for a good size group of hunters. The yield will feed 40 huge appetites. Great with any game stew which we can talk about soon. If you are with a group of 20 folks or more and a few of you are dividing cooking chores tell them you have the potatoes. This recipe and production is super easy and really inexpensive. Everyone will love these potatoes.

You need a large boil pot and most good hunting camps and church retreat campgrounds have one. 10 gallon size is nice.

**Ingredients:** 20# red skin potatoes.  
Water to cover

**For the set:** 1 quart heavy cream  
1 quart milk  
2 # butter  
1/3 cup granulated garlic  
1/3 cup Kosher Salt  
3 TBSP ground white pepper

Yield is about two (200 oz) hotel pans

Bring potatoes and water to a boil – turn down to a simmer until the potatoes are completely tender. It is OK to overcook these a little and it is never OK to undercook potatoes. 20 minutes is about right. If the red potatoes are small you can cook them whole but if they are medium or large cut them into pieces about the size of a deer's eyeball.

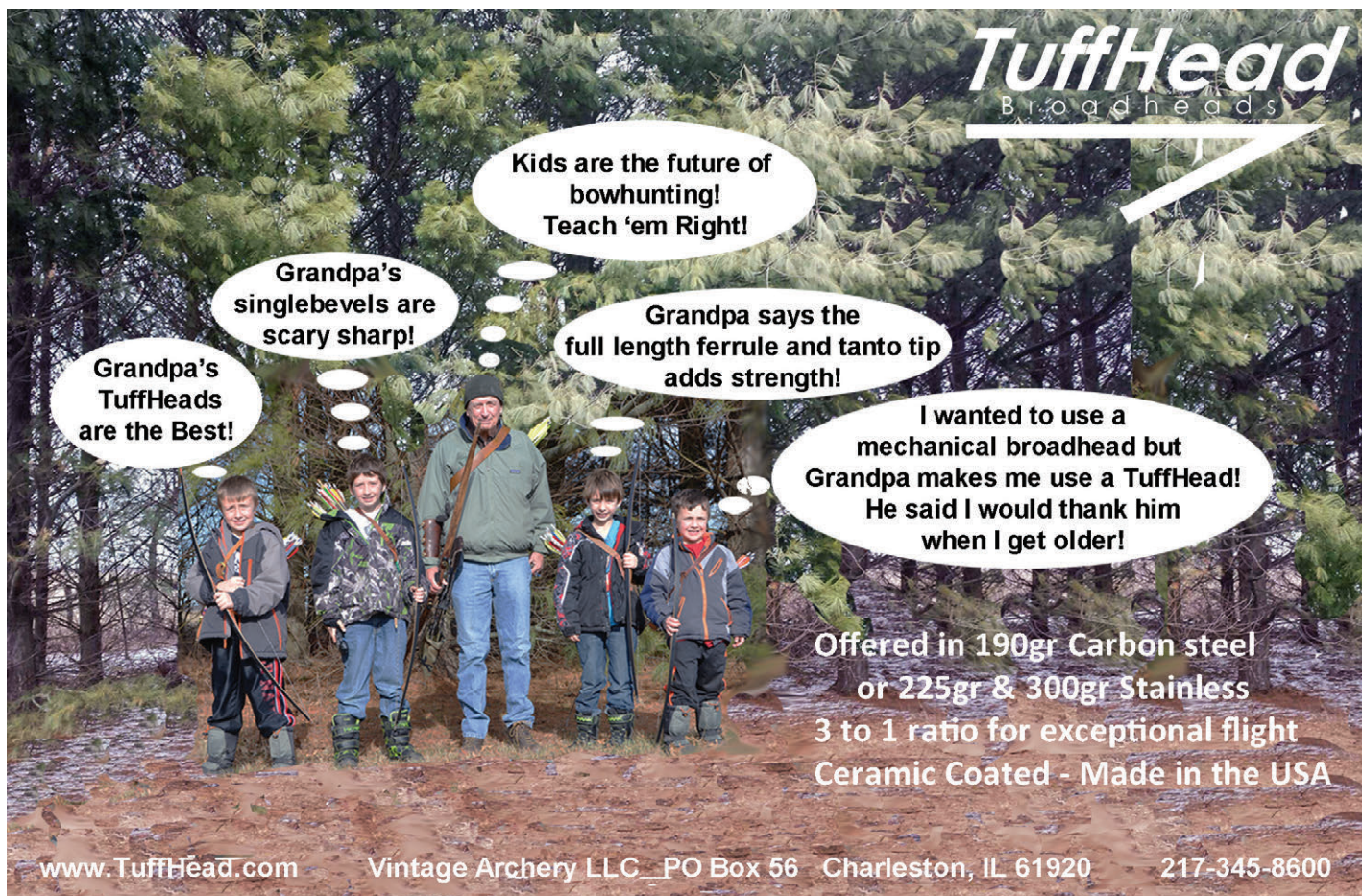
Next drain the potatoes. Use a colander if you have one.

Bring the "set" to a simmer and have it ready to go.

Smash, mash and stir the potatoes while adding all of the set. Once everything is evenly mixed and the potatoes are smashed you are ready to serve.

This is a nice addition to steak night or chili night. Put any leftovers in Ziploc bags filled evenly and flat to cool quickly. Leftovers reheat easily. Great warmed in a cast iron skillet for a campfire breakfast too.

By: Cory Mattson



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# How to Grow a Bowhunter:

# Big Boy Toys

By P.J. Petiniot

What separates a target archer from a bowhunter where equipment is concerned? For most of us, the term target archer will conjure images of lightweight bows and arrows with small fletching and target points etc. When we are talking about young bowhunters and their equipment, the lines of distinction are a bit blurred. Youth bows, by their unwritten definition must be light in both draw weight and physical weight and the missiles they launch must be smaller in size, appearance and weight than the adult version. I have tried to get all those following along on this journey with my son and I to look at things through the eyes of a child and realize that although kids have wonderful imaginations and the ability to see multiple shades of grey within a black and white subject, many times kids fail to see subtleties where they exist and only see the extremes. This is where the term Big Boy Toys comes in where necessary, yet potential dangerous tools of the bowhunter's trade are concerned. When you have a youngster that has been around archery and bowhunting their entire life, most likely that child has been taught

from day one that the bow and arrow can be a dangerous weapon especially when equipped with a broadhead tipped arrow. My kids have all been taught that broadheads are big boy toys and they are not to touch or look at a broadhead or a broadhead tipped arrows without permission. In other words, my children have all been taught that a broadhead can injure or kill a human just the same as any of the many animals they have seen succumb to such a useful tool. To Ian, the difference between a target archer and a bowhunter can be summed up in a single sentence. A target archer carries arrows tipped with target points and a bowhunter carries arrows tipped with broadheads.

Ian has been waiting for the day when in his mind, he is a real bowhunter. To my young son, that day will come only when he gets to carry a quiver full of broadhead tipped arrows. I have been asked, "When can I put broadheads on my arrows?" more times than I can recall and my answer was always the standard, "When I think you are ready". Well, this October, Ian is ready to carry true hunting arrows into the woods for the first time. Earlier in the spring I spoke with a friend and fellow PBSer about acquiring some reasonable priced broadheads for Ian to shoot and hunt small game with and shortly after coming to terms we received a box full of old Bodkin heads. You should have seen the look on my young bowhunter's face when he saw that box full of broadheads that were just for him.

Although the proper sharpening of broadheads is a skill all bowhunters must acquire, Ian will not be possessing razor sharp broadheads for a while, as I want him to get a feel for the proper handling of such things while lessening the risk of injury. Ian is not quite strong enough to hunt deer with a legal bow in our home state, so I am not concerned with him having the appropriate setup for white-tails just yet. Squirrels and rabbits require a less dangerous projectile and that is how we will roll for a while. Later in the season when the snow flies, if Ian chooses to join me chasing coyotes and foxes, we will then work on some sharper heads for those adventures.

We mounted broadheads on several of Ian's arrows for him to shoot this fall. My

**Ian inspecting a broadhead.**



**A quiver full of youth hunting arrows.**

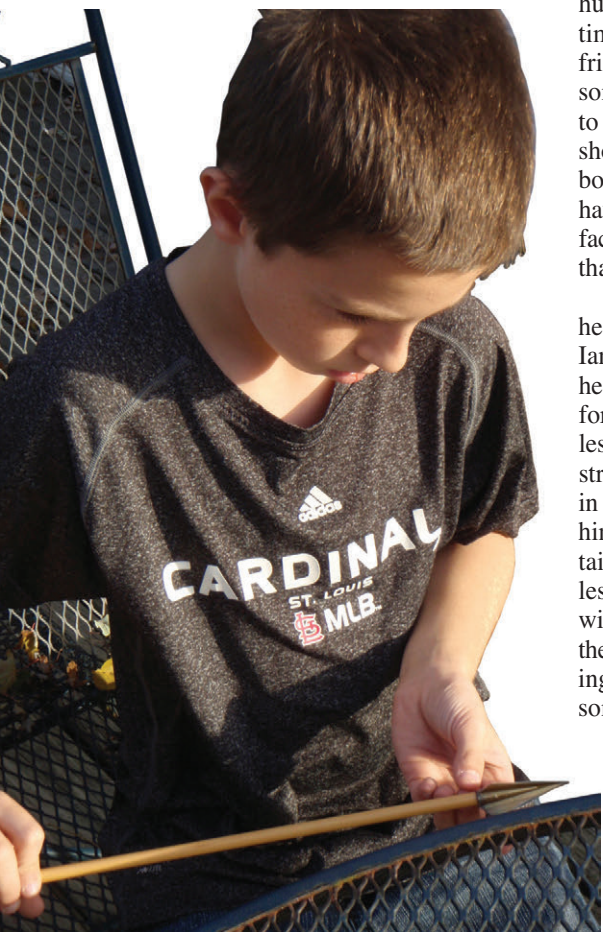
plan is to get him use to shooting broadheads and shoot them well. Ian has already told me that he plans on shooting a rabbit this fall as he figures that rabbits are easier to hit than a squirrel because squirrels move around too much and rabbits tend to sit still. I can't argue with that sort of logic. I assume if I do my part at getting him in the field, he will do his part by flinging however many arrows it takes to eventually bring home dinner.

Teaching Ian how to properly mount a broadhead to the arrow was something that I truly enjoyed. I have always found getting arrows ready for the hunt to be a labor of love and although tedious at times, it brings a smile to my face reminding me of all the good times to come. With broadheads mounted it was time to allow Ian to shoot a true hunting arrow for the first time. He showed an immediate change in attitude with the broadhead tipped arrows. Although the heads have only a factory edge, Ian handled them as if they were razor sharp, as I had instructed him to do so. You could see the pride in Ian's eyes as he looked at his new arrows. He now feels like a brother of the bow, as he should.

A couple years ago Ian won a quiver donated by Cherokee Slim at the Compton Rendezvous. The quiver is perfect for carrying 4 broadhead tipped hunting arrows and we proceeded to load it up for Ian's first trip afield with hunting arrows. We will be taking this quiver full of hunting arrows out this coming weekend and you will read about that adventure soon enough.

The broadhead tipped arrow is a big deal to Ian and a stepping stone from archer to bowhunter but there is another item that every bowhunter must possess that is almost as important as the bow and arrow, a quality hunting knife is a must for any hunter that plans on killing game or even surviving in wild places. Last year I gave Ian a nice folding knife that his great grandmother gave me as a Christmas gift one of the first years I was married. Ian likes the knife I gave him because it was a gift from his Mamaw but he told me he would really like a fixed blade hunting knife. Ian and I made a deal. The deal was,

~ continued on page 32







## Big Boy Toys

~ continued from page 31 ~

**Ian inspecting a sampling of his dad's fixed blade hunting knives.**

I give him a fixed blade hunting knife after he kills his first deer. I know some may be wondering why I didn't just allow Ian to have a fixed blade hunting knife right away. The answer is simple and straight forward. My young son has been blessed with a handful of some really nice outdoor/hunting gear that have been gifts from family and friends. Ian already has a Cub Scout pocket knife, a Bear & Sons Cutlery folding knife that is big enough to get the job done on a deer and a K-Bar folding knife that our friend and fel-

low PBS member Brian Scarnegie gave him earlier this year. Ian doesn't need a new fixed blade hunting knife, he **WANTS** one. The way I see it, I supply the things he needs, he earns the things he wants. If Ian wants a fixed blade hunting knife, he's going to have to earn it. I think receiving a good knife for the taking of your first deer is an honorable reward and it would indeed be earned. I also believe that earning such a knife would ensure that it would forever hold a special place in Ian's heart. Should Ian chose wisely, his new knife will be of sufficient quality that he will still carry it afield when I am dead and gone and hopefully, each time his hands wrap around the handle, he will remember me and our time together in wild places.

I have mentioned the names of those that have helped Ian along in his journey not to drop names, or try to gain favor, but to acknowledge those that selflessly give to our community, especially the young bowhunters. For decades I have watched people make bows, give gear, clothing, hats and their time to kids at various events around the country and generally speaking, we do not acknowledge the kindness of our bowhunting community nearly enough.

As you can see, I am keeping with an ongoing theme in this column. The sowing of seeds to be harvested in the future, the begin-

nings of new family and hunting traditions, instilling a sense of ownership and having a say in ones hunting and outdoor destiny are all topics you will continually see discussed by me. You will also notice that I do my best to make these events and adventures about my young son, and not about me. I try hard to allow Ian to control the flow of things as it pertains to his journey as a young bowhunter. I feel my role as a mentor and Ian's father is to guide him along on this journey, not to carry him, push him or pull him along. There are times where my son needs a nudge, stern advice or even a scolding while on this journey, but for the most part, my goal is to instill a sense of confidence, competence and a strong desire to succeed where bowhunting is concerned. Ian has a long way to go before he is the sort of bowhunter that can strike off on his own for a day hunt, he has also already come a long way in the past year and a half and I am proud of him for his accomplishments.

I have work to do this afternoon so I can be in the woods at daybreak tomorrow. I have a date with a Hoosier whitetail and I don't want to be late.

Remember to always keep it fun and keep it simple.

- P.J. \*

# Kustom King Archery

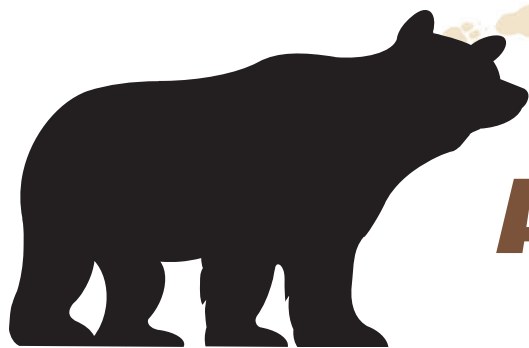
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# A Beary Good Year

By Sean Bleakley

My quest to take a black bear with archery gear started in 1991. I accompanied a friend to Brewer, Maine, for what was to be my first of several trips to the "North Woods". I was hunting with a compound back in those days, although I was a part time recurve shooter. At that point of my archery career, which was about 11 years at the time, I figured that I'd go with the seemingly sure thing of my Hoyt Pro-Force Extreme. The only bear that I had seen that week, I had shot at and missed clean. Even though I had not taken a bear that trip, I was filled with excitement and I wanted more.

I had taken two more trips the following years, with bears passed on early on in the week, which happened to be the only bears I would see for the duration of the hunt. Although I had turned my attention toward hunting other game over the next 19 years,

I never forgot the smells and sounds of the north woods, and the feelings and excitement, that sitting a bear stand gave me.

2010 was the start of several personal setbacks for me; having to put down two great hunting dogs, having to have surgery on my left hand that I thought was going to force an early retirement from my job as a police officer, just to name a few. To cheer myself up, I felt a bear hunt was in order!! Toby Essick and Roger Fulton of Black Widow Bows offered me a chance to hunt in northern Maine with Tony Boucher of Squapan Mountain Outfitters. In certain ways this hunt would turn out to be a life changer for me.

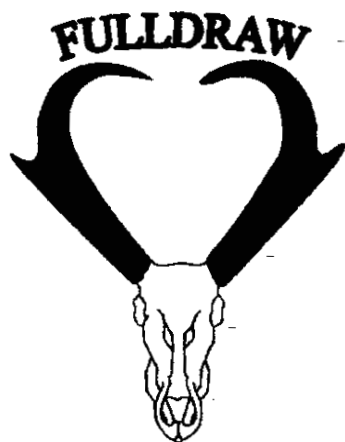
PBS members Terry and Jen Receveur happened to also be in camp. I had met Terry and Jennifer that February while on a rabbit hunt in upstate NY. It was great to share a hunting camp with them, as

Terry is considered a local hero and all round good guy! This is also where Terry re-introduced me to the PBS and gave me a few shooting tips that have stuck with me and helped my shooting immensely.

I was back up north again. All the excitement of the anticipation of a bear hunt came rushing back while heading into my stand. The second day of the hunt was my first and only bear sighting of the week. I had several shot opportunities at that bear which looked to be about 125 lbs. I passed, mainly because it was early in the week and I didn't want my hunt to end that soon. The weather was unseasonably warm that week which I'm sure hindered their movement. When I returned home, I booked with Tony for the fall 2012 season.

While lurking on "Tradgang", I found fellow PBS member Tom Phillips' offer of his "Bear Quest"

~ continued on page 34 ~



## OUTFITTERS

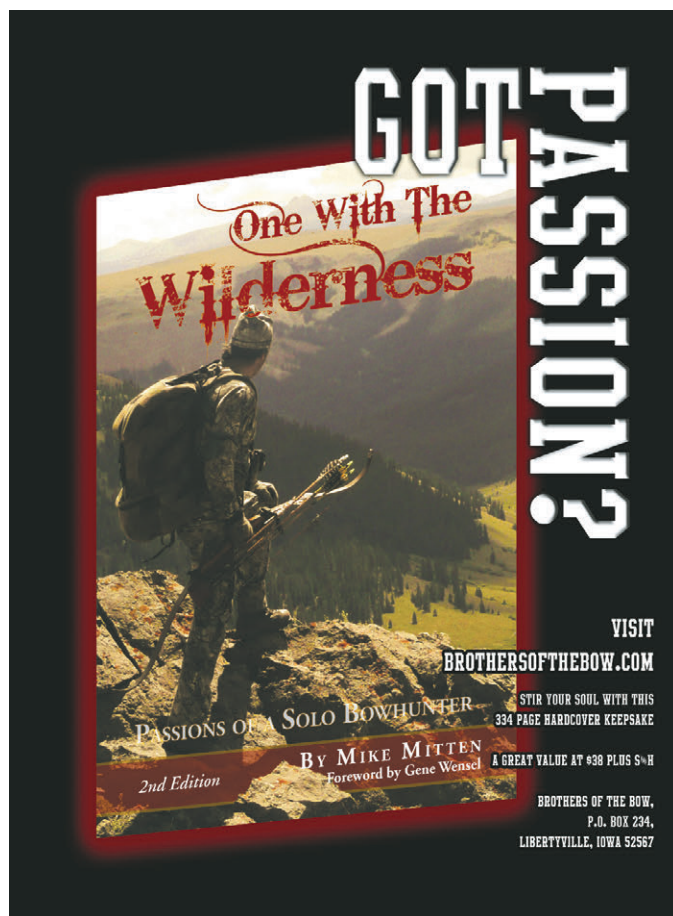
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# A Beary Good Year

~ continued from page 33

Quebec spring bear hunt. After several emails back and forth with Tom, I was in for 2012's "Bear Quest 6". I was more than excited about my first spring bear hunt, especially after Barry Wensel's posts on Tradgang about the quality and quantity of bears that I would potentially encounter.

The Friday arrived that I was to make the two and a half hour drive to Tom Phillips' house in western Massachusetts. I arrived at Tom's place where I met fellow PBS members Bill Terry and Fred Gimbel. After our "How ya doin's" and "Glad to meet ya's" we hitched up our wagons and started our trek to Quebec.

Along the way, at predetermined locations, we meet up with other PBS members Jeff "Tippit" Springer, Eric Port and Mike Buska. After a much needed breakfast and coffee we pressed on. We arrived at our camp late Saturday morning. The camp was situated on a beautiful crystal clear lake typical of eastern Canada. We unpacked and loaded the cabin with supplies for the week. Those who hadn't gone on bait runs the weeks prior, drew for our stands. I drew a stand called "The Glove".

Now it was time to relax. I couldn't. I wanted to get on stand. A few of us decided that we wanted to make the most of our time so Tom brought us to our stands.

I got to my stand and strapped myself in. The stand was set so I could see out to about 75 yards in front of me. A few hours in, I had a lone bear come in. It looked to have some size to it, although tempting, I held off and took a few pictures. I had two other bears come in that evening which made for what seemed like a quick day on stand. The second day I had seven different bears come in, but stay just out of bow range. It seemed that there was something that they didn't like. I was afraid that I bugged up the stand with my scent, so I climbed down. A check of my trail cam the next afternoon confirmed my suspicions as the last two bears that walked off came back in ten minutes after I left.



Sean with his 365 lb. Maine black bear.



Sean with his Quebec bear.

eral shots. He was about 150 lbs and I was fighting myself to take him or not. It was only the third day of a seven day hunt. I had already seen 11 bears from stand in three days, however I had never taken a bear before. The bear had some features that I liked. The brown in the muzzle went all the way to his brow and he had a white blaze on his chest. I made my decision that this was going to be my bear. He turned broad side and had a thin spot right behind his shoulder that gave me a nice focal point. I raised my Morrison Cheyenne and released. I watched as the arrow sank to the brightly colored fletching right behind the shoulder. He ran a total of 60 yards before I heard the crash and the "death moan". I had finally taken a black bear with my bow. Now on to Maine.

## August 26, 2012

I loaded my truck and started out on my nine hour trek to Mapleton, Maine, for my fall bear hunt with the Black Widow boys, Roger and Toby. This was an experimental hunt being that everyone in camp was totting a Black Widow bow. I got into camp late that evening. It was good to see Roger and Toby again as well as a few others from the last time I was up. After a dinner of burgers, and hotdogs, we had our pre-



hunt meeting where Toby announced that the biggest bear would win the hunter a Black Widow of his choice. I was given the stand that I've hunted before named "the Plane Crash", which was the site of B-52 that had crashed in the woods during the 1950's.

Being that I had already taken a bear in June, I climbed into my stand opening afternoon more relaxed this time around. Later in the afternoon, a light rain shower moved over falling for about a half hour. About 20 minutes after the rain stopped I saw some movement to my right. A 200+ bear appeared and gave several shot opportunities, however being the first hunt of the week, I never put tension on the string. I watched it as it came in cautiously, carefully scanning and sniffing as it moved through the stand site. He bolted off as if running for dear life. Then slowly and cautiously came back in. I was standing and again, fought with myself as I decided whether or not to take it. I decided to pass, allowing it to walk off.

I stood there shaking and wondering if I had made a mistake by passing the largest bear that I've ever seen from stand. I placed my bow on the hanger to allow myself to calm down. I looked down to shake my head as I second guessed my decision not to shoot, when standing directly under my stand was a mini bus with hair on it! I froze. There was going to be no fighting myself on whether or not to take this bear. Being about five feet from my stand and facing away, I knew I could ready my bow. He walked off to about 18 yards when he laid down. Being a solid black mass, I couldn't find anything to focus on as a target, so I "burned a hole" and just focused on an imaginary spot center mass, drew my PCH and released. The bear let out a loud growl and ran off as I fell apart. I had to ask myself if what just happened, really happened??!! About a minute or so later, I thought I heard the "Moan", but I wasn't sure. It was soon dark and I was still shaking. I climbed down from my stand to find my CE Heritage arrow covered with bright red blood.

After a quick bite to eat, several of us went on to take up the blood trail. We followed it for about 50 yards then lost blood. We searched another 20 or 30 yards then decided to back out for the better light of morning. My mind raced as I laid in bed, and it got worse as I heard the rain pour down most of the night. We regrouped, and went to where we marked last blood and there, laying about 15 yards from our last blood was my 365 lb Maine boar! The fun of that hunt lasted into 2013 as Roger and Toby built me a beautiful KB X and featured my bear in the 2013 Black Widow catalog. 2012 was a year I'll never forget. \*



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# Wisconsin Firsts

## A family holiday hunting guide

By Steve Osminski

I've said it at least 1000 times, "The greatest benefit of the PBS is its membership". I have literally hunted all over the world with and because of PBS members. Sometimes we rely on my research, sometimes we rely on theirs. Whenever my buddy Nathan Fikkert calls, I know we will be relying on him!

One summer's eve a couple years ago, Nathan called and asked if I would be interested in some late season hunting in world famous Buffalo County, Wisconsin. Once I got it cleared I could bring my son Daniel along I was all in. Nathan had found a 900 acre lease nobody hunts after November and sublet it out for the late season. This was a perfect situation for us. My son was playing football and that did not leave us much bow hunting time at home. We could go during Christmas vacation (after all our family obligations were met) and not interfere with school or athletics. Nathan also found us all a cabin minutes from the property we could rent at a very reasonable rate for base camp.

Filling out the group would be Bob Daigle and Mike Theis (both from WI). This is another plus I have noticed with all my hunts with PBS members; every single one I have hunted with is a GOOD man and one my son could look up to in the field and in camp. That means a lot to me.



I mention firsts in the title of this story. As a non-resident (NR) who applies for tags in just about every state west of the Mississippi, I was SO impressed on how Wisconsin treats the NR. First time NR hunters get all their tags at half price. In our unit, the buck tag came with two doe tags as well. I spent less for three deer tags in WI, than I do just for the privilege of applying for any tag in Arizona. The youth hunter (up to 18) really has it good. The NR youth can buy a "Conservation Patron" license for \$77. This license includes just about everything they have in the state for hunting AND fishing. I swear I thought we hit the jackpot in Vegas when the printer at the sporting goods store started spitting out tags; the string was 4 feet long!

The hunt also brought Daniel's first bow killed turkey. We patterned a group each morning and we finally honed in enough with the temperature at -4°F for him to make a perfect shot with his Tall Tines recurve. A trophy buck eluded us all, but it was a great way to spend a





A tin of brownies from Mike Theis' bottomless Rubbermaid tote served as celebration treats for Daniel's turkey. Pictured are Mike, Daniel and Bob Daigle.

week in the winter woods with good friends.

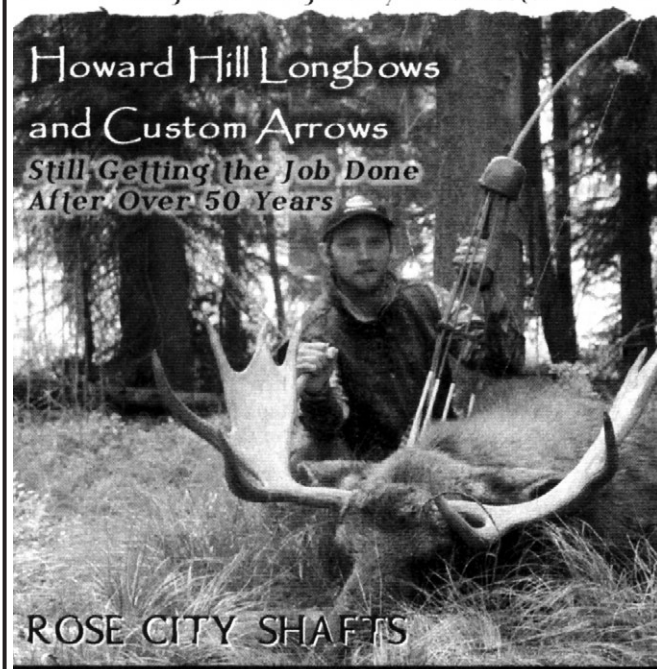
It is not too late to plan a late season trip to Wisconsin. As we would drive in for a quick hot lunch, Daniel and I explored some state land spots—there is some great public land hunting in Wisconsin and there are no draws to foil a last minute trip with your kids to burn off some of those big Christmas meals. 🍗



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## Appalachia Odd-Year Gathering in Baltimore!

The Appalachia region of PBS will have its first Odd Year Gathering of 2015 from March 27-29, 2015 at Baltimore Bowmen, the home of the Baltimore Bowmen Traditional Classic (BBTC). You can get there early on Friday morning if you want and stay through Sunday late afternoon.

Baltimore Bowmen is a great venue with a wide open field for camping, a clubhouse with stone fireplace and kitchen, pavilion with picnic tables, bathhouse with showers and toilets, and a big grill pit that we can cook whatever you want on in case you decide to bring some venison from last year's hunts. You can camp on-site with tents, trailers, or RVs, or take advantage of the motels in the area, although I would suggest staying on-site.

The 3D course that will be set out is one of the nicest and more challenging you will find, with shots at all distances and at all angles. Take careful aim on the mountain goat shots unless you want to bust an arrow on the cliff face behind them. The caribou is a very long, and very misleading distance shot.

Like other OYGs, we will have a raffle or auction on Saturday so please feel free to bring something to help raise some funds for the PBS. You can list them in this thread or let me know directly.

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# A Solo Moose Hunt



## Memorial to a Friend

By Mike Mitten

Sept 5th started out as an 18 day solo Alaskan moose hunt in memorial of the ten year anniversary of my friend Bart Schleyer's passing. Bart passed away on Sept. 14, 2004, on a solo moose hunt in the Yukon. (See chapter in my book "Solo Spirits and Cherished Memories" or the article posted on [www.brothersofthe-bow.com](http://www.brothersofthe-bow.com) site). The planned dates of my hunt would put me in the Alaskan bush during this important date.

After waiting two days at the hangar for weather to improve, I finally got flown out to a remote river drainage in the Chugach Mountain range. I set up camp and began glassing the area for moose since I couldn't hunt the day I flew. I saw several cows in the distance and an immature "40-inch" bull. I also spotted a nice bull with 3x3 brows and slightly over 50 inch spread. Excitement mounted.

The next day I got up before dawn, and at first light I spotted 3 bulls together on the first shelf above the river at 1.5 miles. I went after them. The biggest of the bulls went high on the opposite hill-side so I dropped down and crossed the river after him. The river was lined with alders and willow, so a tough task was at hand. I lost the bull and did

not have good wind to continue, but I saw one of the other bulls back on the other side of the river going up toward my camp side high country. I pulled up the hip waders and crossed the river again.

After calling on several set ups, I lost this bull too. Continuing up the valley and side-hill, I stayed with my original plan to explore the upper basins early on in the hunt since moose tend to summer high. I could then concentrate my calling effort down in the thick spruce at lower elevation once the rut picked up more and the bulls started cruising.

At 1 pm I was laying down eating jerky, when I heard a bull grunt. I saw the bull I was after coming toward me. He may have heard my calling a half hour earlier. He was a good bull with over 24 points, but his palm edges were parallel and turned in. He could have been over 50 inches (legal bull), but I could not chance it, so I only filmed him until he caught my scent at 40 yards.

After reaching the high ridge and glassing the upper two drainages, I only saw 4 more cows. This does not mean there were no other moose in the area, only that visibility and timing of movement (usually later in the day) must match.

Looking back at camp (3 miles away), I decided it would be good to start to head downward so I wouldn't be in the thick brush after dark. So I started hunting my side-hill back. With a little over an hour of daylight left, I spotted a good bull about a half mile past my tent on the same side-hill. I dropped down and hurried to get a better look. It was the same bull I passed up 2 miles up valley from camp earlier.

Since I passed him up already,

my excitement dropped. BUT, he had another bull with him. At 150 yards, I could see he was much wider, so I got low and moved closer. I crawled on hands and knees, bear crawled, and belly-crawled the last 70 yards, staying below their line of sight, and using the dwarf birch as cover.

They were both above me, but I had a good wind as the cool 40 degree evening down thermals worked to my advantage. Glassing through the brush, I could see the lower bull had good swoop to his beams leaving head, and flared palms with long side tines. He did not have many brow points, only 2 on left and 3 on right, but his rack sure looked to be over 60 inches wide.

The bulls were preoccupied and raking brush, which allowed me to get among them. The upper bull kept looking in my direction, but he never knew I was there. I finally slid my pack off and crept up behind a spruce sapling. The wait was on. The sun was setting. I could get no closer.

Finally the upper bull moved down to the same plain as the wide one. Then the wide bull viewed the encroached personal space as a threat, and turned toward him. But once the first bull backed off, it turned around and headed up toward me. I glanced ahead and looked for a shooting lane, then back at the upper bull. His head was down feeding. Now all my attention went to the wide bull, as I rose to my feet. He came up the trail a little more, with me standing behind the spruce at 30 yards. I thought about shooting, and then about the clear lane. I waited.

With his head down moving forward, he turned to look over his shoulder at his buddy. This gave me a rare chance to turn my feet and take a perfect stance. I thought to shoot low in the chest. He took his step and stretched the front leg forward. The 66# Schleyer model Stalker recurve, made for me by South Cox, came all the way back and the long shaft was on its way.





Mike Mitten set out on an 18 day solo Alaskan moose hunt in memorial of the ten year anniversary of his friend, Bart Schleyer's passing. While an agreeable bull cut his hunt short, Bart was never far from his mind.

I saw my white fletching hit tight behind the shoulder as I heard a crack.

My fear of hitting a leg bone was only momentary as the great bull lunged forward, ran thirty yards, and died in 20 seconds.

Since I knew he was down, I got my pack and went to him from the back side while the first bull was watching me from a safe 80 yard distance. It was now a rush to record the recovery and get photos before darkness fell.

I cut up the bull and cooled out the meat in the dark. I quite often thought of Bart as I toiled over this most rewarding task alone. This was not my first time doing it alone, but slow knife strokes and safety was on my mind. I reached my tent after midnight. There was a bright moon and clear sky that dropped the temps below freezing, perfect for cooling meat. The next morning was PACK DAY!!!

Even though my 18 day hunt was cut short by an agreeable bull, my thoughts of Bart were with me as I forded streams, climbed up through the willow brush, and found grizzly scat and tracks. We are never truly alone in the wilderness. Peace to you my friend. ♣



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# Buck Recovery by Canoe

By Tony Sanders

On Friday, Oct. 24, 2014 my best friend Jimmy, from South Carolina, arrived here in Maryland with his lovely wife, Jean. Jimmy was here for two reasons: to help move his wife's sister back to Charlotte, NC and to do some bowhunting with me. I hadn't seen him since I was in Destin, FL several months previously at his son's wedding.

The next morning, Jimmy and I met up at the local High's store and greeted each other with handshakes and a hug. It was really great to see him again! We had coffee and talked a bit before heading down to the sod farm for the morning hunt. I had recently put up another tree stand that had seen some fairly good action in both mornings and evenings. I got Jimmy set up in that stand and we wished each other good luck and I headed across the field to another of my stands that had been there for several years and always had been better to hunt from in the evening. I never saw much from that stand in the morning but as I walked toward it I bowed my head and prayed, "Lord, I know this isn't a morning stand but let this be the morning something comes through." I got into the stand before first light and as I was sitting there sipping my coffee I heard a commotion way across the field to my right and with my binos in the pre-dawn light I could see the farmer loading some sod onto someone's trailer. I thought, "It's not even light out yet!"

I finished my coffee and hung my cup

on it's hook. My bow was hanging on it's hanger. About 7:10 AM, I saw movement to my left and saw a doe coming my way. (Did I mention that God answers prayers?) She caught me not ready and as I quickly reached for my bow she caught the movement. Needless to say, I did not get a shot at her! I was kicking myself for not being ready and was now standing, bow in hand and arrow nocked. A few minutes later, a buck was on it's way toward me that had been trailing behind the doe. I didn't notice how big his rack was, I just knew I saw white antlers. I didn't take the same trail the doe had taken but stayed a little further out in some thicker cover. As he moved past my stand, I was looking for an opening. The first chance I got for an open shot, I let the arrow fly but had rushed my shot. The hit was further back than I wanted it to be and the buck took off and didn't even act like I had hit him. I decided to sit for an hour before getting down to look for my arrow and by then I wasn't even sure if I had hit him or not. In a short time, a fox came along and went right to where the buck was standing when I shot at him. The fox started following the same trail the buck left on and I immediately thought the fox was on the blood trail. I decided to get down sooner than I planned as I didn't want the fox to find my deer and possibly ruin the meat. I walked over to the spot the buck had been standing and sure enough, there was my blood covered arrow. The

arrow didn't smell like a paunch hit so that was good to find out.

I took up the blood trail and was intently tracking the buck when I got a text message from Jimmy. He wrote that he had seen two does, a small buck, a red fox and a bloody arrow. I got back to tracking my deer. The sign led through the woods right out into a giant open sod field. I couldn't locate any blood in the field and frankly, I didn't know which way the deer could have gone, but knowing my hunting area well, I knew there was a well used deer trail to my left that leads to another section of woods that runs right behind the farmer's house. I was hoping the buck had taken that trail and hadn't headed out somewhere into the large sod fields where blood would be all but impossible to locate.

I said another prayer as I needed all the help I could get to find another drop of blood to let me know which way the deer had gone. As I entered the woods on the other deer trail, sure enough...there was a single drop on a green leaf letting me know I was on the right track. I thanked God for answering my prayers once again and stuck an arrow in the ground there to mark where I had left off so Jimmy and I could come back later and take up the tracking job. In the meanwhile, two does and a buck had come by me while I was still in the woods.

I went back to meet Jimmy and sure enough, he had arrowed a nice doe. We took some pictures and got the doe out of



the woods and quartered the meat and put it on ice. We decided to come back later to look for my deer.

About two and a half hours later, we returned and began looking for more blood where I had left off earlier. We didn't find any at all. I was concerned but at least we knew which direction the buck had headed. We fanned out and started looking through all the thickets that were behind the farm house for any sign at all. Jimmy was looking along the edge of the river and he walked over to me and said, "Let's get your deer." I looked at him and thought he was joking but he said, "No, I really see your deer!"

Sure enough, over near the water's edge the buck was laying there with his head up. He had seen us long before Jimmy spotted him. I figured he was hurt pretty bad since he hadn't gotten up and left the area. We began to try to get closer to him and he was watching our every move. Jimmy told me I needed to get another arrow in him but



**Tony Sanders (right) and his best friend, Jimmy, ended up with quite the adventure when Tony's buck jumped in the river!**

where he was laying, there was just too much debris in the way for a clear shot at his vitals. I also didn't want to take a chance on jumping him and sending him back out into the sod fields if we got too close. I worked my way carefully around until I could see an opening. He never took his eyes off of us. I sent another arrow his way and struck him in the chest. Much to our surprise, the buck got up and leapt off the bank and over into the river marsh. The buck was in bad shape but we couldn't get to him. Jimmy suggested we needed to get a boat to go get the deer. I was ready to jump right in after the deer but thought better of it as I would have sunk up to my knees in mud. I remembered that the farmer used to have a boat laying next to his house so Jimmy stayed to keep an eye on the buck while I went and checked on the boat.

I headed through the woods with my bow and pack and finally arrived at the farmer's house. Fortunately, his wife was at home so after explaining to her what we were up against, she went and got the paddles for the aluminum canoe that was lying on the river bank not far from their pier. She wished me luck in recovering the deer as I put my bow and pack in the canoe and

pushed off into the river.

I had to paddle all the way around the opposite end of the farm to get to where the buck was. I paddled hard and fast for 10 minutes to where I could finally see him in the water. He saw me coming and attempted to flee once more. I was struggling against the wind and the current. Let me just say, that normally I would never even think about shooting or pursuing any animal in the water but this was different as I had wounded the buck and owed him every effort possible to recover him. By this time, he had given his best efforts to evade us but finally lay still and it was thankfully over. I thanked God for letting this buck not suffer any longer.

The wind and current were so contrary to me in that canoe that I had to throw a rope over to Jimmy, still standing on the bank watching the whole ordeal and giving lots of advice, HA! Jimmy pulled the rope in such a way that I could get close enough to the deer to get ahold of his antlers. Jimmy pulled the canoe with me in it, and the deer with me hanging onto it back to shore. Once there, we had to hoist the buck up and over the bank which was no easy task! Jimmy said something about "getting too old" but I didn't quite hear the whole statement.

We definitely worked hard to retrieve my buck. My first arrow had hit the deer in the kidneys and probably would have been fatal if we hadn't jumped him. I thanked the Lord for helping us finally recover him. It was such a great time to be able to share this adventure with my best friend. I know we'll never forget it and Jimmy and I agreed that this tops all of our hunting adventures we've shared over the last 35 years. ♣

**Jimmy with the nice doe he got while hunting in Maryland.**





# Trail Cam Tidbits...

By Gene Wensel

I named this buck "Gus." He was a magnificent typical the first year I found him, then he grew into a nontypical the following year. I hit Gus in the shoulder blade that

second fall. It was a nonlethal wound. Two weeks later, someone across the fence gut shot him and lost him.

**"Gus"**



**"Starbuck"**



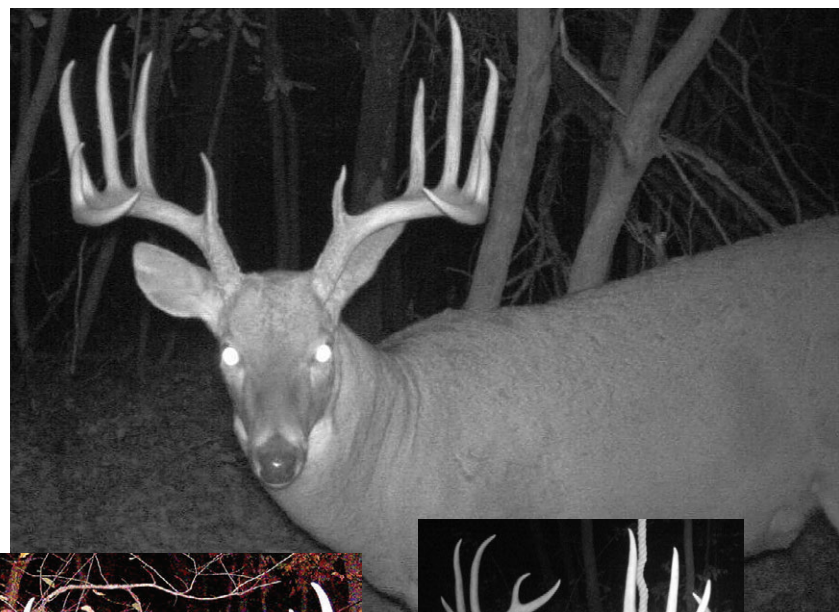
I named this buck "Starbuck." I came very close to killing him one time. I passed up a 30 yard shot that was outside my limits. I'm convinced I would have killed him with a decoy that day. I was in a thick cedar. He was fired up, breaking brush with his antlers and looking for a fight but he could see there were no deer where my wheezing was coming from. He disappeared that winter.



**"Picket"**

We named this buck "Picket." He has always been a perfect 6x6 with no nontypical flavor to his rack. Except for his short G-2s, he was a classic 6x6. He was a very smart deer but showed himself often enough that our efforts almost came together several times. We hunted him hard in 2011 and 2012. I personally had two very close encounters with him in 2012. He was following a doe right past me the first time. I let her pass but she got downwind of me just before a broadside shot presented itself. A week later he gave me a broadside shot at 25 yards, which is further than I normally shoot, but frankly I thought I could pull it off. I lost my own bet when my arrow

passed just in front of his chest on film. With a little luck, you might see the footage someday! Barry had a couple close encounters with him as well. We didn't get any trail camera photos nor see him at all in 2013 and presumed he was dead but rumor has it he is still alive in 2014 but has moved to an adjacent farm. Like I said... smart deer!





# Ones That Got Away



**"Meltdown"**

This is a buck we called "Meltdown." We watched him grow and passed him up for several years until he turned 5 ½. He had a bad habit of breaking off tines while fighting. He was killed that fall by a neighboring landowner with a Colt .45 six gun as Meltdown ran past him during gun season of 2012.



## "Poot"

This is the buck I called "Poot." I hunted him hard in 2011. I saw him only twice, both times out of my range. In 2012, I got multiple trail camera photos of him all summer right up until mid-September, when he disappeared. I later learned someone killed him under questionable circumstances. He scored 188".



On October 5 several years ago I was walking in to sit an afternoon stand when I came upon a smoking fresh scrape that wasn't there the day before. I happened to have a trail camera in my pack so I set it up and continued on for my evening hunt. I didn't see a single deer. On my way out, I passed the newly placed camera and noticed the scrape had been disturbed so I swapped SD cards. When I got home, I discovered this beautiful buck had been standing in the scrape a few minutes before I walked out with my flashlight!

The second photo was taken in late season that same year. I was actually on stand just 15 yards away when the photo was taken. I let him pass, as I was hunting the buck named Hurley that Barry eventually killed. I had a close encounter with Hurley from that stand two days earlier. As fate would have it, the neighboring land owner killed this buck with his muzzleloader a few days later.

~ continued on page 44



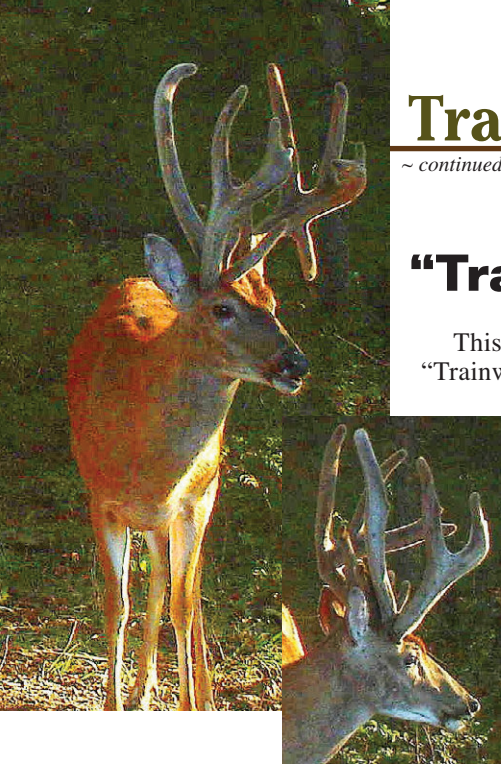


# Trail Cam Tidbits...Ones That Got Away

~ continued from page 43

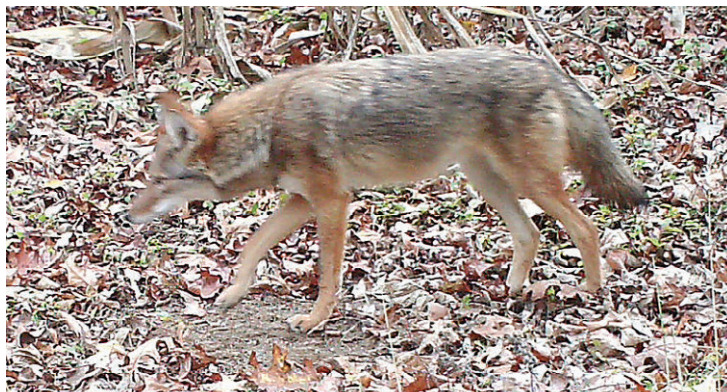
## "Trainwreck"

This is a buck we named "Trainwreck." Both Barry and I passed him up when he was 4 ½ years old, hoping he would get fully mature in one more season. The landowner found him dead in bow season of 2012 while checking his fence. He had been poached with a small caliber rifle the night before.



I wrote an article in our last issue concerning coyote predation on fawns and suggested we do our part in thinning some of their numbers. In late October 2014, I saw three coyotes in one day. The first passed my morning stand at 60-70 yards. I squeaked on the back of my hand to call him in but he was looking hard and spotted me in my stand. End of story. That same afternoon, I was sitting the edge of a standing corn field, watching a scrape. I had added some interdigital gland scent in the scrape before I got on stand. An hour before dark, I looked upwind to see a coyote walking up the corn field edge. When he was about 35 yards from me, he just took a right to enter the corn field. That was the end of that opportunity.

A half hour later, I looked up to see yet another coyote pacing up the field edge toward me. This one came on until he got to the scrape, where he stopped for his last whiff. I had a trail camera on the scrape set to take a burst of three photos. The first photo shows the yote just as I released. The second shows the blur of my feathers and crown as it hit him in the ribs angling forward. The third shows him trying to bite the arrow. I knew he was toast. As the Roadrunner says, "Meep, Meep!"



## Barry Wensel's Trophy Whitetail Bootcamps

March 19-20-21, 2015 • March 26-27-28, 2015 • April 9-10-11, 2015

2013 marked the rebirth of my popular trophy whitetail bootcamps and these continued into 2014. Due to the great response, I am continuing three more of them again in 2015. These sessions are very popular because they work.

[www.brothersofthebow.com](http://www.brothersofthebow.com)  
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**The best part is securing the rack to use for your rack pedestal!**

those days, sanity still required a break, an adventure to the wilds of Alaska! The three of us were deposited in an incredibly scenic setting on the south slope of the Brooks Range and although caribou sightings were lean, I eventually turned up a shot on a spectacular, wide-racked bull.

Many of us have been flinging arrows for long enough and have accumulated a rack or two that just doesn't fit on our limited wall space. I eventually moved out of the jungle to Juneau, Alaska and my future wife (seven years today, Happy Anniversary Honey!) and I built a beautiful house together. A great room had plenty of floor space and lots of windows to let in whatever daylight penetrated the fog, but wall space was limited. How could I display such a big rack to trigger the trips down memory lane? It was time to get creative!

On one of the mainstream bowhunting websites I noticed a guy that had built a pedestal for a gemsbok skull using PVC pipe covered with zebra hide. That was it! I decided for my wide-spanning caribou rack I would use inexpensive rough-cut cedar for my rack pedestal but it would require a very wide base for stability. I designed a simple elongated box structure to form the pedestal with an angled cut on the top end. I used a couple 2x6 scraps cut to fit in the bottom of the pedestal which also served to secure the base with a handful of screws. The rack was screwed onto a plate that is attached to the angled cut on the upper end of the pedestal to tilt the rack at an angle for its best presentation.

Actually I built a different rack pedestal before this example using cabinetry grade hickory with a mitered cut on the front of the pedestal for an insert of black walnut wood flooring. I originally intended to use leftover granite tile slices in my mitered groove and can change it out in ten minutes on a whim. There are so many ways to do a unique rack pedestal that will fit your home's décor, just break out your imagination a few simple tools and let's make some sawdust! ♪

# Wall space?

## We don't need no stinkin' wall space!

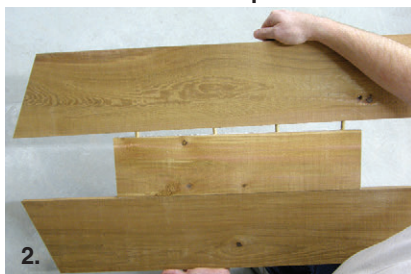
# Rack Pedestal

By Steve Hohensee

Way back in 1999, back when my hair was dark, a youthful Ben Pinney spent his summer picking strawberries and painting his grandmother's picket fence for hunting funds. Rick "RicMic" McGowan sold flashing lights for fire trucks, and I groveled for my daily bread in the shadow of today's urban war zone. Even though the city was arguably less of a jungle in



1. Acquire all the materials to build a pedestal design
2. Build a base wide enough to support your rack!
3. Build the pedestal and make an angled top to tilt the rack forward. Attach the rack to a plate or plaque.
4. Attach the rack to the pedestal.





# The Ridge

By Ben Pinney

It is mid-afternoon in Southeast Alaska by the time my bride of one month and I reach the tip of the timber finger. Ahead of us and to our sides lay the vertical alder fields. Infused with thorny devils club, salmonberry, nettles, ferns and grass, these fields appear to grow endlessly into the heavens. Upward we climb and at first our struggle isn't so bad; we are fueled by the adrenaline of starting out on another adventure. But it is so steep and the vegetation so thick that it soon becomes a mind numbing game of grappling over, under and ultimately through one alder thicket after the next. The wall of plant life is literally inches from our faces the majority of the climb and it pushes us back a step for every two we take upward. This adventure is not for the claustrophobic.

On any given day the climb would most likely be made more difficult by a sideways rain and thick fog but today's challenge is the clear, breezeless eighty degree temperature and incessant bugs that swarm our heads. Mountain goats are our quarry, and somewhere up there lay a truly pleasant alpine carpet dotted with whistling marmots and if luck would have it, those stoic white beasts. It is that alpine country and the potential it holds that keeps us climbing.

Hours into the alders I realize it has been awhile since Amy said anything. I turn to ask her how she is doing and the tears in her eyes say it all. Her Achilles tendon flared up again and the wall of alders before us seems too much to bear as the sun creeps closer to the distant mountains in the west. I know we are getting close but it is impossible to say just how much further we have to go. I wonder what kind of husband I am dragging my bride into such misery. My attempts to comfort her seem hollow and meaningless. Even if we turn around we aren't getting home tonight. Sensing this, Amy barrels

past me pushing the next set of alder limbs aside and I am left to monitor her progress by the swaying of brush above her head. That would be one reason of many why I married that gal. Tightening the straps on my pack, I barrel right in after her. Within an hour we hear our first marmot whistle, the surest sign that alpine is near. Another half hour and we arrive just in time for the sunset, setting up our small tent on the fringe of alpine near a small trickle of water. "It's gorgeous", Amy declares and I have a flicker of hope that she may already have forgiven me for dragging her into this ordeal.

The following morning we awaken from our sleep of exhaustion to the typical thick, pea soup fog of Southeast Alaska. The fog has brought temperatures down into the sixties which is a relief from yesterday's oven-like conditions. We relax, eating a leisurely breakfast knowing full well that one does not simply charge out and hunt in this fog, especially in the alpine where a slight deviance could leave you hanging on a sheer cliff edge, or worse. After a couple of hours, the clouds begin drifting out with a slight breeze. While safe enough to get out and hunt, Amy decides to stay in our tent, reading, resting her ankle and enjoying the view from our camp.

Alone I climb upward on the green alpine carpet, still-hunting slowly and peering over every slight little change in contour. The goats can be anywhere up here. Their shed winter fur hangs on bushes or just lies where it fell off onto the alpine floor; the white fur in stark contrast to the emerald

**The wall of flora Ben and his new bride battled through to reach the alpine country.**

green of the vegetation. Droppings, beds and trails are also scattered over the ridge. The sign gives me confidence and reminds me to move slowly and quietly knowing that each step I take up or around the contour of the hill will reveal more hiding places where the goats may be. Soon enough I spot an old one horned billy, bedded up against a tiny scrub hemlock. Up here the rolling crags have many places to hide so I circle down wind and begin a roundabout approach. In the process I snap a few far off pictures of the goat. Keeping to the downwind side of a sheer drop, I slowly edge closer. More goats come into view and I realize there is quite a herd on this mountain. It is always neat to be among relaxed mountain goats, but the more goats there are, the more difficult it is to maintain unspoiled interaction.

I edge closer by circling downwind again only to find a different billy feeding head down in the lush alpine grass. The grass and slight contour of the hill keep me shielded from his eyes. This one has both horns and he's only twelve yards away,





well within range. I remind myself to be patient and wait for a broadside to quartering shot. It is surreal to be this close to such a beast surrounded by breathtaking mountain views. After about a minute he begins to rotate and stops slightly quartering away. My arrow finds its mark and seconds later he's teetering in a saddle on the edge of a precipice as the rest of the goats scatter into the cliffs. After a couple of side steps he's down literally feet from a sheer drop. His death kicks aren't enough for him to slide over the edge. I really feel like pinching myself. This moment has been in the making since I was a very young boy when my dreams of wild bowhunting adventures were born. I take a picture of the billy as I walk up to him to help remember the moment and then sit for a few minutes of silence and reverence. It is a moment I don't want to slip away. I also want to share it with Amy.

Camp is not that far away and I imagine Amy wondering why I might be back so soon when she hears my footsteps closing in on the tent. It is late morning so I tell her I've come back for lunch. "Take a look



**Ben Pinney with his first mountain goat.**

at the pictures of the goats I got. They're kind of far away, but at least I saw some." I hand her the camera on play function starting with pictures of the one horned billy. After a moment she scrolls to the picture of the billy I just killed with my recurve resting against it. "Whaaaat?!" she exclaims in amazement. It's incredible enough to have just killed a billy let alone share the moment with my bride. When I

was just dreaming in college, she was already scaling these mountains in pursuit of this haunting beast with her father. Amy knows just how difficult it is to kill a good billy with a bow.

After putting lunch together and packing our butchering gear we head back up to the goat. It is still morning and we have plenty of light left to take our time. The views are astounding as we cut and scrape with steep slopes and waterfalls falling all around. We're very lucky he didn't plunge over the edge of the cliff.

Amazingly this goat wound up falling almost exactly where my good friend Steve, Hohensee shot his billy in 2005. I was

along to help Steve as I was not yet a resident of Alaska. That goat did plunge over the very same cliff and it took us the better part of the day scaling the sheer face to find him in an avalanche chute. If it weren't for the alders giving us secure hand and footholds we likely never would have made it to Steve's dead goat. Fortunately, Amy and I do not have to deal with "retrieving" this dead billy. It takes us through the late afternoon to finish quartering and removing all meat required by Alaska Law (not that we wouldn't take it anyway). We also skin the hide for a rug. We place the quartered meat on rocks where a cool mountain breeze funnels through the saddle. Finally we head down to our tent for dinner. After refueling, Amy settles into her book while I head back up to bone the quarters and put all the meat on a snow patch to cool.

When the last quarter is boned I slowly stand up to stretch my sore back muscles. About a quarter mile away I notice another billy poised on the edge of a rocky prominence in the classic mountain goat pose, a thousand feet of sheer vertical cliff plunges into an abyss below him. The glow of a setting sun over the distant mountains intensifies the moment. I take a deep breath and gaze out over the same abyss. I let my mind wander. I think about how this pursuit of mountain goats has shaped my life. Perhaps a hundred yards over is a little hill where I first "met" Amy. In 2005, once we retrieved Steve's goat, Steve called a couple of friends on the sat phone to share the good news. After a call to our friend Kevin Bahr, Steve dialed another number, briefly told his goat tale and then handed the phone to me. Little did I know it was his

~ continued on page 48



# The Ridge

~ continued from page 47

the other end of the line. She and her dad had recently built bows with Steve's help and he thought we might be a good fit. Well, we were. We made plans to meet the following week at the archery range and the rest is history. It all started up here. The darkening sky slowly brings me back to the moment and I take the quarters a couple of hundred yards over to a snow pack for the night. I know I'll need to rest as tomorrow we'll be packing down the mountain.

I wake up early the following morning to bring the meat down to camp. The load of meat and hide alone is immense and I really don't know how we're going to make it. I find I can only think about the next step just to reach Amy and camp. From camp it takes us almost eight hours to get down. The trip is slow and cautious. One misstep and fall with such a heavy load would result in enough momentum to send either one of us cartwheeling down the mountain to the end of our days. As much trouble as the alders gave us on our climb up, they save us on the way down. We are able to use them to rappel backwards most of the way to the timber but without them in the timber, I quickly tire. Moving down the mountain in a forward position without handholds on the alders isolates the load to my legs. My breaks become more frequent and just as exhaustion is starting to set in we hear Amy's dad Tim trying to locate us by blowing on an emergency whistle. We had called him on the sat phone just before heading down the mountain and he timed his hike up from the "salt" about perfectly. His empty pack is a truly welcome sight and the chocolate chip cookies he pulls from it are well received. I giddily transfer what we later weigh to be 50 lbs. of meat into Tim's pack. The 100 lb load still in my pack is now just barely manageable. Amy handles her 80 lb pack amazingly well

attempt to "set me up" and Amy was on

and with good cheer. By the time we finally reach the salt we are thrashed, bloody, exhausted and ready to be done. Even so, it is not long after the packs come off that our struggles are forgotten. What remains are the fond memories of bows and white beasts, alpine vistas and the lonely mountain breeze, and of sharing it all with my bride on the very ridge where our lives converged.

Looking back, this hunt took place five years ago in August of 2009. Amy and I now have two very young boys which has kept her from heading back up into the goat cliffs with me, at least for the time being. Unfortunately the horns to my goat were lost after I shipped them to the taxidermist. I've moved past this misfortune as a few inches of keratin pale in comparison to the events that would unfold during goat hunts on this ridge complex in the following years. ♣



## Index to Advertisers

3Rivers Archery .....	47
Appalachian Odd-Year Gathering .....	37
Backcountry Hunters & Anglers .....	7
BAREBOW! – "A Book for the Ages" .....	22
Barry Wensel's Trophy Whitetail Bootcamps .....	44
Black Widow Custom Bows .....	BC
Bowhunting Safari Consultants .....	28
Classic Sportsman .....	8
Footed Shaft, The .....	5
Fedora's Custom Bows .....	IBC
Full Draw Outfitters .....	33
Great Northern Bows .....	35
Howard Hill Archery .....	37
J&M Traditions .....	37
Kustom King Arrows .....	32
Makalaan Hunting Safaris .....	11
Ojibwa Bowhunters Odd Year Gathering .....	22
One With The Wilderness .....	33
PBS Georgia Hog Hunt .....	39
PBS Website .....	5
Palmer Bow Co .....	6
St. Joe River Bows .....	13
STOS Broadheads .....	28
Table Mountain Outfitters .....	25
Traditional Bowhunter Magazine .....	IFC
True North Arrows .....	25
Tuffhead .....	30



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