

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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765-720-7857

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

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President's Message

by Jim Akenson
micaake@yahoo.com

Who are WE? Extreme Bowhunters

As I write this, turkey and spring bear seasons are drawing to a close in my state. Next is planning for the fall hunts which this year will include a culminating PBS regional hunt for blacktail deer in southern Oregon the week before Thanksgiving. The regional hunts have taken off like wildfire. I think a lot of the credit needs to go to the regional program chairs, regional reps, and mostly the participating membership who are blocking off time to participate in these "regionally unique" offerings. At last count we had 2 dozen member hunts on slate for 2015...that's good stuff!

Recently, I attended the Pope & Young Banquet in Phoenix, Arizona. Each day I wore my PBS hat and friends introduced me as the president of PBS and several asked, "So what is PBS up to these days?" My first comment was: "We are pulling our members together to bowhunt – on a regional basis." I was amazed at the enthusiastic inquiries in response, and typically followed by, "Can non-members participate?" Obviously, the regional hunts provide a great opportunity to invite someone into membership – assuming they meet PBS ethical standards. So when asked, what is the organizational identity of PBS? Plain and simple, we are bowhunters who take the sport to the extreme – for the challenge!

As we look at using our increasing hunt activities through the regional program to attract new high quality members, I think we need some incentives, or a membership drive, involving a small reward to everyone who successfully participates. We can call it "Sign 3 - 1 free," where signing up 3 new members will make the successful member eligible for a year of free membership. The first person in each of the 8 regions to sign up 3 new members also receives a free custom PBS coffee mug – a \$30.00 value, and free membership for one year. Let's see what we can

do between now and St Augustine where the winners will be announced!

You might find this hard to believe, we are rapidly approaching the time to "zero in" on the Gathering after next (2018). You might have noticed on the website that I have asked for input regarding Gathering details, such as the rotation sequence, type of hotel, proximity to airport, and offerings at the Gathering, such as seminars and surrounding activities – hunts, family entertainment, etc. We also discussed the same at the Council meeting in St. Augustine in early March. The consensus is to leave the rotation "as is," which calls for the mid-section of the country to have twice the frequency of Gatherings as west and east. So, the rotation from this date, after St. Augustine, will be "central – west – central – east – central – west - central – east" and so on. The thinking behind this is to serve the core of our membership distribution more frequently than our nation's coasts. On hotels, they should be conveniently located and offer activities, in the near surroundings, for the entire family. Seminars need to be high quality and fewer in number to allow for more membership comradery.

I have included a brief summary of the March Council meeting in a separate article so I won't hit too hard on that subject here. I will say that our 4th quarter magazine, usually produced and mailed in December, will introduce Council candidates and ballot items to vote on in January. There will be one out-going Council position as Steve Osminski concludes his 3 years as a Councilman March 1st, 2016. Council has been getting input on, and deliberating about, another issue. We are referring to this on Council as: our "Organizational Identity." Some of this discussion centers around Regular membership application requirements, and in the future the use of traditional archery equipment in making the required big game kills – which would be proposed to

be reduced from 8 to 5 kills, but accomplished with traditional equipment. There are other significant aspects to this "Identity Statement" including the specifics of a grandfather clause which gives provisions for compound bows – and bows that are not bound to the 65% let-off rule established in our By-Laws. Additionally, Associate members could use any type of legal bow. The whole intent of this consideration is to more accurately reflect "who we are, and how we do what we do in bowhunting." Hopefully, this Identity shift can be done with a clear look into the future, and in a thoughtful manner connecting to a PBS style "Journey of Challenge." Keep in mind that, however this gets crafted into ballot item(s), there is always the option to vote to leave things "as is." As a Council we are trying to respond to the interests of the membership, look into the future situation with bowhunting, and at the same time respect the long (50+ years) heritage of our organization.

Finally, I want to thank some folks who have done special things for PBS in recent months:

Bryan Bolding and his wife Gina have worked on, created, and personally paid for our new website – a big thanks to the Boldings!

To Brenda Kisner and Jack's wife Taska Smith who have done a lot of "extra's" during Jack's recent heart procedure. And by the way, Jack is doing well and already back on task with our magazine!

Speaking of the magazine, Gene Hall and Kim Bucknell are doing an outstanding job publishing the Magazine. Many times recently I have heard, "How can such a small organization produce such a high quality Magazine!"...it just takes really good people, and we have them!

Enjoy the onset of summer!

~ Jim A.

corymattson@windstream.net

St. Augustine update

Friends, we have great news on our St. Augustine gathering next year.

Our Friday night speaker is Tim Conrads, owner, editor and publisher of Traditional Bowhunter Magazine. Tim, as well as being a Life Member of the PBS, has also written the Traditional Bowhunter's Handbook. TJ has traveled all over the world with stick and string and has a wealth of experience in the field. TJ always has an interesting and fun delivery when he does speaking engagements.

Saturday night we have Monty Browning. Monty is a Qualified Voting Regular member of PBS and has lived a life dedicated to Christian fellowship and hunting with his longbow. Monty's new book, "Bowhunting, A Passion for Life" is a must have for everyone who loves bowhunting, adventure and the outdoors. Monty is a true gentleman who has traveled the world seeking adventure.

Both of these ardent traditionalists have supported the PBS, Comptons, P&Y and state organizations for many years, sharing their knowledge promoting fair chase with traditional tackle and the spirit of brotherhood shared over a campfire. We are blessed to have them help us cel-

celebrate in St. Augustine.

Seminar speakers we have are Joey Buchanan, Krista and Sterling Holbrook, Jeff Holchin, Steve Hohensee, Terry Receiver, Don Davis, Dr. Steve Leffler and Joel Turner. These members will provide fantastic seminars. We have changed scheduling to increase time for fellowship and decreased the number of scheduled events. Our goal is excellent attendance and that everyone has enough time to meet everyone else who attends.

Note: Donations. Now is the time to start making arrangements for any donation you or someone you know to get to the World Golf Resort for our banquet weekend. You are welcome to contact me or anyone on the Council to get these items moving. Matt will be managing hunts and Norm will be managing vendors.

Note: Redfish and wild hogs are abundant in Florida and just before or after our gathering is a good time of year to



chase either of these. Both make excellent table fare.

Next time we will talk about Photo, Arrow and Bow contests.

Yours for better bowhunting

Cory 

PBS 2016 Elections

One Three Year Council position will be open.

If you or some other Regular members of PBS would like to be considered for a position, **please send your nomination to the PBS home office no later than July 31, 2015.** *This nomination must indicate the position sought and must include signed endorsements by five other Regular members.*

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

Candidate profiles will appear in PBS Magazines' fourth quarter 2015 issue.

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Deadline Dates for The PBS Magazine

April 20th for 2nd Qtr. 2015 issue
July 20th for 3rd Qtr. 2015 issue
Oct. 20th for 4th Qtr 2015 issue
Jan. 20th for 1st Qtr. 2016 issue

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Senior Council's Report

by Steve Osminski
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Looking forward to 2016

June? It is really June? I noticed, driving a familiar route the other night with my daughter, the frozen lakes we had been driving by all winter now had boats and ducks and geese on them...and I don't remember things changing. That is not good! In the same way it feels like we just got done with the Gathering in Cincinnati, but we are full on in the planning for our next Gathering in St. Augustine. That IS good!

Shortly after our last column was due, we met for the annual Council meeting at the site of the 2016 Gathering. I know Jim has a full report so I will just say it was productive and look for the full report in this issue.

The site of the 2016 Gathering, The Renaissance World Golf Village (RWGV) in St. Augustine has the nicest setup I have ever seen for an event such as ours. I've been to a lot of different "events" in my day so that is saying a lot. They have done this before and this Marriott is a "Conference" Marriott, not just a hotel. There is basically a huge annex connected to the hotel. We will be able to completely take over the banquet hall, meeting rooms, and vendor area that will be just perfect. Our vendors are going to be EXTREMELY happy with the vendor room. You will be able to drive right up to the dock that is attached to the room. No backing around corners and trying to negotiate downtown traffic—pull in, unload, and park. If I never see another service elevator in my life I will leave a happy man.

The staff at RWGV understood all our needs from speakers to shipping. I was very impressed with them; they at times actually anticipated our needs. We were

also sensitive to a couple other items that have not always gone smoothly in the past. We will have shuttle service from the Jacksonville Airport at peak times thru East Coast Transportation; we made a trial run with them for our March meeting and they did a fantastic job. More details will follow on transportation from JAX. There is also a smaller regional airport right in St. Augustine, The Northeast Florida Regional Airport. The hotel will pick you up from there 24/7. The conference center also has a UPS store on site they will man late into the night after the auctions and on Sunday to get your goods home. Things look really good logistically.

Things look really good all around. Rooms are very nice, food is GREAT (VP/Chef Cory has some great meals planned), slated seminars will be interesting and a bit more spread out to allow for more "fraternalism" and our banquet speakers will be excellent. We are working on some great hunts and as always count on your donations. Anyone wanting to send in a donation early can send it to Associate Member Nathan Fikkert. Nathan has agreed to receive and store donations for us. Please send to 9705 SW First Place, Gainesville,

FL 32607.

So, at this point I am going to do my best to try to slow things down. If all goes smooth with printing and mailing hopefully I will be sitting in my tree stand in Manitoba when you receive this issue. While not an official "member" hunt, we will have a camp full of PBS members after big black bears. I'm looking forward to that. I am also looking forward to a full fall with more PBS brothers with a moose hunt in Alaska and some Iowa whitetails on the schedule. How can I make June-December last forever?

Steve O.

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Council's Report

by Norm Johnson
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I want to start my first column thanking the membership and current Council for their support in the recent election. Although life just seems to get busier as the years pass, it is a privilege to not only be asked but to have the opportunity to serve this great fraternal organization. I have to admit my instinctive reaction when asked to serve again was to say "no". I think I share the sentiments of many who are members, wondering how on Earth will I ever carve out a little time to volunteer? I just want to encourage others going forward into the future to say "yes" when asked to serve on a committee or as a councilman. The PBS needs participation and positive leaders and it can be very rewarding.

There have been a few changes within the PBS since leaving Council back in 2012. The most notable is the regional rep program coupled with the regional hunts. In my observation it has had such a positive and immediate impact on the organization. It really gets at the heart of who we are and sharing time with other mem-

bers doing what we love. I really believe we are just touching the beginning of a great program for the PBS that will encourage growth and participation well beyond our biennial banquets and odd year gatherings. It will take more volunteers to organize hunts. If you desire to be involved please contact a Council member, one of the regional program chairs, or check the PBS website for more information.

With the council's recent meeting in St. Augustine it was the primary mission to lay the groundwork and delegate tasks for the upcoming gathering in March 2016. It was also the job of Council to take care of the annual business of the PBS. It was a pleasure to work with Jim, Cory, Steve, Matt and of course Jack.

I will be in charge of soliciting vendors for St Augustine. The hotel facility has a fantastic layout for our incoming vendors and the capacity to accommodate as many as we have ever had at a gathering. If you want to be a vendor in St Augustine please feel free to contact me by phone or



email to reserve your spot. I will do a mailing in early Fall to begin reserving spaces.

With the summer in full swing many of the members are making preparations for the fall hunting season. If you know someone or have a hunting partner that share our ethics and values take the time to sign them up! I want to wish each and everyone a safe and enjoyable hunting season.

Sincerely,

Norm J.

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Council's Report

by Matt Schuster

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the same feeling I had when I left Cincinnati last year – WHAT A GREAT BUNCH OF PEOPLE MAKE UP PBS! Sure, we have disagreements like any family, but get us around a campfire, and it's amazing how much we enjoy each other. If you have a chance, get to one of these hunts and invite a friend you think belongs with us. Better yet, figure out a way to put one on yourself. You won't be sorry.

The 2016 Gathering in St. Augustine will be here before you know it and you do not want to miss this one. The venue is outstanding and all of the festivities will take place on one floor in one area of the hotel dedicated solely to PBS. The raffle and auctions will again be a highlight, and my role in banquet preparation is to secure the donation of hunts. If you have a contact in the hunting world but don't feel comfortable contacting them on our behalf, please get the contact to me, and I will follow up. If you can offer a hunt yourself, please consider donating. We will have some outfitted hunts donated but hunts certainly do not need to be fancy. I've donated a hog hunt at the Paradise in south Georgia for the past several gatherings - one hunter, on seeing our bathroom facilities, which only get cleaned on the rare occasion when a female is in camp, scrunched up his nose and said, "why do they call this place the Paradise?" Of course, once he spent some time under the oaks and in the cypress swamps, he understood why. It is a truly

beautiful place. This year, winners Duane Means and Dennis Fillipelli, came down from the frozen north in late February, and our hunt was filled with close calls, near misses, and one dead boar thanks to a nice shot by Mr. Fillipelli. All I did was donate a hunt, and I ended up with two new friends and hunting buddies. That is a pretty good trade.

On all of the hunts I shared with fellow PBS members last year one thing was obvious – the fellowship and shared passion of PBS members for our sport is the very core of our organization and that brings me to an item that Council is working on right now so that the common beliefs that hold us together will always be preserved. We will soon put forward a PBS Identity Statement to be voted on by the Regular membership next year. The intent is to clarify who we are as a group, what we stand for, and where we hope to move in the future. The sooner we do this and move forward in a positive fashion, the better. On Council, as in our membership, there are diverse and passionate views on this issue, and no matter what we do, or don't do, there will be a few unhappy folks on both ends of the ideological spectrum. That is an inevitable part of a rather substantial step for PBS, but if done in the right way, with a clear positive message, it will be a great pragmatic move for the future of PBS.

Best,

Matt S.

PBS Forum

By Doug Clayton, Chairman

As of May 20, 2015 registered users for PBS Forum were 841. Considering PBS's total membership is around 1200 that is a very good percentage. The Forum is the place to find up-to-date current information on what's happening within PBS. Any magazine, and especially a quarterly publication, requires a somewhat lengthy lead time to get all the materials collected, edited, printed and then distributed to the membership. This just isn't a good conduit for timely information.

Your PBS Forum is the place to find

current information about: Gatherings (upcoming and future one), the numerous membership hunts held across the country, member hunting adventures, the PBS Regional Program, classified ads, a gear review section and more.

Most registered members (and I'm in this category) don't post a lot but I'm sure they access the Forum and look for topics that relate to their personal interest. That is good for they are keeping current on PBS topics.

There are two topics I would like to highlight: 1. please keep your registration information current especially your email address, and 2. check to see if your mailbox is full. The reason for this is that I re-

ceive "Undelivered Mail Returned to Sender" emails because someone has changed their email address but didn't update that information on their Forum information or the emails have been returned because their email box is full. There is a limit on how many emails you can have. Just delete the old ones to make sure there's room to receive new ones.

By the time you read this, summer will be in full swing, and that means in only a few short months hunting seasons will again be underway. Look to your PBS Forum for current information on membership hunts, regional programs – and more information on the upcoming St. Augustine, FL Gathering.

Council Meeting Summary

By Jim Akenson on behalf of the PBS Council

We had a great meeting of the PBS Council in St. Augustine, Florida the first week of March. As a group, we felt the Renaissance World Golf Village Resort may be the best suited for our Gathering needs of any facility in recent times. With an in-house UPS store, closely grouped event rooms all on one floor, quality and affordable restaurants – both inside and/or nearby to the hotel – we felt that this facilities on-site convenience scores a 10! As for our meeting, we covered many different PBS issues in a little over 2 days of meetings. I'll recap the main points that have bearing on the course of PBS.

DECISIONS (Approved):

- The PBS Constitution and By Laws need to be clearly posted on the Website.
- The PBS Facebook site needs to move away from a personal style and move more towards an organizational site used to announce events and topics important to the organization.
- PBS has a new merchandise vendor as Dave Golden has been brought back on contract.
- Gathering seminars will be reduced in number from the past and there will be

at least a 1.5 hour break at lunch. Banquet speakers will be held to specific time period (45 minutes).

- Regional program news will need to be consolidated for magazine space.
- PBS will initiate a membership drive this year with a goal of participants signing up 3 new members for an incentive of 1 year free membership and a custom PBS mug.
- Need to develop a form for Life Members to declare "in or out" on prudent investment of funds. Needs to be available for distribution by mid-summer.
- The newly re-structured Conservation Committee will focus on a couple of attractive conservation projects. The scholarship fund will be moved elsewhere, from the Conservation Committee, and suspended until appropriate funds are raised and appropriated.
- Youth hunt opportunities will be tied (carefully) to regional hunts to serve as a stepping stone for the national hunt – which needs to have more than 3 participants to be offered.
- The Publicity Committee will develop a PBS Legacy Donor Plan, with levels of contribution.

CONSIDERATIONS

(Potential Ballot Items for Jan. 2016):

1. Topic: Establishing new criteria for regular membership which would include the kill requirements being reduced (to 5 rather than 8), but being made with traditional equipment (recurve, longbows, self-bows). **Justification:** Recent polls have indicated that the vast majority of the membership hunt with traditional equipment, and that using traditional bows illustrates a willingness to take on greater challenge in bowhunting.

2. Topic: Dropping the 65% let-off limit for associate members. **Justification:** Virtually all current compounds available for purchase are between 75% and 85% let-off.

3. Establish a grandfather clause that is sensitive to existing regulars, and the rules by which they became regulars, AND to current regulars who have injury or age related physical limitations.

4. Be mindful that any ballot item can be voted on in opposition as well – we are a democracy!

Conservation Committee Report

2nd Quarter, 2015

For the past 15 years the primary role of the conservation committee was to disperse scholarship funds to worthy students likely to make a significant contribution to the conservation of wildlife and/or natural resources. Most often those selected are children of PBS members. Given current budgetary restraints that mission is no longer practical.

The Council has directed the Conservation Committee to expand its membership, revisit its mission statement and develop an active conservation program.

The following have agreed to serve on the conservation committee:

Jerry Krauth. Jerry has been active in bowhunting and organized bowhunting groups for many years. He is retired and spends his time in Washington and Montana.

Laurel Holding. Laurel is new to PBS, joining a few months ago. She is an avid bowhunter, using both a compound

bow and a longbow with which she has killed elk, mule deer and forest grouse. She has an MS degree in Education from Harvard and is currently the Head Instructor and Director of Program Development at the Boulder Outdoor School of Survival (BOSS) in Boulder, Utah.

Allen Clark. Allen is an active regular member of the PBS, as well as the Pope and Young Club. He hails from Indiana, has very extensive bowhunting experience, and he has volunteered to serve on the conservation committee.

The conservation committee has identified the following as major issues to address in re-energizing the PBS conservation program:

1. Establish a Conservation Committee report for each issue of the PBS Magazine.
2. Review the existing goals and objectives of the conservation program and modify as needed.
3. Evaluate opportunities for a consis-

tent and/or dedicated source of funding.

4. Evaluate opportunities to engage PBS and its members in conservation programs and projects.

5. Engage PBS and its members in pertinent local, state and federal issues that relate to wildlife conservation.

Please contact any of the conservation committee members if you have ideas and/or suggestions regarding the activities of the conservation committee.

Mike Schlegel (Chair):

mws1941@gmail.com

Jerry Wansack (Past-Chair):

wansack@sbcglobal.net

Dan Russell:

danrussell231@hotmail.com

Laurel Holding:

holding.laurel@gmail.com

Jerry Krauth:

longbowjer@comcast.net

Allen Clark:

stykbow519@hotmail.com

PBS Publicity Committee Report

2nd Quarter, 2015 – By P.J. Petiniot, petiniot.pbs@gmail.com

The PBS Publicity Committee conjures up a somewhat ambiguous job description. How does one go about publicizing a bowhunting organization that has been in existence for over 50 years? What exactly needs to be publicized? How should we go about promoting the PBS and the various entities within? Do we actually need to promote the PBS? The answer to these questions are ever evolving and changing but the short answer is everything PBS needs to be publicized to some degree in order for the PBS to not only survive but to thrive.

There have been many changes taking place within the PBS over the past year and this trend of positive change and forward momentum does not appear to be ending anytime soon. The various committees have been working together on several projects where the job description appears to overlap with one another. This is a positive trend in my opinion as it allows several sets of eyes to look at a particular task or project and ensures each matter at hand gets the time and consideration it deserves.

Currently the Publicity Committee along with members of the Bowhunting Preservation Committee submitted a final proposal to the Council for completely refurbishing and re-launching the Young Bowhunter Program. We have also been working with the Regional and State Representatives to help ensure the success of this program by lending labor and a little brain power to successfully launch this new and much awaited program. The Regional Rep program can only solidify the sense of fellowship that our membership hunts, youth programs, regional off year gatherings and many other unknown or unforeseen happenings in the PBS and bowhunting world.

The Publicity Committee is now taking an active role in promoting the PBS message on our Facebook page and will continue this program on any other social media outlets where a PBS presence is deemed necessary. The Publicity Committee, Bowhunting Preservation Committee, Conservation Committee and Regional Rep programs will all play a role in the planning stages and the execution of our Biannual Gathering in St Augustine in 2016.

All the committees are also going to help solidify a cogent PBS message to be disseminated to the bowhunting and conservation communities at large. The PBS Council currently has many strong leaders

within and not only do they possess the ability to lead, there is a strong desire to do so. The ability to lead and the desire to lead have not necessarily gone hand in hand within the entire bowhunting community, but today the PBS appears to have those bases covered with an overwhelming majority of our Council ready to do the heavy lifting it will take to get the PBS to grow and also to get our current members excited about the direction of the Society.

The easiest way for apathy to run rampant through any organization is for good people to do nothing. Doing nothing isn't always out of laziness or lack of desire. Frankly, within the PBS it has been quite the opposite. Doing nothing from a cogent message standpoint has been more out of fear of offending somebody or some group so the PBS' true message has been placed on the back burner for quite sometime. As the old saying goes "If you don't stand for something, you will fall for anything." Well, by not standing up for our core beliefs the past decade or so, we have fallen. Our standing in the bowhunting community has fallen, our standing among members that have now become ex-members has fallen and we have no standing among non members because if you are not currently a PBS member or you have never been a PBS member, you most likely have absolutely no clue we even exist. This is the challenge for the Council and this committee, to re-evaluate our message, stop being vague and afraid to tell the true story of the PBS, where we come from, where we have been and where we plan to go. To once again state that the PBS is not, nor has it ever been for everyone. To put forth the message that if you are the sort of bowhunter that gathers as much satisfaction in the process and the journey as you do from the actually killing of game, if you are the sort of person that willfully shares information with your peers and the promotion of real bowhunting, the true essences of bowhunting in its purest form, then the PBS is the place for you.

The PBS is in need of members with specific skills that can lend their help to various committees when called upon. The areas we need help in are video/audio editing. If you have verifiable experience in this area of expertise and are willing to share your skills and knowledge in order to promote the PBS message, we are in desperate need of your help. If you are a per-

son that has expertise in the area of writing work procedures or training manuals, we can use your help. I am not writing work procedures, but I need a couple of people with that skillset. If you have verifiable experience with outdoor related and most importantly bowhunting related advertising, we need your assistance.

In my opinion, one of the biggest failings of the PBS in the past several years has been the fact we have somehow become ashamed of who we are. When I first joined the Society over 20 years ago, if you asked a member "what is the PBS, what are they all about?" You could get a 1-3 minute, impassioned speech that would make you join on the spot. Today, well, myself included, we just aren't that passionate and articulate when it comes to promoting the PBS. I for one think it is time to rekindle that sense of pride in belonging and sense of purpose as to who we are. It's time for all of us to develop or redevelop our PBS elevator speeches. If you are unfamiliar with the term "elevator speech" its just a simple informational dialogue one can recite in the time it takes to enter an elevator and go to the next floor and exit, 30 seconds to 1 minute.

Here's my elevator speech, let's hear yours.

"The PBS has been in existence for over 50 years. We have members in all 50 states, all provinces of Canada and in many other countries as well. We are truly dedicated, experienced bowhunters that do not make excuses or rely on excessive technology to give us the advantage. A PBS member relies on their brains as well as their brawn in order to achieve success. Our motto "Knowledge Through Experience" is not just a catchphrase, it's our way of life. If we do not know about a topic or a particular species of animal, we will seek out those that do and learn from them. A PBS member not only makes every attempt to gain knowledge, they also relish the opportunity to share their knowledge as is evident by the many articles and books that have been authored by our members as well as our member speakers bureau. A PBS member leads by example and does not await others to blaze his or her trail, they take solace in the fact that most times WE are the trail blazers."

Respectfully Submitted,
P.J. Petiniot
petiniot.pbs@gmail.com

Fellowship

Chaplain's Corner

by Gene Thorn

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

One of the best things about PBS is the relationships we build with each other and the fellowship that takes place when we get together. I'll go a step farther...that is the best thing about PBS. Whether it is local PBSers getting together at each other's homes, sharing a hunt together, meeting at a PBS Gathering or PBS Odd Year Gathering or at a rendezvous or shoot, it becomes an opportunity for a great time of fellowship. I really enjoyed the fellowship at the recent Appalachian Regional Odd year Gathering in Baltimore in March. It was so good to see and talk to so many old friends that I hadn't seen for awhile. Sure I shot my bow on a fantastic course, sure I had some great meals, the silent auction and auction were great and I got a really nice Bison Gear pack and a day of photography lessons with Rob Burnham, the seminar about hunting packs was really cool, the Chili Cook-off was fun and tasty, but the highlight of the weekend for me was the fellowship.

PBS is made up of individuals, individuals that are made up of the full gamut of personalities. We sure tend to be strong willed intelligent free thinkers with a myriad of backgrounds and ideas on how things should be done. Getting along when we differ in opinions is something that is really important and something we always have to work on. But we do that awesomely well most of the time. PBSers are awesome at helping others climb up the ladder rather than kicking them off of the rung. I saw great acts of kindness and deference in Baltimore when we all came together from all over Appalachia and beyond. What a great time!

The book of Acts in the Bible is a record of practicing Christianity under the power of the Holy Spirit. It teaches believers how to live together in meaningful Christian fellowship, sharing freely with one another (Acts 2:42; 4:32-35). Conversely, Acts also shows that Christians inevitably will have disagreements (Acts 6:1; 11:1-3; 15:2, 7; 15:36-39), but that God gives wisdom and grace to settle differences (Acts 15:12-22). Even though the early church had its share of strong personalities, there was still a willingness to listen and to submit to one another (Acts 15:6-14). Luke, the writer of Acts, as well as the Book of Luke, traces in his two volumes the Christian movement

from its beginnings with Jesus to its development into a worldwide fellowship transcending the limits of Jewish nationality and embracing Jews and Gentiles impartially. Acts shows us great examples of people of different personalities and backgrounds coming together for a common cause. It is a good book to study and the fascinating thing to me is that there is no ending to Acts. It is open ended. Christians are still adding to Acts by our deeds today. Heaven is recording it all.

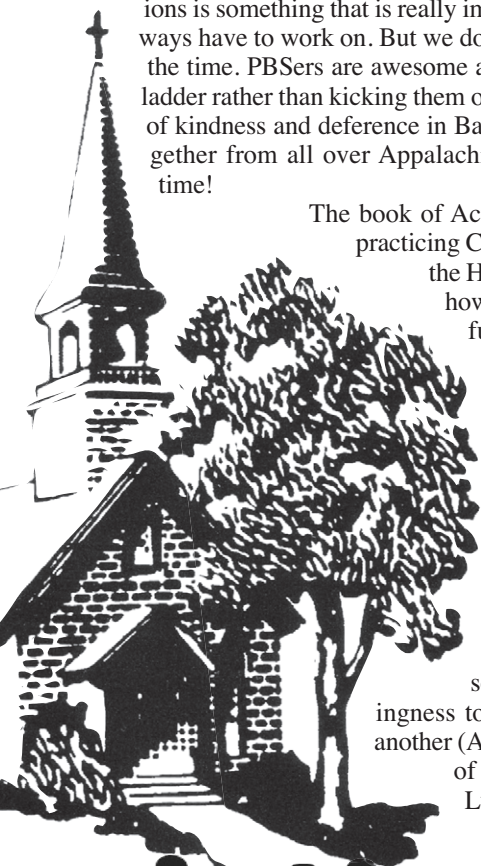
Philippians 1:1 PAUL and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, ⁴always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, ⁵for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.

Paul took the Gospel to the Gentile world in the 1st century and everywhere he went he talked about the fellowship of the saints. This letter to Christians in Philippi was typical of his love and fondness for the people he ministered to and whom he stayed connected to even when he was in a far off country, or even as he was imprisoned in this case. We as Christians need fellowship and connection with other believers. Setting ourselves aside to come together with our brothers and sisters is pleasing to God. We as PBSers can also take away from this example and be willing to set ourselves aside for the good of the PBS as a whole, rather than become defensive of our position to the point of being divisive. God can give us the grace to come to places of agreement for common good. The Church started with Jesus and grew to 12 disciples, then 120 believers in an upper room on the day of Pentecost, then 5,000 after Peter preached, and after 20 centuries of constant growth in 2010 a number of sources gave the number as 2.1 Billion for the number of Christians worldwide. TWO POINT ONE BILLION! That is quite a growth model. This was done by God's plan, not the plan of each individual that has been a believer over 2015 years. Jesus said that the world would know true Christians by their love for one another. I know we PBSers are cut of that cloth too. When we find out that another bowhunter is a PBSer, we look at them in a different light. The brotherhood factor sets in. We have to take that and use it to the advantage of PBS.

Fellowship for Christians begins with fellowship with God. The deeper our relationship becomes with Him, the better our fellowship with other believers will be. There are no Lone Ranger believers. Any person that thinks they can do without fellowshiping with other believers and that does not love and become a part of the Church that Jesus died for, is deceived. The Church is not perfect because it is made up of imperfect people, but the Head of the Church is perfect and He is perfecting (working on) His people. We just have to find a Church where we feel at home and become the best disciple of Christ that we can be. The plan is to work for the Lord, spread the Good News of the Gospel, love and build the Church, and enjoy fellowship with other believers. Let us enjoy Fellowship!



Announcing: **Regional Membership Drive!**

Sign up 3, Yours is Free!

Plus you'll get a custom PBS mug...and your name in a hat for a regional Hunt drawing!

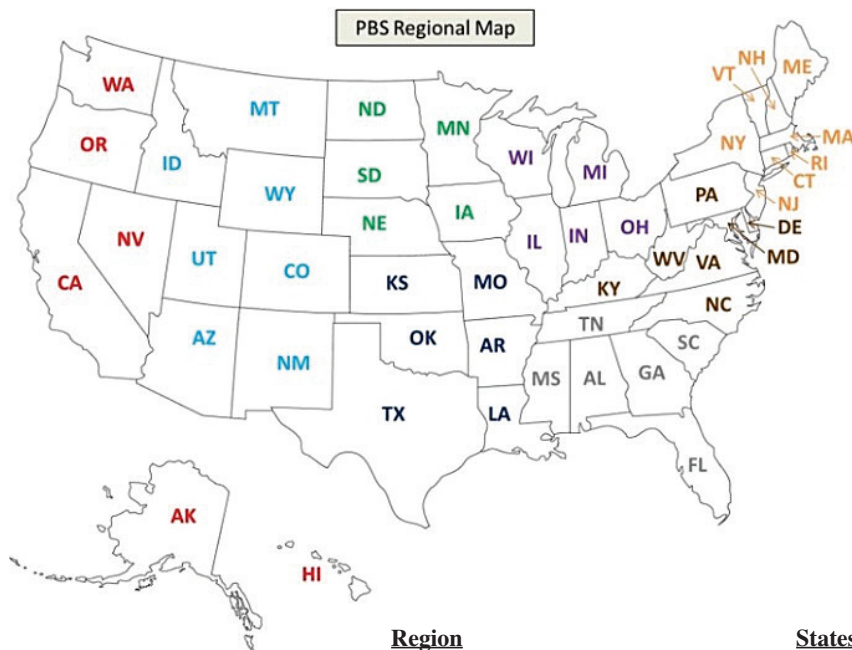
There will be a prize for signing up 3 new members to PBS. You will get 1 year free membership and one of these fine PBS commemorative Mugs!

Determine which Region you are in and see if you can find 3 worthy candidates to become PBS Members from within your region. If you are not the first to succeed at this challenge in your region, but you do **sign up 3 by February 20th, 2016** – you will still receive a free membership for 2016.



Winners will be Announced at the 2016 Gathering in St. Augustine, Florida.

Everyone who signs up 3 by 2/20/16 will have their name put into a hat to be drawn for a slot at the regional hunt of your choosing...with special accommodations, that are yet to be determined.



| <u>Region</u> | <u>States</u> |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Pacific West | Alaska, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Oregon, Washington |
| Rocky Mountain West | Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming |
| North Central | Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota |
| South Central .. | Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas |
| Great Lakes | Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin |
| Northeast | Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont |
| Appalachian | Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia |
| Southeast | Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee |
| International | Australia, Canada, England, France, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand, All Other Countries |



PBS – Regionally Speaking

By Steve Hohensee, Jeff Holchin and Terry Receveur
Second Quarter 2015

This report is a little abbreviated in order to allow more space for the upcoming banquet. In general we expect to provide full regional reports for the first and third quarter magazines, and either no or abbreviated reports for the second and fourth quarter magazines.

As noted previously, the following region and state listings below seem to be the final status.

| Region | States |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Pacific West | Alaska, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Oregon, Washington |
| Rocky Mountain West | Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming |
| North Central | Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota |
| South Central | Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas |
| Great Lakes | Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin |
| Northeast | Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont |
| Appalachian | Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia |
| Southeast | Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee |
| International | Australia, Canada, England, France, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand, All Other Countries |

The current Regional Representatives are as follows:

Appalachian - Gene Thorn
Great Lakes - Ron Lang, Mike Vines
International - Richard Flett
North Central - John Vargo, Mark Viehweg
Northeast - Terry Receveur
Pacific West - Tom Vanasche
Rocky Mountain West - Dan Mathis
South Central - Russell Lantier
Southeast - Ethan Rodrigue

The following is a partial list of regional and/or membership hunts planned for 2015/2016:

June 2015

Northeast Region: Frog hunting hullabaloo – June 2015

July 2015

Ojibwa Bowhunters, Odd Year Gathering: July 17-19, 2015

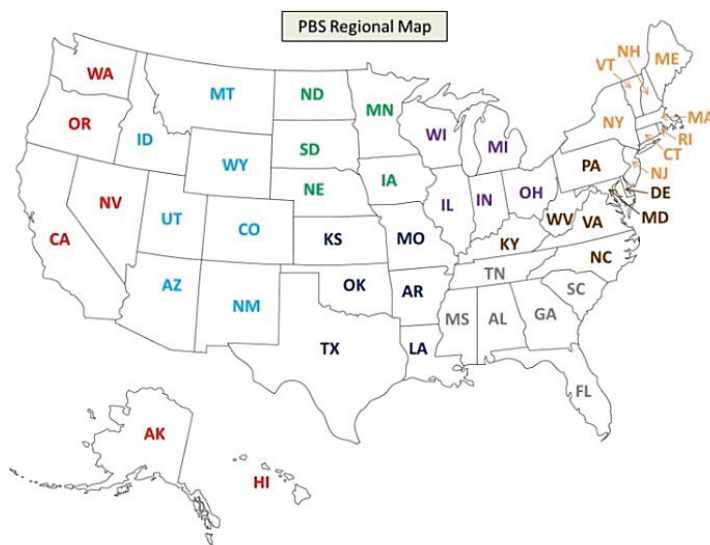
August/September

Rocky Mountain West Region: Colorado elk hunt (open the entire season)

October 2015

Appalachian Region: Rough Mountain, VA deer/bear/turkey: late October.

Northeast Region: NY Catskill Mountains, deer: tentative Oct 24-25, 2015



November 2015

Great Lakes Region: Ohio membership hunt, deer/turkey/small game: early Nov TBD

Pacific West Region, Oregon, Columbian Blacktail Hunt: November 14-22, 2015

Pacific West Region: Alaska, Sitka blacktailed deer/Mtn goat Membership Hunt: Nov 7-14, 2015

December 2015

Southeast Region: Blackbeard hunt for deer and hogs

January 2016

Membership Hunt, Arizona deer/javelina: January 1 - January 10, 2016

February 2016

Great Plains Region: TX hog hunt at Spikebox Ranch, Feb. 8-12 and 15-19

Southeast Region: GA coastal hog hunt

March 2016

2016 Biennial Gathering, St. Augustine, Florida: March 3-6, 2016

Pacific West Report

(Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, California)

by Tom Vanasche – Regional Representative

No report.

Rocky Mountain West Report

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

by Bryan Bolding

No report.

PBS Regionally Speaking

~ continued from page 11

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

South Dakota – Mark Viehweg

It has been a quiet legislative session. The general archery deer season dates have been set: 9/26-12/31/2015. The archery antelope season will run from 8/15-10/2/2015. It appears antelope and deer numbers will be somewhat improved from 2014. The archery elk draw is open to residents only. There is one mountain goat tag and one bighorn sheep tag available in the drawing for residents. Although, it appears to be not much to get excited about, this is the first time in eight years a tag is available for mountain goats. The Prairie State Traditional Shoot will held on August 1 and 2nd near Platte on the Missouri River. This will be a great opportunity for nearby PBS members to get together before things get to busy. I hope too see some of you there.

Nebraska – Bryce Lambley

Not much for news in Nebraska. Mountain lions continue to show up in unlikely places - a large, injured male was put down in Omaha in early May - which would be anecdotal evidence that their presence is probably more widespread than we think. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, after a first-ever season in 2014, suspended the hunting season for 2015 due to meeting harvest quotas in 2014 and a fairly substantial incidental kill due to traffic and other factors. They will continue to study the species. This current moratorium has taken some of the wind out of the sails of state legislators bent on micromanaging the state's wildlife, and usurping the very agency of experts we already have in place (NGPC).

The whitetail herd continues to bounce back after devastating losses from the state's worst modern-day EHD epidemic in 2012. Deer are still not at pre-epidemic levels, in population or trophy levels, however. NGPC has endeavored to try to make the increase gradual. Carrying capacity is not their goal; a socially-accepted capacity that would keep hunters and farmers happy is an elusive aim.

This fall will mark the second season of Nebraska's new Sept. 1 opener for deer hunting, which make it a more viable destination for those who want to take advantage of leave time at Labor Day. Other high profile species open at that same time would include pronghorn antelope (archery), and shotgunning opportunities for dove and prairie grouse. For bowhunters willing to battle mosquitoes and high temps, deer can sometimes still be found on their summer routines (which in my neck of the woods can mean they are still hitting beanfields in eastern Nebraska before they begin to turn brown). Either way, youth permits are just \$5 for deer and turkey, resident or non-resident. Turkey season began Sept. 15 in 2014.

North Dakota Report 1 – Jim Domaskin

Not much news from ND. Deer archery season opens Sept. 4 and closes Jan. 3. Nonresident any whitetail deer archery licenses are unlimited. Nonresident any deer (mule deer) are by lottery only. There are several archery shoots across the state. Times and dates can be found on the NDBA web site. I have been busy getting the spring planting completed and now waiting for some warm

weather. I did manage to find some nice drop horns including one in a tractor tire also took some time to harvest a nice tom turkey.

North Dakota Report 2 – Paul Speral

Greetings from eastern North Dakota. We have come out of winter in great shape and should soon be seeing a much improved fawn crop. After much discussion, our bow season for 2015 will remain basically the same as in the past. With lower deer numbers and therefore, lower tag numbers for the regular season (gun season), we received pressure from the gun guys to limit archery hunters to just one tag. Currently in ND you are allowed to bowhunt on a gun tag if drawn, and some thought it unfair that bowhunters could have two tags when many receive none. The North Dakota Bowhunters Assn. was crucial in avoiding any change and had a presence at all Game and Fish advisory meetings. Bow tags are over the counter and the NDBA invited all to take up bowhunting and join our group. Selfishly we know most do not want to expend the time and energy bowhunting requires. Regular season tags were reduced again for 2015 to just over 43,000. This will be about a forty year low. One of the benefits of this has been an improvement in the number of quality bucks. Even though anecdotal, the number of guys seeing and talking about this tells me we will see more good bucks again this fall. We now have bowhunter education available on line and have been scheduling field days for the outdoor portion. This has been received very well and we continue to try and expand our number of certified instructors so field days become more widespread and convenient. With Alaska requiring all hunters to have Bowhunters Education next year and many younger guys heading for places like Colorado, I would expect interest to remain high. I hope everyone is setting their goals for this fall, as it will soon be upon us. Dreaming and planning are what the rest of the year are for. I hope all of yours come true this fall and with great planning and the right attitude we cannot fail. Have fun.

Note – John Vargo is taking reservations for the 2016 Spikebox Ranch hog hunt in Texas.

Great Lakes Report

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

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

Wisconsin – Ron Lang

Today is the start of the last seven day time period for Wisconsin's Spring Turkey hunt which starts around mid April. I always choose this week mainly because you're almost guaranteed a tag and also it is a great time to get a chance at a love sick tom. With turkeys I need more luck than skill. Just getting out hunting and getting away from all the things going on in the world is a plus. Wisconsin like many states is politically going through some troubling times. The Wisconsin budget is in its final stages and it is possible conservation and our DNR, mainly the science department, might be taking some cuts. While all this is important and can have an effect on the quality of our outdoor experience, time and patience have taught me to let things play out and focus on other things. While putting this report together I looked at the Wisconsin Traditional Archers website and saw that as of today there are eleven different traditional bow activities including, shooting,

building a self-bow or archery golf happening between now and the 15th of August. That's a lot of neat stuff to focus on because at all of these events there is always a group of PBSer's. The Ojibwa PBS Odd year gathering in July is one of these events. If you are interested in any of these events just Google up the Wisconsin Traditional Archers and their website will appear. Click on shoots and it will give dates, location, and directions.

As of this writing I don't know of any PBS hunts taking place in Wisconsin this fall but you never know so check the PBS website often. In other news around the Great Lakes Region Paul Ladner, Illinois, reports the (UBI) United Bowhunters of Illinois has hosted a traditional only shoot June 6, 2015 at Broken Arrow Range near Charleston, IL. Shane Close reports that April 24, 2015 he sent an email to Ohio PBSer's informing them of his role in the Regional Program and asking them for their input. He is also trying to contact Ohio PBSer's by phone as some might not have internet access. Indiana, no report. Mike Vines, Michigan, reports that at present not much is happening. Of course there is Compton where a lot of PBSer's and others gather for a great time but so far no other hunts or gatherings in Michigan that we know of.

On a closing note it is hard to report on what is happening in your state if one does not contact their regional representative and let them know what is going on and important to you. Like all organizations our most important asset is you. Over and over it is often stated how important the fraternal aspect of the PBS is, please make an effort to support that fraternal idea and contact your regional representative if for nothing else just to talk. If organizing a hunt or gathering is not your thing that's okay. Attending or being part of one of these hunts or gatherings though is something most of us could arrange and all would welcome. I hope I have not over stepped my bounds in what I have said but just like you I want the PBS to thrive and prosper. For that to happen we need you!

Michigan – Mike Vines

The Michigan DNR announced recently that the first case of CWD in a free range deer in Michigan was confirmed.

Northeastern Report

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

by Terry Receveur

No report.

Appalachia Report

(Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina)

by Gene Thorn – Regional Representative

Appalachian Region Report, 2nd Quarter 2015 – Gene Thorn:

The PBS Appalachian Region 2015 Odd-Year Gathering was held in Baltimore on March 27-29, 2015. It was well attended and a good time was had by all. A big thanks goes out to Larry Schwartz for organizing the event, all the PBS members that helped and came, and the Baltimore Bowmen for providing their facility and help. The 3D course was awesome with animal targets that were not the run of the mill. Life size moose, caribou, elk, sheep, goat etc. were placed on a beautiful trail through mature hardwood forest. There was a great seminar on hunting packs with

lots of packs to check out. We had a great auction and silent auction that raised money for PBS. We are already looking forward to the next one!

Delaware News – Paul Quigley

A Bill is being introduced to allow limited Sunday hunting in the five Sunday's that fall in our gun seasons. Any weapon is allowed during the firearms season, so it's also a start for bow hunters, too. Keep your fingers crossed that it passes. A hunting license increase was shot down during the last advisory council meeting, they were trying lots of ways to sugar coat an increase without giving anything back to the hunter "i.e. Sunday hunting". Another proposed idea that I liked was a user pass required for others who enjoy and use public lands (bird watchers , horseback riders, etc..)

Kentucky News

We need a rep or two for the Bluegrass State. If you have an interest please contact Gene Thorn.

Maryland News – Tony Sanders

An expanding bear population in Western Maryland is evident by a recent news release by DNR in April 2015 – bear are leaving their winter dens in search for food now that their long winter slumber has come to an end. Since natural foods are scarce in the early spring, they often seek out human-provided sources. Those living in, or visiting bear country can help keep Maryland's black bears wild by being proactive and exercising good judgment. DNR urges residents to clean or remove anything outdoors that may smell like food. This includes: locking garbage in a bear-proof trash container, or keeping inside until the day of pick-up; rinsing trash containers with ammonia to eliminate food odors; storing cooking grills inside or keeping them clean of food residue; and removing birdfeeders from April through November — there are many wild food sources for birds during this time.

North Carolina News – Jeff Holchin – No news this quarter.

Pennsylvania News – Tim Denial – No news this quarter.

Virginia News – Randy Brookshier

There are three important changes proposed to the hunting regulations for Virginia this year. One of the most important is 4VAC15-40-22.... This regulation change impacts ALL Virginia hunters, not just bow hunters. This is the Virginia Bear Hunters Association making the proposal to remove the bear tag from our big game license and make it a separate, \$25.00 tag, at no reduction in the cost of the big game license. This is a ridiculous proposal and it only serves to benefit the hound hunters. There is no biological evidence to support this proposal and it was NOT proposed by the game commission, but rather the Va. Bear Hunters Association. Bear/human contacts and complaints are at an all-time high as are bear numbers in Va. This was proposed about three years ago and shot down, mostly due to opposing comments from hunters.

4VAC15-50-12 Once again this was proposed by the Va. Bear Hunters Association. Currently there is a youth hunting day in September where a youth or apprentice hunter may take a bear. The use of dogs to run the bear is allowed on this special day as well. The proposal is to move it from September until the second week of October and make it a youth Bear hunting Weekend to include both Saturday and Sunday. There is no benefit in that to the large majority of hunters, especially bow hunters. I certainly don't want to be sitting in my stand on the

~ continued on page 14 ~

PBS Regionally Speaking

~ continued from page 13

second weekend of early bow season and have a pack of bear dogs running around the ridge with me along with the contingent of hunters.

4VAC15-90-70 Currently we have a bow and arrow license and a crossbow license. There is a subsection in the regulation indicating that a crossbow is a legal weapon and a type of bow and arrow and legal during our bow season. They want to remove all descriptions and labels and call everything "archery equipment" in the regulations. A minor point but one that I don't care for. It is going to show our bow kill success rates are higher than they actually are once we include crossbows. Besides, and it is a personal point..... I think there should be a clear distinction between a hand held bow and arrows and a shoulder fired cross gun.

There have been numerous e-mail and phone call campaigns aimed at defeating these proposals. Hopefully when the annual regulations are released in July that will have been the case.

The Virginia State Big Game trophy show is the longest running show of its type in the country. There have been some growing pains as of late and some changes made. One of the most significant is to update the scoring system. Virginia has utilized its own scoring system for the past 76 years, requiring you have an animal scored twice by certified scorers. Once for the Virginia system and again by P & Y or B & C scorers. Beginning in 2015 Virginia is suspending its scoring system and adopting the B & C system of scoring.

West Virginia News – Gene Thorn

Well, the old saying is that no news is good news but unfortunately there is news and most of the news from WV this quarter is very bad.

The battle to keep crossbows out of bow season in WV that PBS and WV Bowhunters has fought for decades was lost in the 2015 legislative session when a last minute of the last night horse trading attachment of crossbow legislation was added to a bill (HB 2515) authorizing re-introduction of elk into WV. The idea put forth earlier in the legislative session was to create a special crossbow season of one day to a week according to Natural Resources Committee Chairman, Senator Robert Karnes, but when the Natural Resources Commission set the season at their May 3 meeting in Wheeling they set it from the first to last day of the archery season in 2015 with no special crossbow license needed. Crossbows can be used in any of the gun seasons as well as bow season. The only limitation is that crossbows are not legal in the 4 bowhunting only counties, Logan McDowell, Mingo and Wyoming (except with a Class Y – Disabled Crossbow Permit). Over 22,000 individuals now have that permit by the way. So much for a one day to week long season..... Sad.

Another change by the Natural Resources Commission is that the 2016 Spring gobbler season in WV will come in a week earlier, on the 3rd Monday in April. This is a change long asked for by hunters. This is the one piece of good news.

An update to the report last quarter concerning CWD monitoring in WV - WVDNR did lose the monitoring authority over Captive Deer and Elk Farms in WV to the WV Dept of Agriculture. The bill was not vetoed by Governor Earl Ray Tomblin, despite numerous calls, e-mails and letters in opposition to the Governor signing the bill into law by the WV Bowhunters Association, and many individual hunters. The fox is in the henhouse.

Southeast Report

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

by Ethan Rodrigue – Regional Representative

No report.

Pacific West Report

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

by Steve Hohensee – Regional Representative

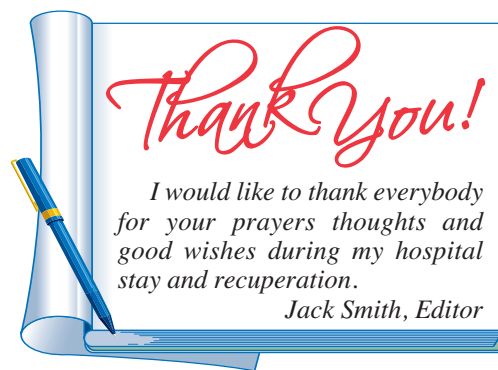
No report.

International Report

(Australia, Canada, England, France, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand, All Other Countries)

by Richard Flett – Regional Representative

No report. ♡



Pacific West Region 2015 Membership Hunts Blacktail Deer

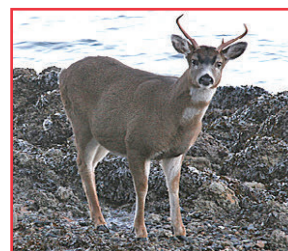
Blacktail Deer North: Alaska

A membership Hunt will be held on Alaska's Kodiak Island for Sitka Blacktail Deer from November 7-14, 2015.

Spots are extremely limited.

Check the Pacific West Region forum of the PBS website for more information.

Membership Hunt lead is Steve Hohensee,
steveh.alaska@gmail.com



Blacktail Deer South: Oregon

A membership hunt will be held in Oregon's Evans Creek Unit for Columbian Blacktail Deer starting November 14, 2015. Details will be forthcoming on the Pacific West Region forum of the PBS website.

Membership Hunt lead is Jim Akenson,
micaake@yahoo.com



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My Traditional Journey

By Wyatt Rodgers

I chose to take this journey mainly because of Monty Browning. He inspired me to take this journey by helping me write and shoot better. That's not the only reason I chose to take this journey though. Another big reason is that after shooting a couple of deer with the crossbow it seemed too easy and unfair to the deer. Traditional hunting puts more excitement and challenge into the hunt.

My past experience with traditional archery started by getting my first longbow.

My Grandfather got it for me. He ordered it from



Dave Windaur at Schafer Bows and we picked it up at the Eastern Traditional Archery Rendezvous. My father and grandfather both shoot bows made by Dave. I have now grown out of that bow, so I've been using a "Bear" longbow given to me by Monty Browning. That is where this story really begins. I have been shooting this bow for about a month now at a hay bale target in my basement, I shoot at least 30 arrows a day. I shoot at a one inch disk at about seven yards. My first week I shot six inch groups. My second week I could hit the disk a few times and my groups shrunk to about four inches. During the third week my father put a black dot in the middle of the disk and it really helped me concentrate. By the fourth week I could hit the disk 40 percent of the time. I can't wait till I can hunt with traditional equipment. I can only pull about 25 pounds. In my state of Pennsylvania you need to be able to pull 35 pounds to hunt.

My past hunting accomplishments include my bull elk when I was seven years old with a rifle. Then, when I got older we bought a crossbow and after I shot a couple of deer with it I realized the excitement of traditional hunting. I still shot my crossbow after I killed my first deer but I was ready to hunt traditionally. So I started to shoot my longbow more. I love to go stump shooting with it in the woods. Then I got into shooting house sparrows in the back yard because it was so challenging.

I enjoy watching the Wensel and Mitten brother's movies. They inspire me to shoot longbow because their movies bring out the greatness of the animals. I hope to make my own bow someday and hunt with it. I love to make my own arrows and see how they shoot out of my bow. After I get a couple of good arrows I shoot them all to see which

one is the best.

A few years ago we invited Mark Baker to my church's wild game dinner. Mark built an osage longbow for me but it is still too heavy. I hope to shoot a deer with it someday. This past year we invited Monty Browning. This is when I first met Monty Browning. He stayed at our house for three days. He even slept in my room while he was here. While he was here, he helped me set short-term goals such as shooting chipmunks in the back yard and long-term goals such as making my own bow and shooting a whitetail with it.

This year we invited Monty back to our wild game dinner. He also brought his wife Annie with him. Annie was very nice. My sister enjoyed playing with her. This time Monty helped me with my writing by telling me to use my pen as a paint brush. He gave me an assignment that had subjects such as the sunrise through the scattered clouds and cooking breakfast in the bush of Alaska. I had to describe these subjects in my own words. He gave me these to help me describe my stories better. He also helped me with my shooting. He hung a little half inch piece of foam on a string about a foot in front of the bale. I was shooting pretty well but this made me even better. I hit on my first shot. We painted it white so I could concentrate even better. I really enjoyed shooting with him. I hope to see him at the Eastern Traditional rendezvous this summer.

As I said in the beginning I chose to take this journey because of the challenge and excitement that traditional hunting puts into the hunt. I thank Monty for inspiring me to take this journey and for helping me get this story published. I hope everyone enjoyed reading this story. I thank the PBS for publishing this story. I hope that this story is one of many I write for you. I hope to fulfill these goals and become a successful traditional bowhunter.

Wyatt Rodgers



**"Traditional hunting puts
more excitement and
challenge into the hunt."**

- Wyatt Rodgers



Inspired by Monty Browning to take up traditional archery and work on his writing, Wyatt Rodgers did just that! He went from shooting 6 inch targets in his basement to 1 inch targets (above) to a half inch piece of foam suspended by a string (below) with good success.



Monty's advice to Wyatt about his writing, "...use your pen as a paint brush."

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Mountain Goat Odyssey

By Steve Hohensee and Ben Pinney

THE ODYSSEY

Back in 2009 my buddy Ben Pinney and I planned a bowhunt for mountain goat in Southeast Alaska, a near annual trip for the two of us. Benny and his young bride of a few months, hiked into the alpine ahead of our trip and he shot a nice billy the first morning of the season (see The Professional Bowhunter Magazine, Q4 2014). Since Benny had filled his tag I went solo that year.

Before this past season Benny committed that if he filled his tag early I would have myself a personal Sherpa, just like the

good ol' days, before Benny was an Alaska resident! So what does Benny do the first couple days of this goat season? Sure enough Benny killed a huge ol' billy; I was going to have myself my very own personal Sherpa for this trip!

The past several years we have been expanding outward from our "home base" ridge and this trip was one of those "let's try the NEXT ridge" experimental hunts. Even though we were close to an area we have walked into during past years, this year we flew to our chosen spot, only about a 15 minute flight, and after circling the backside of the mountain, a near vertical wall of bare rock and ice, we landed on a beautiful alpine lake surrounded on 300 degrees by luxurious goat cliffs!

We landed on the lake without issue and deposited at the inlet stream and set out by walking along the banks of the inlet stream, then in the stream itself. A wall of intertwined alder and willow formed a near impenetrable barrier to straight line progress. Eventually we selected a side channel that led to the mountain of our choice, and faded upward into an ever steepening chute.

Does everyone remember the story "The Odyssey" in Greek mythology, where the beautiful sirens' singing would pull men navigating ships into the rocks and to their deaths? Well, Benny and I got in one of these ephemeral streams that, as it works its way up the mountain becomes deeply incised and ever steepening, turning into a chute. You get kind of sucked into continuing in the incised chute versus climbing out and crawling through brush.

These chutes are very common in mountainous/avalanche country and the scree under foot becomes increasingly less stable as the slope steepens.

Onward we climbed up the ever steepening, more deeply incised chute, scree loose under foot. I was in the lead and I was searching for a path to

climb out from the chute. We had dislodged at least one if not a couple 20 pound rocks; I had to yell "watch out" to Benny at least once as a rock bounced his way. We held our breath while navigating around or over half ton boulders so as not to dislodge any small material holding them in place on the slope.

When you climb in steep country, where you go up, doesn't mean you can necessarily go down safely.....

Ben Pinney: I've been on plenty of steep slopes and many far worse than this one initially was. . . . Key word is initially. Heck, we felt pretty safe though as the alders were most times within 20 - 30 yards and it would only entail some slightly cautious footwork to mosey over to the alders, grab ahold and start thrashing. The thrashing through the brush is what we were hoping to avoid when we initially began our climb up this chute. . . .

Steve and I have had many conversations about not getting into dangerous climbing situations and we're always trying to avoid the exact situation that we were unknowingly getting ourselves into. We've both been there before and no goat or goat hunt is worth it. Between the two of us, we've been on over 30 goat hunts. We are very deliberate in choosing safe routes and not simply charging up the mountain at all costs. . . . apparently we were not deliberate enough this time.

A GOOD DAY TO DIE

Benny remained 30 feet or so below me in case I kicked loose a rock. I tried to work out of the chute by going upward but I got to a point where I didn't see a clear path further up and I didn't think I could safely descend back to my last footing without going into a slide, roll, and a likely out of control death roll. No, it wasn't a sheer cliff but I figured I'd have a 90% chance of an out of control fall if I attempted to descend, poor odds indeed. So there I was on a little perch of rock debris that formed a small little shelf, less than one foot square, hoping it wouldn't collapse before I could figure out



my next move.

There was a bedrock spine to my left with a couple wispy alders but my gut said they would not hold if I put weight on them. The rock was crumbly but I thought if I could pull myself up onto it that I might be able to work a seam to gain a higher handhold up a second, sub-chute on my upper left. The problem was, there were no handholds to pull myself onto that spine and there were no handholds to pull myself further up the main chute. To my right was a rock face at maybe 70 degrees slope with loose rock fragments and dried mud covering the surface, molded onto the rock from years of snow, ice, and water flowing down the chute.

I couldn't go up, I couldn't go left, I couldn't go right, and I couldn't go down. I could actually go any of those directions, but a fall was almost certain if I tried. Time slowed down. I was trapped. But how about Benny, I couldn't save him, could he save himself?

Benny, albeit lower than me was also already in a spot where it would be dangerous to retreat back down the chute. Benny ascended to a spot twenty feet lower on the slope where a vertical bank formed the side of the chute, the bank partially stabilized by a clump of alders. There was no point of him climbing upward as I had already pretty much demonstrated that was a dead end (no pun intended).

Ben Pinney: *By the time I realized we were in as bad a situation as we were, I also could not go back down. The ground was supersaturated and each attempt at a step sent the earth sloughing off below our feet. I'd been in this type of situation twice before and each time had vowed never to let it happen again. It was a good idea in theory. I quickly noticed two things: 1) I was in a really bad way. 2) Steve was in a far worse way than I was.*

The nearest alders were only about 10 feet above my head but it was a cut bank. My pack was around 50 pounds. As Steve mentioned above, with that extra weight hanging off our backs, it would only take a very small slip to overcome our control. We would be cartwheeling down the cut into eternity. Before I could even think, I'd quick stepped up the slope and was hanging onto an alder branch at head height. Safe . . . or so I thought as I re-grouped. . . . but those short seconds of regrouping made me realize that I was in a potentially far worse situation. It took a considerable amount of strength for me to maintain my grasp on the alder, the Earth was sloughing below my feet in significant amounts and I only had so much time before my foot hold would be

gone and I'd literally be hanging on for dear life. Somehow I had to drag myself up and over the cut bank. I would have no more foot holds. I felt my energy draining as I looked down below. I could not go back. This was it.

I thought about my young family back at home and how ridiculous it was to be in this situation. I HAD to make this work. Scrambling and pulling I knew that if the branch pulled out or broke it was over. This was very real. Don't fret, just climb. Pull up, grab the next alder with one hand and pull again. The ground sloughed away and my feet were dangling as I reached the height of the cut bank. It felt like I was hanging upside down.

I grabbed another alder, maybe six inches to a foot at a time. Slowly I moved up. The edge of the cut bank was now at chest level. In a few seconds I'd know my fate.

A branch grabbed my pack. I cursed and pulled even harder. For a moment I thought about Steve watching me. I don't know why I thought about this. Time seemed to slow. It was hot, I was dehydrated and my mouth was parched. (The feeling I had in this moment was something that would return to me in the next several days just as I began to drift into sleep. It would jolt me awake.)

Suddenly the branch lost its hold and I heaved another foot higher, my waist was over the bank and only my feet dangled below. I rested a few seconds and then pulled one more time up into the alders. Scrambling I lodged a foot against an alder and laid down cursing . . . never again. This was not worth it. My family deserves better. I wasn't out of the clear yet though.

The small ledge I was on was nowhere near flat and it was the very tip of the alder finger on the other side of which was another chute. At least half of it was undercut and I had a horrible feeling (probably unwarranted) that the whole dirt ledge I was on would destabilize. I had maybe 15 feet of near vertical alder/rock face to climb before I could consider taking my pack off and feel out of danger. I climbed up but now with alders to hold. Just at the top another very large and firm alder grabbed ahold of my pack pushing me down. I didn't have the strength to go back down to lessen its hold and keep firm footing. I could only push and try to rotate out. As the branch lurched off of me it took my hat and whipped down grabbing a micro-spike off one of my feet. I fell forward to relative safety. Slithering upward through the brush I found what looked to be a bear den / bed under some very densely interwoven mountain hemlock branches and took off my pack.

I could breathe and think for a moment. Slowly, keeping firm hand and footholds, I worked my way to where I could see Steve down in the chute. He looked to be in a worse situation than I'd even realized.

I honestly cannot convey in words the desperation I felt throughout all of this. It was the worst way I / we've ever been.

I climbed up and down looking for something, anything to help Steve out. Footholds, alders he could creep to and grab. There was nothing. Any way he went would get worse before it got better.

The sun beat down. I was parched from climbing and remember almost heaving as I realized how dire it was for Steve.

The sat phone: we had a sat phone and began to realize that a helicopter rescue may be the only real way out of this mess.

Still the ground was sloughing under Steve's feet. We also began to question if he could even maintain his position long enough for a helicopter to arrive.

If something was going to happen it would likely have to happen soon. It became clear that he couldn't stay where he was for long. It was also clear that I might watch Steve die today; it was gut wrenching.

I am very solid in my faith and so I prayed, very intensely.

DIVINE INTERVENTION

I was safe for the moment on my little perch on the side of the slope. Unless the little patch suddenly gave way, and it might, like Benny said it was supersaturated and right in the cleft of the cut where the water ate into the rock.

I was able to stand silently and watch while Benny did the most important pull up of his life. Not only did Benny feel like he was upside down, he WAS upside down! Benny got his feet up to the cut bank at the base of the alder, his head and his pack were lower, hovering above the ground so that if he lost his grip or the alder broke, he would fall and hit shoulders or head first.

Benny heaved to pull himself up but stalled out and his weight pulled him down. My breath caught in my throat as he gave it all or lost it all and in one last effort, pulled himself up to what appeared to me to be relative safety, not only his safety, but mine, too. It was apparently not Benny's day to die but my fate was not yet settled for that day.

Benny climbed up to stable ground where he could safely take off his pack and tried to find the closest stable ground to me so he could help me assess my next move. Surprisingly, I was quite calm and was able to very thoughtfully study my options for

~ continued on page 20 ~

Mountain Goat Odyssey

~ continued from page 19

possible escape probably because I knew if I panicked I would probably die.

I remembered the satellite phone that was in my pack and Benny and I discussed that option. Could I even stand in one place on my perch without it collapsing in the thirty minutes a rescue helicopter was going to take? Now this might sound odd but I have worked around a few Alaskan mine sites since I've been up North and I put into practice what I have observed used to stabilize engineered pads. I very carefully built micro-lifts on my platform with small amounts of rock and mud I carved onto my perch, gently packing each lift. It was still just a matter of time as water seeped down the rock and further saturated my tiny perch.

Benny had a thin rope, actually more like a cord in his pack and we tried to find a stable spot he could get that cord tied off to an alder and tossed down to me. We spent about fifteen minutes figuring out one thing: it wasn't going to happen. I knew that I was eventually going to have to select ONE option and give it all, the only option that I could see that remained was to literally RUN across fifteen feet of 70 degree rock face and literally dive for a last chance alder hand hold as I fell away from the rock face.

Ben Pinney: *As Steve was preparing for his final lunge I finished my prayer. I honestly don't remember thinking what came out of my mouth. It just came out.*

"Steve, this isn't going to work. You've got to take it slow and begin kicking/carving steps out one at a time as if you were in snow".

Was it a moment of clarity or divine intervention? Again, I never actually had the thought; it just came out of my mouth. I'm going for the latter.

I kept praying with each step. This was as serious as it gets.

Carving steps into rock seemed impossible--at first. I carry bamboo trekking poles that have epoxied hardwood tips. With me on rugged terrain hunts and this trip was no different. I started chipping away all of the loose rock and debris from the slope face to expose the bedrock. I searched for fractures that would allow me to pry away rock into steps. I was able to create four steps that if they held – IF they held, would get me to a spot where I could get my arms over a solid spine of rock. Once at the rock, only if none of the steps

with his foot.

Once the steps were as good as they were going to be, I didn't think another thought and went straight into a deliberate climb, all of the steps would have to hold or I would fall, farther the higher I climbed. The steps held and I straddled then hugged the rock spine. Benny held on to an over-head alder and stretched to get a lower alder pushed down to my hand, with his foot. I grasped at the alder and put a death-grip into the bark and pulled myself upward. Benny grabbed me by the back of my pack and pulled me onto his ledge.

Yes, we man-hugged. Benny mumbled something and I said, "Let's hunt some goats" in my best Legolas voice (e.g. "Let's hunt some Orc"-style)!

GOAT COUNTRY!

We were close to alpine when we crawled out of the chute. We kept climbing and climbing up the side of the mountain. We had probably selected the longest route to the ridgeline. Eventually we had enough exertion for one day and found a small, relatively flat bench for our tent with water close by.

We woke up the next day to beautiful weather and loaded up for an exploration run just to get a feel for this mountain and whether there was connectivity to other ridges, or not. We made it to one end of the mountain and kicked up a flock of rock ptarmigan. We took a few photos and I had Benny film me hiking to a rock prominence. It felt good to be alive. I love the alpine, but it's not always so beautiful like on this day....

Sometimes you plan a goat hunt for months in advance but you can't really plan to hunt when the fog rolls in and the rains unleash themselves, you can only plan on how to survive. A thick fog rolled in from the south and we maximized the use of our two hours of clear weather to try to figure out the lay-out of this ridge complex. We both had enough "Knowledge Through Experience" at goat hunting to know when to make a beeline for the tent.

And then came the winds; and then

failed, I would stabilize myself on the spine and Benny would bend a large alder downward to me

came the rain. When the fog rolls into goat country the wise move is to hunker down and ride the storm out, only leaving the tent to fetch water and for 'internal relief'. We both had several three day periods riding out a storm, but never longer, yet.

When you are confined to a small area and have limited opportunity to even move, well, let's just say you get creative in how you make the time pass. I always go through a stretch where I am taking selfies; I was doing this back in the days of 'film'. I always try to capture in my facial expression, the frustration of not being able to hunt goats when I am there and raring to go. Did I mention that everything starts to get wetter and wetter while you ride out these storms?

ESCAPE!

Tent bound, Day 1 came and went.

Day 2 came and went.

Day 3 came and went.

But what about tent bound on Day 4? Yes, it too came and went.

It is common on Southeast Alaska goat hunts to be trapped in a fog bank for days, everyday hearing planes flying below, in the clean, low elevation sky. Frustrating to say the least!

The goat mountain is one of three things, 1) rock 2) snow/ice or 3) a vegetative mat. We of course opt for setting our tent on the vegetative mat that offers a nice cushion if you first remove all the sharp rocks. Generally there is shallow bedrock, a thin soil veneer, then a thin pad of moss and lichens. All is well until so much rain falls that the water cannot run off fast enough and when that happens, hunkering down has an expiration limit. We were starting to have laminar flow of water under the bathtub floor of the tent, day lighting in the vestibule of the tent. Our ex-



piration limit on hunkering down was going to slam shut real quick.

Day five came and went and our gear was incrementally getting wetter at a disproportionate rate. We debated and decided that on day six we would have to pack up and head down the mountain, fog or no fog, feeling our way off the mountain if we needed to. We had learned during our two hour hunt the location of a ridge off our mountain that led to a saddle. The drain from the saddle led down to the lake where we were dropped off and had dry gear stored.

We woke up on the start of the sixth day of being tent-bound with that punch in the gut feeling, concerned anticipation for what we faced on our decent from the mountain in Braille. We ate and organized our in-tent gear and crawled out of our wet burrow. Water poured under foot. We were badly cramped and left weak from days of inactivity.

Our breath caught in our throats as we could see the edges of fog patches move across the vacuous valley; an edge on the fog means a deeper view into the distance. The ridgeline two miles distant came into view if only for a moment. Increasing larger openings

in the fog floated up the valley riding the south winds. We might be able to actually see our route down the mountain!

We were readily able to pick our way down but as we approached the saddle we were pretty concerned that we'd get 'cliffed out' and not be able to safely descend the last two hundred yards. We had a few trick steps but found a route off the small cliff.

From the saddle downward to the valley floor turned out to be a far worse brushy, boulder-covered mess than what it looked like when we had flown in or from the mountain looking down. It would require careful and deliberate navigation, a common theme in slopes leading to and from goat country.

Several hours later, a wet slimy duo staggered to our gear stash/drop off point. We called the air taxi for a pickup. We had a beautiful flight back to town, flying over ridges we had hunted in the past, and ridges we will hunt in the future. We communicated by hand signal in the noisy plane when we would see goats on the ridges below or where a great looking route from salt water to goat country appeared, paths to our future alpine adventures! ♣



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Big Ones That Got Away



By Gene Wensel

"Diesel"

This is a buck I named "Diesel." This is the only photo ever taken of him as far as I know. I hunted that same farm for two seasons for another big buck I named "Poot" but never laid eyes on Diesel. I suspect either he was just passing through the area during a roaming excursion or maybe he got poached.

*There are still more elusive big ones to come!
Watch for them in future issues.*



We got multiple photos of this magnificent 5x5 in the summer of 2010 in his summer range. I got only two photos of him shortly after he shed his velvet, then he disappeared. We never saw him that fall nor ever again. I suspect he moved north onto a neighboring farm when his testosterone kicked in.

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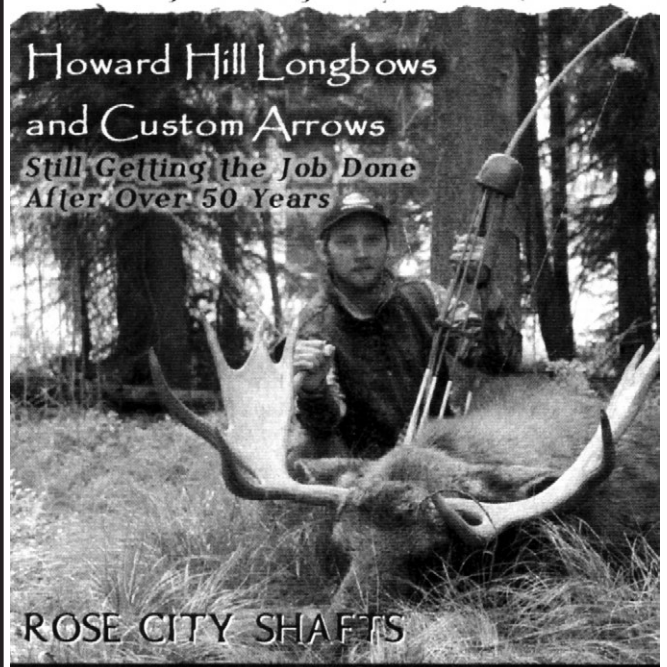


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 1 rounded TBSP Dijon Mustard
 S&P t.t.
 1# Fresh Linguini Pasta
 A sprig of Fresh Flat Leaf Parsley fine chopped

Feeds three people if you add salad and fresh cut baguette

After lunch, but well before dinner place the diced venison in a sturdy pot with the

stock. Bring to a simmer and cook at a low simmer for about 2 hours. I cover this partially with a piece of aluminum foil. Some reduction is fine but do not let the volume of liquid go less than 1 pint (2 cups). When the meat is tender turn off and let it rest.

For the pasta: Cook in boiling salted water for about 5 minutes. Drain through a colander and cool immediately in cold water to stop the pasta from cooking. Drain again and toss with a little olive oil to keep the linguini from sticking together and re-serve.

About 30 minutes before you want to eat dinner get two pans out. One for reheating pasta, a Teflon pan would be fine. The other for building your Stroganoff. This pan should be heavy gauge and able to hold your boiled meat plus the onion and mushrooms.

In your meat pot turn up to medium high and cook onions in a little olive oil. As the onions become translucent add 1 TBSP of butter and as soon as it melts add 1 TBSP of flour, lower the heat to medium and keep stirring. Add the mushrooms and continue stirring, rubbing the sides and bottom so no flour burns. In just a minute or two when

the mushrooms begin to wilt add the meat cubes and stock. Stir carefully so as not to spill and rub the sides and bottom until it comes to a simmer. Continue stirring while your stew is at a simmer until the roux has cooked out and thickened the Stroganoff. This should be done in 5 minutes then turn the heat off.

Now in the Teflon pan heat a piece of butter. As soon as it melts add the pasta, stir as it heats. When it is hot sprinkle the chopped parsley and stir.

Now fold in the half cup of sour cream and 1 TBSP of Dijon into your meat and gravy. OK to have a little heat under it but do not bring back to a boil. S&P to taste and you are read to go.

Properly cleaned and aged venison tastes great and has no gamey flavor, only mild tender meat that has a dryer texture than beef which I prefer. If you served this to a non hunter they would not think it was wild game.

Note that crimini mushrooms are baby portabellas. For me crimini's have the same great flavor and texture but yield better and are cleaner.

By Cory Mattson

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Landscaping for Success

By Barry Wensel

I came up with a brainstorm yesterday. I spent last weekend in “rural Chicago” (yes, there is such a thing) visiting the Mitten brothers. As I walked behind Mark’s home I noticed a row of 30 foot high evergreens he planted as a windbreak. Mark (Carcass) commented they were a hybrid, special breed, fast growing shrub. I said, “Shrub?” I thought shrubs were the low growing greenery planted around our homes so we didn’t need to cut as much grass. These “shrubs” were 30 feet tall and big enough to hide a 12’ ladderstand in. My jaw dropped open when Carcass told me they were only two feet high when he planted them just ten years ago. He confirmed these new hybrids normally grow three feet per year. $3 \times 10 = 30$ (I did the math in my head.) The wheels started to turn in my little brain.

Just a couple weeks ago I came across an excellent funnel while out scouting. It was a flat bench that parallels a creek drainage running basically east/west. The creek itself is lined with big, mature oaks. The flat shelf lies just above the drainage. A heavy deer trail runs E/W about 35 yards north of the creek. A tree-stand in one of the mature oaks at first appears okay, but I personally don’t feel comfortable shooting out to 35 yards. I remember standing there thinking to myself, “why couldn’t that big, beautiful tree be right over there about 50 yards north?” It would have been perfect for a prevailing southwest wind if that big oak was in the right place.

The grassy hillside north of the flat above the creek drainage was fairly open but had a few scattered single hardwood trees that were maybe 10 inches in diameter plus an occasional small juniper/cedar. One straight hardwood was in a perfect position about 14 or 15 yards north of the main deer trail. But no way... you’d stick out like a sore thumb.

I got to thinking how many times I’ve found the perfect spot but no good tree for a stand. Yes, you might be able to build a ground blind or use a pop-up but I much prefer a low but elevated position. Over the years I’ve killed some great bucks with my feet elevated only eight or ten feet above ground. Assuming I have good, consistent, favorable wind direction, I’d much rather be hidden in a low, thick softwood with my feet only 10 feet off the ground, than being 20 feet up a telephone-pole type tree with minimal to no cover around me.

By now you probably know where I’m going with this. After returning home to Iowa from Illinois I immediately got on the internet and started the trusty Google search. Now, right up front I’ll tell you I’m not on this guy’s payroll. But I have to admit he was



very knowledgeable and helpful. Go to their website at: www.fast-growing-trees.com. (1-888-504-2001 toll free). Look up a tree listed under evergreens called “Thuja Green Giants”. These hybrids grow three to five feet PER YEAR; they are drought and deer defiant; with tough resistance to ice and snow. When mature they grow 30 to 40 feet high with a 12 to 20 foot width in TEN years. They had a sale going on that was 35% off with free shipping on orders over \$100. If you bought lots of three they sold two-footers for \$18.95 each, plus the 35% off. That means you could buy a dozen trees with free shipping for about the same price you’d pay for a single tree-stand/ladder.

What I’m thinking is to pick your perfect ambush site that already has an existing straight tree. Then plant the Thuja Green Giants in a triangle around the existing straight tree. I’m thinking of putting the base of the triangle toward the main run. That way your stand will be setting back between two softwoods eventually and you’ll have the third one at your back to prevent/minimize backlighting. By planting a dozen trees three at a time you could produce a perfect ambush spot in four different locations (I did that in my head too) which presently don’t offer ideal set-ups.

A couple side notes: I think we might be wise to encircle the base of the tree with some kind of temporary fencing to discourage bucks from rubbing the preferred softwoods, at least for the first few years. Carcass also mentioned he noticed the ones planted in the open receive more sun and grew much faster. Therefore, I’m thinking if the site you’re preparing has a substantial overhead canopy you might want to thin out the canopy to allow more light in to speed up growth. A semi-open area is ideal.

The only negative I see right now is the fact us old guys will all be dead before we’re able to hunt these set-ups ten years down the road. But I’ll bet you younger guys will be really glad you listened to Uncle Barry about ten years from now. Ten years goes by in a heartbeat. Don’t jack around and waste time...just do it. ♣



Paul Sperl of North Dakota with a Minnesota bird on the left and South Dakota bird on the right.



Walt Dixon shot this mature Rio Grande longbeard in Nebraska this spring with a Great Northern Lil' Creep longbow and a hickory shaft tipped with a Zwickey broadhead.

Member Photos



Ron Tandy with a *live* rattlesnake he decided to catch and release!
See page 38 for more of the story.

January Gem

By Zach Wallace

I get an itch to bowhunt whenever the snow flies, whether it is November or January makes little difference to me. Something about falling snow stirs my soul, makes me restless and causes me to long for the woods. I knew the forecast was for snow on January 25th and I also knew some does were feeding in the alfalfa on the farm where I have permission to hunt; this is the kind of combination that gets me excited. Maybe it is all the memories of my early years, watching tracks in the snow from a tree stand that never yielded a deer. To me those unsuccessful hunts never really felt unsuccessful, they just left me wanting more. Maybe I'm just a glutton for the punishment that frozen fingers and toes bring. Hard to say, but I was riding pretty high when I stepped out into a light snow that afternoon to head for my favorite tree stand.

The snow was falling more heavily by the time I reached my tree. I took extra care in case conditions were slippery. I allowed myself to take in the beauty of the falling snow after safely ascending and belting myself into my harness. The scene was very calming and peaceful, the fresh blanket of snow was untouched except for my boot prints. I pulled my facemask up against the biting wind blowing directly in my face, and allowed myself to reflect on past hunts in this same location. I had hung this stand in August 2013 on the thick trunk of an ancient white oak in a

secluded inside corner of the crop field. I face directly into the field and would be offered shots both behind and in front if a deer passed by my stand. A large branch prohibits me from shooting to my right, but gives me plenty of cover so it is a worthy compromise. Deer tend to come out into the field on my left through a small gap I keep trimmed in the brush. They can also cut the corner behind me, but rarely do so outside of the rut. I killed my first deer with traditional equipment out of this stand; unfortunately I also missed a wide 9 point buck here that same year. One of my fondest memories was when I was able to call that buck to 15 yards with a grunt call. I was so fired up when he turned broadside that I shot a foot over his back. I was upset at the time, but now I smile as I travel back to that windy November afternoon.

Movement in the woods catches my eye. I slowly stand up and ready my bow. There are deer working my way. They are relaxed and traveling slowly, nosing through the snow every so often in search of a leftover

acorn. The deer are only fifty yards distant and appear to be working towards the field edge opening on my left. I feel a nervousness and remind myself to calm down; a shot is going to happen. When the lead deer is at twenty yards I can see ten brown shapes behind it. Suddenly the leader turns back from the field and I can see scabs on his head. I am doe hunting this evening so I let him pass behind me at twelve yards. He is directly downwind at this point but he continues on without so much as a flick of the tail. All of the other deer alter their travel to follow his path. I knew my luck would not hold out for ten more noses, so I start actively looking for a shot on the next deer. The next deer was a young doe, and she snaps to attention the second she catches a whiff of me, presenting an unacceptable shot angle. The jig is up and I know it. Oh well. She looks into the field and up in my tree alternately for a long time, although she never could pinpoint me. I expected the stomping and blowing to start at any moment. Instead she turns and walks quickly away, taking the rest of the herd with her.

I sit down again and shove my wet gloved hands into my pockets, so close and yet so far away. I taste the failure but I know that all is not lost. I still have an hour of daylight left and anything can happen in the early winter woods. My mind runs a hundred miles an hour, jumping from idea to idea on how to improve this spot. Maybe if I block that trail behind me they will be forced into the field. Should I not hunt this stand on a northeast wind? I wonder if some type of decoy would have worked. Whitetails drive me crazy. That is why I love them.

The snow is increasing as I see a shape crest the hill out in the field. It is a yearling nosing in the alfalfa. When three more shapes appear behind it they have my full attention. While the three older deer feed the fawn begins bouncing around playfully, reminding me of my dog bounding in the fresh snow. It is moments like this that make me feel alive. A voice in my head tells me to look behind me. There are 2 does at thirty yards and approaching my position. I carefully stand up and situate my feet. They are heading to the field opening on my left side. They stop to pick at some oak leaves in a fallen tree top, then the first doe enters the field.

The shot was nearly automatic. When she lowered her head to feed I zeroed in on a spot and came to full draw. When I released I immediately lost my white fletched arrow into the driving snow. The doe tore off through the snow covered field and was over the crest of the hill in a flash. My body told me that the shot felt good, my mind told me that I missed. I watched the second doe exit the woods and join up with the group already in the field. My body began to shake from the adrenalin but I needed to play this situation correctly. The snow was accumulating so fast that I could not wait long to follow her up or risk any sign being covered. She had left a churned up clod of soil where she took off at the site of impact, so I clearly marked that spot. I turned to lower my bow and saw the other deer in the field locked up, looking in the direction that the deer I had shot at had ran. I had seen this behavior before and it made me con-



fident that I had indeed hit the deer and that they were looking at her. Two scenarios came to mind: either she is laying there dead or she is standing there wounded. One thing I knew for sure was that she was just over the crest of the hill.

By the time I hit the ground my mind was focused. I walked over to the impact site and immediately found my arrow stuck in the ground covered in frozen blood. I could not find any other blood sign. The accumulating snow already had it covered. As I nocked another arrow and began to follow faint tracks, I remember thinking to myself as the snow pelted me in the face, "I am in this for the long haul..." When I neared the top of the hill I looked up from the track and saw her lying forty yards away. My fears were unwarranted, the arrow had been perfect. I took time to embrace the moment, this meeting of predator and prey in the snow. The wind had increased and visibility was low, the snow stinging my face felt like a thousand bees. There was nowhere else I wanted to be than right here, bow and arrows in hand, admiring a beautiful deer in the falling snow. ❄️

"Something about the falling snow stirs my soul, makes me restless and causes me to long for the woods."

— Zach Wallace



Zach Wallace with his "January Gem".

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A group of seven men, presumably archers, standing in a forest. They are dressed in outdoor gear, including hats, jackets, and camouflage. Some are holding bows. The background shows trees and a forest setting.

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A Birthday, Brothers & Big Fish

By Mike Vines

July 2013, my little guy turned 8 and said he wanted to go "Big Fish Fishing" for his birthday.

I wanted to make his birthday memorable, so I contacted a PBS friend who had made mention of doing a fishing charter earlier in the year, down in Florida. I contacted the owner of the fishing charter and scheduled a trip with him to really surprise my son, Luke.

I knew a PBS member, Hal Lewis, lived in the next town over from where I would be and called him to see if he would be interested in joining us for the day. Hal and I had conversed on the phone and online over the years, but never met each other before.

The day came for us to go fishing and we all met on the dock and headed out for a day of adventure on the high seas. I'm not one for enjoying waves (read that as I tend to feed more fish than I catch), but today was different. We were 25 miles off of shore and there were NO waves (look at the pictures to see).

Luke, Hal and I, along with the Captain, spent the day enjoying this rare opportunity of calm water on the ocean. To say it was the best day of fishing in my life would not be a lie. We caught

cobia, jack, bonita and Luke's favorite...sharks, along with 10 red snapper that ranged from 20-45#...we weren't allowed to keep them due to them being "endangered".

Luke managed to catch a tagged Jack on this trip, too. We recorded the tag number and phone number attached to the tag then released the fish. In December of 2013, Luke received a package from the department that had tagged the fish. We made Luke wait till Christmas to open it (yeah, I'm a mean Dad). The package contained paperwork telling us the history of his tagged fish, AND a t-shirt thanking him for releasing the fish to be caught again.



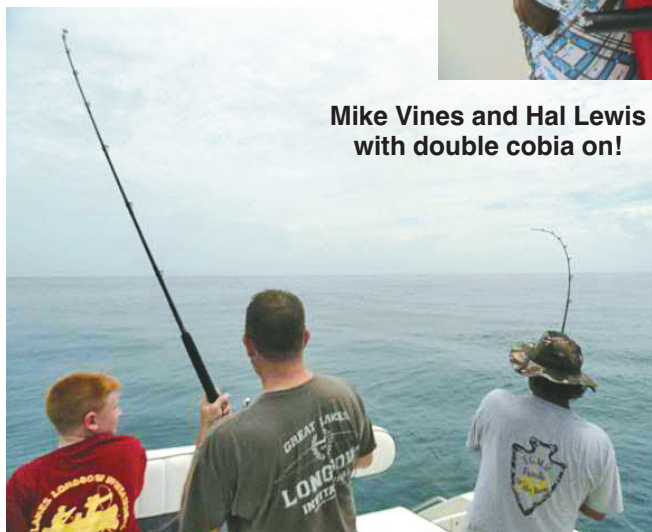
Mike and his son Luke "Big Fish Fishing" for Luke's 8th birthday.



ers?" I replied with, "Nope, we just met as we stepped on the boat." The Captain was floored and said "there was no way we just met, that we had to be brothers" after he listened to us carry on conversations all day, and had so much fun together. He wasn't buying that we just met.

Looking back at it now, we were "brothers" the whole time. Thank you PBS for giving me, and my family, such a comfortable place to belong. 🐟

Mike Vines and Hal Lewis with double cobia on!



At the end of the day, I was whipped. I just had the best day fishing in my life with my son right there with me involved the whole time, and a PBS brother there with us too.

From the time Hal and I stepped on the boat, we never shut up. It was nothing but stories of hunting and archery non-stop. When we got back to the port, the Captain asked Hal and I "if we were broth-



Mike and Hal, two whipped "brothers" after a great day of fishing.

Contrast Value January 2015

By Cory Mattson

When hunting there is more to gain than fresh venison, as all PBS types know. The experience of being immersed in nature, at least for a short period of time, can render what was phrased in the old Fred Bear films; "Refreshment of the Spirit". Indeed this is the thing that has pulled me in and kept me vigilant in my participation of traditional bowhunting for almost 40 years.

I work for a living like most folks. Sometimes super busy, sometimes not, but at no time did I ever see life without bowhunting. You have heard many of our friends say they are closest to God when they are in the woods. Similar to church, we are taken out of the normal grind and isolated for a time, and in the case of bowhunting surrounded by God's artwork and wonder. Me and my close friends all bowhunt year round and it is never an option "if" we will hunt; only when, how much and for what game.

Now later in life I find hunting out of treestands has become a reward. Calling, spot and stalk, glassing are all fine but I do enjoy the combination of scouting and setting up an ambush. Time is scarce and when I do finally get to sit I am grateful for the moment. Another thing that has helped my enjoyment of sitting a stand is the proliferation of wildlife overall during my entire lifetime. When I first started bowhunting there was less wildlife and many stand sessions I viewed empty space. I am sure I missed a lot too since I was young and fidgety, but truth is there is more of most game today than when I started hunting.

The places to find this "contrast value" have been many. Being isolated by geographical features such as mountains, swamps, deserts are likely situations. It can happen on water too as a similar isolation and adventure happens 90 miles off the coast of NJ on Canyon Fishing trips. Even close to home we experience high quality contrast value hunts on day hunts and overnights in WMA areas behind a locked gate.

Generally my mind never shuts off, constantly picking out game, rodents or hawks while driving. A stark difference after entering "nature space" is how it affects hearing. Concentration often shuts off my hearing for a time, especially during entry and climbing trees. A few days of doing these steps of bowhunting help me feel I have been away, in fact I can go for days

doing nothing but scouting and moving stands and get a decent bump of "contrast value".

Contrast is high on wilderness hunts and adventures away from home. No people helps us have the environment that delivers a contrast to home and work. Returning from Rocky Mountain hunts and other hunts where we are isolated, the contrast seems to have been great. Canoes help. Motorized travel keeps me feeling day to day. Only after covering some distance on foot or in a canoe/kayak do I feel separated from a "work" frame of mind and begin to settle into "away" mode.

One of the simplest ways to understand contrast value is that where you are and what you are doing has you staring at a campfire at night instead of a TV or computer screen. A campfire is essential to my psychological well being so much so that I burn a fire in my back yard several times each week year round. I burn small wet fires to push the bugs off before bow shooting during the warm months. Hot hard wood fires in cooler times. My best fires are for warmth and light and to cook sustenance at the end of a hunt day. At home I enjoy fires when I work the gambrel after a successful day afield and surely it is a good feeling when meat is cooling and the fire is down to embers as I drift off to sleep on a cool night.

I have been working on urban hunt projects these past few years and I have noticed the "contrast value" is distinctly "less". Stand sites in someone's yard are not helpful to the outdoor experience in a 'contrast value' context. Traffic, pets and noise of day to day human activity dull the outdoor experience. Joggers and bicycle riders are a nuisance. Joggers and bicycle riders with reflector strips all over them and blinking lights are a stupid nuisance. One would think that someone who could balance a checkbook and live behind an attended gate would have enough sense to jog or ride somewhere besides the exact paved spot to drive motor vehicles. Hunting urban units and using a cell phone to text pictures of dead deer certainly diminishes contrast value but it still beats a day at the office.

In some cases 'contrast value' and adventure are where you find it. I still find moments today in unlikely places. Back in the 60s in Nutley, NJ, as a child I found adventure catching snapping turtles in the Passaic River drainage. Entry and exit was

through wash tunnels and waste troughs. Rocky creek sides and cracked cement provided perfect habitat for rats and I rarely left home without a slingshot. Fifty years later I am walking railroad tracks behind an abandoned diner/gas station in Piedmont, NC, and the scene looks eerily similar to my jaunts as a kid. Because there are dilapidated buildings and pavement rat habitat is plentiful but rat populations are held in check today. 2014 inside town these woods are worked daily by hawks, owls, snakes, foxes, bobcats, mink, raccoons and amazingly coyotes have established themselves in town. In minutes I discover deer tracks and upon full study I have a creek with year round flow at the bottom of a 30 acre parcel that includes several white oaks. Plans are made and within a week I return, entering with pack, bow and stand.

Entry was good with breezy conditions and high pressure and a steady wind from the north. The climb was sure and steady, then I safely tie in for the afternoon. The hum of traffic is steady just 200 yards away on Route 1. I glass with a small pair of 10X binoculars and begin to check the acorns. I see a lot of fresh dropped white oaks from two trees and there is also a red oak dropping just 20 yards from the two white oaks. I do not see enough crushed hulls to be confident and I see no droppings. After an hour I have not even seen a squirrel? The traffic has gone from a dull background hum to full blown loud rush hour traffic. I cannot hear anything and find myself looking back and forth much more than normal trying to see a deer distant so I can be ready. Next a train comes by very loud, blowing his horn as if anyone could possibly not know the train is coming. The ground shakes until well after it passes.

Three hours in and at gray light I realize no deer are coming, which in today's modern deer hunting in urban settings it is very rare to not see a deer. I have made a mistake and picked the wrong spot. Whitetails will use 100% of the habitat in their home range but this spot will be visited by deer at 2:00 or 3:00 am when the woods are nearly silent.

Packed and walking the tracks I realize the noise and volume of vehicles has destroyed the escape I crave and even by urban hunt standards this day was a waste and I vow to never return. A fire later on in my backyard will be all the contrast I get today. ♣

The Lucky Arrow

2015 PBS Membership Hog Hunt

By Randy Brookshier

Bow season ends the first weekend in January here in Virginia. That's always a sad time around my house, cleaning and storing gear for another long off season. Then I received a text message from fellow P.B.S. member Duane Means who lives across the mountain, wanting to know if I was interested in going south to chase some hogs. Being recently retired and having a fairly free schedule, it took about five seconds for me to make the decision to go! I was hoping for a little get away to some warmer temperatures, a little adventure and the opportunity to chase some hogs. I ended up with a great hunt with a great group of guys who represent everything P.B.S. stands for.

We left early morning on January 28 for the long ride down South. Jeff Holchin had set up the hunt as a P.B.S. members hunt on some coastal islands. He has hunted that area for a couple of years and located some areas that hold hogs. He would be transporting us to the islands with his boat and we would camp on the islands and hunt for a long weekend. This was to be the first week of hunting as Jeff had also set up for another group of P.B.S. hunters to come down the following weekend. I have hunted hogs in Florida several times in the past and really enjoy the change of pace that it affords compared to sitting in a tree stand here in the mountains.

Duane and I made it to the boat dock we were supposed to meet Jeff at and after a short wait Jeff arrived in his boat. He had already had a busy day, transporting others,



Randy Brookshier had one lucky arrow at the 2015 PBS Membership Hog Hunt this year! He was able to use the same arrow to kill three hogs.



their gear along with his gear to the island. Duane and I loaded Jeff's boat with gear until it looked like an overloaded cargo barge, then tied Duane's canoe on the back and left for the camping site. After an uneventful 30 minute boat ride we arrived at the selected camping site, a patch of high ground nestled beneath some tall pines.

Tim Denial from Pennsylvania and Tim Antoine from North Carolina were already on the island and had been busy setting up a comfortable camp for the rest of the hunters. The afternoon was spent setting up tents, cooking dinner, renewing old acquaintances and making new ones around the fire. Most of us had a three day license that didn't become valid until the following day so there was no rush to get out of camp and into the marshes that night.

Thursday turned out to be pretty much a scouting trip. I spent some time in areas around camp or on a nearby island while Jeff dropped hunters off on other islands trying to find where the hogs were at that time. A lot of ground was covered but very few pigs were seen. I did manage to get within about 5 feet of a big sow sleeping in a nest but all I could see was the top of her head as she slept. Another unseen hog detected me and ran everything off be-

fore I could launch an arrow. Jeff was also busy with running back to the boat dock to pick up Bob Brundage from Tennessee and Ron Herman from South Carolina. After another enjoyable dinner and evening around the camp fire we all crawled into our sleeping bags.

Julian Tisdale from South Carolina made it into camp on Friday morning. Julian had brought his own boat and Ron had brought in another canoe, so we now had enough water crafts to make an effective assault on the local hogs. Several of these guys had hunted the area before and had favorite spots that had produced in the past that they wanted to check out. Jeff had enough hunters to ferry around so I decided to walk some of the dikes in the area of the camp.

I had been walking and still hunting for about an hour when I heard a commotion in the river canes up ahead of me. I moved in that direction and came upon two boars fighting. Well, it wasn't much of a fight as the smaller pig was definitely getting the



Jeff bringing the hunters back from a successful morning.

worst of the deal. I got within about 8-9 yards and slipped an arrow into the smaller of the two. I told the guys at camp it was a mercy killing, as I am sure the ways things were going that the bigger boar would have eventually killed him. I nocked another arrow and tried for 10 minutes or so but wasn't able to get an arrow into the bigger hog.

I called camp on my cell phone and some of the guys were still there so Ron was nice enough to canoe down the canal to pick me and the pig up. His doing so saved me from a horrendous drag. That was a first for me, retrieving downed game with a canoe. It wasn't a huge boar but a nice representative sample and had impressive tusks.

After some quick photos, everyone else went out hunting and I stayed in camp to process the boar. Later in the morning the winds really started to get up. There isn't much of a wind break when it is coming across the open water and it was really gusting. The weather channel said it was blowing 25 m.p.h. but gusts were considerably higher. I heard a loud noise and looked to see Ron's canoe blow over and across camp. Then the tents started blowing down. The wind was really howling and it pulled the stakes from the sand on several tents, collapsed them and blew them over. I spent an hour hustling around camp trying to tie everything down. Luckily Ron had brought some long heavy duty stakes into camp and I used them to hold most things in place. I felt bad for the guys returning at lunch time as several of them had to start from scratch resetting their camp.

Matt Schuster from Georgia arrived in camp mid day Friday so now we had our hunting group intact. Everyone donned their hip waders and departed in various directions by boat or canoe for the evening



The gang... Tim Denial, Jeff Holchin, Ron Herman, Bob Brundage, Duane Means, Tim Antoine, Matt Schuster, Julian Tisdale and Randy Brookshier.

hunt. I decided to try my luck one more time on the dikes. I had washed off the arrow that I had used to kill the hog that morning so I screwed another sharp V.P.A. head on the end of it and put it back in my quiver.

I walked for several miles and didn't see or hear any pig activity. I was headed back in the direction of camp when I heard a loud "roar" from a hog way out in the marsh and canes. It appeared to be working its way away from the direction of camp so I paralleled it for about 200 yards. I could hear it grunting on a regular basis and it seemed like he was getting closer to me so I eased into the canes and continued to parallel the noises. After another couple hundred yards I had worked myself within about 12 yards of a big, spotted boar. He stepped into a semi clearing and I shot him through the shoulders with the same arrow that I had used earlier that day. The boar ran past me and up on the dike. He ran about 60 yards, leaving a very profuse blood trail and then dove off the side of the dike and back into the canes. It was now almost dark so I decided to walk back to camp to give the hog time to expire and enlist some help in tracking and recovery in the mud and reeds.

I was walking back to camp in the dark, deep in my own thoughts, when I was surprised by a voice off to my left... "Hey Randy," coming from the middle of a cane patch. I figured one of the other guys must have shot a hog and was trying to retrieve it from the swamp. I asked if they had gotten a pig and the response I heard was, "No, I'm just stuck." About then I heard voices approaching and saw flashlights. The "Tim Denial Extraction Team" had arrived. Ron took lead in this operation and after laying some planks down for solid footing they were able to get Tim back on solid ground. The mud in some of the tidal flats in this

area is unbelievably sticky and soft. It is easy to get mired to your waist before you even realize it.

We all made it back to camp and after another fine meal, and some good natured ribbing of Tim, most of us headed out to try and find my hog. I noticed that Bob was missing from the group and when I asked they told me that he had decided to sleep on one of the islands with the pigs that night in hopes of ambushing one early the next morning. That is a hard core hog hunter!

I had marked the area where the boar had run into the marsh with a light stick and once we got there Duane and I started to blood trail it. The V.P.A. had left an impressive blood trail and we easily found the boar about 30 yards inside the marsh. I dressed the hog while the rest of the group headed back to camp. Duane returned with his canoe and once again made what would have been a horrible drag of over a mile into a much easier chore.

Saturday morning dawned with high hopes for everyone. Jeff has developed a friendship with one of the game wardens in the area and he had called Jeff and told them of an island they were going to be burning off to get rid of some of the canes and grasses. They did this on Friday and we could see fire and smoke all day. By Saturday the fires were all out, leaving several large open areas that made it easier to navigate and the guys assaulted the island from several locations.

I stayed in camp to process the hog I had shot the night before and it wasn't long until I was receiving photos and text messages from the guys. They were definitely into the pigs! Jeff made an excellent shot on a big sow. Matt, the most experienced pig killer amongst us didn't waste any time. He was the last one to arrive in camp and he shot a big sow in the marsh his first morning out. Bob's over night stay on the island by himself paid off as he ended up shooting a nice boar early the next morning. Tim Antoine shot a good eating sized hog. The hunters and hogs were all transported back to camp for lunch, photos and processing.

We all made another run to the lucky island Saturday afternoon. Most of the guys hit one side of the island but Julian and I hit the opposite side. We weren't on the island for 20 minutes and we were into pigs. I had cleaned my lucky arrow once again and screwed another sharp V.P.A. on the



The two Tims... Denial and Antoine.



The Lucky Arrow

~ continued from page 31

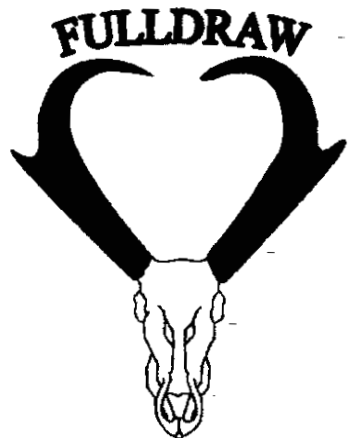
end of it, so it was in my quiver. I ended up getting lucky enough to work my way into about 15 yards of six mature hogs that were feeding. I used the same arrow and shot a boar through the shoulders at about 10 yards. He stepped into a trail and just stood there for a second so I got another arrow off the quiver to shoot him again. I looked down to nock it and when I looked up he was coming my way fast. I don't think he was charging, I just happened to be on the trail he wanted to use. Either way, I ran away. When I returned I discovered that he had only made it about 30 yards. Julian made his way over to me and although he hadn't shot a pig he blew off the rest of his afternoon hunt to help me get mine down to the boat. This was no small feat as we were dragging this boar through mud that we were sinking in up to our knees with each step. Once there we discovered that the tide was up and we had to float my pig out to get it on his boat.

As is usually the case, the hunt and fellowship was over all too soon. It was

a great time, the kind of adventure that you always hope for when you leave out on a hunt. A little danger, a little difficulty, lots of opportunities, a few surprises, great fellowship and food. Temperatures were a lot colder than I anticipated and maneuvering in the swamps was a lot harder. One thing that wasn't a surprise was the caliber of hunters that I shared this camp with. I have been on several of these membership hunts and on each one the guys I have met and hunted with have been some of the most serious and enjoyable hunters you could ever hope to spend time in the woods with. If you've never made it to one of the membership hunts, you owe it to yourself to experience one.

Jeff Holchin has been hosting and guiding on this hunt for four years now and he is a testament to the caliber of members we have in this organization. He and Julian used their boats and time to make sure that everyone had an opportunity to get close to pigs, as well as get everyone and their gear back and forth from the dock. Everyone that made the trip had a great time and I can't wait for next year! *

Matt Schuster, top photo, shot a big sow on his first morning out. Jeff Holchin, bottom photo, with his sow.



OUTFITTERS

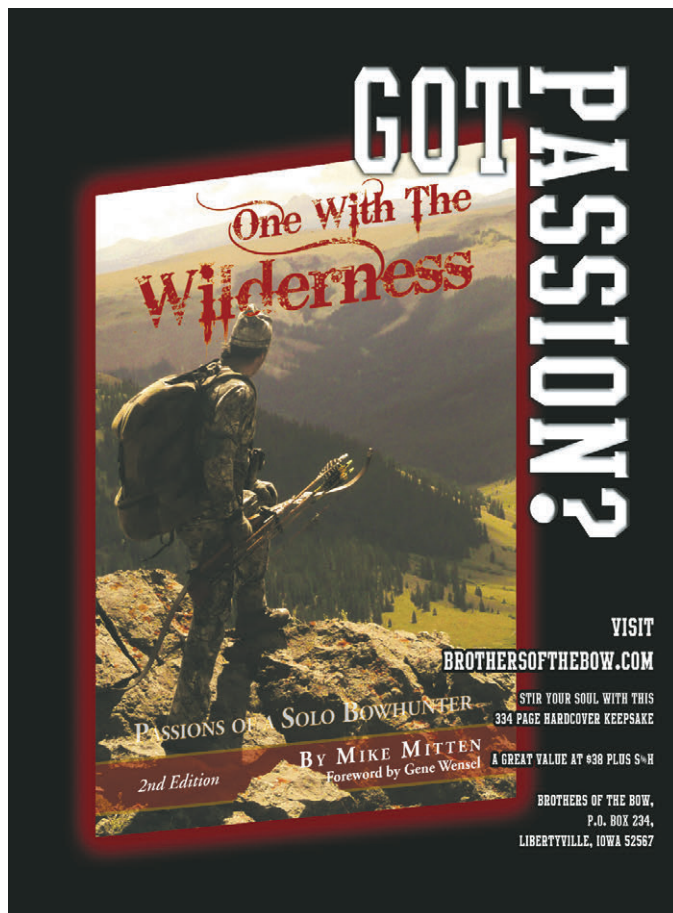
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How to Grow a Bowhunter:

When must a mentor follow the lead of their young apprentice?

By P.J. Petiniot



This edition of "How to grow a bowhunter" is going to go a little off the rails and change gears a bit. This has been the most challenging portion of the journey Ian and I have shared and allowed you to tag along on.

This winter has been a weird one around my house as our entire family has been in a funk and we have all sort of been off our games. Ian has been no different. I left you all last issue as Ian and I were preparing for a hunt and that sort of fell through. My young son didn't want to get up and go the next day and truthfully, there have been several days like that over the past couple of months. Its been hard to get Ian involved in any aspect of bowhunting if he thinks I am actually trying to steer him towards it. Sort of a bit of pre-teen rebellion I guess.

Ian and I have made many hunting dates this winter all to be broken by him at the last minute or when I go to wake him up. I understand the allure of a warm bed when compared to venturing out into the cold unknown, especially at O dark 30. I have tried very hard not to show my disappointment and at times, degree of frustration as truthfully, much of this is a reaction on Ian's part to me cracking down on his freedom as he has been in some trouble at school. Since I am being the big, mean ogre of a dad and taking away electronic privileges, and making bed times earlier and such, I guess a kid has to feel like he has a little bit of control.

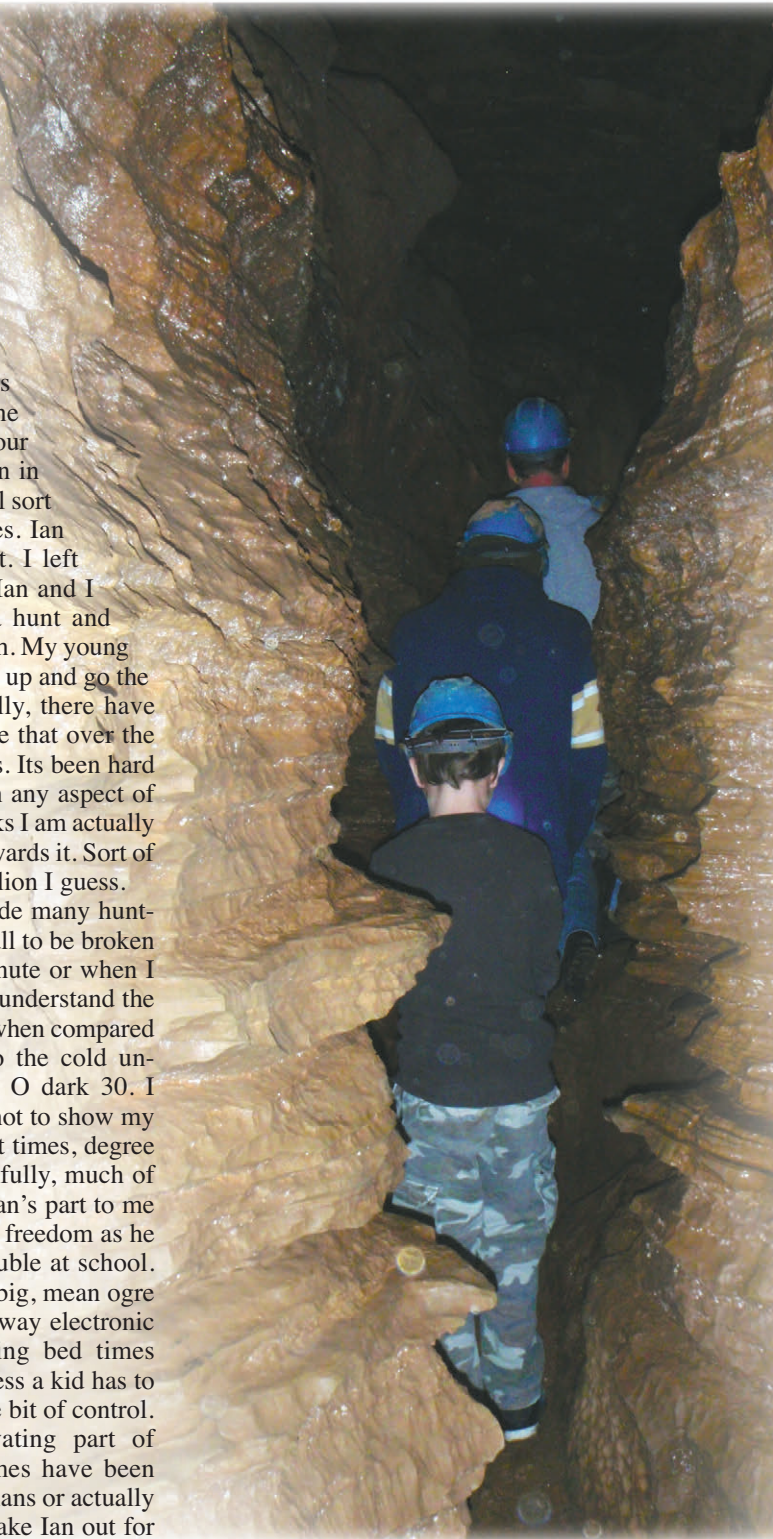
The most aggravating part of these challenging times have been the times I changed plans or actually only got up early to take Ian out for

an adventure, only to be stood up. Rather than express my disappointment and keep asking my son to hit the woods, I either went by myself or just went back to bed. Although my son is a hard head, he came by that trait honestly and he will never win a battle of will against me unless I choose to allow it.

I had no desire to allow Ian to sit in his bedroom all winter long so I found things to do that he did seem to enjoy and also got us out of the house, some of them were equally as adventurous as bowhunting. We went on many walks, a few hikes, went to a lot of Cub Scout functions, the occasional movie and such. My main goal was to get the little goofball out of the house, using his body and brain in unison, much in the same way one would if actually spending the day hunting.

Our most crazy, fun adventure was a cave exploration adventure. We got to tour a large series of underground caverns and rivers and did some pretty hardcore spelunking. It wasn't bowhunting, but I sure had a blast and used some muscle groups that had not seen a workout in quite some time. Although Ian didn't realize it, all of these activities called for many of the skills he has learned on his bowhunting journey. Listening and following direction, keeping an eye out in your surroundings for any unforeseen danger, what sort of things to pack for an overnight cave trip, how much water to carry on a three hour expedition etc, just some basic out door adventure skills that we all must use pretty much every time we leave the house with a bow or a backpack.

So although you are not getting to read about building arrows, shooting bows, chasing rabbits and squirrels, take solace in the fact that we did go cave exploring, hiking, watched some pretty cool outdoor films, read a few





How to Grow a Bowhunter:

When must a mentor follow the lead of their young apprentice?

~ continued from page 33

books, went to the movies together, just father and son eating copious amounts of popcorn, candy and soda pop. We have visited various sports shops, gun stores and music stores. We have once again had a couple of months filled with manly man activities, we just allowed Ian to take the lead more this winter.

Although a part of me is a little sad about what we didn't accomplish this season, I am excited by the opportunities that lie ahead. Ian cannot stop talking about the 2016 PBS Banquet in St Augustine. Ian's plans for the Florida gathering rival anything I have been able to come up with. Don Davis as well as other friends in Florida and Georgia have extended offers to help Ian get a crack at a hog. In fact, my young son has it all figured out, the hog hunting that is. Ian says he only wants to shoot a boar and not just any boar but a black boar with large tusks. I guess it pays to have a plan. We already have plans to visit the Spanish mission, assorted haunted places and at least a day trip to kayak on Silver Springs. So although Ian has taken a step or two away from his bowhunter's journey, he is still in the PBS loop and ready to visit his many life long PBS friends. As I am finishing up this article, Ian just asked me about turkey hunting with his bow this season, so all is not lost.

As always, remember to keep it simple and keep it fun.

- P.J. 🐾

HEY ASSOCIATE MEMBERS!

I'm asking you for some feedback on a recent article in the PBS magazine: "Woods for the Trees," in the Third Quarter Magazine for 2014.

This is a straw poll meant to extract random feedback from you to help Council decide how and if, to put the "definition of a bowhunt" that I wrote about in the article forward before the regular members for a vote to help decide if this is a banner that PBS can use to explain a part of what the term "traditional values" really means.

It can be as simple as Yes, No, don't know, or here is my short opinion and forward comments to Jack at the PBS office by August 1, 2015 for your input please. You can also respond to the poll set up in Cyber Campfire on our website. Got to run, Cross-guns back at the table here in Utah. They tried to slide it through the legislature. DWR is it again now. Your input will help.

Thanks

Guy D. Perkins, regular member

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Bowfishing the Bayou

By Ron Tandy

For those of you that experience bowhunting withdrawal between fall archery season and perhaps spring turkey or whatever it is you do in the spring, I have a couple of suggestions for you to mull over. Number one, it's been my practice for more than a decade to meet my buddies in January or February to bowhunt feral hogs in either Georgia, Florida, or Texas. We are talking about doing one in S.C. next year. Number two, in March 2015 I bowfished in Louisiana for the first time and I absolutely had the time of my life! It seems to me that whenever you gather several PBS'ers together you can count on a good time. This particular trip was arranged by PBS member Russell Lantier of Baton Rouge, LA. Coincidentally, I received my invitation to join this trip in Texas while.....you guessed it, bowhunting hogs with Russell.

After the Texas hunt concluded I returned home to Florida and exchanged several telephone calls and emails to finalize the logistical details for the bowfishing trip. I would make the 11 hour drive to Russell's in Louisiana on Saturday, March 21st.

Russell and his lovely wife Dot hosted four of us out-of-state-guys for a couple of nights prior to the actual bowfishing trip. Folks.....I thought I knew hospitality, and to a degree I do, but let me tell you here and now..... Russell and Miss Dot raised the bar to perhaps an unreachable height, they were simply fabulous! In



PBS members with the first night's results. Left to right, kneeling: Ron Tandy and Greg Whelton. Standing, Kevin Bahr, Russell Lantier, Bill Terry Sr., and T.J. Conrads.

addition, Russell's trophy room contains an incredible collection of artifacts, historic memorabilia, stunning artwork and impressive animal taxidermy from the world over. It is worthy of a story in and of itself. For now I'll just say that any archery related collector, or even museum, would LOVE to have items that are on display. I was almost overwhelmed by the memorabilia and personal items that once belonged to Fred Bear, Saxton Pope, Art Young, Glenn St. Charles, Ben Pearson, Chief Will Compton and other archery legends and pioneers. I slept right smack in the center of this room.....I hope the spirits of these men found my presence acceptable. He will be embarrassed that I mention it here but Russell is also a legend of sorts. He was inducted into the "Bayou State Bowhunters Association" HALL OF FAME in 2005.

~ continued on page 36 ~



Our host, Russell Lantier, with PBS members Ron Tandy, T.J Conrads, Bill Terry Sr. and Kevin Bahr.....getting ready to feed on 25 pounds of boiled crawfish and corn on the cob.



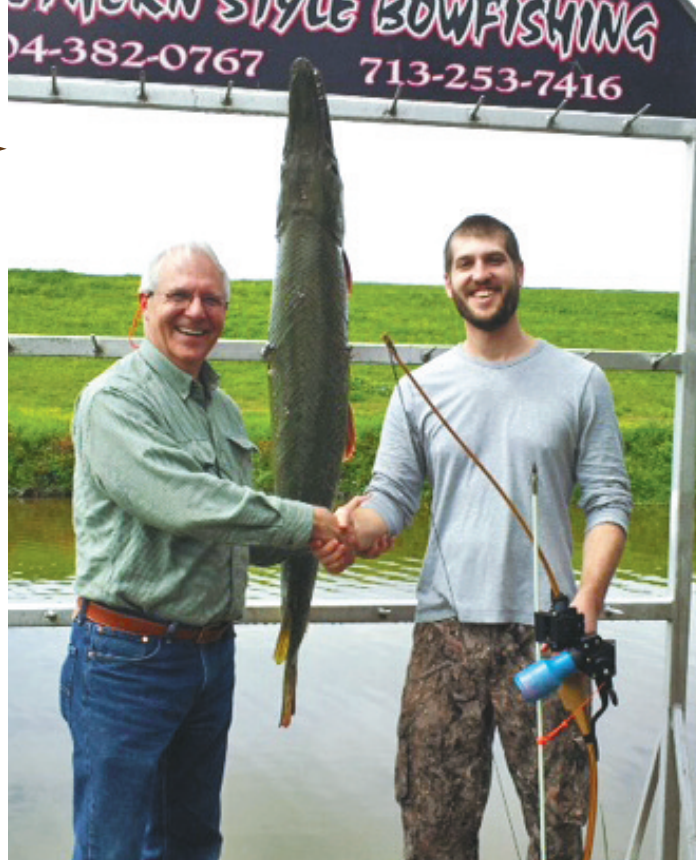
Russell & Miss Dot prepared some crawfish pies to go with the wonderful gumbo dinner...appropriately served on a "PBS platter!!" Pictured with Russell's broadhead collection in the background are very happy campers Ron, Bill, Russell, T.J. & an "excited" Kevin... reaching for the first of MANY pies he devoured!!

Bowfishing the Bayou

~ continued from page 35

After loading our gear and piling into the vehicles on Monday afternoon our group headed south from Baton Rouge for the 2 1/2 hour drive to Empire, LA. We would be bowfishing for two nights with Captain Alan Yedor of "Southern Style Bowfishing & Air Boat Services." Alan provides bowfishing equipment for those who need it but we had our own gear. Because our party numbered ten we would be fishing from two of Alan's airboats, five guys on each. Onboard, in addition to the bowfishers, was the boat Captain and a deck mate. Seven bodies, five with bows and arrows, would prove to be somewhat crowded and called for an added measure of caution. That was difficult at times because we bowfished at night and the action was sometimes impossibly chaotic!!! Before we even got to our fishing spot on Monday evening I would be the first to make a fool of myself by stepping into a storage compartment on the foredeck that had it's hatch wide open. Besides a little blood running down my shin and some bruising the next day, only my pride was hurt. I stepped on five traditional bows and a pile of fish arrows that were in the hold, fortunately no harm was done to the equipment. My recurve came unstrung and I was a bit worried until I looked it over closely, whew.... no damage. I'm glad I got that misadventure out of the way early with no real harm done. Now I hoped that it would be my only contribution to the "You should have seen....." stories. As it turned out my escapade paled in comparison to that of my very good friend Bill Terry Sr. from Connecticut, who went over the bow of the airboat and landed headfirst in the mud. I am very sorry that I was in the other boat at the time and missed his acrobatic plunge. Afterward, I heard that our buddy Ronnie Bauer quipped..... "Do you see any fish down there Bill?" HA!

The conditions on both nights of our trip were less than ideal. The air temperature was warm and comfortable but the wind was stronger than we would have liked. That led to decreased visibility because of surface ripples and it also muddied the water. The tide was higher than we would have liked as well. In spite of these conditions we saw a lot of fish and took a lot of shots both nights. Sometimes the wind was blowing one direction, the boat was traveling in another and the fish swam in yet another!! Factoring these elements in with the "deflection effect" that water has on the fish.....it was NOT "like shooting fish in a barrel." These buggers were difficult to hit. What looked like an easy chip shot at 8 or 10 feet more often than not led to another bite of "humble pie." At times there were multiple fish, moving in multiple directions, with



Russ congratulating his nephew on Chase's excellent 5 foot 2 1/2" alligator gar taken with a long bow.

multiple bows at full draw..... utter chaos..... and we loved it!

As the accompanying pictures indicate, we shot a lot of fish. Our two day limit (for ten guys) was 100 redfish, packing the cool-



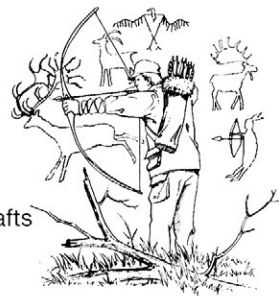
T.J. & Emile with a Redfish double.

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ers Wednesday morning we counted 90 something reds for the trip home. Redfish are very good eating and they are a prized game fish in the coastal Southern states. Where I live in South Florida we can only keep one fish per day and incidentally, it is not legal to bowfish for them in Florida. For the sake of this article I checked the current market price locally and they are going for \$17.95 per pound. I suppose my filleted and vacuum sealed bag of fish weighed about 18 pounds or so. My wife Sandy was particularly happy with the dinner I prepared for her when I got home. Her preference is blackened and grilled.

In addition to redfish, I don't know how many sheephead (also very good eating) and gar we shot. Russell's nephew, Chase Bridges, shot an alligator gar that measured 5 feet 2 1/2 inches long. It was his first big fish taken with a bow and arrow and the look on his face when the 'gator-gar' was wrestled on board was absolutely priceless!! The Louisiana boys amongst our



PBS members with the second night's results. Left to right, kneeling: Russ Lantier, Kevin Bahr, Bill Terry Sr. and Ron Tandy. Standing: Emile LeBlanc, T.J. Conrads, Chase Bridges, Greg Whelton, Ronnie Bauer & Floyd Oakes.

group kept the Gar we shot to prepare into something they called 'gar-balls.' Hmmmmm, I didn't realize that male fish had....oh never mind!

I am looking forward to the next opportunity for "Bowfishing The Bayou", perhaps I'll see you down there!! ☘

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Texas Hogs

February 2015 PBS Membership Hunt

By Ron Tandy



February 2015 found me back in Texas doing what I love to do.... hunting with a bow and arrow. This would be my 9th or 10th year hunting feral hogs with a great bunch of PBS guys and gals. Our group has only missed one year in the last 10 or so.

This year there would be 18 PBS regular and associate members from at least 11 different states, Florida to Connecticut to Colorado and several states in between. We would be hunting the Spike Box Ranch located west and slightly north of Dallas near a little cow town called Benjamin.

Hunting groups began arriving on Saturday with the majority of folks showing up on Sunday. After getting squared away in our accommodations ranch hands gave the groups separate tours of the ranch and their assigned hunting areas. The game plan was to assign different groups their own hunting areas among the 91,000 acre ranch. The group of five that I was part of had about 10,000 acres to ourselves, this place was huge!

Following the tours, we had the customary Sunday evening "meet & greet" with the ranch staff. About the time the meeting concluded...the entertainment began

when Gene Wensel performed a couple of his "world famous" magic tricks, followed by an appearance in his lifelike hog mask. Uncle Barry swore the mask is an exact replica of Gene's junior high prom date.

It was my first time bowhunting this particular ranch and like the proverbial kid in a candy store... there was A LOT to choose from. The ranch has a river running through most of it and a number of livestock ponds so there is plenty of water. There were vast areas of green pasture grass and thickets that a snake would have difficulty getting through, basically everything the animals need to thrive was in abundance. There were about 16,000 head of livestock on the Spike Box during our visit so we were mindful to secure the pasture gates as we entered and exited.

After looking around the hunting area more closely a plan of action began to take shape. I would be hunting with a young man that I am sponsoring for regular membership, Patrick Spivey from Benton, AR. Patrick is a Dr. of Veterinary Medicine, as is his lovely wife Susan, they have one adorable child, Amelia, who is 7. He asked me about sponsorship in June of 2014 when we shared a black bear camp in Quebec. I like to get to know a candidate before I commit to sponsoring them and I hoped this hunt would give me that opportunity, I would be watching him closely.

We studied a map of our area and decided that we would still hunt the thick bottoms. Despite a very light wind on day one, which is hard to be quiet in, our decision to still hunt proved to be the right one because we saw a lot of hogs at close range. Getting clear shots in the thick understory and tall grass was another matter. Several of the hogs were sows with very small piglets and we don't shoot wet sows or piglets.

Typically we would split up but try to stay somewhat abreast while we worked an area, that didn't work too well as the brush swallowed us up within minutes. We would then meet at the truck after a few hours. In the evenings we would

usually find ambush sites leading to or from the multiple feeders the ranch has in place for their deer population. Other areas we set up in were places that showed a lot of recent activity or where there was fresh sign. Sitting and waiting was not as productive as beating the bush. This ranch is hunted regularly and trail cameras showed the majority of activity took place at night. I didn't have a shot on the first day but I did find a heavy, main frame 6 point whitetail shed that I later measured at 69 4/8".

The rest of the week was much the same, still hunt during the mornings and afternoons and sit in ambush during the evenings. I'm sorry to say that I do not recall exactly how many hogs were killed but there were several. Patrick shot 2 and missed a couple more. I never released an arrow on this trip, my best and closest encounters were with wet sows. I did have an excellent hunt however and the last day was particularly exciting for me. The weather warmed to the low 80's on Friday and as we worked our way along a game trail during midday, a rattle snake was also using that trail to sun himself. It was coiled tightly and "rattled" it's warning

to us. I don't know what came over me, stupidity I suppose, but I decided I wanted to play "catch and release" with the snake. (More pictures on page 25.) Despite Patrick's pleading, I did in fact catch and release the snake. It was a beautiful specimen and had 13 rattles. I might add that the snake was not amused or happy about our encounter but we each parted ways unharmed.

It is my pleasure to sponsor Patrick's ap-





Front row, left to right: Ron Tandy, Patrick Spivey, Alicia "AL" Krones, Monte Dunaway, Russell Lantier, Bo Slaughter, John Vargo.

Back row, left to right: Bryan Bolding, Mike Theis, Bill Terry Sr., Nick Whelton, Kevin Bahr, Uncle Barry Wensel, Duane Krones, Greg Whelton, Mark Wang, Bruce Jedry, Uncle Gene Wensel.

plication for regular membership, he is a fine young family man and an outstanding bowhunter. As I write this in April, turkey season is upon him, I expect he will have his application completed shortly afterwards.

If you want to hunt the Spike Box Ranch during the PBS Membership Hunt, I don't think you will be disappointed. It has a lot of hogs and the accommodations were clean and comfortable. The large restaurant style kitchen had plenty of room for cooking. The ranch staff was knowledgeable, helpful and very friendly. The ranch put on a beef brisket dinner one night, it was excellent. John Vargo hosted this hunt and he plans to do so again next year. The dates in 2016 are Feb 8-12 and Feb 15-19. Contact John at 319 331-1997 or email him at John1597@aol.com

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My Nemesis and the Reflection of a Special Arrow

Nemesis: a long-standing rival

By Elmer Servis

That is the best way I could describe my affliction of shooting an eastern wild turkey using my recurve bow and cedar shaft.

My records show it has been over 20 years since I purchased my very first Missouri spring turkey license and my first Illinois tag. It would be several years before I would even see a turkey in Illinois, let alone get a shot opportunity. However in Missouri at that time turkeys seemed plentiful. I found out during the first couple years plentiful did not mean it was going to be easy to arrow a bird. I listened to several of the calling instructional tapes and read all the hunting articles on "how to decoy" one of these mighty birds into bow range. The one thing that was not mentioned in any article was the dozens of times, other turkey hunters would mess up your best laid plans, just at that moment when turkeys were responding to your calls.

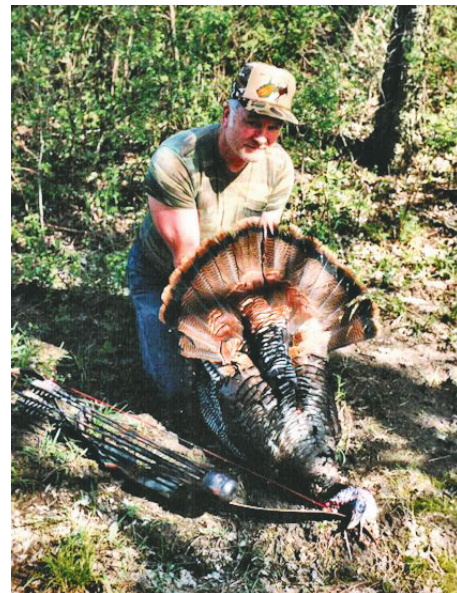
I hunted public ground in Missouri back then, and almost got my decoys shot by gun hunters several times. During that era I was just sitting against a tree without a blind. I found out turkeys are excellent at picking up movement of any type. Even being dressed in full camo, including gloves and face mask, it made it somewhat harder for them to spot you, but they still seemed to have that binocular power to pick me up each time that I would start to draw. That's when it occurred to me that I needed some type of blind. The problem was I wanted my blind to be somewhat portable. I came up with the idea of using a 12 foot length of 48 inch high camo burlap type material. I attached it onto four ¾ inch diameter PVC pipes, sharpened the 5 foot pieces of PVC at one end and shoved them in the ground forming a triangle leaving a one foot opening to shoot through where the two ends met. This worked like a charm when I called my first turkey in. The old hen followed my plan to a tee. She came into my opening and began pecking my hen decoy for several minutes at only 12 yards from me. Needless to say I was very proud of the end result. That is until the next year. I called in a nice Tom and he decided to do the unthinkable. He stood off to the side, 5 feet from me, strutting his stuff for 5 to 10 minutes before turning and leaving. Appar-

ently he had not read the script about entering my opening for a shot. I have to say, I did get a case of the shakes and decided then and there, that come hell or high water, I was going to shoot one of these birds.

Fast forward a few more years. Mark Viehweg and I decided to start knocking on doors in northern Missouri hoping to gain permission to bow hunt some private ground. We gained permission to hunt several parcels of ground and one happened to be just across the road from Indian Hills State Wildlife Area. This was during the fall and both of us were scouting the area for deer season. I moved down a hill into a bottom and decided to sit down against a tree. Minutes passed, I heard leaves rustling and then the unmistakable sound of turkey talk. Turkeys were clucking, purring and within a few minutes I was completely surrounded. As they fed, some even got into fights within mere feet of me. I was in a hunter's paradise! When I say surrounded, I am talking about nearly 100 birds around me. Even turning my head slowly caused several turkey heads to pop up at attention. Eyes seemed to be everywhere, looking my way in search of danger. It took nearly 10 minutes for these birds to feed through the area and I never once felt I could get a shot off. For one thing I made the mistake of sitting on my butt and would have had to move my entire body to even get a shot. Experiences like these I will remember forever. I made grand plans of hunting this property hard come next spring. Unfortunately those plans fell through as the owner called us and told us the property had been sold.

Pop up blinds had been around, but I had a hard time forcing myself to pay the big dollars they wanted to purchase one. I thought it would help my success but I put it off. In the meantime, a friend of mine, that many of you know, had given me one of his very sought after recurve bows. This person along with another, named Pat Cebuhar was very instrumental in my return to traditional bowhunting equipment. Jerry Pierce and Pat were a major turning point in my life and shared freely their knowledge. Since I had been fortunate enough to receive one of Jerry's bows, I was ap-

proached to help donate some money toward the purchase of a Double Bull blind for Jerry. This I did gladly! The reward was Jerry shooting a large Missouri gobbler. Jerry shared the story of taking the big gobbler many times, and he was beaming with pride each time he shared the story. Jerry's success made me that much more committed to taking a turkey with the recurve. In my talks with Jerry I told him that I just could not make it happen in regards to turkeys. Jerry then shared with me his own personal nemesis, it was the coyote. Jerry's comment and coyote stories made me feel somewhat better, knowing that even he could have trouble with closing the deal on certain game animals.



Jerry Pierce with 23.5 lb. Missouri gobbler. April 30, 1992
Photo courtesy of Pat Cebuhar

Determined to get one of these wary birds, I finally decided to buy my first pop up blind. I had since received permission to hunt a nearby farm that had a good population of turkeys here in Illinois. While I saw lots of turkeys there in the fall, they seemed to all disappear each spring. I should mention here, while I was not getting shots during the spring, I was shooting at some turkeys from treestands in the fall. Notice I said shooting at, because I also found out I

could not hit one. Then it finally happened in Missouri, I actually called a Tom with 2 hens away from his hens. That gobbler ran the complete length of the field. When he got there, I proceeded to shoot over his back as he brushed up against one of my hen decoys. This did not detour him from his plan with the lady hen decoy one bit. As he was trying his best to climb on the hen I sailed two other arrows over his back. Frustrated, the Tom jumped up in the air and landed on the decoy so hard it drove the metal stake through the decoys back tearing the eyelet out. As the Tom stomped around on the flattened hen decoy I was laughing so hard I missed the next two shots by several feet. About this time I realized I had no more arrows to shoot.

The years passed by, along with several other missed shots. I had bought a strutting Tom decoy, and a friend that does taxidermy donated a real tail fan for the strutting Tom. Then finally one early Illinois morning, after some calling and some gobbling in response, in walked 3 large gobblers. The lead Tom walked up and started brushing against my decoy at 12 yards. I drew and released the arrow and watched as the arrow passed through the mid section of the Tom. The Tom jumped up and fell on his back with just his feet moving. Finally it had all come together, and things happened just as I had planned it. I watched the other toms come in and peck my bird. I was thinking I could have killed one of them if I only had another permit. However, my success was short lived, I made the critical mistake of starting to pack everything up in my backpack, as I turned to lift the corner of my blind to exit, I noticed my dead bird was gone. Frustrated, I could not believe this, then I saw a good trail of blood, I thought I could find him because everyone had mentioned turkeys do not bleed a lot since the feathers soak the blood up. Well after nearly 30 yards of following good blood my turkey decided to fly off never to be seen again.

I guess somewhere in this story and this is as good as any, I should mention also, for the life of me, I could not hit a 3D turkey target at the archery shoots. This nemesis too was much like Jerry, who couldn't seem to hit a coyote target at the range either. There must be some physiological issue going on here?

Finally in the fall of 2009 I shot my first turkey and thought now the curse has been broken. The turkey jinx was over. Thoughts of more success for turkeys were in my near future. Once again fate proved me wrong and the years passed by with no spring or fall turkey.

During 2013, I had the unfortunate experience of a detached retina and five unsuccessful surgeries, resulting in the loss of vision in my right eye. As fall came I persevered through the additional challenges this presented, and harvested three deer, two bucks, an 8 pt. and a 10 pt. At the Central Illinois Bowhunters annual end of the season game feed banquet, Pat Cebuhar presented me with the Chairman's Award, recognizing me for my accomplishment. He noted that even with the additional challenges I faced, I took no short cuts to success. He stressed that the accomplishment would be something Fred Miller would be excited about and Jerry Pierce would have been proud of. The Award was simply one of Fred's personal hunting arrows.

With that in mind, I decided that in the fall of 2014 one of my goals was, I was going to shoot a deer with that arrow given to me from Pat. The arrow was special to me, being one of Fred's personal arrows. Fred had lost the fight with cancer several years earlier. He was one of those rare bow hunters that could return from a week long bow hunt out of state and drive straight to Illinois and hunt his tree stand that evening.

While most others took a few days to rest up and touch base at home. I can still remember the first time Pat, Fred and I drove up to bow fish the Mississippi river for carp. We arrived and fish were spawning every direction you looked. The water was only knee deep and we all left the boat and decided to wade making it easier to chase the fish. I was standing by Fred talking and took a shot hitting a fish. I stopped to remove the fish from the arrow and tie the carp on the stringer around my waist. I then turned to tell Fred this is a blast and in that short time Fred had waded 200 to 300 yards up river. I told Pat that Fred reminded me of the "Energizer bunny" he never runs down.

Fred Miller and Jerry Pierce were part of a small group who one year hunted three different states in one weekend! Fred along with Jerry were two of the 30 original founding members of The Central Illinois Bowhunters, our 46 year old local bow hunting club. All

the new young members of CIB looked up to these two gentlemen. Now back to the fall of 2014. Well, unfortunately, the white-tails and my 2014 goal eluded me, as I was not able to shoot a deer during the 2014 Season.

Then to make matters even worse. At the end of our Illinois 2014 fall archery season I received "The Call," that call all bow hunters dread. The landowner of the farm I had hunted for more than 17 years informed me they were shutting off all permission to hunt their property to everyone, which included me. I was depressed, really dreading the 2015 season, not having anywhere to hunt. I had contacted a few people requesting permission to hunt but time and again I was rejected. Then a couple friends stepped up and gave me permission to hunt on their properties. You guys know who you are and I thank you!

The outlook for 2015 had changed within months and I was elated. I applied for two Illinois spring turkey permits, a second season permit for Fulton County and a fifth season permit for Knox County.

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**Elmer Servis with his
17 lb. Illinois Jake Turkey
taken on April 20, 2015.**



Reflection of a Special Arrow



~ continued from page 41

I was very determined. I was going to use Fred's arrow to kill a turkey. It turned out I could not hunt the opening weekend in Fulton County but would attempt to go out for the first time Monday the 20th of April. I arrived and did not see but one turkey walk across the planted field early. At 9:30 I looked out of the blind and four Jake turkeys were walking by in the rain. I clucked on my mouth call, no response from any of the four. I broke out the box call, thinking they might hear it better. Sure enough all four turned on a dime and came trotting right in. The biggest of the four went after the strutting decoy while the other three attacked the Jake decoy. I pulled back Fred's arrow and from 5 to 6 yards let the string go but the arrow flew over the jakes back. He quit pecking the strutting decoy and took a few steps farther back. I knocked another arrow took my time and let the second shaft fly. It hit the bird dead center, as the Jake ran by I could see it was a fatal hit. He actually crashed into the back of the blind in the final seconds. The funny thing is the three other jakes were still attacking the Jake decoy this whole time. I was elated about shooting my very first spring turkey while at the same time disappointed I had missed the first shot with Fred's arrow.

As the fifth season approached, I could hardly wait. Would I actually be able to pull a double for the year after so many years of failure? On May 7th the first day of the fifth season, I arrived an hour before shooting light and got setup. Just as it started getting light I noticed a turkey crossing the field to the west. All my calling did not cause the turkey to even pause. A short time later I had six Jakes walk out 50 yards from me and look the decoys over. I mouth called a few times and they paused to look then continued to the east. I glanced to the east end of the field, oh my gosh, there were now 12 turkeys chasing each other all around. Seven of these turkeys were Jakes. They would feed in my direction then get to chasing each other around and run back to the east. This went on for 40 minutes and then another turkey crossed from the creek to the south out into the field. That's 14 turkeys and not one would come in.

Without warning something spooked them, all of them flew or ran south. I texted my buddy Pat, and told him how disappointed I was that none of the turkeys would work. His reply was, "something has to happen with you seeing that many birds." "You Stay Put!"

At 9:45 I looked to the east, just walking in the field from the north is a Jake. From his direction of travel he would cross the field 45 yards away. I called with a few soft yelps, he turned my direction. However, he made sure to make a wide loop around my strutting decoy, then turned and came right to the Jake decoy! Once again I drew Fred's arrow back slowly, the next thing I saw, was Fred's brown fletching sticking out of the Jake. The Jake jumped into the air, ran a few feet past the gobbler decoy and dropped. Out of all the animals I have shot over the years, I have never seen one expire that fast. I gave thanks, and truly believe, I may have had a little help from two old friends on this hunt. I know for a fact they would have both been smiling and shaking my hand for sticking with it, not taking the easy route. The only regret I have was that the Jake broke Fred's arrow. I have to say I was excited about the first turkey, but the second Jake meant so much more to me, I



Elmer's second Jake for 2015, taken on May 7th, weighed in at 13.5 lbs with a 4.5 inch beard.

paused for several minutes to let it all soak in. I reflected many cherished memories of some shared hunts with old friends.

Thanks Fred and Thanks Jerry! To be continued next year? ♣

"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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Strength Training for Bowhunters

By Mark Viehweg

Within the past year, Krista Holbrook wrote a fine article focusing on nutrition for long-term health in the PBS Magazine. As a follow-up to her article, I will attempt to present a foundation for developing a strategy to build your bow pulling muscles and making the hunting adventure much more enjoyable. Throughout the history of PBS, many of our more prominent and successful members were actively involved in strength training. The names of Swinehart, Massey, Shafer, Schleyer and Mitten are a few of them. Chet Stevenson and Howard Hill were a couple of early strength training converts. While watching the DVD *Primal Dreams*, I was just as impressed with Mike Mitten's carrying of the (2) corn fed white-tails and (9) six mile round trips with his moose as any of the other footage. We can all become stronger no matter our current health or age. My intended focus with this article will be in the area of strength endurance as this plays directly into our archery endeavors. There are probably a number of PBS members with greater strength (the Mitten Brothers excluding Whitey come to mind) and possibly greater knowledge when it comes to strength training. I have been involved in strength training ever since receiving a 110 pound weight set for Christmas as a seventh grader. My journey has traveled from power lifting in college for football to pursuing calisthenics, chest expanders, stone lifting, sandbags, grip training, kettle bells, battling ropes and the Olympic lifts. This has always been done with the goal of getting stronger and maintaining a good health base. As you can ascertain, I have done a little of everything with a focus on always getting stronger or achieving greater strength endurance. However, while in my 30s for a brief time, I slipped into the weak-kneed maintenance lifting with puny weights. The creed was to just maintain your strength. Well, if you aren't striving to get stronger or improve your endurance you're slipping backward. Eventually, this type of training made me understand why people give up on strength training. Frankly, it was incredibly boring without making any progress! When I reached the

age of 35, I finally concluded just working out for 3-4 months before a western or Alaskan hunt wasn't sufficient. To keep the weight off, I need to be disciplined in what I ate and dedicated to a year round workout program. I doubt if I'm the only one, who has noticed as we age the changes in our metabolism. I noticed you can eat almost anything up until the age of 35. At that point, adjustments need to be made along with another at roughly the age of 45. I have noticed recently the same thing can be said for the crossing of the 55-year-old threshold.

At least once a month, I am asked by family, casual acquaintances and friends the keys to a workout program. The three most obvious items are to find a workout you are challenged by, will continue with at this time next year along with having the discipline to continue to strive for greater strength. You have to be consistent with a program to ever see any real benefit. More often than not if you're not motivated and seeing results, you will sooner or later stop training. It really is as simple as first putting one foot in front of the other, then adding one more step tomorrow. If you are incredibly out of shape, begin by doing one of the common pushups once per day then adding one per week per day. You can see if that progression is continued you are able to build upon it. The second item is a workout must be progressive in nature. By this I mean, you must either be adding resistance (more weight), extending the duration (length of the workout or exercise), doing more reps/sets or completing more reps within a given time. I use a great variety of different exercises and change my program up depending on the time of year here in South Dakota. Once the weather warms to above 40 degrees, I tend to do most of my exercising outside. During the colder months, I use the garage. Even when it's -15 outside, the garage stays above freezing. I simply put on a pair of sweats and a stocking cap and get with it.

The number of excuses for not exercising is as extensive as the number of different exercise programs available on the web. My favorite is the "I don't live close

enough to a gym" or a gym membership is too expensive (this one I agree with). Really? It seems to me a gym is one of the greater deterrents to success for the 1st time strength athlete than almost any other thing. I told my nephew a few summers ago when he asked why I didn't go to the local YMCA to workout, "At a gym, somebody would beat me up for wearing Crocs and steal my milk money". HA! It is intimidating when you're getting started to walk into a gym with all of the various clichés. Do yourself a favor and invest in equipment instead of gym memberships. All most people lack is ambition and imagination when it comes to exercise or for that matter succeeding at most anything. You don't need somebody to hold your hand or get you motivated. Living a longer, healthier and more active life should be motivation enough. It really is as simple as doing one more step, squat, pushup, pull-up, rep, etc. tomorrow than what was done today. Don't focus on where you start, but look down the road to where you plan on ending up. I consider myself fortunate to have been self-employed (self-unemployed at times) for 25+ years. The flexibility of making your own schedule, allows me to workout at anytime of the day. I also truly take enjoyment in the strength training process. However, did I mention passing the age of 55 and having scoliosis (curvature of the spine in layman's terms at childbirth)?

If you're in terrible shape, all the doctors suggest you see a doctor. Maybe, but more than likely you need to just get started by walking to the end of the block or lane then going an extra step tomorrow. Start slow, but get started by putting away the clicker and start moving. I do want to emphasize paying attention to your body. Don't fight through the pain! I used to do that into my forties, but have paid the price with missed workout time. If it hurts, stop doing that particular exercise immediately. There are plenty of exercises allowing you to work around a tweak or pull. It's best at these times to use low impact exercises by emphasizing calisthenics, chest expanders or

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Strength Training for Bowhunters

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isometrics. Unless the injury is severe, more than likely all you need to do is adjust the workout. Ask yourself is it pain or soreness? Soreness of the muscles will occur after a strenuous workout (weakness leaving the body).

Two of the most common bow shooting related injuries are elbow tendonitis and shoulder issues. I have had elbow tendonitis a couple of times over the years. Doing timed hangs on a daily basis from common playground equipment has cured it. You can just as easily use a stout branch. Grab the bar with both hands facing away from you then hang with your feet off the ground. Start with a count of fifteen then add a five count daily building up to a count of a 120 or until the tendonitis goes away. Timed hangs also do a wonderful job of aligning the spine. When dealing with a shoulder problem, I would suggest using a chest expander with the lightest band available. I had rotator cuff issues in my right shoulder roughly 20 years ago after deciding to step-up to an 85-pound bow and altering my normal draw. I reached the point where I couldn't practice shooting at all. Finally, after a couple of months, I decided to do some work with the chest expander that had been gathering dust. Within two weeks, the pain and discomfort was gone and has never returned. Before going under the knife, I would suggest grabbing the chest expander. It's not only a wonderful tool for rehab, but while traveling it provides a great workout in itself as the resistance levels can be increased to incredible levels. I realize your circumstances may be different than what I experienced. However, I do believe many of the bow related shoulder issues could be alleviated with a well balanced strength program as many of the shoulder issues are related to an imbalance in the bow shooter's musculature. Here is the chest expander I have used with good results: <http://www.ironmind-store.com/Essential-Fabled-Cables153/productinfo/1240/>

For information on the different exercises to perform with cables, this book by John Brookfield is very thorough: <http://www.ironmind-store.com/Training-with-Cables-for-Strength/productinfo/1303/>

Anyone seeking to increase strength and strength endurance is best served by doing compound muscle/joint exercises. This is the performing of an exercise that will stimulate multiple muscle groups during the performance of the said exercise vs. an

isolation type exercise. This will provide the most bang for your buck when limited by time and resources. Some of the more common compound exercises are the power clean and press, squats, deadlifts, calisthenics and stone lifting. There is nothing wrong with bicep curls for instance although it is commonly thought of as a body building exercise. However, it should be approached with the same general philosophy of each exercise by being progressive. As long as weight, repetitions, or sets are added bicep curls can also be a beneficial part of any program. I encourage all people strength training to do exercises they enjoy, but not losing sight of the goal.

Another question often encountered, is the frequency of workouts. How often do we need to exercise? I would suggest training reasonably hard 2-3 days a week. It matters little whether this is a Monday-Wednesday-Friday schedule or Tuesday-Thursday-Saturday or Monday-Friday, etc. Most of the time, I will workout 5-7 days a week depending on family, hunting and work commitments. Now, bear in mind, the hard workouts will be every other day with a grip work day/gut work/aerobic in between. I don't get too depressed if I miss a workout as I realize it happens periodically due to circumstances beyond our control. However, don't make a habit of only working out 1-2 times a week and expect any measurable results. Every once in awhile someone will write an article or an internet post about an incredible program requiring only one workout every 4-6 weeks. Give me a break! It's plain not possible.

My interest is to offer a way for the individual to have the alternative to either workout with home made or cheaply made equipment. Also, I would hope people realize there isn't a need to workout in a commercial gym to obtain great results. I certainly have nothing

against gym and even like the Crossfit Box concept, but often times either family or work commitments make it difficult to be consistent in your efforts to workout. If you have to drive to a gym takes 10-15 minutes, my time is better spent working out at home. I want you to understand it's not needed to achieve the end result of better fitness.

I believe in doing a variety of workouts and exercises to avoid becoming stale and to stimulate various muscle groups by hitting them from different directions. I try to maintain a workout schedule that consistently hits the upper body and lower body.

I wouldn't be overly concerned about the rep and set schedule as you can gain with one set of ten per exercise, three sets of eight reps or five sets of five reps. Depending on how much time on a given day, I shoot for some where in the 25-40 minute time span per strength training workout. I believe in being focused with the mind set of a short rest between sets (strength training is meant to be a social hour).

As an example of a typical Monday, I will do the following:

Power Clean and Press with Dumbbells:

5 sets X 5 reps

Sledge hits on a tire 5 sets of 30 reps:

(15 per side)

Kettle bell swings:

5 sets of 15-20 reps per arm

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Kettle bell snatches:

5 sets of 10 reps per arm
Farmers Walk with
dumbbells, kettle bells or
buckets
Grippers, pinch grip or nail
bending

Power cleans and presses can be performed with dumbbells, standard bar, rocks, sand bags or even an extension ladder. Use your imagination.

Tuesday and Thursday: I walk up and down the local sled hill with a 30-40 pound weighted vest. For 10X up and down, this takes about 45 minutes and is fairly exhausting because I try to jog about 1/2 of it. I want to build up to sprinting more of it. At the bottom of the hill, I do my bending of nails either 40 penny, the IronMind Yellow, IronMind Blue or attempts on the 60 penny. At this time, the 60 penny is more of an isometric movement. However, the 60 penny is the goal by year end.

I would suggest picking 3-4 of the movements listed below or just one such as a drag or carry for time or distance per workout. Here is a list of various multiple joint strength training movements to choose from:

Drags – These are performed by placing an item on a platform then dragging by a handle unless you have a deer carcass around the house. I use a tire then stack weight plates on top. I wrap chain around the tire then attach a handle to it with the clips from a hardware store. A dragging platform can be purchased online at several different manufacturers. You can perform a drag either for time or distance. Another drag can be performed with either a pipe or log by fashioning a handle to it. When I lived in Illinois, my backyard had permanent worn out dirt spot from dragging a pipe and log the length of the yard. You can add weight to your pipe by either filling it with concrete or sand. There's nothing wrong with making the neighbors scratch their head. It's your yard anyway. We all know how exhausting dragging a deer out of the woods can be. It is a great exercise.

Carries – These come in various forms. The farmer's walk is one of the more common. You simply grab either dumbbells, kettle bells, buckets with sand or rock or an



**Use the quads God gave you!
Mike Mitten's two buck carry.**

actual farmers walk implement then walk either as far as you can or a set distance. I like thick handled dumbbells as they work the grip along with the rest of your body. Another form of a carry is to grab a sandbag then hold it to your chest or shoulder it while walking. Carries can also be performed with a barbell loaded from a squat rack or a pipe loaded to one shoulder. I can assure you high school age thugs will steer clear of your house if you stroll by carrying 315 or more pounds of weight down the sidewalk in front of their house!

Power cleans and presses – I normally do these with dumbbells, rocks or a barbell, but they can also be done with a sandbag or an extension ladder (for greater resistance extend the ladder). I would suggest doing this exercise in three or five sets of five in 5 repetitions. Start with a light weight to warm up then add weight until you reach your working weight for three sets.

Power Ropes – This is done using a 2"/50' manila rope. You have 25' of rope in each hand with the center point anchored to a tree, pipe, pole or playground equipment. The various exercises can be found on the web at: https://www.google.com/webhp?hl=en&sa=N&tab=lw&gws_rd=ssl

#hl=en&q=power+rope+exercises

An alternative to purchasing the rope, is to use either a large beach towel or a carpet runner of about 5-6' (used in a hallway or stairs). Use the towel or carpet for reps or time. You will be surprised at how this exercise will work your entire body.

Calisthenics – You now have the ability to get strong and fit without equipment. One day a week, I walk down to the local park to do a combination of pull-ups/chin-ups off of the playground equipment and pushups super setted with body weight squats, bear crawls and squat jumps. It sounds simple and is (therein lies the beauty), but will give you a tremendous workout when you don't rest between exercises and sets. You can do your chins and pull-ups from either playground equipment, a tree branch or a pull-up bar. There are several ways to increase the difficulty of

body weight exercises: 1) add weight by attaching weight to a belt 2) do more sets and repetitions 3) decrease the time between sets. Bear crawling backward and forward will give you quite a workout. This can be done either up a hill or by dragging a weight to make it more difficult. There are many different calisthenics, the ones listed are my favorites.

I hope you now have a foundation to get started. Sure, your wife and neighbors will see you as a little strange, but personally I see that as just one of the many benefits because they'll steer clear of your property. I have always been attracted to strength training due to it being straight forward and honest as you get out of it exactly what you put into it. Hmmm, sounds similar to shooting a longbow or recurve. Here's to better health and a more enjoyable hunting season!

When someone asks what you're training for, pause with a far off look in your eye then simply say, "16'". They'll respond with, "16'?" Yeah, "Rio." What event? "I haven't chosen one yet."

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have at 847-828-4413 or mark@tradbowl.com. #

"Girl Talk"

Using the Whitetail Doe Bleat

By Sean Bleakley

I was settled in my tree stand as the rising sun started to melt the frost that had coated the newly fallen leaves. The sky was cobalt blue and the crisp cold air was as still as could be. It was a perfect November morning for bowhunting. From behind me, I heard a faint "bleeeet". As I slowly looked over my shoulder, there stood a young doe. A snap of a twig brought my attention to the trail in front of me. I wasn't the only one who heard the faint sound. Walking in toward us was a year and a half old fork horn. The doe walked out past him as he turned and followed her out of sight.

That hunt took place in early November of 1988 in my old "Honey Hole" in NY. It got me thinking about deer vocalizations. At that time, the commercial buck grunts were just making the shelves of the pro shops and sporting goods stores as several magazines were publishing articles on rattling and grunting as the new "sure way" to kill a buck. Now, being an avid turkey hunter, I knew the benefits of the hen turkey's dirty talk. I thought that there was no reason why deer should be any different. I also thought of what might get my attention had I been a buck. Would I be more likely to respond to a deep voice that said "You wanna piece of me?" Or a higher voice that said "Hey big boy...."

Over the next few years, I observed some social behavior and vocalizations that I found quite interesting. Now, my problem was how to imitate the sounds that the does were making? Using a commercial buck grunt, that I modified by sliding the O ring closer to the end of the reed to make a higher pitched grunt, I would try my best to mimic the sounds that I was pretty sure that I heard the does make. I say "pretty sure" as most of the bleats that I heard seemed to be much softer than a bucks grunt and at times be tough for my ear to pick up.

The first type of bleat that I use seems to be more of a social call than a breeding call as it attracts both bucks and does. I've had great success with this during the early and later bow seasons. I make a bleat that is long and rises in pitch in the middle and then fades out, kind of like "bleEEEEet". I'll use this either to blind call or if I have a deer on another trail, out at a distance



Two doe bleat calls that Sean carries.

where it may not come in otherwise. Watch its body language as it may not come in, but flick its tail to signal for calling deer to come to it. Just because it doesn't come right in, doesn't mean that the call didn't have an effect. I've taken many does and several bucks with this call.

The other call that I use, is what we all know as the estrus bleat. I've had great success on bucks with this call especially towards the end of the rut when they are tired and the number of hot does is dwindling. Again, I will either make a blind call or if I see a buck on another trail, or just out of range, I will make a soft "bleeeet". Be ready, as I've had many bucks come in at a quick pace.

This all came to light for me in one hunt in the same honey hole on November 28th 1993. I had set up in a different tree than I usually do. I had a small group of does about 35 yards away on the other side of a fallen tree. I let out a soft "bleEEEEet". As I watched the group of does, again, I heard a twig snap pretty much right under my stand. I looked down to see a doe staring right up at me at 10 yards, but behind her was about a 120 inch 8 pt. She stomped and stiff legged walked away with the buck in tow. As I watched them walk out of sight, I caught movement to my left about 70 yards out. It was another 8 pt, but not as big as the one

that walked away. I put the call to my lips and let out a soft estrus "bleet". The buck turned in my direction and walked directly toward me. As he came in, he stopped broadside at 8 yards. I drew and released. I watched as the fletching disappeared behind the right shoulder. The buck didn't move. It stood there!!! It took 3 or 4 steps then went down.

I have since used those two sounds to take quite a few bucks and does over the years and I never enter the woods without a doe bleat in my pack. One word of caution, many times the deer will be alert looking for another deer, so keep your movements to a minimum. As for the calls themselves, I prefer mouth calls as opposed to the can calls that you flip, just that you can control the volume and make different sounds. Give it a try sometime, you may be surprised with what may happen. ♣



A doe that Sean called in this past season.

In the Land Where Daniel Boone Roamed

By Jerry Oliver

The Red Bird WMA is located in the heart of the Daniel Boone National Forest located in Clay and Leslie Counties in eastern Kentucky. It is 22,000 acres of some of the roughest deer hunting you will find. Steep hills, deep hollows and thick covered ridges are home to some mature mountain bucks. The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife closed Red Bird two years ago to modern gun hunting and made it archery only. Anywhere I can hunt without men in orange hats and vests with high powered rifles makes me happy.

It was the last of October 2014 and the rut was heating up. I had hunted Red Bird a lot when I was younger but had not been

in the area for fourteen years. I had just relocated to the area and needed a place to hunt. Red Bird was public land and archery only so it was my best option. I had a week of vacation scheduled for the first week of November so I had to get busy.

On the evening of October 29th, after work, I went to Red Bird to do some scouting. I decided to check out an area I had hunted years before just off Gilberts Creek. There is actually an old home place right next to a small creek. There are two small fields with a patch of woods between them. An old logging road winds around the hill above them and back in a hollow. The bucks come down from the ridges and out of hollows to make scrapes around the field edges and run the logging roads, rubbing and making scrapes in search of does. Sign was plentiful with big rubs and lots of scrapes. I knew there were some good bucks in the area by the size of some of the rubs. Lots of them were the size of your wrist and one cedar, the size of your leg.

I would start my hunt on the evening of November 2nd. I sat up in my stand in the lower end of the second field on an exit trail where there were several large cedars rubbed. No action that evening. I would be back in the morning, November the 3rd.

Dawn broke clear and cool and all was quiet. About 8:00 a.m. a small buck worked his way down into the end of the field. I took out my grunt call and made a couple of grunts. As if on a string, he came straight to me. This was not what I was after so I let the buck walk away. No more action that morning.

The morning of November 4th was cloudy and rain was in the forecast. I decided to go anyway. About 8:30 a.m. the rain set in and I called it a day. I would be back tomorrow.

The morning of November 5th was nice but no action. The morning of November 6th around 9:00 a.m., a doe came round the logging road and above the field and went out of sight back in the hollow. It was not long before a spike buck came through following her. I decided then that I needed to move up to the other end of the field where I could shoot into the logging road. When I got down, I moved my stand.

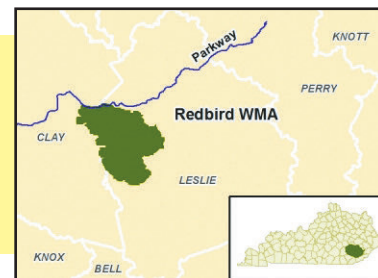
The next morning, November 7th, I was in my new location. I was not comfortable with my stand placement because I was afraid the deer would see me from the road because I was below the road at eye level. I tried it anyway, but no action.

On the morning of November the 8th, it was perfect – cold and still. About 8:00 a.m. two does came around through the woods below the logging road between the fields. At about 50 yards, their noses went up and I knew I was busted. They backed up and changed direction. At about 9:00 a.m., three more does came through with the same results. I knew I had to get above the logging road to get my scent above the deer so there would be no way they could see me.

I picked out a white oak above the road next to a big cedar. It was in the bend of the road where it came around the point. I would have a ten yard shot. It was perfect. I was running out of time. It was November

9th and back to work the next day. It was the eighth day of my hunt, but it was going to be a good one.

I climbed in my stand about 4:00 p.m. that evening. It was quiet and still and the evening sun was slowly sinking behind the hills. At 5:15 I heard a deer walking in the leaves. I had dragged a rag with Doe In Heat on it around the logging road and tied it under my



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In the Land Where Daniel Boone Roamed

~ continued from page 47

stand. I figured out the deer was coming around the road. I got my bow off the hook it was hanging on and got ready. The big cedar on my right had my view blocked.

Out stepped one of the biggest bucks I had ever seen. He had a wide rack with lots of points. He was walking slowly and I decided not to try and stop him. I was afraid he would spook. I shot the buck while he was walking. I hit him dead center of the neck. Probably too much excitement. I always heard it was better to be lucky than good.

The buck didn't know what had happened. He ran down in the field and then slowed to a walk. He went up the hill out of sight. I tried to calm down. I didn't have any cell phone service and was by myself. The buck had broken the arrow off on a tree so I decided to get down and check for blood. I went over the hill to where the arrow was and there was lots of blood. I had cut the artery in the neck and I knew I would find the deer. I followed the blood across the field up into the logging road and around a point. I lost the blood and it was getting dark. I decided to go get help.

When I got to where I had phone service, I called my good friend, Jim Mullins. I told Jim I needed help. Jim lives in Jackson in Breathitt County. I told him I would come to Hazard and meet him. Jim is the best deer tracker I know. I think he is part Indian.

We got back to Red Bird and went back up the blood trail. Jim

Jerry Oliver with a buck Daniel Boone would be proud of.



found where the buck turned and went up the hill off of the logging road. I told you he was part Indian. The buck had gone about 30 more yards and was laying up on top of the point.

He was a fine deer. He had fourteen points and nineteen and half inch spread. We guessed him to about six and one half years old. Even Daniel Boone would be proud.

If you want some good public land for bowhunting, give Red Bird a try. You may even get you a deer Daniel would be proud of. ♣

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