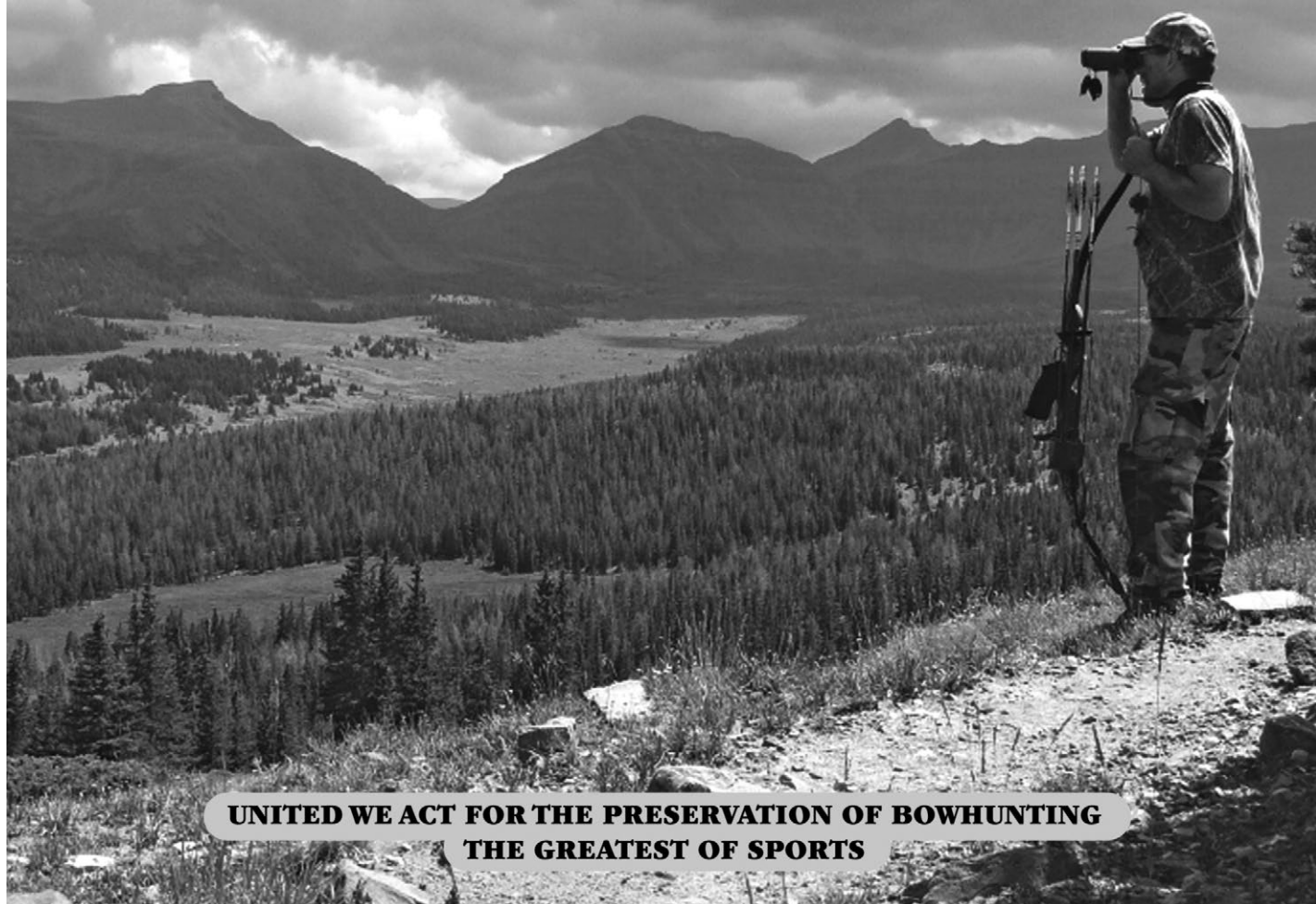


Official Publication for the members of the Professional Bowhunters Society

# THE PROFESSIONAL BOWHUNTER MAGAZINE



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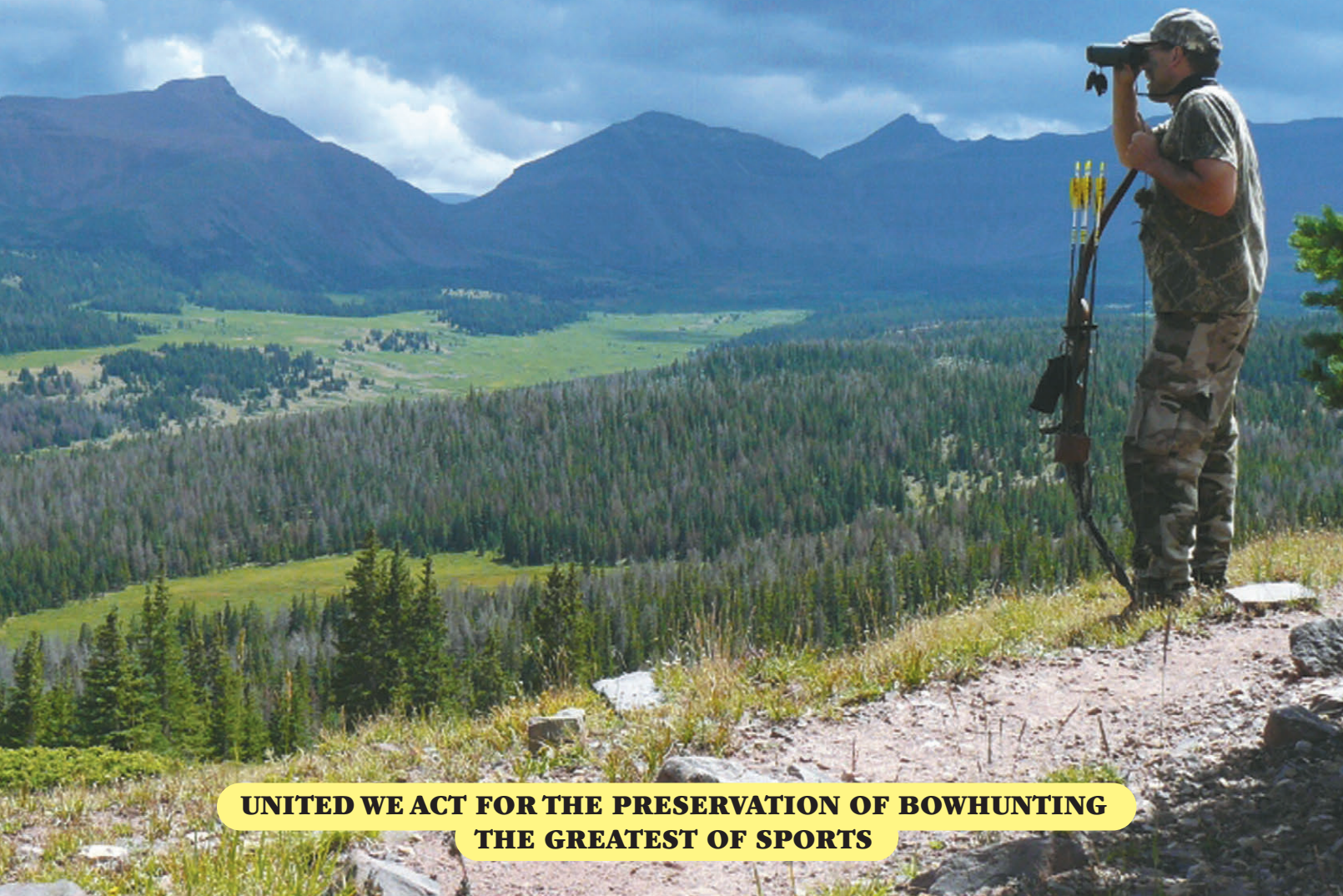
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# THE PROFESSIONAL BOWHUNTER MAGAZINE

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# President's Message

by Jim Akenson  
micaake@yahoo.com

## A Perspective on Brotherhood & Ethics

This has been a month of attacks on hunting and bowhunting, sparked by the big media blitz with Cecil the lion in Zimbabwe. Typical of the media, we never heard the full details of the hunter's side. Regardless, the end result is a black eye for hunting. In conversations right after the event, I heard people ask questions such as, "How can we better respond on the favorable aspects of our great sport? Who is worthy of the full support of the hunting community?" Those are good questions, and traditionally PBS members have said "We'll show our ethics through our actions." That's good, especially while in the company of youth or new bowhunters, but we really need to share our values beyond PBS.

It's obvious our PBS brotherhood would not include the above mentioned hunter, for many reasons. I don't want to eat up word space explaining why, but the take-home message is that a brotherhood does have side bars. Looking at Webster's definition it is obvious that the word brotherhood has boundaries. Brotherhood is defined as: "An association for a particular purpose." PBS clearly falls within that definition, with a fundamental purpose of upholding the highest outdoor and ethical standards in bowhunting. While on the topic of ethical standards, let's look up the word ethic: "The principle of conduct governing an individual or a group <professionals>." I thought it was interesting that the word "professionals" was added in the

definition. Obviously our forefather's saw the appropriateness in connecting "Professional" with "Bowhunting Society." I have heard some people say we should change the name of PBS, and that Professional Bowhunters Society is misleading. I beg to differ. Our name fits perfectly! My point is that we, as an organization, are a brotherhood founded on ethics pertaining to bowhunting conduct, and that is "Our Identity."

So you might ask, where's President Jim going with this one? Well, it relates to the Identity Statement that has been brought forward by some of my well-respected Council members. I think that this statement is well written, and is soundly based on recent survey information of the membership. However, I do not feel that this proposed Statement is consistent with the governing elements of our brotherhood. If it were, it would give more credit to members attempting to achieve regular membership status who have hunted with, or who currently shoot, a compound bow. In my mind, most important is that the bowhunter pursues and harvests game within the highest ethical standards. We have a lot of work to do to uphold the responsibilities of our mission, maintain our membership numbers, and especially now shed a good light on hunting. We need to more effectively contact the world as a brotherhood of the most ethical bowhunters, and I

feel that it is fine for some of our brotherhood to be shooting compound bows as that is, by far, the most prevalent bow style used on this planet today. I still feel our membership will predominately use traditional style equipment, but that quest is based on greater challenge and not stronger ethics. Yes, we are an elite group, but in our half century of history we have not succumbed to being elitist, or exclusive, about personal bowhunting equipment. You all elected me president – and twice, so I feel it is only appropriate for our membership to know where I stand as we approach a vote on this important issue. Given the identity options being presented, my choice is to stay with our current identity of being a very strong ethics based brotherhood, regardless of bow type chosen by members.

On a lighter note, please mark your calendars for the St. Augustine Gathering the first weekend of March. There will be a lot of information about this premier event in this issue and the next leading up to this long awaited Gathering. Until then, best of luck with your bowhunting pursuits this fall – and take someone new to the woods with you and tell them about PBS!

~ Jim A.

### Regular Membership Candidate

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

If you are a regular member and see any reason why any of these applicants should not be accepted, please send a signed letter stating your reasons to PBS Senior Councilman Steve Osminski, 7473 Marsack Dr., Swartz Creek, MI 48473.

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

*PBS Officers and Council*

**Associates applying for Regular status:**

**William Graves – Texas**

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corymattson@windstream.net

Traditional members have been working for a few years now and the excite-

A photograph of a man with short, light brown hair, smiling at the camera. He is wearing a camouflage-patterned jacket with a fur-lined collar and dark suspenders. He is seated, and his hands are resting on his knees. The background is slightly out of focus, showing what appears to be a wooden structure.

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## Senior Council's Report

by Steve Osminski  
steveosminski@yahoo.com

### The present and the future

It is still August as I write this report, but predawn workouts have had a very nice crisp start to them all of a sudden. We are coming up on fall quickly; the best time of the year. I've drawn an Iowa archery deer tag this year. Hunting deer on public land 550 miles away is a challenge, but the greater the challenge, the sweeter the reward. I'm looking forward to seeing what my cameras set out after the last scouting trip in July have to show. When you receive this issue, I should be right in the middle of a 3 week journey on a remote river in NW Alaska for moose with a great PBS friend. There are probably a few spots left on some of the upcoming regional hunts; get in on one of those if you can. The website is FULL of information. The Regional hunts are a great way to meet PBS brothers and get a quality hunt in.

This issue will be full of information on the 2016 Gathering. The Renaissance World Golf Village in St. Augustine is going to be excellent from the hotel itself to the warm sunny location. There will be a diverse set of vendors and seminar speakers. Meals and keynote speakers will be a highlight as well. Think about your donations and getting them in early; please send those early ones to Nathan Fikkert at 9705 SW First Place, Gainesville, FL 32607.

Finally, you will see quite a bit of discussion about an identity statement in this issue which will be coming up for a vote of the Regular Membership in the next election cycle coming very soon. I'll just say I don't paint with a broad brush. As an example, in the Journey of Challenge video, there were a few scenes from a

Montana mountain goat hunt. All some members saw was a "non PBS compliant" compound bow being used and it caused an uproar. I dug deeper; I saw the entire video the clips were taken from, and actually spoke in person to the hunter on one of my trips to Montana. I learned of his family history and how serious he took the hunt, how hard he hunted, and, how ethically he hunted. He hunted the entire season to get his goat within recurve range and killed it with a compound. We need men like this joining the PBS, period. I'm not convinced this identity statement gets us there, but there needs to be a PBS like the one I joined. A PBS where folks who are shooting compound bows have a place where they can be exposed to the traditional side of bowhunting, and one where, if their acts and deeds are true, they are welcome whether they move along their journey towards the traditional side or not. Not everyone out there with a wheel bow is using lighted nocks as tracer rounds to shoot 150 yards. Please keep our future in mind when voting on this issue. How many current traditional bowhunters are out there to pick from right now that are going to run out and

join the PBS? How many "modern" bowhunters have the skills and ethics that will make them good PBS members? I believe there are many, many magnitudes of the latter compared to the former and they just need to be exposed to the PBS lifestyle—there is more to bowhunting than just doing what is easiest; it is more rewarding to accept and conquer a challenge. I think our identity is already clear.

Treasure your hunts coming up and most of all--stay safe!

~ Steve O.

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# Council's Report

by Norm Johnson

norm@blacktailbows.com

My introduction to the identity statement project came about during our annual Council meeting last March in St. Augustine, Florida. The transition of moving from a member, back to a Council position brought me up to speed on this issue as well as others facing the PBS. All PBS members must realize the identity statement project is an internal movement coming from within the membership, not the Council. I had questions and concerns that probably mirror many of you in the membership. Why, what was wrong with the old one? If a change in the statement is adopted, how will it affect the PBS going forward? The PBS is 50 years old; do we really need to change the statement that has defined us for a half century?

With a lot of personal evaluation, discussions with members, and long look at the advancements in technology especially over the last 25 years I did come to the conclusion that the PBS will benefit from an updated identity statement that more clearly defines who we are and what we believe. My fellow Councilman Matt Schuster has played a big role in writing what I think is a common sense, tactful, and inclusionary statement and I have put my full support behind the statement.

The new identity statement is very clear about being inclusionary for anyone desiring to join as an associate member no matter where they are in their journey.

Moving forward to regular member status I believe it is important to establish a benchmark using traditional kills as well as their past experiences to complete the application. This is where our strong traditional values give us the opportunity to mentor these individuals to move them forward in their journey to accept greater challenges and understanding that yes indeed, bowhunting is a close range sport.

The new identity statement also offers an element that protects who we are. Our biennial gatherings are a very unique and quality experience for both members and visitors. They include high quality vendors offering, leather goods, handmade bows, arrows, traditional supplies, outfitters who cater to traditional guys, clothing, books and videos, knife makers, etc. All of which for the most part are traditional related. Our guest speakers and seminars offer real world experiences that are all traditional related in one form or another.

If we dilute our traditional bowhunting roots and our gatherings include vendors such as compound manufactures, the latest in release aids, sight systems, rangefinders, etc., then top it off with seminars that include "how to sight in that compound for eighty yard shots", or seminar speakers promoting "good ranging techniques," it most certainly would be the death of PBS. I personally would not attend or be a member. No, I am not an elitist, just not interested.

The same thing can be said for our magazine, probably one of the finest and most refreshing archery related magazines in the US. I have seen a few compound articles in the magazine. They were tastefully done and did not bother me. However, if you fill



the magazine with compound articles, and compound how-to's, then top it off with advertising from the technology advertisers it now becomes just like anything you can find on any newsstand in the US. I do not purchase or subscribe to any of them. Again, not an elitist, just not interested.

I also want to point out the protections written into the statement specifically for the older members of PBS who have found themselves at the crossroads in life where the heart is still traditional but the body just does not allow them to either comfortably pull a traditional bow, or shoot it accurately and ethically. You are still welcome and considered a valuable part of our membership. The new statement clearly makes provisions for those members.

As we enter the phase of discussing the new identity statement keep in mind it is a vote of the all regular members. It can be accepted or rejected. The discussion phase amongst members needs to be professional as our name implies. Professional is a way of life. You can't act professional only when you put on your hunting clothes and grab your bow. It just does not work that way.

Well, I have rambled on a bit long and certainly will have more to say in future columns. For now I want to wish all of our members a safe and successful hunting season. Also a quick reminder anyone wanting to be a vendor in St. Augustine contact me by phone or email.

Good shooting!

~ Norm J.

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# Council's Report

by Matt Schuster

matt@easterndynamicsinc.com

By the time you read this, the fall hunting seasons will be well underway, and I wish you all a safe and productive season. My big trip this fall is to western Montana to chase elk along the continental divide with a couple of PBS buddies. No matter how the elk cooperate, we will have an awesome time. It's interesting how hunting brings great folks together. I have hunting buddies all over the country and most are in PBS. Although sometimes we get together only once every year or two, sometimes even less, it still feels like we are all family. I guess that is because in a way we are.

There is a lot good going on with PBS right now. We are gaining quality members due to the hard work and time put in by those members spearheading the regional program and the membership

hunts. These folks would tell you that they get paid back plenty for their effort in both personal satisfaction and fellowship but don't forget to thank them anyway if you get the chance. The membership hunts for this year are detailed on the website and if you can possibly make one, you should. Not only will you have a great experience, you will leave with a few new friends for life.

Of course, much of this issue is devoted to our upcoming gathering in beautiful St. Augustine, Florida. This is shaping up to be one of our most memorable gatherings. Not only are the facilities and the layout at the resort outstanding, but with Cory Mattson in charge of the menu... well, that should speak for itself. Friday night we have the always entertaining T.J. Conrads speaking, and the rumor is that Monty Browning might be working on some new material for our Saturday evening finale. As usual, there will be lots of good stuff both purchased and won. We again have Canadian bear hunts donated by longtime supporters of PBS – Jeff Lander's Primitive Outfitters and Ron Henry's Guide Service. If you are looking for a bear hunt, please give one of these guys a call. We also have a 7-day self-guided elk/mule deer hunt out of a brand-new lodge in the Flattops area of Colorado donated by

Wildskies. These are just teasers, there are other great hunts donated by both outfitters and members. If you know anyone who might be willing to donate, please get me their contact information and I will be glad to see if I can sell them on supporting PBS.

Also detailed in this magazine is the PBS Identity Statement, which Council has passed and will be put up for a vote of the qualified regular membership in January. Please note that the Identity Statement is to be voted on in its entirety and not piecemeal. Taken as a whole, it is a positive step for our organization and I detail my beliefs in a short article in the following pages. There will likely be some spirited discussion on this among members so please let's keep it polite. After all, we can have differences of opinion without questioning each other's motives or commitment to PBS. And on the website, it would be best to keep any discussion of this on the membership forum. Obviously, I believe passing this is important to PBS and am willing to discuss it with any associate or regular member via phone or email. My contact information is available, and if I don't get right back with you, I am likely out in the woods somewhere with a stickbow in my hand.

**Matt S.**

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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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# The Wind!

## Chaplain's Corner

by Gene Thorn

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The approaching roaring sound was that of a train, but there were no tracks to the rolling hillside point where our tent was staked in the Georgia red clay. The hair rose up on the back of my neck and the wind hit the canvas and a twisting force tried to suck our lodge up into its vacuum vortex. Once, twice and a third time Sandee and I felt the entire tent stretch precariously upward, and strain against the stakes to the bursting point; then with a loud crack the center pole broke, as well as a pole on our fly outside. The rending sound of tearing canvas accompanied the feeling of being buried in heavy wet canvas as the spearlike jagged top of the center-pole buried into the floor just inches from my chest. We struggled to find clothes, our glasses, and a flashlight; then make our way to the tent door and untie it. The wind had mostly subsided but it was pitch black dark, pouring rain, and what we saw of our camp was utter destruction. We picked our way back to our truck that was parked a half mile away and got inside. We held hands and prayed and thanked the Lord that we were alive and unhurt; prayed for the rest of the camp, then reclined our seats and slept there for the rest of the night.

This took place in the month of April a few years ago as we were attending a Living History event that had a primitive archery course. We had enjoyably shot our snakeskin backed osage orange selfbows that beautiful Spring day, and then had a campfire meal of venison, fried potatoes, and pinto beans. We sat by the fire till well past dark. That night unexpectedly turned into something terrible, as 40 camps on that point and in the nearby valley below experienced a tornado that ripped its way through the large encampment with no warning. One man was injured by a broken lodge pole and taken to the hospital but he was the only flesh and blood casualty. The camp looked like a WWII bombing raid had taken place. The 40 camps in the tornadoes' path were a flattened mess of wet torn canvas, tangled ropes, and splintered poles. The neighbor's belongings from the 6 camps above us were scattered down through our camp including a heavy wooden camp kitchen and its contents that had been 30 feet away. Our belongings, light and heavy, were scattered for 80 yards or more down the slope below our site. As we walked up from our truck in the early dawn light we had already resolved that whatever state we found our camp in, we were going to put it back together and stay the rest of the week. What a mess our camp was when we walked up on it. Oh well, no time to reflect on it; we just waded in and started picking up and pulling things together. We had a spare pole for our fly but we had to find a way to repair our center pole. We had pulled it out and were looking at it when along came the farmer that owned the land we were using. I mentioned going out and finding a pipe to sleeve it with and he said "I'll be back in 20 minutes". Sure enough he came back with a piece of pipe about 2 ½ feet long and said "here, it is yours if you can use it". I tried it over the stout broken center pole and it fit exactly! Not a bit of slop, and not so tight I couldn't slide it on; exactly the same diameter! Tell me God wasn't in that..... We worked

for several hours and made a trip out to a Lowe's store to get repair items including epoxy for the center pole. We sewed canvas and cleaned mud off things. We hung up a rope and dried all our blankets and clothes on that line. We helped the neighbors around us with restoring their camps. At 4:00pm that afternoon we sat in our chairs and the camp was back in place and practically good as new. One of the last things I did was take each arrow out of my quiver and dried the matted feathers in the sun, and gave them a few shakes to fluff them out. Ready to shoot again.

*Mark 4:35 On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side."*

*<sup>36</sup>Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him.*

*<sup>37</sup>And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling.*

*<sup>38</sup>But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"*

*<sup>39</sup>Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.*

*<sup>40</sup>But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?"*

*<sup>41</sup>And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!"*

The next evening after we went through the storm we had a thrown together community dinner with all our neighbors and sat around the fire. The storm and recovery were the main topic of discussion of course. As we had worked to put our camps together we watched as most of the camps below us in the valley just went and got their trucks and trailers and loaded the wet canvas and everything up and left for home. One of the guys addressed Sandee and I with "We didn't think you two would stick it out. Your camp was torn up worse than the rest and here you came up the hill in the morning smiling and happy and just waded into fixing everything and putting camp back together. Where does that kind of strength and a positive outlook come from?" Another guy, from Alabama, answered the question for him. "They are Christians! Their peace and strength comes from the Lord. I have been watching them. You are Christians, aren't you?" You got it sir. Jesus was with us in the storm. He will be with you during your storm. There are all kinds of life events that can stretch us and try us but Jesus gives us the peace and strength to overcome. Let the wind blow! You don't have to fear THE WIND! ✝



# PBS Publicity Committee Report

3rd Quarter, 2015 – By P.J. Petiniot, petiniot.pbs@gmail.com

The publicity committee has started working on the promotion of the upcoming 2016 Biennial gathering in St Augustine, Florida. I look forward to promoting our first gathering in the Sunshine state. I am excited about the venue and the seminars and events that are already in place.

Keep an eye out on the PBS website, the PBS Facebook page and our magazine to see what the 2016 gathering has to offer the membership as well as to find out where the PBS is in need of volunteers and services.

The Publicity Committee has proposed some non-traditional, fund raising methods that should be in place before the 2016 Bi-Annual gathering. There will be more to come on that front in the next report.

Once again I want to reaffirm the challenge that lies before us when trying to promote an organization that seems to be at odds with itself on many fronts. For many years the PBS has allowed others to define who and what we are as we have been unwilling or unable to articulate exactly what we stand for and our true purpose for existing. i.e.: why somebody should pony up hard earned cash to join the PBS, while we are still arguing amongst ourselves as to what policies, which rules pertain to a particular membership class and why? It is time for us to simplify the rules of the game and clarify our convoluted message. We

need to ensure that our leadership and voting members are drawn from bowhunters that not only understand what traditional values means, but have also lived them by walking the talk. We also need to create conditions that are conducive to welcoming bowhunters that started on a different path as most PBS members, yet still have a desire to tag along with us on our journey.

There appears to be two distinct, yet opposing views within our membership as to what sort of organization the PBS is; #1 We are a traditional organization that tolerates a few compound shooters within our ranks. #2 we're an all inclusive group that is totally accepting of all bowhunters regardless of the type of equipment they shoot. Both of these descriptions fall short of the mark in my opinion. Frankly, I am not really interested in what sort of organization the PBS is today, I am more interested in what sort of organization the PBS needs to become to not only survive, but to thrive in the future.

The PBS has rules in place to ensure our leadership comes from experienced bowhunters with a proven track record of woodsmanship, traditional values and service to the bowhunting community. The qualified voting member process is the vehicle that ensures we have a conduit of competent leaders, yet even this process seems to be at risk, and at times, under at-

tack from within. I personally believe it is time to put safeguards in place to ensure that every future qualified voting member not only understands what traditional values means but has demonstrated a willingness to become proficient with basic archery tackle that is the essence of true bowhunting in its purest form. If we ensure that our voting members and leaders are cut from the same cloth, changing some of our policies to be more welcoming to Associate members with little to no experience with the ways of the average PBS bowhunters could not possibly have any real negative effects on the Society.

The PBS membership is 96% traditional bowhunters, yet some refuse to acknowledge that we are, for the lack of a better term, a traditional bowhunting organization that accepts the compound with strict limitations. Our leadership and voting members should always be comprised of traditional bowhunters, or at least traditional minded bowhunters that have harvested a reasonable number of big game animals with traditional tackle.

Although our membership is 96% traditional, the general bowhunting population is 99% high tech, that's where the rub is. We have an aging membership that is mostly comprised of traditional bowhunters. There are very few new, younger traditional bowhunters entering the sport, yet we have no vehicle in place to help educate and eventually transition high tech bowhunters into the world of the simple stick and string.

I personally believe that one of the proposals that will be put before the voting membership via ballot initiative will go a long way towards clearing up what has been a rather convoluted message over the past decade or so. This proposal will also allow the PBS to protect and promote our heritage while reaching out to those that care to walk with us on our bowhunting journey, regardless of the equipment they are currently shooting.

The proposal to lower the number of confirmed, big game bow kills required for qualified, voting membership from 8 to 5, while insisting that all future Regular, qualified voting member applicants have taken at least 5 qualifying animals with a traditional bow will ensure that all future qualified Voting members will respect our 50+ year Traditional Bowhunting Heritage. This proposal

~ continued on page 10

## Conservation Committee Report

3rd Quarter, 2015

The conservation committee has been inactive during the summer. The current policy and procedures manual was approved in 2002. The 2014-15 budget for the conservation committee, which was effective through March 2015, was \$1,210.95. Our challenge, given the current PBS membership and financial situation, is to review the policy and procedures manual and determine if we can sustain a conservation effort. If so, what are the opportunities for developing a meaningful conservation program? With this in mind, I recently sent a copy of the policy and procedures manual to the committee members and the Council for review and comment. I also encourage each of you to contact me, any committee member and/or councilman with your thoughts and suggestions.

Mike Schlegel: mws1941@gmail.com

Jerry Wansack: wansack@sbcglobal.net

Dan Russell: danrussell231@hotmail.com

Laurel Holding: holding.laurel@gmail.com

Jerry Krauth: longbowjer@comcast.net

Allen Clark: stykbow591@hotmail.com

# **\* \* Important Notice \* \***

## **PBS Identity Statement**

The following is an “Identity Statement” that was suggested by a contingent of the membership. The core elements of this statement were then written into the following document by Council Members. In July, 2015 Council voted to put this Statement before the full voting membership. The Council vote passed by a 3-2 margin. Next January, the Regular Membership will have an opportunity to either adopt it for inclusion into PBS By-Laws, or to not change the pertaining By-Laws. There are multiple parts to this statement so please read it carefully in its entirety.

Thank You!

Jim Akenson, on behalf of the PBS Council



### **PBS Identity Statement:**

PBS is a fraternal organization dedicated to the enjoyment and promotion of woodsmanship, close-range bowhunting, and the use of traditional bowhunting equipment (longbows, recurves, and selfbows). PBS welcomes all bowhunters who agree with our by-laws, mission statement, and code of ethics, no matter their current choice of bowhunting equipment or where they currently reside on their journey toward becoming a competent, ethical, and successful traditional bowhunter.

### **Five Steps to follow the passing of the P.B.S. Identity Statement:**

- Do away with the minimum draw weight and let-off requirements for compound bows in our code of ethics.
- Change the requirement for Regular membership to 5 big game animals taken with traditional archery equipment. Of course, all previous bowhunting experience should be noted in the essay portion of the Regular membership application and will be taken into consideration for qualification.
- At the time the PBS Identity Statement is adopted, all current Regular members shall be grandfathered in under the rules that applied at the time they achieved Regular membership. No Regular or Associate member will be asked to leave the organization due to choice of equipment. That means it is acceptable if a Regular member, due to illness, injury, or the complications of old age, chooses to use equipment other than traditional bowhunting equipment.
- Associate members who agree to abide by our by-laws and code of ethics are welcome to shoot equipment of their choosing but are required to agree with the tenets as stated previously.

### **Goals of the Identity Statement:**

- To make clear who we are in a positive manner and to promote PBS based on what we are for rather than what we are against - which will help us attract more dedicated traditional bowhunters and those who want to be.
- Make clear that one of our goals is to promote the use of traditional equipment when bowhunting and to actively celebrate the rich heritage of our sport.
- Make unnecessary the policing of bowhunting equipment among our members because who we are is clearly stated.
- Make clear that associate members are welcome to support PBS and to hunt with whatever bow they are most comfortable shooting as they decide if they want to continue on a path to becoming a Regular PBS member.

# Why I support the PBS Identity Statement

By Matt Schuster

Because of the space limits, this will be shorter than I wish. And one note, please realize that the Identity Statement is meant to be adopted in its entirety, and not piecemeal.

First, and most importantly, the statement firmly establishes us as an organization of traditional bowhunters, which we are – well over 90% of us. Second, it establishes PBS as an organization friendly to anyone who wants to join and learn about who we are. Third, it makes it unnecessary for us to be viewed, as we often are, as the equipment police. This has hurt PBS – no men like to be told what they can and cannot do. Please note, if we don't establish ourselves as traditional now, but we want to stay true to our roots, we will have to institute more and more rules in the future as technology marches on, and that will not help our organization.

Although the overwhelming majority of folks with whom I previewed this statement have supported it, I have heard a few concerns. The first is that some older members shooting compounds might feel unwelcome. Rather than impuning these members, the Identity Statement actually protects them. It does not ask any current member to leave the organization for any reason and it should not make anyone feel

unwelcome. It is no secret that our membership is aging, and we have members who (or who will in the future) find themselves unable to shoot a traditional bow. Right now, under current rules, these folks, many who have been dedicated members for years, are or will be in violation of our code of ethics if they currently hunt with almost any modern bow available for purchase today. This statement actually protects them because it does away with the let-off rule governing modern bows.

The second concern is that associates applying for regular membership will not get credit for kills made with modern archery equipment. The requirement of five animals taken with traditional equipment in no way means that an applying associate's entire bowhunting experience will not be taken in to account by Council. The five-animal minimum is just the key that opens the door to regular membership. By far, the most important part of the application is the written portion where an applicant's entire bowhunting life is detailed, and it is up to him to show that he is a dedicated short-range bowhunter, and that he understands and supports what PBS is all about. If he was a successful and ethical modern bowhunter before picking up a stickbow, it will come through in a positive light. I have a good friend and PBS member who

shot a compound with and without a sight for years and is both an excellent woodsman and hunter. He is now a passionate traditional bowhunter and will soon qualify to apply for regular membership. When I sponsor him, and I will, the major point of my endorsement letter will be that this gentleman has been an excellent short-range bowhunter for many, many years. By the way – he fully supports this statement.

If PBS is going to grow in the future, and we need to grow to survive, we need to make a choice. We can adopt this statement and move forward in a positive manner to promote and grow within the traditional bowhunting community and those who wish to join it, or, as some members suggest, we can market to the big bowhunting world and fully embrace those using modern archery equipment but who agree with our basic philosophies. The second choice, in my opinion is a false one. Those folks have been welcome to join PBS for years but have not. They are either not interested in us, or they find us unappealing because of our overwhelming traditional membership. Make no mistake, I am not against these folks in any way, but I do think we are different. I am simply pro-traditional because I find it so rewarding in so many ways. One of those ways is PBS. Let's keep it moving forward. ♣

## Publicity Committee Report

~ continued from page 8

will also eliminate all language referring to compound bow let off, which will instantly make us appear more welcoming to new Associate members that shoot high tech equipment.

This proposal will also have language that grandfathers all current qualified Regular members that may have always hunted with a compound. Not to mention, if you have applied for and been approved for qualified Regular membership, met the 5 animals harvested with traditional gear requirement and decide to go back to shooting a compound, you can do so.

I see this proposal as a logical compromise that should satisfy both sides of the ongoing trad/compound debate within PBS. We strengthen our traditional heritage and make our rules governing compound use of

our members reflect what is available in today's compound market.

The 65% let off compound is sort of like Sasquatch, there are plenty of rumors of where you can find or see one, but nobody can actually seem to put their hands on one.

Some may ask, why do we need to change any aspect of the application, by-laws, rules etc, I like things just as they are. My answer to this is simple, do we want PBS to be sustainable, to grow, to flourish, or do we want to see it to continue to wither on the vine?

In the past, with our efforts to not offend either group by having vague language left up to interpretation, we left the traditional camp claiming there was no real commitment to traditional values, it was all just lip service. We also left the all inclusive camp crying foul because we had arcane rules

governing the compound that have been interpreted as a back door way to make the PBS a traditional only organization. In my opinion, both camps have valid arguments and complaints in this regard.

I will be supporting this proposal as I see it being a plus for all members. We will leave nothing up to interpretation. Everybody will know exactly where the PBS stands on the topic of traditional bows vs compound bows and all rumors to us being traditional only or anti compound will be eliminated by our actions. We will be a traditional minded association, governed by bowhunters with strong ties to our traditional heritage, while being open and welcoming to all bowhunters.

Undoubtedly, there will be those that still want to complain about the PBS and our rules, but as we say, "The PBS isn't for everybody" and I'm OK with that stance.

Respectfully submitted,  
P.J. Petiniot



# 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!

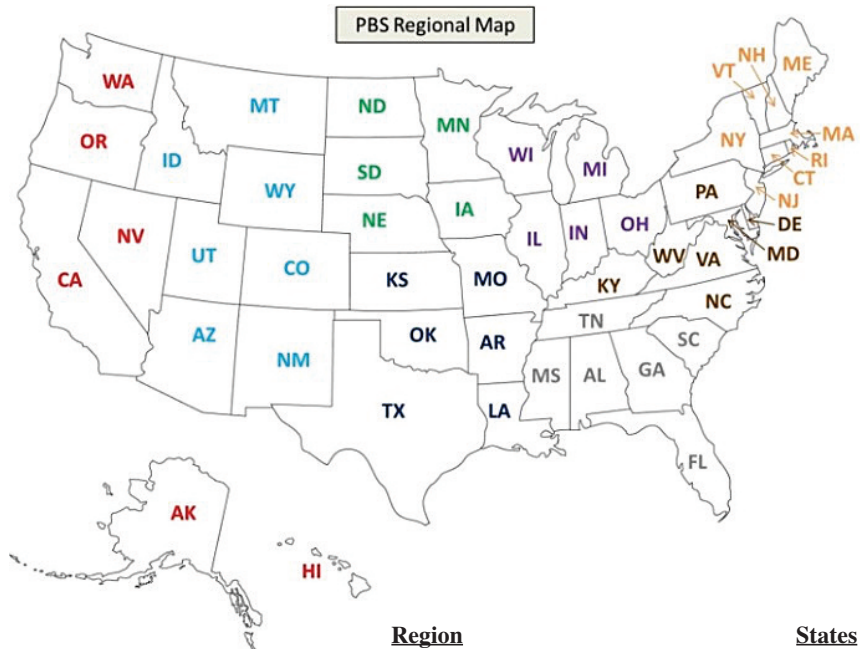
There will be a prize for signing up 3 new members to PBS. You will get 1 year free membership and one of these fine PBS commemorative Mugs!

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.



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



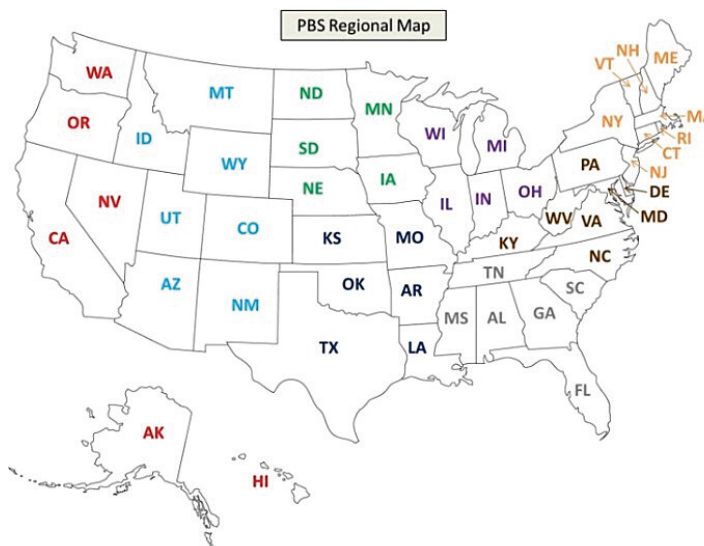
# PBS – Regionally Speaking

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



Following an exceptionally warm, mild, low-snow winter, Alaska has experienced a very warm dry summer. Resulting in low water levels for float hunters in many melt water streams in the state, and dry enough conditions in some alpine areas to negatively affect blueberry production for guys hunting up high. Many glacially-fed rivers still have generally at least typical water levels however, and forage production of sub-alpine species (rose-hips, raspberries, etc) is phenomenal in many areas.

## Rocky Mountain West Report (Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming)

No report.

## Pacific West Report (Alaska, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Oregon, Washington) by Tom Vanasche – Regional Representative

### Washington

Unfortunately mechanical broadheads and lighted knocks are now legal in Washington.

### Oregon

It has been a very hot and dry summer and hopefully they will not close the woods for the opening of archery season. Check for fire closures before going out. Remember to purchase your tags before opening day. We are looking forward to the PBS Blacktail hunt in November (see website for details).

### Alaska

PBS members are getting ready for their Kodiak Sitka deer hunt. I personally checked out the Western Arctic Caribou herd and saw 2 bulls in a week on the North Slope. Remember there is a lot of empty country in that great state. Once again to remind all that to bowhunt in Alaska after July of 2016 will require proof of an approved Bowhunter Ed class.

## North Central Report (Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota) by John Vargo (MN, IA) and Mark Viehweg (SD, ND, NE) Regional Representatives

We have plans in the works for a Spring Turkey hunt in Western South Dakota for 4-6 interested hunters. I should have the details ironed out in the next month. No change for Iowa or Minnesota.

### Nebraska – Bryce Lambley

The most coveted big game tag in Nebraska is the bighorn sheep permit, generally awarded by lottery each year to just one lucky recipient who must be a resident of the state. A \$25 non-refundable "donation" from each dreamer helps fund research and preservation of the species, while the actual winner of the drawing each August pays nothing additional for the right to hunt a bighorn ram in December. Occasionally they will also auction a tag, the 2015 winner of such going to the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep for \$130,000.

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission reintroduced a dozen bighorn sheep in 1981 at Fort Robinson in the Pine Ridge. Today, there are about 350 wild sheep in the Pine Ridge and Wildcat Hills areas of western Nebraska, and the NGPC hopes the cur-

rent success and work to diversify the genetics of the herds will allow for additional hunting opportunities. Recent acquisitions of sheep have involved Alberta and Montana, and perhaps other agencies.

To my knowledge all of the hunts have been successful, though none of the fortunate hunters has chosen to do so with archery equipment. Let me pledge right now, that if I ever win this tag, I will go forth with longbow in hand! Good luck to everyone this fall.

### **North Dakota – Paul Speral**

Here we go again, another hunting season is upon us. It is mid-August as I write this and 90 something outside. In just a few short weeks we could be looking for frost and the landscape will be changing. I have noticed a definite increase in fawns this year and maybe we are finally on the road to recovery. There certainly are pockets doing well so hopefully this will even things out somewhat. North Dakota will have three units open to antelope hunters this fall on a limited draw. We live at the extreme northern edge of the pronghorn range and endure a rollercoaster of population swings with winter mortality and outmigration during bad winters. Last year was our first season after six closed years and there were some monster bucks out there for those fortunate enough to draw a tag. The same should be true this year in the new units. Mule deer continue to respond to more limited hunting with does again being protected this season. For non-residents it is a draw but western ND has been producing some 200 inch mule deer. Those deer don't hang out by the roads but can still be found on public land with some hard work and a little luck. The oil industry has changed the landscape but with lower oil prices things have slowed somewhat. Traffic is better and the drilling has been more limited. I just returned from the northwest corner where my hunting partner Gary Simonson drew a once in a lifetime moose permit. I know ND isn't where anyone expects to find great moose hunting but we saw more than twenty moose in two days of scouting. A couple of these were dandy bulls and we are excited for the possibilities. It only took Gary 38 years to draw the tag. Our sheep continue to struggle after the introduction of pneumonia from a small group of domestic sheep. We lost quite a few and I wouldn't expect to see a season again for a number of years. Beautiful and historic inhabitants of the Badlands first documented by Lewis and Clark, it is a shame to see them struggle. I hope everyone has their plans and goals in place for a great fall and I look forward to stories and pictures of many adventures no matter how big or small.

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### **South Central Report**

**(Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas)**

#### **Texas**

Once again, we will be hosting two pig hunts at the Spike Box ranch near Benjamin, Texas. Dates are February 7-12, and February 14-19, 2016. Hunt format will be very similar to the Pig Gig hunts hosted in the past by the Wensel brothers. (Gene and Barry will not be in camp for the 2016 hunts). Six full days of hunting. Cost is \$1100. At a minimum you will need to purchase a 5-day non-resident hunting license (\$48) or two 5-day licenses if you want to hunt all six days. You stay in a very comfortable lodge with hot and cold running water, flush toilets, beds with pillows and sheets, bath towels, walk-in game cooler, large kitchen/dining room with multiple stoves and refrigerators for use. You only need to bring your personal hunting gear and a cooler to take your hog meat home. Hunt #1 is full, only booking for hunt #2. Contact John Vargo for information: 319-331-1997, john.1597@aol.com.

You can find more information and pictures on the 2015 and 2016 hunts at the PBS website under the folder "PBS Membership Hunts."

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### **Great Lakes Report**

**(Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin)**

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

#### **Ohio**

The Ohio deer and turkey hunt will take place on a wilderness lake in SW Ohio from Wednesday November 4 to Sunday November 8, with deer, turkey and squirrels available to bowhunt. The licenses and tags are \$125 for NR hunting, \$24 each for either-sex deer and turkey, and \$15 for a doe tag. The lake has good fishing too. We will hunt by boat along the shores of a good-sized lake, and camp at a primitive shelter. Some of the terrain is surprisingly rugged. This is not easy hunting but there are plenty of animals if you hunt hard. Some very large bucks live at this location. Check the PBS website for details or call Jeff Holchin at 828-578-9964 or email him at jeffreyholchin@gmail.com.

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### **Appalachia Report**

**(Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia)**

*by Gene Thorn, Email: pethorn@hotmail.com*

#### **Virginia**

The PBS Appalachian Region 5th annual Rough Mountain 2015 Membership Hunt will be held October 17-25, 2015 - anyone interested needs to contact Rob at Rob@burnhamphotography.com or (804)402-6900.

This hunt has been going on for the past four years and participants have had a great time. The hunt will be held on the George Washington National Forest near Millboro in Bath County Virginia (45 minutes from Staunton). This is a scenic mountainous area with lots of game. Fall colors should be at their peak. Rob has been hunting this area for over 40 years so he knows the lay of the land. There is a good camping area in a seasonally gated area at no cost. The evening meal duties are shared and in the past all have eaten "high on the hog".

The area has a good deer population, numerous wild turkeys, lots of squirrels, and black bears. The season will be in for these species as well as other small game. There is trout fishing available nearby. The chances to take a spot and stalk bear are very good. Note - One change in Virginia's hunting licenses this year is that bears require a separate bear license at additional cost. Licenses can be bought online at the VA Game and Inland Fisheries Website. Come and join the fun!

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### **Southeast Report**

**(Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee)**

*by Ethan Rodrigue,*

*Email: woodsmanbows@yahoo.com, Phone: 931-239-3890*

#### **South Carolina**

There have been some significant changes made to the South Carolina hunting regulations. Effective July 1, 2015 SC has moved from 6 distinct game zones to only 4. Each will still regulate its own rules and limits. There are changes to deer, turkey, and hunter orange regulations. Anyone

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# PBS Regionally Speaking

~ continued from page 13 ~

planning on hunting in SC this season needs to go to "<http://www.dnr.sc.gov/regs1516.pdf>" for a complete listing of all changes.

## Tennessee

There will be a 2 buck limit in place for the 2015/2016 deer season. This is good news for our deer herd and will hopefully have a positive impact on the quality of our deer.

I would very much like to have a youth hunt in our region next year. Land Between the Lakes is well over 150,000 acres and would be an ideal place to host a hunt like this. Anyone who would be interested in helping out in any way, please contact me. If anyone has another area in mind in our region, I would be very interested in hearing your thoughts.

I would also like to thank the State Reps for their help in making this regional program such a success. It's been a shot in the arm to say the least and I for one am looking forward to the great things to come within our organization. I would also like to encourage everyone to get involved in any way you can to help make PBS stronger and better!

## Georgia – Matt Schuster

The 2016 Georgia coastal hog hunt will be from Saturday January 30 to Sunday February 7. Most hunters will buy a 3-day license and WMA tag for about \$100 and hunt for three days. There will be three 3-day slots to choose from, with a limit of about 10 hunters in camp per slot. All hunting is by boat - if you have a boat that is good in shallow, tidal rivers, bring it; if not, we'll have

some boats. This can be a physically demanding but exciting hunt. Check the PBS web site for details or call Jeff Holchin at 828-578-9964 or email him at [jeffreyholchin@gmail.com](mailto:jeffreyholchin@gmail.com).

## Northeastern Report

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

by Terry Receveur,

Email: [Terrance.Receveur@Taconic.com](mailto:Terrance.Receveur@Taconic.com), Phone: 518-755-9119

## New York – Terry Receveur

Sean Bleakley will be hosting a PBS Catskill Mountain deer and bear hunt October 24 & 25, 2015. Hunters must apply for a NYC DEP access permit at: [http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/recreation/recreation\\_rules.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/recreation/recreation_rules.shtml). It's a QMA requiring that bucks have a min of 3 pts on at least one side and bears must be alone to take them. This is the third year of the antler restriction program. There will be onsite camping available. If interested contact Sean Bleakley, 845-243-4229, [seanbleakley45@gmail.com](mailto:seanbleakley45@gmail.com).

## International Report

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

No report. ☹

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## 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](mailto: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](mailto:micaake@yahoo.com)







## PBS 2016 Biennial Gathering St. Augustine, Florida

### PBS Ladies Trip to Historic St. Augustine

Hello Ladies of PBS! St. Augustine is going to be an awesome place to explore and experience while attending the PBS Gathering. St. Augustine has something interesting for everyone. There is sightseeing, 450 years of history, museums & galleries, collecting seashells on the beach, ocean fishing or inland kayaking, nature trips, and all sorts of specialty shops and local culture.



For the Ladies Trip, scheduled for Friday, a chartered coach will take our group from the modern World Golf Village to the Old City Gates of St. Augustine at St. George St. The walking mall on St. George St. is lined with quaint shops and diverse eateries, interspersed with historical buildings and living history performances. Surrounding streets are filled with shops, galleries, and museums. Across the street you can tour the oldest fort in the US, Castillo de San Marcos. Within 4 to 8 blocks you can explore the Lightner Museum, the Spanish Military Hospital, Ripley's Believe-it-or-Not, a Pirate Museum, and Potters Wax Museum. If that is not enough choices, take the Trolley Tour with stops at each of these attractions, plus Fountain of Youth archaeological park, the Old Jail, a winery, and a chocolate factory. A bus shuttle from the Trolley Tour can deliver you to the Lighthouse and ocean beach.

We will have fun together at St. Augustine. Sign up soon for the Ladies Trip. And Men of PBS, pass this information on to the women in your lives. Looking forward to spending time with you at St. Augustine.

*Holly Akenson*



### Menus • Menus

#### THURSDAY

**Casual:** A Low Country Shrimp Boil Buffet with corn on the cob, baby red potatoes, carrots, cornbread, Iced Tea and Cookies

#### FRIDAY

**Friday Night:** Brunswick Stew – followed by seared and roasted Cod with Vodka Shrimp sauce, Basmati Rice with Spring Peas, Tomatoes and Parsley – Strawberry Shortcake for dessert

#### SATURDAY

**Ladies Luncheon:** Fresh garden greens with seasonal vegetables, mango & pineapple with grilled chicken breast followed by Lemon Gelato and Ginger Spice Cookies

**Saturday Night:** Mixed baby lettuces and fresh vegetable salad followed with Braised Beef Brasato with classic hunters sauce Potato Leek Gratin and roasted baby carrots – Chocolate Decadence cake for dessert

**CASH BAR Thursday – Friday – Saturday nights** – Starting with some domestic beer choices at \$4





# **PBS Arrow Building** **COMPETITION**

## **2016 \*\*NEW\*\* Rules**

- To be held at the PBS Biennial Gathering, St. Augustine, Florida, March 3-6, 2016.
- Open to any PBS member in good standing.
- Members need not be present to compete.
- Except for three arrow category and "Arrow Art", each entry will be a single broadhead arrow.
- A member may enter as many times as they wish.
- If the arrow shaft is footed, self-nocked, or inlaid in any manor, then all such work must have been done by the entrant.
- No sharp broadheads; sharpness will not be a judgment factor.
- No field points.
- No individual stands or frames.
- No illegal feathers or other illegal animal parts (Hawks, Eagles, Owls, etc.)
- All entries become property of PBS
- Each entry must have a title or name, as in a painting or trout fly.
- Each entry must have an index card with title of entry, name/address, of craftsman, description of arrow and materials, and category.
- **Send INDEX CARDS ONLY or e-mail to Brenda Kisner**, PBS, P. O. Box 246, Terrell, NC 28262 (or by e-mail: probowhunters@roadrunner.com) before February 22, 2016. This will give us an idea of how many entries and allow us time to make display signs for each entry.
- Deadline for arrow arrival at Gathering is noon on Friday, March 4, 2016.
- Those members planning to attend are asked to please bring entries with you. Members not attending can send entries to Cory Mattson, 1719 Wilkins Drive, Sandord, NC 27330. **ALL ENTRIES MAILED IN MUST REACH CORY BY FEBRUARY 22, 2016.** It is the entrant's responsibility to see that they arrive on time!
- First place entries will be awarded in each category.

## **Categories**

**Primitive:** Native American, Medieval, etc.

### **Single Arrow Amateur:**

The class is closed to anyone who makes arrows to sell commercially.

### **Single Arrow Professional:**

Open to fletchers who make arrows to sell commercially

### **Special Three Arrow Competition:**

Entries must be three identically matched broadhead arrows, wood shafting only. These arrows will be strictly judged on matched grain weight, spine, broadhead, and nock alignment, beauty, craftsmanship, cresting, etc. This category will be open to professional or amateurs.

**Arrow Art:** A new category in 2014. "Arrow Art" is meant for a more abstract form of arrow that is more about art than function.

## **Member** **Photo Contest**

### **\*\*NEW\*\*** **2016 Rules**

There will be seven categories as follows

- 1). Small-game hero**  
(bowhunter with small game, javelina, turkey, coyote )
- 2). Big-game hero**  
(game animals over 70#)
- 3). Bowfishing**  
(hero shot or action shot; any species pursued with bowfishing gear)
- 4). Bowhunting Action**  
(shot should capture a bowhunter in action in foreground)
- 5). Bowhunting Country**  
(outdoor scenery)
- 6). Trail Camera**
- 7). Open** (any wildlife, equip, camps, landscape, or other outdoor subjects)

### **Contest Rules are as follows:**

- Participants are welcome to enter multiple photos per category
- Awards will be presented to winners in each of seven categories
- All photos will be 8" x 10" prints
- All photos become property of PBS
- All mailed photos must be received by February 22, 2016
- Photos may be hand delivered if attending the Banquet weekend
- Identify each photo with your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address on the back of the photo
- All photos must be on photo paper or light backing material. Please no matting or framing.
- Please package photos to prevent bending and send to:  
Professional Bowhunters Society  
P. O. Box 246  
Terrell, NC 28262  
Phone: 704-664-2534  
FAX: 704-664-7471

***Contest will be closed and  
judged at 3 pm Saturday.***





**March 3–6, 2016**



**R**  
**RENAISSANCE®**  
WORLD GOLF VILLAGE RESORT

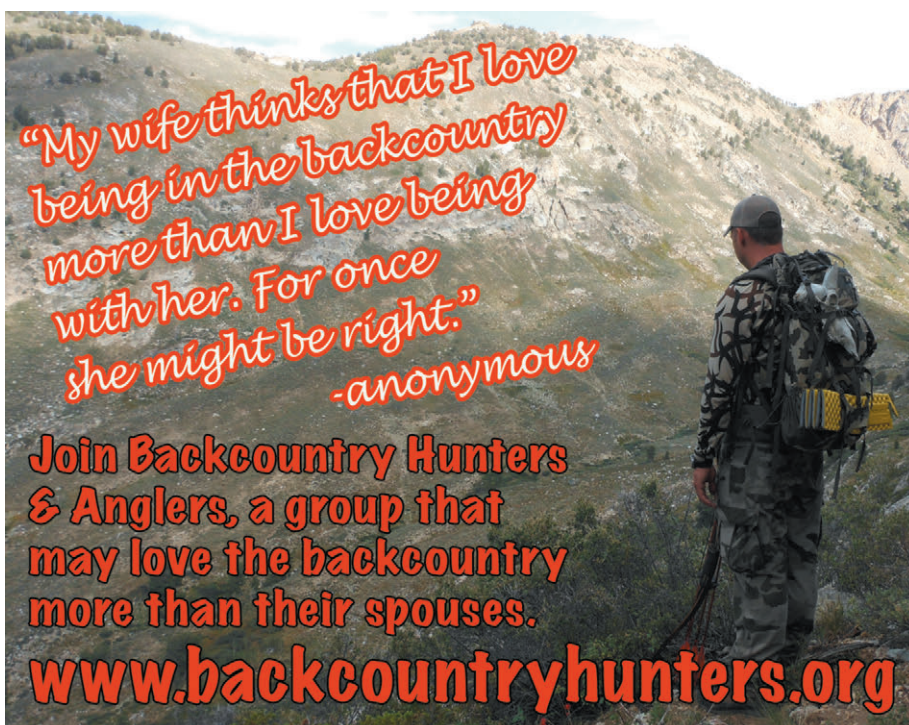
## Jerry Pierce Bowyers Contest

The intent of the Jerry Pierce Bowyers Contest is to highlight the best efforts and ingenuity of the gracious bowyers who donate to PBS, and recognize them for their exceptional work.

Professional Recurve	Professional Longbow
Amateur Recurve	Amateur Longbow
Selfbow	People's Choice
	<i>(any bow from the five categories)</i>

*The professional class is for those individuals who sell bows commercially; the amateur class is available to those who do not sell bows commercially.*

**Keep watching upcoming issues for more information as the Gathering approaches.**



## Seminars

### Friday

9 am – Target Panic, *Joel Turner*

11am –

1 pm – Alligator Hunting,

*Terry Receveur*

3 pm – Woodsmanship,

*The Holbrooks*

Evening – TJ Conrads

### Saturday

8-11 am – Membership Meeting

11:30 am – Regional Hunts, Planning  
& Managing a PBS

*Group Hunt, Jeff Holchin*

1 pm – The Bowhunters

*Shoulders, Dr. Steve Leffler*

3 pm – ELK, *Joel Turner*

Evening – Monty Browning

## 2016 Biennial Gathering Contact Info

### Donations may be mailed directly to:

Nathan Fikkert  
9705 Southeast First Place  
Gainesville, FL 32607

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

### Donation Commitments and Donation Details:

Steve Osminski  
steveosminski@yahoo.com  
810-875-4100

### Hunts:

Matt Schuster  
matt@easterndynamicsinc.com  
404-386-2229

### Dealer Space:

Norm Johnson  
norm@blacktailbows.com  
541-271-2585

### General Inquires and Questions:

Cory Mattson  
corymattson@windstream.net  
919-895-8106





# Missing Johnny

By Krista Holbrook

...He would have done anything for me that I asked of him. The thing is, he was that good a friend to many, many, people. He was what the PBS and archery needs to be about...

~Krista Holbrook

I still remember a 3D archery shoot my husband Sterling and I attended in Foley, Alabama back in the early 1990s. We had recently returned from Jim Hamm's bow school and were shooting our newly completed Osage bows, and were having a grand time.

We had shot with this club on several occasions, and even though we were definitely the odd man out, in this compound club, we still enjoyed going and always felt welcome. The club president had even shot with us one time, and proposed a closer stake for traditional shooters. A few of the older members were enamored with our gear and several said they still had an old recurve or longbow somewhere around the house.

Russ Dickson was the first to drag out

his recurve bow, and join us at the traditional stakes. Russ said it put the challenge back in archery and was a lot more fun, and he could not imagine how he had strayed so far from his archery roots.

Others soon followed and the club became more diverse as a group of traditionalists emerged. This was not the case where we had been shooting in North Florida. As the only traditionalists at their shoots, we were treated like outcasts and obviously not welcome. The wife of the club president had even made a comment about our poor scores, and was shocked to learn that we hunted with traditional bows. She actually said that she did not think they were legal hunting equipment. Sterling mentioned that archery seasons were originally opened for archers shooting traditional bows.



**Johnny, Krista and Steve showing off Lakota Style Quivers they made.**

might be embarrassed that we were shooting real bows. So it was a pleasure to receive such a warm welcome in Alabama.

This day was the last shoot before hunting season. We shot with a compound shooter named Johnny Gottler. He was an outgoing kind of guy, and was very active in the state compound organization Bowhunters of Alabama "BHA."

We were living aboard our boat and had recently located to coastal Alabama. Sterling had been studying hunting opportunities on public land and enjoyed talking with Johnny during the shoot. Johnny was a lifelong resident of Elberta, loved hunting and generously shared his knowledge about the National Wildlife Refuges and Corps of Engineers property available. He invited us to join him at Choctaw National Wildlife Refuge, where he loved to hunt and camp, and where the BHA occasionally held club hunts.

Choctaw proved to be an exceptional Refuge. Located on the Tombigbee River, this hard wood river bottom was rich with



Those who wanted to challenge themselves and get close to game, hunt safely when long distance shooters were not in the woods, and engage in fair chase. The response was largely over her head and she stomped off in a huff. He said he thought they





**Volunteers at NWR clean up day, Sterling, Johnny and Steve.**

wildlife, and soon became our favorite hunting grounds. In those early years, I do not recall a single hunting trip when I did not see whitetail deer or feral hogs. The low swamp ridges were laden with oak trees and the game was incredible.

We would often see Johnny hunting at Choctaw, where much of the access required a boat. He had many friends and was seldom without a boatload of people. For Johnny, camping was a group affair. His tent was always in the middle of the pile, and good food was plentiful.

We began to visit more and more often, and he was always genuinely thrilled for us when Sterling shot an animal. Johnny never failed to come to the skinning pole to offer his approval.

I remember one night we arrived for a visit when a group of hunters were sitting around the campfire. By this time we had become friends and had known Johnny for several years. The guys got to discussing bows and equipment, and debating the merit of compound devices versus traditional archery equipment. Sterling made some teasing comment to Johnny, who had missed a shot with his compound. Johnny, always loud and boisterous, said that he would hunt with a real bow if he had one! I'll never forget Sterling walking to our tipi, and returning with a knotty 70 pound Osage hunting bow named "Horse" that he had made, which he handed to Johnny.

It was the only time I remember ever seeing Johnny temporarily speechless. There may have been a tear in his eye, but it was dark, so it's hard to say. True to his word, Johnny never hunted with a compound again, carrying his Osage selfbow with loving reverence. He enjoyed making his own wooden arrows and along with Russ Dickson eventually learned to make

bows as well. Sterling once laughingly gave a twisted tiny grained, knot infested reject stave to Russ who would quickly pass it on to Johnny: who surprised us with a fine shooting bow.

Sterling published an article in an early issue of *Traditional Bowhunter Magazine*, about hunting

at Choctaw, and a few more traditionalists joined us there. More hunting archers from the Foley club converted and eventually we had a traditional group that camped the entire archery season.

The highlight of archery season for many years were our group hunts and gatherings. Johnny's wife, Angela, joined us occasionally when she had a moments free time from her equestrian life. Angela hunted during archery season with a compound, but come squirrel season, she was deadly with her shotgun. Nothing compared to a pan of Angela's moist and tender Southern style fried squirrels simmered in gravy. We also enjoyed epic wild hog BBQ cookouts. But best of all were our Thanksgiving potluck dinners and hunts.

These hunts started with a small core group, and grew each year as additional family members and friends joined in. The long narrow ridge of land that ran from Turkey Creek to Poe's landing offered some of the best hunting on the refuge. A stretch of several miles sporting oak ridges, towering pines, saw grass sloughs, and dense briar thickets, it was bordered on one side by the mighty river and on the other by flooded lakes and creeks. It offered a unique opportunity to see some of the area wildlife. Arriving by boat, we would drop the ladies and young ones off with a few experienced hunters who would help them select a ground blind. The others would start several miles down stream and still hunt the length of the ridge.

We often saw incredible animals, seldom observed on the refuge. I remember one of the early years, when Angela and I both enjoyed a close encounter with the same giant buck. I was behind a tree and Angela was in front of one. We were about forty yards apart, and the buck had come running down the river and stopped right between us. Angela had no shot because

the deer would have seen her move, and I was just far enough behind the tree that I was unable to shoot. The three of us seemed frozen in time for several minutes before the majestic buck bounded away.

Never was anyone more satisfied or proud than Johnny, the year he shot the big boar hog on our Thanksgiving hunt. It was the biggest boar any of us had ever taken. It was the first fall after getting "Horse" which he had carried so lovingly. The fact that he dropped the big boar with one of his own ash arrows, before finding three old modern replaceable multi-blade heads broken off and embedded in the hog's shield made it sweeter. Even before his equipment change, the process was always more important to Johnny than the result. He just loved to camp, cook, visit, hunt, fish and be outdoors. A harvest was a bonus but was certainly not necessary for him to have a good time.

Johnny was the best emissary for archery that I have ever known. He loved archery, loved making equipment, and was always eager to share his knowledge. He participated in many fundraisers to buy bows for children, made and donated bows, and bought and gave away bows. He was an instructor for the International Bowhunters Education Program, IBEP, and kept the program going practically single handed for many years in Alabama. He would drive a hundred miles to teach a class if there was a need.

One of Johnny's proudest moments was last year when he became a regular member in the Professional Bowhunters Society. You may remember seeing Johnny around our gathering for he usually wore his skunk skin hat. He was one of my best friends. He would have done anything for me that I asked of him. The thing is, he was that good a friend to many, many, people. He was what the PBS and archery needs to be about. Johnny's big heart finally played out and I'm sure he is loudly arguing the merits of his fried cabbage with Jerry, Russ, Tommy, Herb and the other Choctaw hunters who have departed to the Happy Hunting grounds. I sure miss him. 🍂





# New Friends

## Arizona Member Hunt

By Rick Wildermuth

My wife and I have attended six PBS conventions over the last 15 years and came away with great memories from each one. I'm always amazed at the generosity of so many people that donate to this great organization. I've thought many times about how I could help. What kind of donation could I make that someone might enjoy?

I finally had the answer. I've never attended a PBS Member hunt and felt it was time to get involved, meet new people, and hopefully learn some new hunting and camping skills from my "brothers". We can always learn from other people. I figured I could greatly expand my knowledge of many things just by hanging out with the experienced members of the PBS. Then it occurred to me that I could kill 2 birds with one arrow; organize a Member Hunt in my home state of Arizona AND donate a place at the campsite.

The donation for the winning bid would include transportation from the Phoenix or Tucson airport to the campsite and basically be their chauffer, hunting guide, chef, and house cleaner/maid for a week. I would provide sleeping quarters, cot, food, liq-

uids, and all the required transportation, 2 and 4 wheel drive.

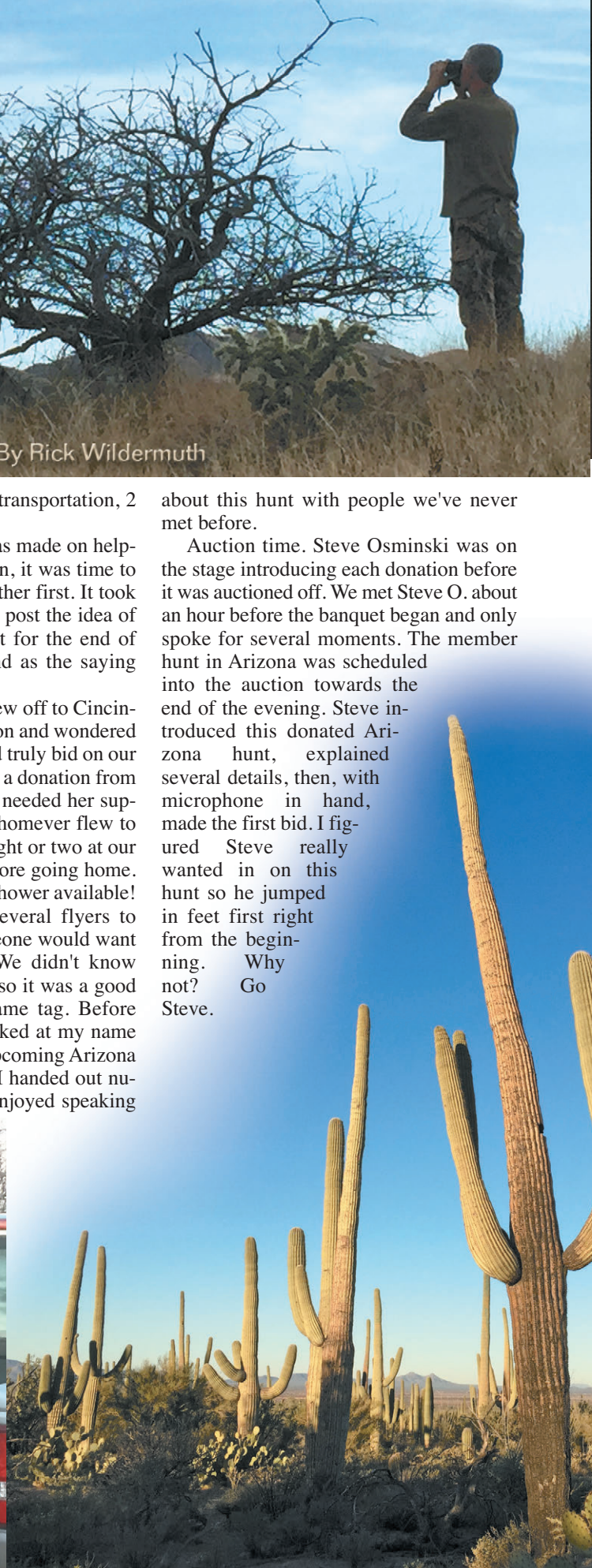
Now that a decision was made on helping PBS with this donation, it was time to join the PBS website, another first. It took a few tries, but I was able post the idea of an Arizona Member Hunt for the end of 2014 and early 2015. And as the saying goes, the rest is history.

My wife Carol and I flew off to Cincinnati for the 2014 convention and wondered out loud if someone would truly bid on our donation. It was definitely a donation from both of us because I truly needed her support. Besides, I figured whomever flew to Arizona would spend a night or two at our home after arrival and before going home. We might even make the shower available!

I wrote and printed several flyers to hand out just in case someone would want information in writing. We didn't know many people within PBS so it was a good thing everyone gets a name tag. Before long several strangers looked at my name tag and asked about the upcoming Arizona Member Hunt; game on! I handed out numerous fliers and really enjoyed speaking

about this hunt with people we've never met before.

Auction time. Steve Osminski was on the stage introducing each donation before it was auctioned off. We met Steve O. about an hour before the banquet began and only spoke for several moments. The member hunt in Arizona was scheduled into the auction towards the end of the evening. Steve introduced this donated Arizona hunt, explained several details, then, with microphone in hand, made the first bid. I figured Steve really wanted in on this hunt so he jumped in feet first right from the beginning. Why not? Go Steve.







**Pete McMillar holding court; Rick Wildermuth, Paul Mardsen and grandson, Nick, listen intently.**

December 26th rolled around and there I was meeting Steve at the Phoenix airport. Handshakes, back to the house in Chandler, introduce my wife, eat some dinner and early to bed were the evenings events.

Saturday morning the truck was loaded and off we went. By noon we had camp set up and put a little food in our stomachs. Time to find some deer.

Lots of glassing and over 100 deer spotted on that first afternoon. No horns were located and no doe tag in hand. I had a great time showing Steve around.

The next day Pete McMiller from Wisconsin arrived in his Volkswagon pulling a trailer filled with gear, including a Rokon bike. After introductions Pete explained that the Rokon was his dirt-road transportation. If

we needed fire wood he said he would cut down a tree

then pull it back to camp with the bike. He told us the man the bike was purchased from demonstrated the versatility of the bike by driving up onto the side of a tree, turn around and drive back down. I wanted a demonstration from Pete but he didn't oblige. He had a great excuse since there wasn't a real tree in miles.

Over the course of the next 3 days more members arrived to include Paul Mardsen with his grandson, Nick, from Tucson with a new wall tent, Mel Toponce from California, Cecil Smith and Roger Rutz from Minnesota. Everyone set up tents and we had a true PBS gathering. Mike Pfander from Tucson also visited our camp several times but did not stay over. Mike certainly holds a lot of hunting knowledge in his head.

Food, is this the time to talk about food? Wow. The first night in camp chicken faji-

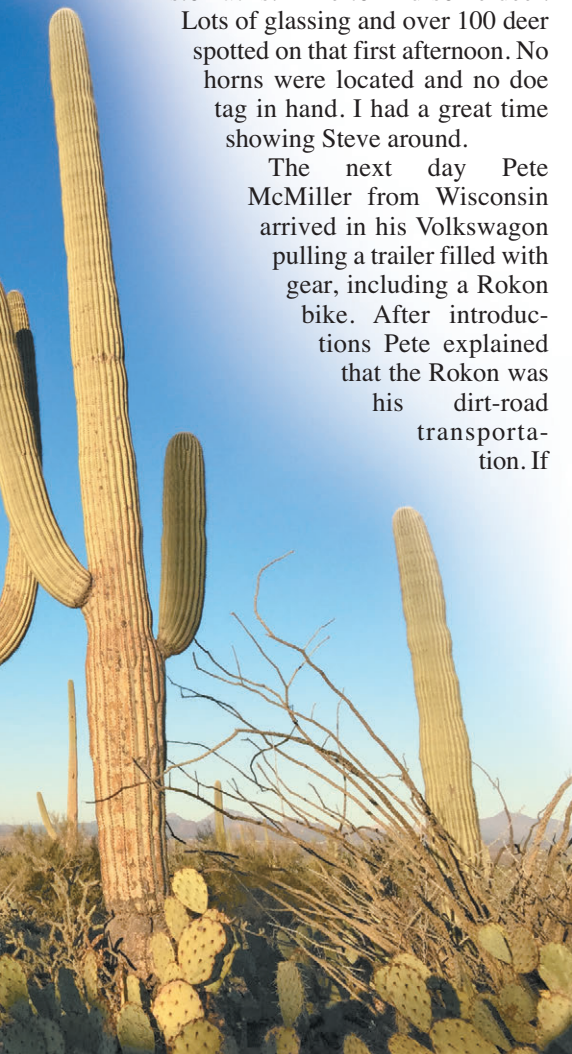


**Cecil Smith, above, trying to pry out Mel's quail recipe with the secrets of the 108 hour ribs. Squirrel stew, left photo, was another meal we ate.**



tas were served. It was just me and Steve. The food was good but...with the arrival of more members the taste of the food started really climbing up the taste-bud chart. Squirrel stew, back-strap venison fajitas by Paul, Cecil's famous "endless" BBQ ribs which took -108 hours of back-breaking prep and cook time over the fire while the rest of us hunted. Pete brought out a huge chunk of Newfoundland moose which he corned at home and let it age during his road trip to Arizona. Ask Steve about the lentil soup. Dutch oven poppy seed birthday cake, a recipe from Craig Burris, delicious. Baked ziti also from the Dutch oven. I'm sure I missed something here but man we sure ate good. There was left-over corned-moose that Pete sent home with me when I had to go back to work. My wife and I enjoyed moose Reubens the next day, hmmm good.

~ continued on page 22 ~





# New Friends

~ continued from page 21



Everyone saw hundreds of deer. Most were does but everyone did spot antlers. There is a nice mix of mule deer and Coues deer in the area and we were searching for javalina. We had a javalina expert in camp, Paul Mardsen. Paul and his grandson shared lots of knowledge and stories about these pigs (which they are not). Paul was the first to spot several of these critters.

Steve and I saw only ONE javalina, even with constant glassing with great optics, the entire time he was there.

After Steve left camp to head home everyone started to get into javalina. When I relayed that bit of information to Steve he actually told me he was "the weak link." No way, let's blame the cold weather while he was here.

On day 11 of Pete's hunt he connected on a javalina boar, the first fresh meat in camp. Pete said he listened very carefully when Paul spoke and it paid off. Tip: when you think there are pigs in the area start blowing on the call, Pete used a coon squealer, and don't let up. Pete thinks he blew until red in the face more than a minute but it paid off. Those pigs ran right up to him. Pete's first javalina. Nice.

Steve and I found several nice Coues bucks. We set up several stalks but were not able to loose an arrow. I had a very good time stalking, with Steve giving me directional signals that he taught me. Steve captured one of my stalks on video with his iPhone through his spotting scope from around 800 yards off. This video is posted on the PBS Members Hunt page:

<http://www.probowsociety.net/forum/viewtopic.php?t=2114>

If you watch me get busted, just remember, I knew ABOUT where the deer was bedded. It looks like I was almost on top of the deer. And I guess I had closed the gap to about 15 yards, but I didn't know it. I never saw the buck. I knew the game was up when I heard him bounding away. Wow, that was fun!

I'll list my memories, and there is a story that goes with each one:

\*First shot taken which included "animal down" was Pete with a jackrabbit. Second animal down, Pete's javalina. Only animals taken: Pete McMiller.

**Top Left: This Muley Buck was 1000 yards away as Steve O. captured Rick's stalk with his camera/spotting scope setup.**

**Top Right: Steve O. doing a quick glass of the mountainside while trying to keep out of the barrel cactus.**



\*Nicknames I applied to the hunters in camp: nerd, sanitary man, snore master, great young man, rib-master, cholla magnet, wing shooter, been-there-done-it and The Professor.

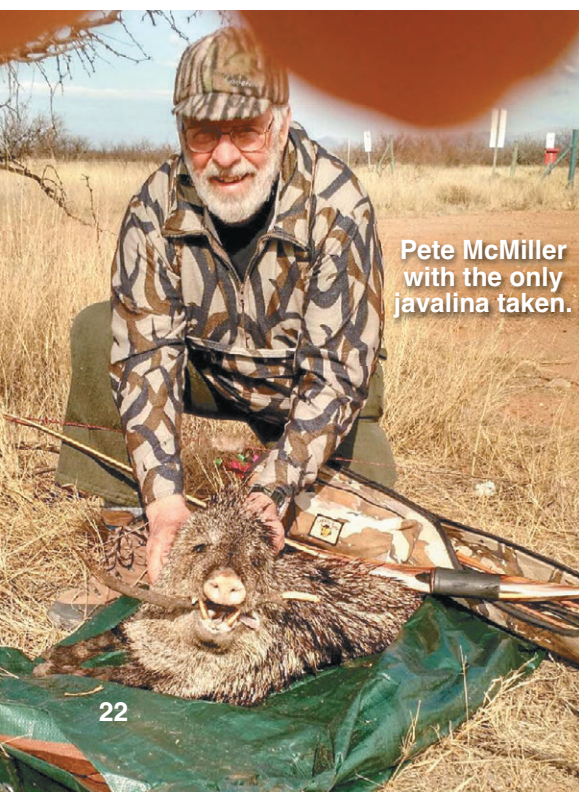
\*Make a walking stick to aid with stalks. (See Paul Mardsen about this.)

\*Leaky tent, 40 MPH winds, cold desert weather, frozen tent zipper, truck frozen to the ground. (Not the weather I told everyone to expect.) We did have some wonderful Arizona winter weather.

\*Borax taxidermy tip provided by Roger Rutz (for fisherman).

\*Did I mention Mel Toponce the legend? (Interview to follow, hopefully!)

Enough said. Many memories, new friends, and a big Thank You to PBS for being the organization that you are. 🍌



Pete McMiller with the only javalina taken.

## Plan now for the 2016 Arizona Hunt!

Another Arizona hunting adventure is in the works. Join the 2016 Arizona PBS Hunt for Coues Deer (our own little whitetails) Mule deer and Javalina. January 1 thru 10, 2016. Unit 32 near Allen Flat.

The 2015 hunt was enjoyed by 9 PBS members and this 2016 hunt is shaping up to be a good time also. Enjoy weather that "should" be better than the mid-west in January. Interesting terrain and lots of cactus.

**Check our website under Member Hunts and 2016 AZ Hunt for details.**

<http://www.probowsociety.net/forum/viewtopic.php?f=7&t=2637&p=42207#p42207>

*Did I mention great food?"*



# Quotations From our Traditional Heritage

Compiled by Gene Wensel

"In the joy of hunting is intimately woven the love of the great outdoors. The beauty of woods, valleys, mountains, and skies feeds the soul of sportsmen where the quest of game only whets his appetite."

**Saxton Pope**

"Death is essential because without it there is no authentic hunting; the killing of the animal is the natural end of the hunt and goal of hunting itself, not of the hunter. The hunter seeks this death because it is no less than the sign of reality for the whole hunting process. To sum up, one does not hunt in order to kill; on the contrary, one kills in order to have hunted. If one were to present a sportsman with the death of an animal as a gift he would refuse it. What he is after is having to win it, to conquer the surly brute through his own effort and skill."

**Jose Ortega y Gasset,**

**"Meditations on Hunting", 1943**

"There is enough in such men, I suppose, of the primitive so that to hunt and kill a creature under difficult conditions is profoundly satisfying. The two parts of the sequence must occur together, or there is no satisfaction. Killing, and this is generally misunderstood, is no pleasure at all if the challenge of hunting does not accompany it."

**Vance Bourjaily,**

**"Hunting is Humane",  
Saturday Evening Post,  
February 15, 1964**

"The care with which we dress and cook game, the time and expense to which I go to provide it for the table, indicate quite clearly that we serve and eat it as a trophy."

**Vance Bourjaily,**

**"The Unnatural Enemy", 1963**

"...and when some of my friends have asked me anxiously about their boys, whether they should let them hunt, I have answered, yes – remembering that it was one of the best parts of my education."

**Henry David Thoreau,**

**"Walden" 1854**

"As always at times like this, I shake my head and wonder: What have I done? Of course I know perfectly well what I have done. Even so, I always feel a certain sadness after making a kill, a moment of predator-prey compassion, though not quite regret."

**David Petersen,**

**"Hunter's Apologia",  
Mother Earth News, Nov/Dec 1988**

"I think all of us start out as pretty blood-thirsty young hunters who want something in the bag. We later come to appreciate that the enjoyment of hunting is something quite apart from the killing. I'm not saying that you shouldn't be hunting birds. The point is that you're out there for the joy of the whole experience, and the shooting is secondary."

**A. Starker Leopold,**

**"The Essence of Hunting"  
National Wildlife, Oct./Nov. 1972**

"Death is necessary only to make hunting real, to enable man to reenact, completely, a ritual – of the chase – as ancient as the human. The hunt without the possibility of the kill is like sleep without possibility of dreams."

**Tom McIntyre,**

**"The Way of the Hunter: The Art and Spirit of Modern Hunting", 1988**

"If one of the people who object to hunting were to accuse me of relishing death, I would have to admit that the most deeply felt moment in wing shooting comes not with the flight of the bird nor with its fall. The moment comes for me when, after missed shots and missed opportunities, I hold at last the extraordinary beauty, still almost alive, of a bird I have just killed...There is a good deal of sadness, if not quite regret, and great love for the bird to haunt my triumph. None of the moments that hunting offers, when I hunt as I wish to, lacks complexity."

**Vance Bourjaily,**

**"The Unnatural Enemy", 1963**

"The acts involved in hunting are all shaped by the purpose and end of having the prey, or 'retrieving it.' Hunting is what an animal does to take possession, dead or alive, of some other being that belongs to a species basically inferior to its own. Vice versa, if there is going to be a hunt, this superiority of the hunter of the prey cannot be absolute."

**Jose Ortega y Gasset,**

**"Meditations on Hunting", 1943**

**KIDS ARE ARCHERY'S FUTURE! SPEND TIME TEACHING THEM!**

Grandpa says we should only kill animals we are prepared to eat

Grandpa says the TuffHead's 3 to 1 ratio makes them fly true

I'm reading about FOC arrows at GrandPa's web site [www.tuffhead.com](http://www.tuffhead.com)

Dr. Ed Ashby visited our camp and talked about his broadhead studies and the old days in Africa. We wrote letters thanking him!

I'm learning to retrieve lost arrows.

**TuffHead**  
Broadheads

Made in America

190gr Carbon Steel  
225gr or 300gr Stainless  
Ceramic Coated - Made in the USA

**TuffHead.com**





# How to Grow a Bowhunter: Patience... ...is a Virtue

By P.J. Petiniot

It's said patience is a virtue. This is true for the average human, but patience is a necessity for even the most casual bowhunter. This installment of How to Grow a Bowhunter finds Ian and I at my father's home in Southern Michigan. Lately, I have been looking for hunting lessons wherever I can find them and our trip to a family gathering in Michigan was just the latest in a long line of unlikely places where I took the opportunity to teach Ian how to become a better woodsman and bowhunter.

July in the Midwest is usually reserved for fishing, target archery, fairs and family gatherings. With such a list of activities, it's hard to find any meaningful bowhunting opportunities in the land of corn-a-plenty. Hiking, bug hunting, and trips to the creek with the dogs is how we generally spend our days afield during the dog days of summer. On this mid July afternoon we combined many of our midsummer activities and enjoyed them all in one beautiful, summer's day.

While at a family reunion of my father's side of the family, Ian became a little disheartened with the entire event as all of the boys his age were not in attendance due to an out of town baseball tournament. My young son was in need of some mental and physical stimulation of the outdoor persuasion.

Although Ian had the run of over 50 acres of land, a half-acre pond and a 50-acre lake, he was bored. I offered dozens of suggestions as to how he could alleviate his boredom but he wasn't buying what I was selling. Ian eventually asked if I would walk down to the lake with him to see if there were any frogs to catch and I agreed.

Once we had walked the 200 yards to the lake, Ian was pleased that the frog population was once again healthy and he sus-

pected the frog hunting/catching would be AWESOME. The frog hunting was good, the frog catching, not so much. Ian was really trying hard to catch a frog, but his technique was lacking patience and stealth. My young apprentice had chosen a method of hunting that could only be compared to a Kamikaze charge against a frog population that had complete control over the beachhead.

The frog population in the section Ian chose to hunt was mainly leopard frogs. Leopard frogs, in my opinion are some of the hardest frogs to catch by hand, especially for a young frogman. Leopard frogs are very good at evading capture at the water's edge as they will jump back on land and move around danger before heading back to the water. Most other frogs just try to charge past danger in order to get to the relative safety of deeper water. I tried to explain this fact about leopard frog behavior to Ian but he wanted no part of a "Leopard Frog Behavior 101" course. Eventually Ian asked me if I would go stand up on the high bank and spot frogs for him so he could know where they were before he scared them off. I found this to be a good first step in developing a better hunting technique as Ian was trying to figure out a way to make his initial plan work. Knowing when to ask for assistance from your mentors or hunting buddies is a valuable skill and figuring out on your own that having somebody on high ground, directing you to the intended quarry is a skillset that will definitely come into play much further down the road in Ian's big game bowhunting adventures.

Ian's leopard frog mis-adventures continued for a good 40 minutes and finally he gave up on the lake and decided the much smaller pond was where he needed to focus his attention. Upon our arrival at the pond's edge, we discovered that this year was a banner year for bull frogs. I explained to Ian that I thought bull frogs were much easier to catch as they are much more predictable and tend to charge straight ahead when danger approaches. During this exchange, Ian only heard the word "easy" not easier than a leopard frog so he continued his failed lake technique with similar re-



**P.J.'s grandson, Bryce was intrigued by the big, green frogs**

sults. I remembered that there was an old fishing net of mine in the barn and told Ian to go ask his Grandpa if he knew where the net was located. Eventually we located the net and Ian gave a new frog catching method a try.

Unfortunately, Ian assumed that frog hunting with the net would involve little to no effort so now he charged around the pond with reckless abandon and although the frogs were cooperating, the hunter was not and eventually Ian gave up while mumbling something akin to "stupid frogs". I asked Ian for his net and told him to sit on the porch with his grandfather and I would catch a frog for him and his nephew Bryce. In less than 5 minutes I had caught my first frog. Unfortunately, Ian had given up on me after 3 minutes. Upon the discovery that I had indeed captured a frog, Ian's response was "You said it was easy to catch them with a net." I took these words as a challenge to now catch a bullfrog with only my hands, which proved to be slightly more challenging than I anticipated as I now had a 2½ year old grandson in tow as Bryce was intrigued by the big, green frogs and wanted to help catch one.

Actually, my frog hunting mojo was at its peak on this day as even with Bryce tagging along, I managed to catch a bullfrog with my bare hands in just a few minutes of hunting. I showed Ian the second frog and promptly received a, "Huh, Cool" followed a few minutes later by a, "How'd you do that?" After a quick refresher on how a hunter should move slowly, yet deliberately and whenever a hunter is moving, there should always be purpose in each motion.



The lesson ended as quickly as it began and we spent the rest of the afternoon with good food and good company. The fact that I was able to share so many aspects of stalking and still hunting with my son while doing something as simple as chasing and catching frogs is something that did not go unnoticed by me. We should never fail to teach such lessons to aspiring hunters in a real world, non-intimidating setting such as a frog pond or creek bed.

Remember as always, keep it fun and keep it simple.

- P.J. \*

Ian, however, was not as impressed by the elusive "stupid frogs". Little did he know his dad was teaching him about stalking and still hunting while doing something as simple as catching frogs!



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# Strength Training for Bowhunters – Part II

By Mark Viehweg

In the first installment of Strength Training for Bowhunters, I focused on an overall approach to strength endurance and fitness. This time around the plan is to take a focused approach to lower body exercises and grip training. The lower body and back are the keys to the engine. Without a functioning lower body, it is difficult to achieve much of anything pertaining to real strength and fitness. The last thing we as bowhunters want to have our legs give out before getting the last load of meat packed out or arriving back out at the air strip. There are a number of lower body exercises to be utilized in achieving the end result of endurance, strength and fitness. I will attempt to present several different approaches and equipment possibilities to any given exercise. However, always use your imagination and if it can be done progressively give it a try. As you train, I highly recommend recording each and every workout to allow you to keep track of your progress.

## Lower Body Exercises:

The squat is one of the better known and probably the best overall exercise you can perform to achieve proven results. If I had to choose only one exercise over all others, it would be the squat. Squats can be performed with various types of equipment in addition to three variations of the movement. Body weight squats are what I define as a calisthenic.



The best known is the back squat using a barbell placed just below your trapezius near the top of the shoulder. The back squat can be performed using a standard barbell, sandbag or log. You simply gird your loins then squat down with your feet slightly more than shoulder width with your feet pointed slightly outward until the top of your thighs are parallel to the ground. To get the hang of it, grab a door knob then sit back with your eyes focused slightly above head height. Please Google how to perform squats for additional information on technique. I would start out with an empty barbell to get comfortable with the movement then add a repetition, a set or weight each workout.

The front squat is another

variation of the squat. It can be performed with the barbell sitting above the clavicle instead of behind your neck. I have performed front squats while holding a sandbag, rock and kettle bell.

Another variation is the hip belt squat. It is performed using a raised platform with the feet above the weight. You can place your feet on several weight plates or by cutting out a hole for a loading pin loaded with weight plates to fit through. This works very well if you don't have a squat rack, power rack, two trees growing close enough to put bolts into to hold a barbell or have lower back issues.

For those wishing to focus strictly on endurance or don't feel like investing in a barbell, body weight squats are a great alternative. These can be done in the Hindu squat style (Google it for a clear description), hands crossed or held straight out in front. YouTube is a great reference for proper form on the body weight squats. Often times, I will do body weight squats in between other weight sets in the range of 25-50 repetitions. You will be surprised how effective body weight squats can be if you are willing to dedicate yourself to performing 200-300 per workout along with using a loaded backpack or weighted vest. I have worked up to 500 repetitions in one set. I had to laugh a few years ago when our oldest wanted to work out with me. It was cold out and I was doing calisthenics and kettle bells in the basement. Between sets, I was alternating burpees and Hindu squats. He didn't believe you could get much out of body weight squats. He changed his tune the next day when his legs were almost too sore to get out of bed.

Another movement to incorporate with body weight squats is jump squats. When you reach parallel, instead of standing up jump back then repeat for 8-15 reps. I think as we age jumping becomes an extremely important exercise due to losing density in our bone mass.

Bart Schleyer was known to perform high repetition squats with a log across his back after getting back to camp from following radio collared grizzlies all day. Point being, there are no excuses for not getting in the required work.

I have noticed every year threads on various hunting sites with a flat land hunter mentioning plans to venture west to hunt the mountains for elk or mule deer. He will often times ask for suggestions on getting in shape going from near sea level to traversing steep country. If I had to choose one exercise to get ready for the mountains, it would

Above are three ways to work with a sledge hammer to improve grip and wrist strength.



be performing deep breathing 20 repetition barbell squats. The key is the taking of three deep breaths before each repetition (sucking in as much air as you can hold on each breath). At least 3-4 months before leaving for the hunt, you should start the 20 repetition squats during a workout twice a week. During each workout add weight to the bar without fail in the range of 2.5-5 lbs.. It is my belief the deep breathing between repetitions is the key to the exercise as it expands your lung capacity. Find a weight you are comfortable performing 20 repetitions with and go from there (start with just the bar for instance). It is a very demanding exercise to say the least, but the results are well worth the while. Admittedly, given the exertion required, it isn't an exercise I am willing to undertake unless it's mountain time.

Pushes of various types are an excellent lower body movement for both building endurance strength and aerobic capacity. A push can be performed with a vehicle in either a parking lot or along a minimally traveled road. There isn't a need to have someone steer the vehicle in an empty parking lot. Either go for distance or time adding to it each time out. The load is varied according to the size of the vehicle. Another very good alternative to pushing a vehicle is the round bailed hay bales. We've all seen the round bales out in the country. Make sure you ask the farmer before attempting this. Then push the bale around the field for time or distance.

Another beneficial lower body movement for me over the years is the deadlift. The deadlift is best performed with a barbell or a trap bar specifically for deadlifts. The trap bar places the hands to the side instead of in front with a barbell. With a barbell, you can either have both hands facing toward the lifter or one toward and one away from the lifter. I

would suggest alternating hand position until you become comfortable with the movement. The exercise is performed with your eyes picking a spot slightly above your head then from your legs a little bit above parallel come to a standing position with your shoulder blades pulled to beyond your ears. The movement is done in a smooth motion from start to finish performing 5-8 repetitions for 3-5 sets. Always begin any exercise with a warm-up set at a comfortable weight then work gradually to your working sets at 75% of your maximum lift. Sand bags, rocks, logs, and kettle bells can all be used for deadlifts. I have also done quite a few one arm deadlifts with kettle bells, dumb bells and bar bells with good results. You will surprise yourself with the amount of weight you can move if you are dedicated to a goal and slowly improving.

Step-ups are a rather simple lower body exercise that can be performed with a minimum amount of equipment. You simply step-up on steps, a stool, bench, stone, etc. while holding a weight. The weight can be held in your hands in the form of dumb bells, buckets or kettle bells. I like to do step-ups while holding either a sandbag or a rock to my chest. They can also be performed with a barbell or log across your back. The difficulty of a step-up is determined by the height of the step and the amount of weight being held. I have went for time with a light weight, but found it to be a little mind numbing and now tend to use heavier weight and fewer reps mainly while holding dumb bells.

### Grip Training and Wrist Strength Training:

Roughly twenty years ago, I started focusing a portion of my strength training on my grip. Ironically, it started by watching a video from Price Ebert on increasing your bow pulling weight. He spoke of using a gripper as a part of the strengthening process. I spoke with him by phone and he guided me to IronMind, a company providing grip strength equipment. At the time, I didn't have any idea of the different types of grip training to be performed. There are several different types of grip strength: it breaks down into the crushing grip, pinch grip and open grip. The beauty of grip training strength is that it is mainly driven by the strengthening the tendon, sinews and muscle sheaths. This allows you to maintain excellent grip strength even as you advance in age. I have achieved increases in my grip strength almost every year in a chosen



grip related exercise. All increases in grip strength will correlate to allowing you to more easily draw and hold at draw your bow.

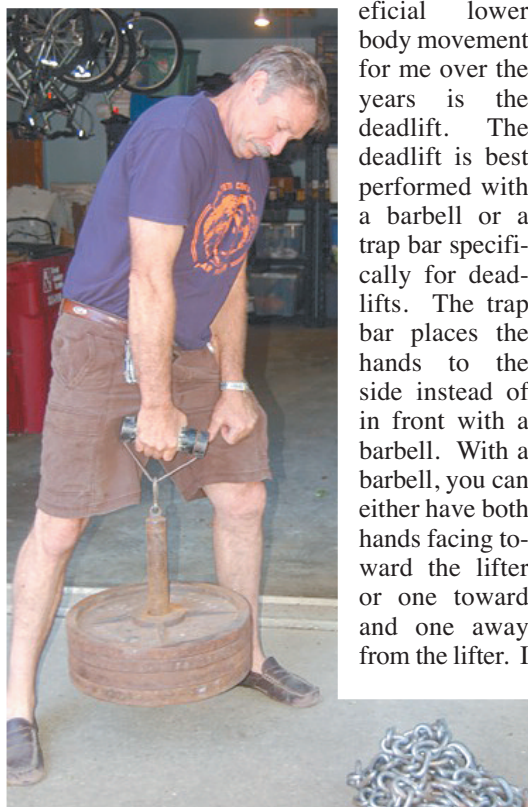
I work my crushing grip by using IronMind grippers. <http://www.ironmind-store.com/Captains-of-Crush174-Grippers/products/8/>. These grippers are a world away from the typical gripper you can find in a big box store. My set and rep configuration is similar to any other upper or lower body exercise. I approach them with the idea of increasing either the number of reps or sets each workout. While at times, I focus on either crushing grip or pinch grip. I will still incorporate both types of grip movements in any one workout, but will do a majority of one type depending on my focus at that given point.

Pinch grip is very straight forward. I use either a one foot long piece of 2x4 with a hook screwed into the bottom or (3) foot long 2x4s nailed together with a hook screwed to the bottom. I attached weight by using weight plates loaded on a carabiner, but you can just as easily use a bucket with rocks, gravel, dirt or sand. Normally, when doing pinch grip I will perform the exercise in between my other lifts starting with a weight I can lift for 5-10 reps for a couple of sets then I add weight to do working sets at a weight I can do 1-2 reps for 3-4 sets. Normally, I do one hand at a time switching from right to left hand then will end the pinch grip by doing two hand pinch grip with a higher weight for 1-2 sets.

Open grip can be performed by using a softball with a hook screwed into it, block weights (the end of a cast dumb bell) or an IronMind Rolling Thunder handle. Again, do the open grip with similar set/rep scheme as you would perform the pinch grip. I tend to do my different pinch grip exercises by what I feel like or am enjoying at the time, but never lose sight of adding weight or reps.

One last simple way of increasing your grip strength is to utilize the local play ground equip-

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## Strength Training for Bowhunters – Part II

~ continued from page 27



ment or tree branch. Utilize pieces of rope of varying sizes (whatever you may have around) then hang from them for time looking to increase the duration each time out. You can also use pinch grip 2 x 4's by hanging small pieces of chain from the bar. Maybe someday, you will be strong enough to hang from the basement or attic rafters with a pinch grip!

Sledge hammers are a great tool for increasing your hand and wrist strength and to think all PBS members thought they were just for splitting Osage logs. Most of the time I will use my 8 lb. sledge for what is called finger walking. You start with your hand(s) near the head of the sledge and move toward the top of the sledge. This will greatly increase your finger/thumb strength along with dexterity. I add weight by slipping a weight plate over the handle when needed. If you don't have weight plates, it is very easy to use a small chain connected to a bucket for additional weight. The photos shown will give an idea of the three movements. Pick one or two and get after it.

Levering a sledge to your nose is a popular test for showing an individual's wrist

strength. I do it periodically, but I don't care to take the time to tape weight to the handle when increasing weight. My preference is to lever the sledge from waist level to the front and back. It's just easier to add weight to the sledge for making progress. Start with the sledge on the ground with the arm bent at the elbow then raise the sledge until it is parallel to the ground. Perform 8-10 reps for 2-3 sets with both hands. When starting with levering, you will probably have to place your hand toward the head of the sledge. Experiment until you find a spot on the sledge where you're comfortable. I have marked every inch or so on my sledge to know I'm making progress.

Short steel bending is another way of increasing your lower arm strength. I realize this may be little out there for most people, but it is certainly challenging. I will bend when jogging the local sled hill. When I get to the bottom of the hill before starting back up, I will bend or attempt to bend a nail or steel rod. An added bonus, is the looks I get from the Frisbee golf players. I would suggest starting with either a 30d (d stands for penny) or 40d nail with the goal being to eventually attempt to tackle the 60d. There are a number of videos on the web showing how to get started with the proper technique when bending. I have also ordered short rods from IronMind. I mention IronMind



many times as they have been my most reliable source for grip related tools. However, most all grip tools excluding grippers can be created with a little imagination on your own with very little cost.

The most important reason to become involved in strength training is to increase the quality of your life. It is extremely important to push yourself hard enough to make it interesting. So, you must strive every workout to improve by either increasing the number of reps for an exercise or the amount of weight being lifted. Don't over complicate things. Set realistic goals, but strive to complete them. You must eat well (plenty of wild protein), hydrate and get enough sleep. Bottom line, there isn't an age limit on mountain hunts. So, get after it and I hope to see you on the mountain.

I want to credit a good number of what is written here to a gentleman by the name of John Brookfield, who is a legend in lower arm strength. John has drawn and held a 160 lb. bow for a minute along with doing a pullup at 250 lbs. body weight while holding an additional 250 lbs.! \*



Mark Mitten and friend "Arnie" were very impressed with Mark Viehweg's piece in the last issue called, "Strength Training for Bowhunters". I'm sure Mr. Viehweg "will be back" with more enlightening articles on health, fitness and conditioning. Most of us, "are not obsolete we're just old".





# Ticks, Chiggers, Black Flies & Skeeters

By Gene Wensel

The above four pests have plagued outdoorsmen for untold centuries. I remember several Canadian bowhunts where I asked myself how Native Americans could possibly live in those bug infested areas 200 years ago. Yes, I've heard the bear fat and wood smoke stories, but let's face it, before DEET came along, comfort in the wilds must have been a major concern. I recall another day trying to trout fish in the Big Hole Valley of western Montana, where mosquitoes were so thick I could hear an audible, constant buzz and see them moving like smoke in a breeze. Even with the help of oil based DEET and a big cigar, great fishing was simply not worth the trouble.

Other than a few bad experiences in south Texas, chigger problems didn't enter my life until I moved to Iowa in 1999. I find it interesting that less than a hundred miles north of my home in southern Iowa, chiggers are all but non-existent. The biggest problem with "red bugs" lies in the fact we can hardly see them. Matter of fact, I'm not sure I've ever seen an actual chigger. What's worse is you don't know when you've been bitten until they dig in. By then it's too late. That, plus the fact their itch is enough to wake me from a sound sleep ten or twelve days after you first start scratching makes them especially worthless. I've heard and tried all the fingernail polish, bleach baths, sulfur powder and "wear panty hose" methods. After the fact, the only thing that really helps is to go to your vet and tell him your dog has "hot spots," where he scratches himself until he bleeds. The vet will prescribe something made for canine itching that works very well on brave humans with chigger bites. Other than the fact I now pee on fire hydrants, chase cars and howl at the moon, it's really good stuff!

## Permethrin

Permethrin is the best product I know of for dealing with the above four pests. For ticks and chiggers, spraying your clothing with Permethrin is the answer. You can buy it

in aerosol cans but for three seasons now, I've had great results making my own mixtures. Get on eBay and do a search for 10% Permethrin. You can buy an 8 oz. bottle of 10% for \$12-\$14, usually with free shipping. The 10% formula is made for livestock. It's much more potent than what is sold commercially for outdoor clothing use. Clothing bug spray is usually 0.5% Permethrin, so the 10% stuff is literally 20X stronger. Wear latex gloves while applying it and be sure to dilute it with distilled water. Do NOT use it directly on your skin but it's safe on clothing as long as you dilute it and let it thoroughly air dry before wearing.

For ticks and chiggers, I dilute four parts distilled water with one part 10% Permethrin (4:1). Mix it up and dump it into any pump type weed sprayer with a nozzled wand. Lay your clothing flat on an outdoor deck or sidewalk. Spray it down with a

heavy mist, being sure to get the waist line, neck and cuffs inside and out. Flip the clothing to get both sides. Hang your dampened gear outside to completely air dry it before wearing. You'll be good to go for several weeks in tick or chigger infested woods before you'll need to freshen up with the spray. Always let it dry thoroughly. Since a lot of ticks and almost all chiggers attach themselves low to the ground at ankle level, wearing knee high rubber boots is also an important factor.

## For Skeeters and Black Flies

Thermocell units are one of the best inventions to come along in years to control mosquito and/or black fly problems, especially when used on stand or in a blind.

These units generate bug repelling fumes by heating chemically impregnated pads.

Being the "thrifty" tight wad that I am, for years I borrowed Thermocell units from southern friends. Only recently did I buy my own. One problem with these bug units is that the butane cartridges often last a lot longer than the treated refill pads. Refill pads are not sold separately. Here is how to solve that problem. You can refresh used pads easily using our old friend 10% Permethrin. Keep all your spent pads. You won't need to buy any more.

Mix a 5:1 ratio (5 parts distilled water with 1 part 10% Permethrin). With an eye dropper, put your mixture into an empty plastic bottle such as those used for eye drops. A small glass bottle with an eye dropper also works. Make certain you mark your bottle as Permethrin so no one will mistake it for eye drops! Carry it in your pocket or pack while on stand. When your bug pad dries up, just add 15-20 drops of the Permethrin solution juice to your spent pad, let it soak in a few seconds and reload your bug unit. You'll be good to go until you need to reload. ♣



**Permethrin is the best product I know of for dealing with ticks, chiggers, black flies and skeeters.**





# Shooting an English Longbow in England

By Herb A. Higgins

I admit to being more of a watcher than a participant when dealing with today's social media. I peruse the PBS Cyber Camp Fire often, rarely logging on. I have found that there are plenty of positions being voiced that my insignificant ponderings do not need to be added to the fray. During one of my scans of the posts, I read where Doug Clayton had helped fellow member John Cottrell, from England, register and become active on the Forum. In thanking Doug for the support, John also provided an introduction of himself to the membership along with inquiries to state side opportunities for bowhunting. The thread became extensive with many members providing guidance and opportunities should John venture over.

The original threads were dated back in April of that year. July arrived, and my company decided to send me to Derby, England. Something clicked in the back of my mind and I found myself perusing the Forums for Doug's original thread. Upon finding it, I confirmed that John had stated he was from the Derby area. A pm was sent to which John promptly replied. Through email, it was discovered that we both enjoyed shooting a longbow. It was not long before a plan was hatched that would afford two fellow PBS members from different

continents but with similar archery interests an ability to cross paths.

Arrival in grand ole' England involved the typical jet lag. Once I was able to wipe the cobwebs out of my head, I informed John of my arrival whereupon a meet and greet was promptly planned for Tuesday evening. John arrived at the hotel bearing gifts. He presented me with a Duvelle Bowman mug and a Duvelle Bowman patch. I, in turn was able to provide him with some copies of our Indiana Bowhunter Association magazines and an IBA hat. As expected, we hit it off well. I found that John is a very knowledgeable and accomplished archer in his own right. He owns several traditional bows and spends most weekends at various shoots and tournaments around the country. I found similarity to the weekend 3D shoots that occur across Indiana during the summer.

During our conversation, John informed me that he primarily shot both an English longbow, made locally by Bickerstaff Bows and bearing the name of Betsy, and a Saxon style flat bow. It was also quite apparent that John's knowledge of the longbow in English history was extensive. John's interest in archery came about after his retirement from being a fireman for over a decade. Knowledgeable in martial arts, John sought out archery as it offered an associated activity level and challenge he found he thrived on.

As the night was still young, John proposed an evening jaunt into a local woodlot for a round of shooting. A short drive by his house to pick up an archery kit was in order. I found that the English refer to an archer's glove, armguard, bow and arrows as a "kit". I was introduced to John's wife, Elenore. John ran upstairs to gather items for the evening venture while Elenore showed me around their immaculate home. John returned and, handing me a sock enclosed bow, introduced me to Betsy. Trying to not show my excitement, I gently slid the sock off and was presented with a beautiful piece of work. Long and sleek, Betsy was the epitome of an English longbow, tipped with dark horn nocks. Showing off a couple of other bows, including the Saxon flat bow, John graciously gave me choice for the evening endeavor. Suddenly realizing that a long held desire to shoot a traditional English longbow with horn nocks, and to do so in the quintessen-

tial Motherland, was at hand, I deferred to Betsy.

During the drive, John entertained me with his vast knowledge of the English Longbow history. His Saxon flatbow was made as an exact replica of the type of bow used at the battle of Hastings in 1066. That was when the failed Norman invasion of England was routed by the Saxons and their longbows. We arrived at Maynal Woods, which I found was the home of the Duvelle Bowmen of Derbyshire. John explained that Maynal Woods was part of the Duvelle Grounds under ownership of Lord Maynal. After entering the gate to the woodlot, John showed me where the archers shooting sign was kept behind a stump and placed it prominently in the middle of the gate. This was done to ensure any walkers would be aware of the activity in progress should they travel through the woodlot via the public trail system.

The evening was spent roving from station to station, shooting 3D targets set in more realistic settings than most ranges in my state offer. Shots were taken from different stakes, providing different challenges. Some included shots across creeks while others were through trees or off rises in the ground. The continual bleating of sheep ensured that I not forget that I was in Merry Ole England. Sunset drove us out and John again entertained me with history on Crecy and Agincourt while taking me back to the hotel. An agreement for a shoot the following evening was solidified.

The following afternoon, John picked me up and we drove directly to Maynal Woods. Our shoot that evening was both entertaining and enlightening. We found that both of us enjoyed the challenge of roaming a course, shooting at targets as we come across them, rather than from the stake. I had great enjoyment with shooting Betsy and found my hand/eye coordination improving. John expanded my knowledge during our foray. In English history, being an archer was bestowed upon someone when they could launch twelve arrows in a single minute, at a range of 240 paces (called a king's distance) with all of them landing within 1 and ½ times the bow's length from the target (called a king's challenge). I also learned that the saying of "keep it under your hat" referred to early archers keeping their extra bowstring under their hat to keep it dry and that the hole at the top of a bows upper nock was called a





Ladies Favor. I was surprised to find some local restrictions on archery, too. The Maynal Woods only allowed wooden arrows to be used. In addition, the field points had to be mounted using hot melt wax. This was to ensure that any lost arrows or points would be environmentally friendly during their decomposition.

Through discussions about the weekend shoots and tournaments, I found that John was also part of the Shire Bowmen. This group shoots the roving mark, which is a 3 arrow shoot at long distance, with scoring achieved by a marked tape from the distance of the target. Often, this shooting is performed over an obstacle of some sort. It is to simulate the English Longbow superiority that turned the tide against the French cavalry at Crecy and Agincourt. John informed me that his wife Elenore was very adept at shooting the roving mark. Darkness again drove us out of the woods.

We met Elenore at the Mundy Arms pub and had an enjoyable dinner. During conversation, I found that Elenore is quite an accomplished archer herself. Her longbow bears the name of Anelyn, which is a special reminder of her siblings. By using initials from all three first names, the reflection and importance of family is maintained. During our evening, John presented me with a Shire Bowmen patch. He informed me that upon my return to Derby, there would be a need to set aside time to visit the Shire Bowmen and for him to present me to the head master. I would then have the obligation to verbally state that I stood by him should there be a call to arms to defend the commonwealth.

The drudgery of work encompassed my remaining time away. However, I returned to the states having met fellow archers, made new friends, and experienced the enjoyment and fulfillment of a dream of shooting an English Longbow in the Quintessential Motherland. I hope to one day be able to return the favor of enjoying an age old sport with John should he find himself in the New World.

*(I have to apologize to John and the membership, upon gathering material for this article; I found I have misplaced all the wonderful pictures I took of the Maynal Woods 3D course and those of John and his beloved Betsy.)* ♣

### St Davids day Rove March 1st at Stanford Hall

Posted by [bodkin100@gmail.com](mailto:bodkin100@gmail.com) on March 3, 2015 at 4:30 AM

Sunday March 1st St David's day Rove at Stanford Hall,  
A bright sunny morning with a dull afternoon and a strong wind,  
which brought out the archers skill

#### Results of the Rove

##### Ladies

First Lady Michelle Barlow with a score of 202

Second Lady Cherrol Fuller with a score of 172

Third Lady Elenore Cottrell with a score of 62

Elenore shot a gents round

Shire Bowmen Longbow Roving Archery



### Boughton House Rove 7th December 2014

Posted by [bodkin100@gmail.com](mailto:bodkin100@gmail.com) on December 8, 2014 at 8:20 AM

Boughton House Rove 7th December 2014

A Grey start to the day followed by bright sunshine and wind.  
But still some fine shooting from the archers,a good day enjoyed by all.

#### Results of the Rove

##### Ladies

First Lady Elenore Cottrell Shooting the mens distance with a score of 56

After entering the gate to Maynal Woods John promptly showed Herb where the archers shooting sign was kept behind a stump and placed it prominently in the middle of the gate. This was done to ensure anyone entering the woodlot would be aware of the activity in progress.

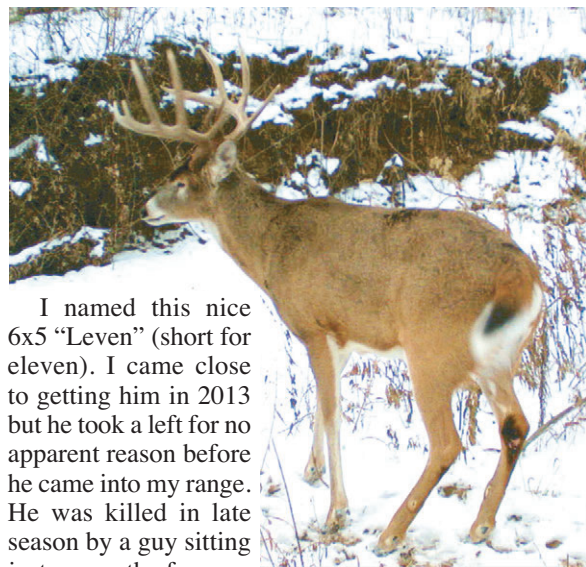




# Trail Cam Tidbits...

## Big Ones That Got Away

By Gene Wensel



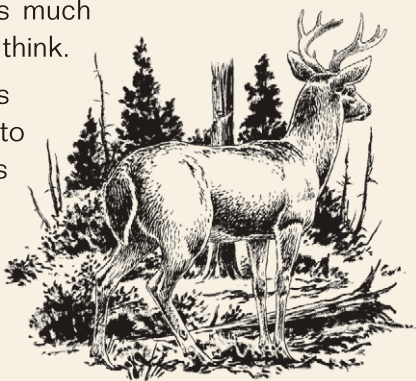
I named this nice 6x5 "Leven" (short for eleven). I came close to getting him in 2013 but he took a left for no apparent reason before he came into my range. He was killed in late season by a guy sitting just across the fence.



### Editor's Note:

Our new regular column Trail Cam Tidbits has seemingly morphed into a feature of "Big One's That Got Away". Its always fascinating to see how many big bucks, boars and bulls live right under our noses in undeniable existence, allowing us to play our little games that seldom interrupt their daily routines as much as some people think.

PBS members are encouraged to participate in this new feature by sending in photos of big ones that slipped through our fingers. Include a few sentences about each animal, close encounters with them and other interesting information. Send photos to our magazine editor, Jack Smith at [probowhunters@roadrunner.com](mailto:probowhunters@roadrunner.com)

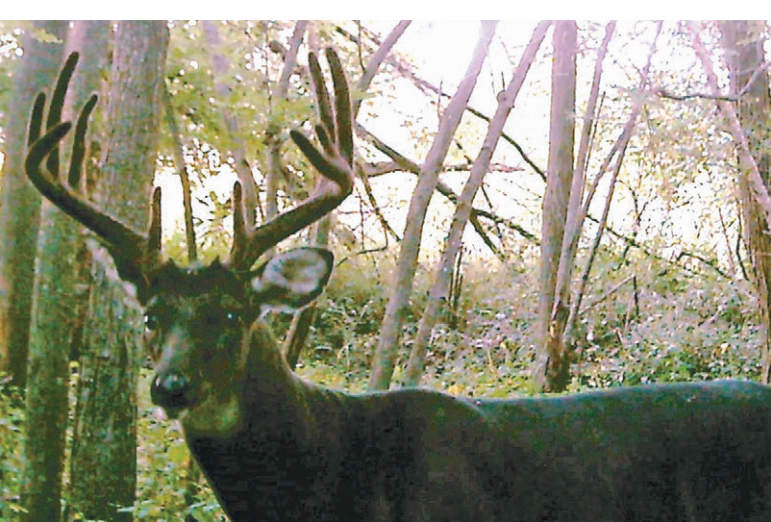


This one is still out there. I named him Curly due to several curled tips on his antlers annually. He had forked bez tines up until 2014 when he went essentially typical. His right G-2 has to be close to 15" long! I got a photo of him right after Christmas working a north/south drainage. I have a stand about 60 yards south of where the photo was taken. Two days before our season ended, we had wicked chill factors of -30 degrees. He walked right past my stand that morning in good light before I got there! I'm hoping he'll still be on the menu for 2015.



PBS Magazine • Third Quarter 2015





## Melanistic

This is one of the most unusual bucks we've ever hunted. He was melanistic, which is the opposite of albino and even more rare. I passed him up as a 1 ½ year old spikehorn, hoping he would reach maturity. He was killed at 4 ½ years old by a non-resident bowhunter about a mile from where we were hunting him. Note how even his velvet was black.



I passed up this buck in 2012. I wheezed him in from 60 yards to 12-13 yards on film. I was very tempted but he lived on the same farm as the buck I called Poot. I never saw him again, although I got several more photos of him.



This is one of my all time favorite trail camera photos. I saw this buck twice that season over a mile apart. He covered a lot of ground. I never saw him after 2012.



# Trail Cam Tidbits... **Another Big One**

## **Buckdacious** That Got Away!

By Mark Mitten

My buddy Gene Wensel recently started a new PBS feature with trail camera photos of big bucks that got away. Its always fascinating to see some of these mature bucks slip through the cracks by way of their evasive security skills. Here are some photos of another Houdini buck.

Late in 2011, a patient of mine brought me a photo of an enormous whitetail that showed up on a security camera he had monitoring his property. Tom knew I was a serious deer hunter so he figured I would be interested in seeing the photo. As soon as I saw the photo, I made a deal with him. If he would grant me permission to bowhunt his property, I would cut down and remove all the dead ash trees killed by the Emerald Ash Bore Beetles that caused a huge problem in the Great Lakes area. Since I happen to heat my home with wood, it was a win-win situation for me.

During the summer of 2012, I set out several camera traps covering staging areas near food sources, creek crossings, travel corridors and licking branches laced with preorbital gland lure. I named this buck "Buckdacious" after the famous bull Bodacious. Sporting 18 points on a 190" 6x6 typical frame, he would have no problem whipping Barry Wensel's "Hurley" buck and would give Gene's "Woody" a decent fight. A split drop tine and several other goodies would push his score well over 200 inches. If his left antler flared out the same as his right, he would have an inside spread pushing 28 inches.

Tom's property was small but it butted up against a much larger parcel that I didn't have permission to hunt. My plan was to burn my entire season trying to get a crack at this great old buck. I hoped he might move through my hunting area chasing a doe or maybe I could call him in if he cruised by out of range across the fence.

On Halloween Day of 2012, it rained all morning and afternoon. That evening, I saw

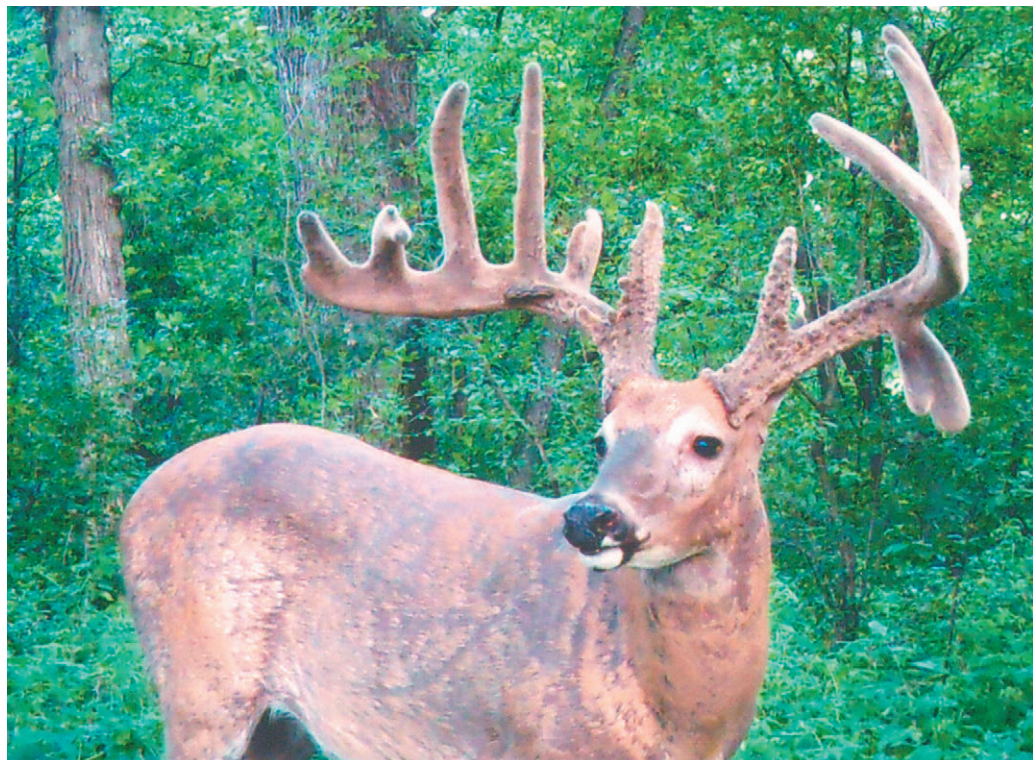
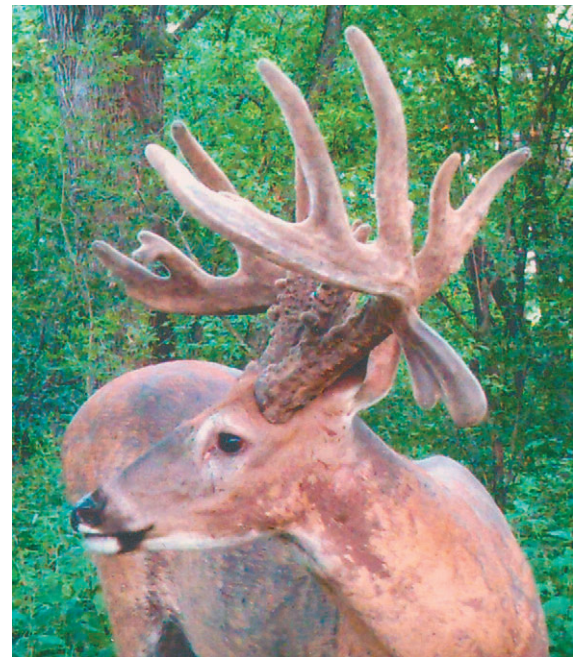
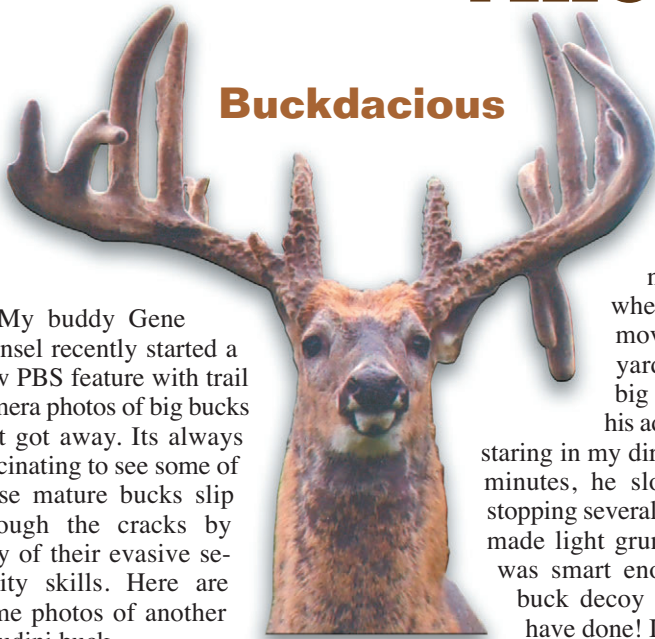
the huge buck running a doe on the neighboring property. A wheeze got his attention, moving him within forty yards of my stand until a big blowdown stalled

his advancement. After staring in my direction for several minutes, he slowly moved off, stopping several times whenever I made light grunt calls. If only I was smart enough to set up a buck decoy like Gene would have done! I never saw Buckdacious again while hunting.

In the summer of 2013, photos indicated the big buck was on a decline. His mass increased but his main beams, spread and tine lengths all decreased. As soon as he shed his velvet, he became nocturnal. I never got a photo during daylight after he shed his 2013 velvet. The winter of 2014 proved to be the harshest we had in 35 years. That winter, I found a giant buck that had died after he had shed his antlers. I'm not saying it was definitely him, but I never got another

trail camera photo of Buckdacious.

I truly enjoyed documenting part of this great buck's life by way of my photo gallery. And, once again to Mike Mitten and John Schneider Jr., remember, I'm still "Top Dog." Nicely sweet! ♣





# A Cold Week in Kansas

By Aaron McDonnel

My Kansas trip started out a little differently this year. I didn't draw the unit I normally hunt so I decided to buy a leftover tag and hunt a new unit. I would be hunting heavily pressured public land that I'd never stepped foot on. Due to family commitments my trip would also be cut from my usual 10 days to 6 days.

In October I was able to parlay a business trip in Kansas into a quick scouting trip of the area. While the area looked promising, I didn't have time to do much more than get a feel for the terrain. I did the usual scouting with aerial photos and topo maps and had several places mapped out that looked promising. Although I was a little upset I wasn't hunting my usual unit, there's always something exciting about hunting new places and my anticipation was high.

I left about 2:00 in the morning on Sunday November 9th hoping to get there in time to scout the afternoon and hopefully hang a stand or two. When I arrived mid afternoon it was extremely warm. I scouted three different areas and only one looked worth sitting. I marked it on my GPS, made a quick note of the wind direction I needed and backed out. I would hang my stand when I came in to hunt.

The wind was out of the south Monday morning, which was

good for the place I'd found. I decided I'd hunt it until 10:30 then I needed to get down and find more places to hunt with a north wind. A cold front was scheduled to roll in Monday night and north winds and colder temperatures were projected for the rest of the week. Boy, were they right! My hunt that morning was pretty uneventful, a nice young 2-1/2 yr old 8 pt came by and a couple of does but nothing I wanted to shoot. I got down at my determined time and started scouting.

As I started looking at new places the frustration of hunting unfamiliar public land set in. Everywhere I went there seemed to be a truck. After several hours I finally found one place that looked good for a north wind. Again, I marked the spot and left. That afternoon I sat the same stand I'd sat that morning. Around 4:00 the front started moving in and the winds picked up to around 30 mph and the temperature dropped 25 degrees in an hour. I didn't see a deer that afternoon which is probably just as well, the wind was blowing so hard I couldn't even stand up, let alone shoot.

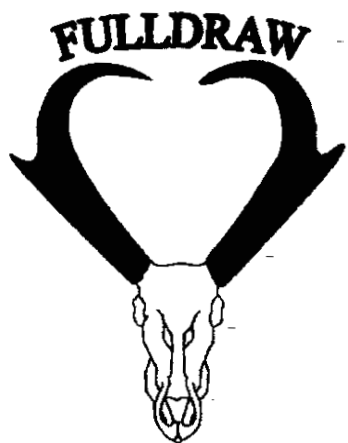
When I woke up on Tuesday the temperature had dropped to the low 20's and a stiff north wind was blowing 20-25 mph. The morning hunt was again uneventful but that afternoon just before dark I saw a doe coming toward my stand. Behind her was a dandy buck. She looked like she was coming right to my stand with him in tow but veered off at the last minute passing by at 50 yards and taking the buck with her.

Wednesday morning the temperature was 15 degrees and the wind was still blowing 15 mph out of the north. That's getting pretty cold for a southern boy! I went back to the same stand I'd seen the nice buck the evening before. Right at daylight I had a young doe come right under me then a 1-1/2 yr old 6 pt followed the same path. Around 8:30 a small 8pt chased a doe in front of me and bedded down with her. About 30 minutes later they suddenly exploded from their beds. I knew what was coming and sure enough about 5 minutes later a guy carrying a crossbow came walking up. I was starting to get pretty frustrated. It seemed like I just couldn't get away from the crowd, and just when I thought I had, I'd run into someone else. I guess that's how it goes hunting public land. I got down around 11:00 and headed to the truck for lunch.

As I sat there eating lunch I knew I had to do something different. The reason I was running into so many hunters was because I was doing the same thing they were doing. If I wanted different results I knew I had to make a change. I got out my iPad, (how's that for traditional) pulled up Google Earth and started looking for places where other guys wouldn't go. I had brought my boat with me on the trip as a river ran through the area and I thought it might help get away from the crowd. So I started looking for areas I could use it to access. I also thought to myself "where is the most likely place to kill a buck during the rut based on past experience." The answer was simple and obvious, the downwind side of a good doe bedding area and preferably one that had a pinch point to narrow down a buck's travel. If I could find one good solid spot that met those requirements I'd hunt it for the next 3 days and surely a buck would come by.

Suddenly it jumped off the screen at me. Right there it was, as obvious as a black eye. An "S" curve in

~ continued on page 36



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## A Cold Week in Kansas

~ continued from page 35

the river and what looked to be a couple hundred acres of willow thicket and reeds grew in the bottom of the curve and appeared to go to within about 50 yards of the river. Along their edge I could see a thin strip of larger trees. It looked like a perfect pinch point, any buck scent checking the downwind side of the thicket would be forced between it and the river. A north wind would blow my scent out across the river and best of all it would require either boating into or a very long walk. I got excited just looking at it on the screen. Still I needed to lay eyes on it to be sure I wasn't getting all excited about nothing.

I decided it would be best to make the long walk in the first time so I could scout as I went. If it looked good I'd hang my stand and use the boat to access the stand from that point on. I pulled the coordinates off Google Earth and downloaded them in my GPS. I strapped my backpack and extra clothes to my stand and started walking in a little after noon.

As I started getting close to the spot I got even more excited. It looked even better than it had on the aerial photos. The willow and reed thicket was head high and I could see trails zigzagging through them. I walked a little further and there was a small gap in the willow thicket maybe 20 yards wide and right on the edge of the gap was a triple trunked cottonwood tree. There were dozens of rubs all around the tree and 3 different heavy trails crossed within 20 yards of it. Not only could I shoot any buck that scent checked the downwind side of the thicket I could also cover the trails coming through the gap in the thicket. The spot just had that feeling, you know the one I'm talking about.

I quietly hung my stand, pulled up my bow and settled in a little before 2:00. Around 3:00 I could hear reeds breaking to my right and a doe came out into the gap. About 30 minutes later I looked over into the willows and 3 more does were slipping through. This confirmed it was definitely being used by the does as a bedding area, now I just had to wait on a buck to show. About 4:30 I heard a deer walking in the leaves coming down the rivers edge, paralleling the thicket. A small 6 point came by with his nose on the ground. Perfect, now I just needed a bigger buck to do the same thing. Just as it was getting dark with maybe 10 minutes of light left I looked to my right and another doe came out of the willows about 30 yards away and headed right toward me. I started thinking "I've got an extra doe tag, the rivers right there, I could pull the boat right up to her and not mess anything up" just as I was thinking that she snapped her neck around and looked behind her.

I took my bow off the hook, pulled up my fleece facemask which had been shielding me from the cold 15mph wind, and slipped off my right glove. I could hear more reeds breaking behind her then he came into view and my heart skipped a beat (or two). He was a clean 10 pt and seemed to have everything. He was heavy, extremely tall and probably 22-24" wide. I'm not hung up on what a deer scores and haven't had one scored in a long time but use score more for relating a bucks size. The buck in front of me was an honest 170" deer. His forehead was almost completely white and his body dwarfed every buck I'd seen up to this point. He was a fully mature, world-class animal. The doe he was following was now feeding toward me at 25 yards, the wind was perfect and a shot at him seemed imminent. I was surprisingly calm.

The doe kept coming and stopped in the open in front of me at 18 yards and started feeding. The buck was now at 30 yards facing me but instead of following the doe he crossed the gap in the only thick spot at 30 yards, walked into the other side of the willow

thicket and circled the outside edge of the doe staying just inside the thick stuff. He worked a scrape while the doe continued to feed right in front of me. Light was fading fast and I needed him to make a move before I was out of time but he stayed put and kept working the

scrape for several more minutes. The doe finally started moving off but instead of following her path the buck circled wide. He finally came into a shooting lane at 28 yards but it was just too dark.

It always amazes me the uncanny survival instincts mature bucks have. That buck could have done a dozen things that would have gotten him killed, but he did everything right and stayed alive. What can you do but tip your hat and be thankful for such a great encounter.

I was disappointed I hadn't gotten a shot at the buck but I knew I had found a great spot so once it was completely dark and I thought the buck and doe had moved far enough away I lowered my bow, crept over to the rivers edge and quietly walked out trying to avoid spooking anything on my way. I knew the chances of seeing a buck like that once on public land were not great and chances of seeing him again were extremely slim, but the doe he was with was using the area for bedding and he wasn't leaving her so I knew there was hope. I also knew he wasn't the only big buck in the area so my anticipation was high for the next morning.

I woke up Thursday morning and hooked the boat up to my truck. I planned on boating in as it would only be about a 15 min boat ride and I could park the boat 75 yards downwind of my tree-stand and not spook a thing on my way in. As I drove toward the river the thermometer on my truck read 9 degrees. That 15 min boat ride was going to feel a lot longer!

As I pulled up to the boat ramp and my headlights shined out toward the river I could see that it had frozen overnight. The

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thought of breaking ice for 8 miles up river didn't sound like a good idea especially since my brother had left for home already and I didn't have anyone to call if something went wrong. I thought about what I would do if something happened and then thought about my kids at home. That voice in my head said "Bad Idea Aaron" and I've learned the hard way to listen to that voice. A deer just wasn't worth the risk so I decided I would just walk in again. I parked the truck and loaded my day-pack with enough food and extra clothes to hunt all day. I also put a small Thermos of coffee in my pack, something I don't normally do but then again, I don't normally hunt when it's 9 degrees either and the high was only suppose to be 28.

I managed to make it to the stand without spooking any deer. I quickly put on my extra layer of clothes and got settled in. It was going to be a long, cold day. I didn't see any deer until about 8:00 when I saw a deer in a bean field probably  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile away. Through my binoculars I could tell it was a nice buck and he was working his way down the field edge looking for does. That was a good sign. I just needed one to do the same where I was. By 9:00 I hadn't seen another deer and was getting a little discouraged but I kept reminding myself that I was in a good spot and it only takes a second for everything to change. I also reminded myself that it was likely to be later in the morning when a buck came through since he would be checking a bedding area the does would have to be bedded already. With the cold weather they were probably on their feet later than normal.

At about 9:30 I heard something walking in the leaves coming down the edge of the willow thicket paralleling the river. It was a really nice 2-1/2 year old 8 point and he did the same thing the 6 point had done the evening before cruising through with his nose on the ground scent checking as he went passing me at about 20 yards. My plan seemed to be working and the bucks were getting bigger, now I just needed one I wanted to shoot to follow the same routine.

By 10:30 nothing else had shown up and I was finally starting to get a little cold. I decided I'd wait about 30 minutes and have a cup of coffee to warm up a bit. Then around 10:45 I heard a

branch break in front of me in the willows right along their edge. It was pretty close to the same path the 6 point and 8 point had taken except this one was just inside the thicket. I could hear the unmistakable gait of a buck walking straight toward me. I slowly stood up, pulled up my fleece mask, took off my right glove to reveal my tab and readied myself. He was going to be close when he came out of the willows and I wasn't going to have much time.

As soon as I saw him I knew he wasn't the same buck from



**While hunting unfamiliar public land in Kansas, Aaron just couldn't get away from other hunters. Figuring out how to do things differently from everyone else paid off with this nice buck.**

the evening before but I also knew he was a buck I'd love to shoot. I quickly ran my shot checklist through my head and reminded myself to pick a spot. He stopped for a moment in the willows about 25 yards out just about where the big buck had worked over the scrape the evening before and scanned ahead. Then he lowered his head and continued toward me. He came out of the willows at about 20 yards and when his head went behind a cottonwood tree broadside at 15 yards I pulled the bow to anchor. I was just about to stop him in an opening when he stopped on his own. I held for an extra second, really trying to bear down on my spot. The string slipped from my fingers.

My arrow disappeared right where I was looking and the buck took about 5 leaps then stopped, looked around and started slowly walking away. I knew he wouldn't make it far. He walked about 20 yards toward the river then collapsed. Wow, that had happened fast! From the time I first heard him until he was down couldn't have been more than 30 seconds. For the first time all morning I started shaking. I knew my shaking wasn't from the cold but that cup of coffee I promised myself sure sounded good, so I pulled out my Thermos and enjoyed one of my finest cups ever, 15 minutes early.

I climbed down and walked over to my arrow. I had watched him go down but always like to follow the blood trail anyway. This one was especially heavy.

Luckily the buck had only died about 50 yards off the river and the river had mostly thawed out now so I was able to use the boat to get him out. ♡



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# After the Smoke Clears...

By Jim Emerson

*It's funny how the best laid plans of mice and men can end up like the proverbial "Chinese fire drill." How, what seems simple can develop into the complicated.*

So it was this spring, when four crafty caballeros (me, Roger Rothhaar-a.k.a. "the Ocoola Tuna", Ronnie-son of Ocoola Tuna and Donnie Assenheimer-bowyer extraordinaire) headed to Ontario with the intent to cull the bear herd. We were met in Timmins by the famed Indian bear baiter, Sergio Carpina. The man is a legend in the art of bringing bear to bait. Unfortunately, the "Legend" wasn't expecting us for four more days. The area that we wanted to hunt hadn't been baited yet. The temperature was 80°, clear, beaucoup black flies, mosquitoes galore, and us with no baits out. Talk about the heartbreak of psoriasis! We decided to go out and bait the area anyway, and then go ahead and wait for Sergio to show us some of the other baits he had out. We were staying in a trappers cabin on the edge of the earth. You had to take two camel caravans and a canoe to get out to it. We stayed there for three days, checking baits out our direction and then driving out to the area we had baited to note its progress. It was a two hour ride to Timmins from the cabin and then another hour out to our baits. So it took six hours driving out and back, just to check the baits. The baits by the cabin were inactive, but after two days, one of the baits that we put out was hit. So the Tuna and I decided to hunt the area we baited. We had three baits out, one was a hit, another had fresh tracks around it, and the last was untouched.

First night on stand was uneventful. Roger's famous last words – "I'd like to see Ronnie get a bear – If a small one comes in, I'll let him sit my bait!" – Mr. Generosity. When we got back to Sergio's there was Ronnie with a grin from ear to ear. It seems they dropped him off at his bait and 20 minutes later a bear comes boogalooing in, looks up at him in the stand and then proceeds to chow down on rancid chicken. Chalk one up for our side. In between grins, Ronnie would mutter the bear hunter's lament, "He sure isn't as big as I thought." Alas, are they ever? First night on stand – one down and three to go.

We had crapola weather for several days – snow, rain, windy – just what you need to get baits started. During the middle of the week whilst I was trying to determine how many black flies it takes to make a pound, I noticed a movement about 100 yards away out in the swamp. Immediately I knew it was a bear, and it was heading my way. When I realized that I was going to be in the pink of it, I started to get the frog leg. Then ten minutes later when he still hadn't showed, I got the double frog leg, followed by both arms. Aaah! The thrill of the stick and string. Then after 20 minutes I saw him cross 20 yards behind the bait. Immediately I settled down. He acted like he didn't know the bait was around. He picked up an old bone from last year and sashayed up the hill. Twenty minutes later down he comes again and picks up another old bone and up the hill he goes. It's getting darker now because of the foul weather conditions so I know he'll be in on the bait after dark. I can see the handwriting on the wall: "No bear tonight, Philo." He finally comes in when I can't see and sits down behind the bait facing me. I can see the bear but I can't see any brush. I always try to make mental notes from the stand of intervening brush in case a shot presents itself in failing light. He dopes around for another five minutes and then walks broadside behind the bait. The moment of truth – the longbow belches, the bear vaults out about 30 yards and stops. I can see him swaying his head back and forth. The bear gasps and slowly walks up the hill. Immediately I get the feeling that I've just screwed up. I got out of the stand and searched the area where I'd shot at the bear. I could see his footprints in the sphagnum moss, and I deduced where he'd been when I loosed the arrow. There had been considerable brush in front of him that I hadn't seen. The next morning we went back out and I climbed back in the stand and shot a blunt where the bear had been standing, and it disappeared into the moss. We found the nock about six inches under ground. Although we never found my original arrow I'm convinced the swamp gobbled it up. The bear had not

acted hit and we never found any blood. Whatever happened, it all boils down to no chicken on the table tonight.

Next morning in going out to check our baits, we saw an area where a bear had pulled over some young trees to eat the buds. It looked like a good spot, so we put out a bait in a strategic location. We checked the final bait and it had been hit. The Tuna man had had his beady eyes on this bait since last year. As Legend told it, an old senile trapper had seen a giant bear of at least 400 pounds (aren't they all) in the vicinity for several years. The Tuna had a feeling this was the spot. So we hung a stand. I was hoping he'd get a crack at a big one. The poor guy has had a case of "Ursus deflaticus" over the last several years.

After about 15 minutes of the first night on this stand, out walks a big bear. He paces around the bait and acts very belligerent. Obviously he'd either heard Roger enter and thought he was another bear (not far off) or he didn't care for Roger's cologne (more than likely). Anyway, around the bait he goes, walks out on a long log, looks back over his shoulder at the Tuna, and then proceeds to crush the log with one smash of his front paw. He then disappears into the bush. Although he didn't say it, I'm sure the 12 hairs on the top of Roger's head were standing at attention. For the next hour and a half, the bear milled around out in the bush. Then at 9:00, in he comes again, belligerent as ever. He comes between the bait and Roger and stares up at him. He starts to back out past the bait to leave, and up to this point, Roger hadn't had a decent opportunity for a shot. However, now the worm turns and the Tuna is presented with the "old quartering away shot."

Meanwhile, back at the swamp, I'm thinking, if anything's going to happen tonight, it better hurry up. I could hear the sound of a vehicle coming my way. My first thought was that it was a "man of iron" bear hunting from the motorized portable stand. After I heard the noisy muffler, I got the sneaky suspicion that the "Snuffer" had struck. Ten minutes later he came by again.



Well, at least someone was in the pink of it. I got out of my stand and made my way out to the road. There was the Tuna pretending nothing had happened. After getting the third degree, he finally broke down and told me his tale, hopefully, not of woe.

We went back to his stand to track the bear but it was dark, and after stumbling around in the bush for an hour we decided to go back to Sergio's and look for the bear in the morning. By the way, I've got a tip for getting around in the bush at night without a compass. Pick the direction you believe to be the way you want to go and then head the opposite direction, and invariably you'll be right. Our plan was to get up in the morning and get out to his stand before the bugs got out and before it got hot. So, out we went bright and early only to be met by swarms of insects. Roger said he had hit him good and had gotten three quarters arrow penetration angling forward. Naturally all shots from the tree are from high to low so unless the arrow punched out the bottom there would be no blood. He had heard the bear run for quite a ways and then had heard some crashing in the same spot. Hopefully that was the shake and bake and he would be laying were Roger had last heard him. We followed him for 40 yards by tracks and then lost the spoor. We searched for a couple of hours but the brush

was so thick you couldn't see but three or four yards ahead. We exhausted every trailing technique known to man. Fortunately I had put on my buckskins that morning. They're big medicine, so I reserve them for special occasions or when things look bleak and I have to think like an Indian. I began to hear a voice in my head chanting "hostile, wolfstyle, bearstyle." I followed it in a northerly direction and came to an area with bear tunnels and all kinds of old bear sign. I yelled to Roger to come over here, that it looked like a good place to look, then I saw his bear laying ten feet away. The Tuna wouldn't incriminate himself as to the bear's size when he had shot it, he thought it looked big – and it was. We drug it out whole so we could weigh it. There's nothing quite like the mixture of sweat and Muskol in your eyes and mouth topped off by knowing the guy on the other side of the drag is sloughing off. Two down – two to go.

Next night I sat and saw nothing. We started to get our gear ready in preparation for leaving. I was going to sit the last night and then we would head home right after I got back. I was down to the last night. I had to do something fast. Surely I couldn't go home without letting the longbow strike. What would be the right combination? Then it struck me, the answer was simple.

I wondered why I hadn't thought of it before. BLUEBERRY PIE!! For centuries the Indians had used it – when they could get it.

I decided to hunt the stand where I'd seen the tracks in the dirt road. Roger said I was going to be surprised tonight. So I slipped in to the bait and placed my blueberry pie in a strategic spot and climbed into my stand. At about 8:00 I heard a noise and looked out and saw a bear cross about 25 yards to one side. I thought to myself that I'm going to get a bear in spite of myself. Mr. Wiley crossed and came into the wind and directly into the bait. I've shot several P & Y bear, so I

wasn't looking for a big one. The only criteria I had was (1) it had to be bigger than a cub and (2) it had to have at least half of its hair. The bear sat on its rear and looked at the bait for awhile. Then, all of a sudden I saw a beady eye open twice as large as it glimpsed the blueberry pie. The old neck stretched around the bait, followed by the body. Now he was broadside and really talking to that pie. After he wrapped his lips around the pie, I figured it was time for chicken on the table; so I looked low in the chest and, as they say, loosed the arrow. Bonzai, the arrow hit middle of the back and with a little penetration. The bear let out a bawl, rolled over then crashed through the bush. I listened to him run and then I heard several noises in the same spot. My first thought was, not twice in the same week – but when he tore out of there he wasn't using his rear legs. So I figured I'd spine shot him, but how was I going to run him down and get another arrow into him, because when he left, he was motivating! I knew there wouldn't be any blood. I got down out of the stand and headed in the direction he'd gone. I went 30 yards and saw a mound of black hair. I nocked an arrow and snuck up to it. There, in front of me, was a bear, lying on its back. I crept up to it and thought, "What's happened here? Somethings killed a small bear." I touched it with an arrow and it was dead. So I reached down and grabbed a foot and shoot – it was limber. I couldn't believe it – this was my bear! I rolled it over, and sure enough, there was an arrow wound in the back. I too was now a victim of the old "deflating bear trick." Oh well, hunting is a learning process. I'd learned several things on this trip. (1) Things are never what they seem. (2) You've got to find your bear fast before someone lets the air out. I drug the bear out, zipped back to camp – skinned the bear and we were gone by midnight.

Donnie stayed and shot a bear several days after we left. Four down and none to go. It would be nice to do that every year.

All the way home I kept wondering just how much more the Tuna's bear would have weighed if we'd found it right away, given the amount of weight mine and Ronnie's lost between when we shot them and when we found them. \*



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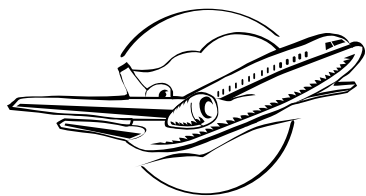
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# One Scary Adventure

By John D. Rook

It all began after a successful 1983 Wyoming antelope and mule deer hunt. Several of us were anxious to book a hunt for the upcoming season with Steve Gorr, at the Smith Sheep Ranch.

I sent my deposit to Steve and my antelope application to the Wyoming Division of Wildlife for the upcoming hunt. Unbeknownst to me, my companions on the 1983 hunt backed out at the last moment. This put me in a real quandary. I called Steve with the news and said that I would like to come anyway. He told me that he would have to think about it and call at a later date.

During the 1983 hunt, I was the only bowhunter to stay in the "bunkhouse." I guess it took a blind person to be comfortable in that atmosphere. During several subsequent hunts, I still was the only one that stayed in that bunkhouse.

Steve got back with me and said that if I would come out for the last hunt, he would see what he could do. I told him that I would do my own cooking and all that he would have to do was run a rope from the bunkhouse to the outhouse.

For the hunt, I made up a special menu of Vienna sausage, dried apricots and sunflower seeds. Since that trip, I have not eaten any Vienna sausage, dried apricots or sunflower seeds.

This was to be the first time I traveled alone via the airlines since becoming blind. After many subsequent trips, my initial apprehensions seemed silly to say the least.

After getting my airline tickets, I sent copies of them to Steve. I was scheduled to fly out of Pittsburgh on September 13th and arrive in Casper, Wyoming the evening of that day. A very close friend and PBS member, Jerry Wansack, drove me to the Pittsburgh airport on the morning of September 13th, when my scary adventure began. I was scheduled to fly from Pittsburgh to Denver and then change planes in Denver for the last leg to Casper. What happened if I would miss the flight to Denver? What would happen if they lost me? What would happen if they lost my gear? All these thoughts ran through my mind. As far-fetched as they may have seemed in later years, I have had all these things happen. I have missed connecting flights; but it is a ho-hum experience now. But, back then, the thought of it had me worked up.

Steve met me at the airport at Casper and transported me to the bunkhouse on the Smith Ranch. As soon as we got there, I got my hunting gear together and proceeded to teach Steve my aiming method. Steve is a perfectionist. At the time, I was using a Donny Assenheimer recurve and the sighting system was developed by Jim Emerson. In fact, all of the upgrades that I've made to the sighting system still come back to the basic concept that Jim developed for me in 1983.

I know that I've explained that sighting system many times in the past and I won't get into that now. After I had assembled my gear, Steve and I proceeded out to the practice range. We were set up to shoot at a two inch circle at 20 yards. Believe it or not, we practiced until every arrow we shot hit that two inch circle. I believe that this was the best I have ever shot since I've been blind or maybe forever – who knows.

After our practice session, Steve suggested that I should pick up a doe and fawn license in Douglas. So that is what we did. Steve had to sandwich me in between times with other hunters. On the morning of the 14th, we were in the old wooden windmill that I'd hunted in the year before with Butch Todd. In fact, at that time, we had built the platform on "Old Woody". It felt like old home week. We were up in the windmill before dawn and the hunt began. Wyoming is a fantastic place. In the early morning, the water can be frozen and then in the afternoon the temperature can rise to 99. That is when layering comes into vogue.



Author is all smiles with his fat doe lope. Check rope out, John's guide from the bunkhouse to the outhouse.

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# ...This was to be the first time I traveled alone via the airlines since becoming blind....what happened if I would miss the flight to Denver?

## What would happen if they lost me? What would happen if they lost my gear?...

On the night before the hunt, Steve cautioned me. He said, "John, I don't think you should go out after dark to the outhouse." I said, "Steve just think about that for a second. For me it's always after dark and the rope that takes me from the bunkhouse to the outhouse works day and night - doesn't it?" He thought about it for a second and broke into laughter.

Steve is a great guy and I consider him a truly great friend. He took on the responsibility of hunting with a blind hunter, using a system that he never used before, spending precious, precious time with him and he did that. The only thing he still wouldn't let me do is sing. Don't know why? Everybody that I've met so far really had tin ears; but I'm running 100% on that.

Well, back to the windmill. As soon as it became light, Steve gave me a blow by blow description of the high prairie awakening under dawn's early light. He said, "John, I can't believe it; but, here come a couple of teal and they landed on the stock pond. Also, doves and grouse flew into our water hole and some rabbits are already

drinking water." I could see it vividly through Steve's eyes. He said, "John, there are antelope everywhere." About 7:30 in comes a very large doe antelope. She came right to the far end of the water hole. It is the same place where they always come to the Old Woody, the farthest place from the old windmill. She stopped broadside and started to drink. Steve tugged on my elbow - back came the Assenheimer - we held and we held and we held and Steve does have a tendency to hold a little bit; but, it is easy to hold a John Rook bow when you're not pulling on it. He said, "Sssst!" and as I heard "sst" the arrow was gone. I heard the arrow hit. The antelope took two steps, stood there and she fell over.

Steve couldn't believe it and he gave me a big hug. We were down out of the windmill, over to the antelope and had her field dressed in no time flat. At that time, there was a walk-in cooler in the bunkhouse where we took the antelope. Steve then attended to the rest of his hunters.

In the afternoon, we took the doe into Douglas to Tom's Sausage Shop to be processed. Over the years, I've made that trip to Douglas on numerous occasions.

On the 15th, Steve had to spend most of the day with the rest of the hunters. So, I spent my time in the bunkhouse going over my gear and touching up my large Snuffer broadheads and preparing my delicious meal of Vienna sausage, dried apricots and sunflower seeds. When we had driven into Douglas, I picked up several six packs of Pepsi. So, to add to my great menu, I had the nutritious drink of full blown Pepsi - not the diet stuff.

I had a lot of friends who dropped by to see me at the bunkhouse; but, they always got me out of

there. I wondered why? But, bright and early on the 16th, we were up in Old Woody in pursuit of my antelope buck. Early in the morning, we had several does and fawns come into the water hole. The bucks were in full rut. They were chasing each other all over the place. They would come in running full blast right to the water hole, chase the does out, come around making noise like a hyena. I think that is the closest way I can describe the sound.

At around 10 o'clock, we had two small bucks at the water hole. A larger buck that had been around most of the day chasing everything away, came in full blast, chased the two smaller bucks away, and proceeded over to our favorite spot at the far end of the water hole and began to drink. As soon as the buck had his fill, Steve tugged on my right elbow - the Assenheimer came back. We lined up in a hurry. Steve said, "Ssst!" and the arrow was on its way. I heard the tell tale "thump" of a well placed shot.

The antelope took off and did a somersault at about 30 yards. Steve had been harassing me about the weight of my broadheads and arrows. I had the heavy Snuffers and I had at that time 2216 arrows. My bow at my draw length was 56 pounds. I was drawing 30 inches and the bow was rated at 51 pounds at 28. Steve said, "You won't get any penetration." But, we know with that big broadhead and those arrows; it was funny, with the antelope doe my arrow was stuck in the dirt ten feet beyond where we hit her. The same thing happened with the buck and I said, "Steve, we really can't get much penetration with this set up, can we?" He said, "You smart blablablabla!" Steve doesn't swear either and then said, "You old coot!"

We were down out of the windmill and over to the buck in real short order. He was no Pope and Younger; but, he was a monster to me. Eleven and a half inches and just a beautiful buck. Steve is an accomplished taxidermist. I asked Steve if he would mount the buck and he said that he would. The year before, when I was out there with other fellows, Steve had mounted the mule deer that I had taken on that trip.

So, he is really a true friend. We went back to the ranch and put the buck into the cooler and took some pretty nice pictures. Everybody there, all the other hunters were really, really great. The bowhunting community is something beyond belief. They couldn't be-

~ continued on page 42

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## One Scary Adventure

~ continued from page 41

lieve that a blind bowhunter could come out and teach his system to one of the finest archers in the United States and be successful in two days of hunting; to have taken two antelope.

What can I say? That evening Mr. Smith and his family invited Steve and I to dinner. I didn't know whether I could leave my great meal, but they twisted my arm.

Before I went blind, I was afraid of heights and Barb can't believe that since going blind they have had me in places where I never would have gone if I could see. Some of these windmills are kind of scary; but, I love them – I really and truly love Old Woody. Over the years, this windmill has provided a lot of opportunities for me. In fact, in later years, I took a Pope and Young antelope out of the same place. Wyoming is one fantastic place to hunt, there are no ifs, ands or buts about that.

Well, my hunt came to an end. It was a very successful hunt and I was scheduled to fly out of Casper on the 18th. Early in the morning of the 18th, we went into Douglas to pick up my meat. I love antelope meat, as does my wife and at the time my late sister really enjoyed it. Steve took me to Casper and my scary adventure had almost come to an end. I flew out of Casper, changed planes in Dever without incident, got home to Pittsburgh airport and my friend Jerry Wansack was waiting to pick me up. All of my gear and I arrived without any problems. Jerry drove me back home to Boardman, Ohio. I'm the luckiest man in the world to have such good friends and a loving wife to come home to. 🍀



Steve Gorr and John with John's 1984 buck.

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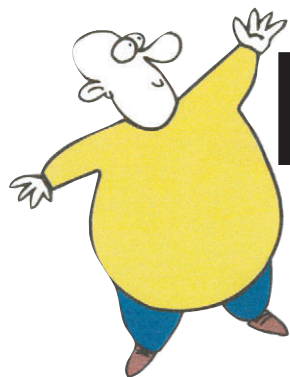
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# Fat Guys

By Wayne "Biggie" Hoffman

Did you ever notice that there are weight limits on tree stands? I don't mean how much the stand weighs but there's actually a limit on how much you can put ON the stand? Most of you anorexic types who think you're in great shape don't have to concern yourselves with such things. You can have any stand you want, put it anywhere you want and climb into it using any type of step you want.

Now consider the over 300 Club. There are many of us in PBS and we've always been there. I'm sure you've noticed and I know your wives have because they like us teddy bear types. We're limited not only to tree stands, but how we can get into them and which type of trees we can put 'em in. Uncle Barry once put a stand in a 5 inch pine tree here in Georgia. It was fourteen feet up but if he leaned over, I could hand him his fanny pack. When he grows and makes the Club, five inch pines are gonna be out! I've seen him and Uncle Gene use five hang-on stands to hang one. Yep, they hang one stand a few feet off the ground, climb up on it and stand on it while they put another up a few feet above that, stand on that etc. all the way up. Then they screw in some steps on the way back down!

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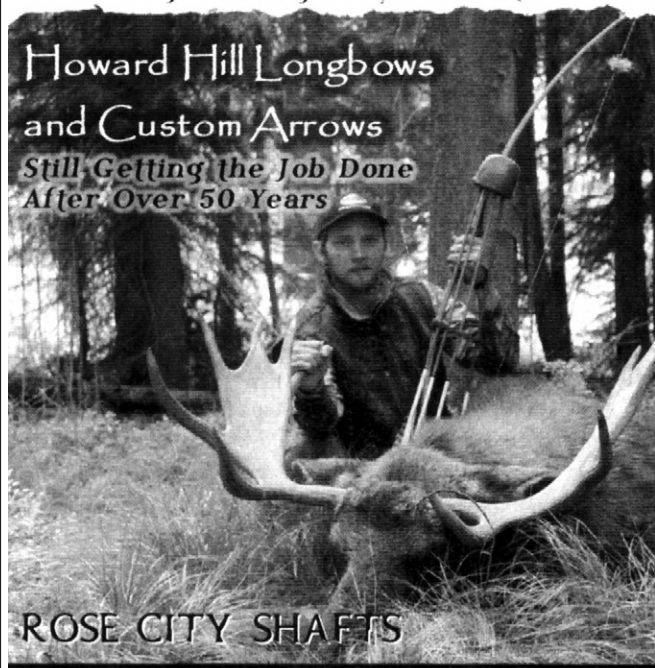


Here's how fat guys hang tree stands.

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# Fat Guys

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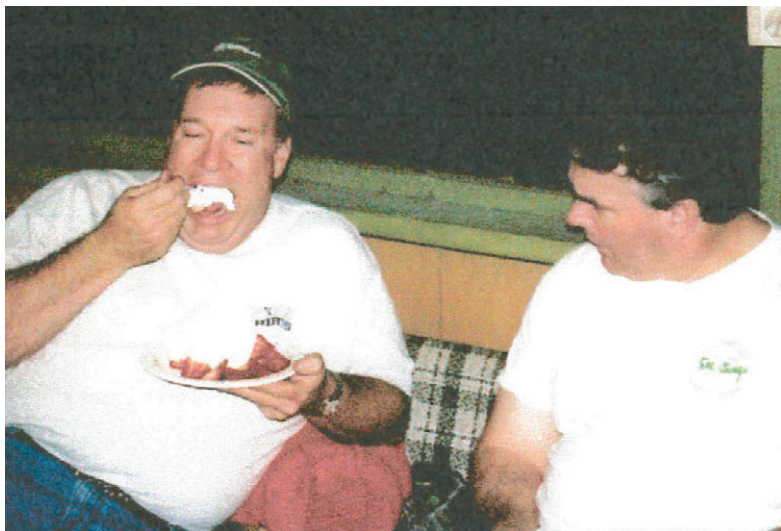
Marty McMahon and I hunt quite a bit together nowadays. We are limited to the ladder stands on sturdy trees. It usually takes us two trips to the truck to get the ladder sections in there. Then we flip a coin to see who has to go up and secure it at the top. I will admit he can get a little closer to the ladder which is a good thing, but not much closer. He thinks he's a middleweight but I saw him sit on a cooler once and well...let's just say it doesn't cool very well anymore.

I topped out last year at 385# and anything less than 2 inch steel pipe and one inch rungs make me nervous. Screw in steps? HAH! Forget it. Climbing stands? I've yet to see one climb a tree by itself and if your knees are obstructed by one of your food chambers, you can't make them work very well. They're out.

Do you know how many sheep it takes to make a suit of King of the Mountain for Greg Darling? Yikes! He wiped out an entire herd two years ago when he ordered a set of bibs and a shirt. I don't know how he gets his belt thru the loops in the back either. Must use a mirror. He's another one who insists he's a middleweight. I know he lost two buttons off his shirt last year when his bowstring caught and Uncle Gene says when he and Greg were at restaurant he popped a button and nearly put the waitress's eye out.

I saw Gene Thorn at Denton Hill a few years back trying to buy a new leather belt. All the vendors kept saying, oh sure, I can fit you. A few minutes later I see Gene walking away, holding his pants up with his hand and the vendor's just hang their collective heads in disgrace. Only two answers Gene-o, get an anaconda skin or do like I do, and use suspenders.

I can't even buy jeans anymore. I shop on-line quite a bit and when you go to the drop box to pick up a size, they only go to a 50 inch waist. Nothing for real men. Cabela's? Forget it! Nothing over 2XL there. I bought some stuff from there with my fingers crossed but ended up giving it away to the



People will give you all the extra desserts.

neighborhood kids who really like loose clothing and pants that hang down below their plumber's cracks. Why don't men's catalogs have stuff for men?

You've seen the Tool Man, Tim Taylor, wearing his Detroit Lions t-shirt that says XXL? Bull! That's a marketing gimmick to make the little guys feel like grown men. He's a small to medium if there ever was one. That kind of stuff pushes the 4XL and 5XL stuff off the charts. Every X you add to a size costs another 10% too. What's that all about? \*

## There are some good things about being XXXXL:

- You never have to leave that last bite of biscuit and gravy on the plate.
- You never get cold in November.
- You don't have to carry around a seat pad.
- You don't have to ask for a specific size when buying suspenders.
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- No one will ever ask you to take the top bunk.
- You can increase traction on any vehicle by simply climbing on board.
- You can get to be the designated driver every time cause it takes 8 gallons of whiskey to get you even a little tipsy.
- You can easily beat Paul Brunner at Sumo Wrasslin'.
- Shopping for food for a trip is as much fun as the trip itself.



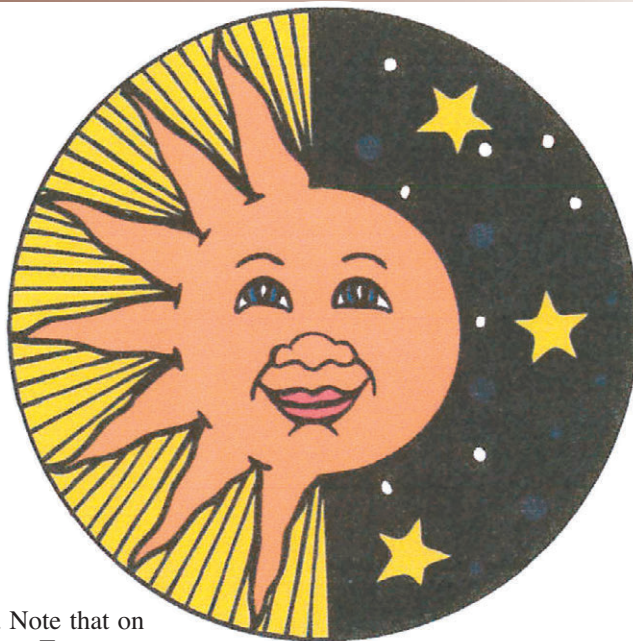
Rub a dub-dub, three fat men in a tub.



# The Kodiak Zodiac

## Astrological Predictions for Professional Bowhunters

By Barry Wensel



### Aries

(March 21-April 20)

Your upbeat, competitive nature makes you a natural for bowhunting. You find it both invigorating and relaxing. you love the challenge as well as the opportunity to hunt something. When you are not competing in the field of archery, or practicing, the peaceful side of your personality lets you enjoy ambling through the hardwoods or still hunting along tote roads. You must remember that brisk walking burns too many calories and can increase your appetite. Around mid-June, Mars enters fiery Leo and may tempt you to do a little road hunting. Keep your chin up and remember the antlers are just beginning to develop. Take time out to drink plenty of beer, especially if the weather turns hot in summer.



### Taurus

(April 21-May 20)

You are full of stamina and could probably hike from here to the horizon without a lick of sugar. However, you have an esthetic side that may prompt a more sneaky approach. You literally like to stop and smell the flowers while savoring whatever fruits are in season. Therefore, your preference is for still hunting orchards. Or maybe later bugling in a Taurus bull elk in the high alpine mead-



ows when the chance arises. Note that on May 11th, Venus moves from Taurus to Gemini bringing with it some lighter, even careless moods. It's time to experiment with different gaits and shoe sole types. After trying lug, cross-weave, rocker-action, suction-cup, chain-link and waffle soles, you need to give serious consideration to airbobs.

### Gemini

(May 21-June 21)

Your somewhat high-strung personality seeks the tranquility that bowhunting bestows. Your experimental streak pushes you to try different hunting styles from full blown organized deer drives to quiet meandering through the woods, depending on your mood swings. You also may notice an urge to step out with friends wives and welcome the opportunity to secretly meet them. Careful! Both May and June find Mercury traveling between Gemini and Taurus. You'd like to answer the call of the open road and do a little road hunting. But the high price of gas these days makes this temptation unreasonable.



### Cancer

(June 22-July 22)

Cancer is a scary word...but hell, you're a scary guy! You love to hunt barefoot except in cactus flats. The feeling of dirt, dry leaves, twigs and an occasional pebble between your toes invigorates you and at the same time helps you practice your cuss words. But Cancers are moody and tem-

peramental.

There's nothing quite like an occasional hunt that's as easy as shooting fish in a barrel. A chippy twelve yard broadsider, looking the other way is both luxurious and a psychological uplift. But stormy weather doesn't intrigue you and rainy days may see you staying in the tent on a \$12,000 sheep hunt. Around June 5th, the moon joins with aggressive Mars and Venus stirring your spirit of adventure. Watch out for pitfalls, injuries and especially switchbacks on steep mountain trails.



### Leo

(July 23-August 22)

Your sign shows you are really into lion hunting. You do so because you know it's good for your heart and you enjoy backing animals into corners or treeing things. You also enjoy not only the sound of baying hounds but the odor of following dogs. Your energetic nature usually favors an accelerated pace, but you know to take a break when you feel a little dizzy. The sun joins the tranquil Venus in Gemini from May 21st to June 4, increasing your tendency to howl at the moon. Don't forget to change the oil in your rig this month.



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# The Kodiak Zodiac

~ continued from page 45

## Virgo

(August 23-September 22)

You're very health conscious, but you should be because you're getting older. You prefer close range shots because you enjoy seeing the arrow enter the lungs. You know that a good hit will cheer you up, putting your worries into perspective. You also enjoy the sensations of muscular relaxation after a clean release. Listen to your body. However, you may begin to feel more timid from May 29th to June 11th as your planet backs into Taurus...probably a time for some extra caution when stringing your bow or sharpening broadheads and knives. If any finger will be severed, it will most likely be the middle finger of your left hand. Feel free to show people which finger they have to watch out for.



## Libra

(September 23-October 22)

You may consider your bow shooting abilities more artistic than athletic but you are definitely aware of the virtues of a beautiful naked body. As long as you persevere (which comes naturally) you will eventually get permission from your parents for a tattoo. Walking in malls during bad weather can tone you up and at the same time can sharpen your eyes for spotting other good bodies. Those Libras with a competitive streak will enjoy the challenge of sparking a thirst for variety. Vary the distances of your shots, your style of hunting, maybe even try to get crazy and go the opposite of traditional. Go gadgetry. Buy every conceivable piece of unnecessary gear that is available and see how easy bow hunting might be.



## Scorpio

(October 23-November 21)

Good dates. You are going to hit the rut perfect this year. You really like to test yourself so you set your goals for the year to shoot only a world record non-typical albino with the bow. You need to do this to fulfill a need for achievement. Most Scorpions are tenacious and will venture forth rain or shine. That's fine since you normally possess considerable resistance to cold and illness as long as you take your vitamins. As you train for the upcoming hunting season, avoid getting overtired or it could cause you a severe groin pain.



## Sagittarius

(November 22-December 22)

You tend to walk on the balls of your feet. You love books by Wensel, Asbell and E. Don Thomas. You tend to like to hunt in open spaces as you cherish the feeling of freedom as you barrel along. You definitely have a tendency to walk too fast for a still hunter, so therefore prefer elk hunting. But be



careful, Jupiter is now situated in inquisitive Gemini, prompting an urge for you to walk backwards. Be especially careful when back-jumping deep crevices in the dark. Your lust for gaseous foods will be a shortcoming in the tent this year.

## Capricorn

(December 22-January 19)

A devotee of moderation and balance, you may find you take a good solid half hour for your morning constitutional. You tend to hunt alone or with one female companion and you rarely miss scoring. But beware as Saturn is residing in your sign and things may not go smoothly this season if your vacation begins the third day prior to the new moon. You will have a strong urge to shoot the second yearling that comes into range for meat this season. Be careful as he may have strong non-typical genetic traits.



## Aquarius

(January 20-February 19)

You've got vitality to spare but you should take a rest on excessive backpacking hunts. Never sit down for more than five minutes per stop thought, or you're a goner. Also be extremely careful on consuming snow rather than drinking water when you hike in the winter. You are a perfect host for giardia-lamblia cysts. You tend to gather many friends but remain cautious as one with dark hair will betray you. He is undercover Fish and Game and will purposely try to set you up to fill his arrest



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## LOOKING BACK...

quota. Think things through carefully, then act on impulse. On your next bow fishing excursion you will inadvertently shoot a bass thinking it was a carp. Proceed with caution.

### Pisces

(February 20-March 20)

You may be a slow starter but once you get on a roll you have a hard time keeping to your bag limit. You love nature and consider your hunting expertise as an art. Because of your quest for more, you tend to walk too fast. Be aware of saplings springing back and puncturing your eardrum. Think ahead and make sure you don't forget your bowstringer, as you may just need to use it as a bowstring this season. You have a tendency to want to eat raw liver during field dressing chores. Beware...your next buck may be a fluke. ♣



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# **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  
Patrick Petiniot  
flatrock@cinergymetro.net  
765-720-7857





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

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