

Official Publication for the members of the Professional Bowhunters Society

THE PROFESSIONAL BOWHUNTER MAGAZINE



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

PBS 2016 BIENNIAL GATHERING TICKET ORDER FORM
MARCH 3 – 6, 2016

Name _____ Regular Life _____ Regular _____ Associate _____

Spouse/Guest's Name (if attending) _____

Children's Names (if attending) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Day Phone _____ Evening Phone _____ Email _____

Individual Pricing:	Friday Dinner & Auction	# _____	@\$60	\$ _____
	Saturday Dinner & Auction	# _____	@\$65	\$ _____
	Regular Life Member Breakfast (Friday)	# _____	@\$30	\$ _____
	Thursday Social	# _____	@\$45	\$ _____
	Ladies Luncheon & Auction (Saturday)	# _____	@\$40	\$ _____
	Ladies Trolley Tour (Friday)	# _____	@\$45	\$ _____

Half Draw Package:	1 Friday Dinner & Auction Ticket			
	1 Saturday Dinner & Auction Ticket			
	100 "General" Raffle Tickets	# _____	@\$150	\$ _____

Full Draw Package:	2 Friday Dinner & Auction Tickets			
	2 Saturday Dinner & Auction Tickets			
	200 "General" Raffle Tickets	# _____	@\$300	\$ _____

Additional "General" Raffle Tickets			
100 for \$50; 35 for \$20; 15 for \$10	# _____		\$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED:			\$ _____
-------------------------------	--	--	----------

Check here if you are staying at the World Golf Resort and are a 1st time banquet attendee _____

As an added bonus, any one (family) sending in their registration form by December 31, 2015 will receive 50 free "General" raffle tickets.

Please make all checks payable to PBS and mail to: PBS, P. O. Box 246, Terrell, NC 28682

Canadian members must send International Cashiers Checks or Money Orders payable in US funds.

For your convenience, you may use MasterCard or Visa. 2.5% will be added to your total amount.

Please provide the following information:

Name & Phone # if different from above: _____

Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date _____ MC _____ Visa _____

Signature _____

Ticket order reservations made before January 10, 2016 will receive a name badge upon arrival in St. Augustine. Deadline for receiving this form in the PBS Home Office is February 15, 2016. Tickets will be picked up at the PBS registration desk in St. Augustine. Tickets will not be mailed.

Official Publication for the members of the Professional Bowhunters Society

THE PROFESSIONAL BOWHUNTER MAGAZINE



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



Traditional Bowhunter®

—▶ Magazine —▶

P O Box 519, Eagle, ID 83616
 toll-free 1-888-828-4882
subscriptions@tradbow.com
www.tradbow.com

**Leading the way
 for over 25 years!**

**Find Longbows • Recurves • Self Bows
 Hunting stories • Interviews • How-tos
 Print and Digital versions available**

1 year \$25 • 2 years \$44 • 3 years \$63*
 1 year Canada \$35 • 1 year Foreign \$45
 6 issues per year • US Funds Only
 *Receive a FREE Traditional Bowhunter® decal
 with any 3 year subscription or renewal.

PBS Magazine: Published quarterly by the Professional Bowhunters Society®. Contributions (manuscripts, photographs and/or artwork) are welcome and must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope if they are to be returned. All material will be handled with reasonable care; however, the publisher assumes no responsibility for the return or safety of manuscripts, photographs or artwork.

THE EDITORS of PBS reserve the right to edit or reject any and all material which may be deemed harmful to the Professional Bowhunters Society® or to the sport of bowhunting.

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

The staff and publishers of PBS Magazine would like to emphasize to the reader that they should not assume that every product, individual, or service advertised herein has been fully investigated for its credibility, ethical business practices or moral character. Should the reader encounter a problem when dealing with the advertiser, please call this to the attention of the publisher. An objective evaluation of the situation will be rendered, and in the event the advertisement, service, product or person is considered by the PBS to be misleading, every effort will be made to withdraw such advertisement from the publication. The readers should not consider as an endorsement by the PBS products or services mentioned in articles submitted by contributors.

Materials submitted for publication should be sent to PBS, P.O. Box 246, Terrell, NC 28682. Ads should be sent to **PBS Advertising Dept.**, P.O. Box 246, Terrell, NC 28682.

PBS Magazine is assembled by the Charles City Press, Charles City, Iowa and printed by Sutherland Printing, Montezuma, Iowa.

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

Cover Photo by:
Gene Wensel
Libertyville, Iowa

THE PROFESSIONAL BOWHUNTER MAGAZINE

CONTENTS

Volume 38 – Number 4

FOURTH QUARTER - 2015

Departments

<i>President's Message</i>	2
<i>Vice President's Message</i>	3
<i>Council Reports</i>	4
<i>PBS Contact Information</i>	2
<i>Free Classified</i>	4
<i>Letters to the Editor:</i>	7
<i>PBS Protecting our bow season; PBS Identity Statement stirs up lots of comments</i>	
<i>Index to Advertisers</i>	48
<i>PBS Merchandise</i>	48

Regular Contributors

<i>Chaplain's Corner – Fire! by Gene Thorn</i>	10
<i>PBS – Regionally Speaking</i>	20
<i>PBS – Member Photos Section</i>	22

Special Features

<i>Regular Membership Candidates</i>	4
<i>Important Notice: PBS Identity Statement</i>	11
<i>Regional Membership Drive</i>	17
<i>2016 Candidate Profiles</i>	18-19
<i>2016 Biennial Gathering Information</i>	22-27

Articles

<i>The Stick Shift Syndrome by Gene Wensel</i>	12
<i>PBS: Attraction is high ethical standards, NOT equipment by Joe Lasch</i>	14
<i>Identity: Who are we to the world? by Mark Baker</i>	15
<i>PBS Identity: My thoughts on the Statement by Mark Viehweg</i>	16
<i>The Dream Bull of a Lifetime by Dennis Dunn</i>	28
<i>Why attend the Biennial Gathering? by Paul Ladner</i>	30
<i>My Saskatchewan Bear Hunt by Ron Herman</i>	31
<i>Mock scrapes work...sometimes by John Stockman</i>	36
<i>Barry Wensel's Whitetail Boot Camp by Bill Barker</i>	38
<i>Thanksgiving blessings and a lion to be thankful for! by Dennis Dunn</i>	41
<i>Eye See by Barry Wensel</i>	42
<i>Where are all the Boogeymen? by Gene Wensel</i>	44
<i>Trail Cam Tidbits...Big Ones That Got Away by Gene Wensel</i>	46
<i>Trail Cam Tidbits...Big One That Got Away by Mark Wang</i>	48



President's Message

by Jim Akenson
micaake@yahoo.com

Changes and Moving Forward

You will be getting this magazine as 2015 is coming to a close. PBS heads into 2016 with changes on Council and an election on the near horizon. Starting with Council changes, Cory Mattson resigned from the position of Vice President in October. The Nominating Committee was activated and recommended that Norm Johnson fill this position. Since Norm moved from the mid 3-Year Council position the committee recommended that Terry Receveur be offered that position. Council voted to approve these changes and both Norm and Terry accepted filling these vacated seats. Thanks to Cory for his service to PBS on Council, and thanks to Norm and Terry for stepping up!

In January we will be voting on the incoming 3-Year Council position. The candidates will be Rob Burnham and Paul Ladner. You can find their profiles in this magazine. We will also be voting on a new version of the Identity Statement which includes considerable input from

membership – to leave the kill number at 8, 5 of which are to be made with traditional style bows, and to simplify the statement to add clarity for By-Law modification. Both those actions have been applied to the amended statement which also appears in this issue. Additionally, you will see a number of comments in this issue regarding elements of the Identity Statement. We just need a membership vote on this matter and then move forward.

The St. Augustine Gathering is looming near and we strongly encourage members to plan to attend and especially: register asap! Please consider a donation for the Gathering. Our Biennial Gatherings are the backbone of our financial stability. As usual, there will be the membership meeting on Saturday morning of the Gathering weekend. PBS is at a directional cross-roads and dialogue about the future will be especially important at this time. There will be discussion on al-

ternate funding options and maybe even the development of a strategic plan process to organize a modified approach. We will be allotting 3 hours for this meeting scheduled from 8 – 11 a.m. on Saturday.

Keep in mind participating in the Regional Membership Drive! There have already been some impressive performances, such as Mike Vines from the Great Lakes Region by signing up over two dozen new members! Mike needs some competition, at least additional names in the hat, for the drawing of names slated for St Augustine, and rewarded with a regional hunt of the winner's choosing, plus a year's free membership for 2016 and one of those beautiful PBS commemorative coffee mugs.

Regular members, please VOTE in the January election and ballot vote! Here's hoping you have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Professional Bowhunters Society® Council

President

Jim Akenson
72531 Farmer's Lane
Enterprise, OR 97828
Phone: 1-541-398-2636
Email: micaake@yahoo.com

Secretary/Treasurer/PBS Magazine Editor

Jack Smith
P.O. Box 246
Terrell, NC 28682
Phone 1-704-664-2534
Fax 1-704-664-7471
email probowhunters@roadrunner.com

Councilman

Terry Receveur
134 Rabbit Lane
Kinderhook, NY 12106
Cell: 518-755-9119
Email: Terrance.Receveur@Taonic.com

Vice President

Norm Johnson
1545 Decker Pt. Rd.
Reedsport, OR 97467
Phone: 541-271-2585
Email: norm@blacktailbows.com

PBS Office

Brenda Kisner
Phone 1-704-664-2534 Fax 1-704-664-7471
Mon.-Fri. 10:00 AM-2:00 PM EST
email probowhunters@roadrunner.com
PBS Website: www.pbowsociety.net

Councilman

Matt Schuster
1663 Ivey Road
Warrenton, GA 30828
Phone: 404-386-2229
Email: matt@easterndynamicsinc.com

Senior Council

Steve Osminski
7473 Marsack Drive
Swartz Creek, MI 48473
Phone: 1-810-875-4100
Email: steveosminski@yahoo.com

Deadline Dates for The PBS Magazine

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

Councilman At Large

Bob Seltzer
8926 Jameson Street
Lorton, VA 22079
Phone: 1-703-493-8705

Vice President's Message

by Norm Johnson

norm@blacktailbows.com

I hope all of you had a successful fall hunting season. Just time away wandering the mountains or sitting as a quiet observer enjoying God's creation is quite often the definition of success. The way my elk season went this year I would put myself in the quiet observer category.

I want to thank the current Council and the nominating committee for their confidence in asking me to fill the vacant Vice President position. I want to specifically thank Cory Mattson for his service to the PBS. He tirelessly devoted a lot of his time and efforts to the organization.

Final preparations are being made for the homestretch into the gathering at St. Augustine. This is your organization please make an effort to support it and attend. If you can't attend please consider donating. These events are not only a family reunion but always a chance to make new friends and see a new part of the country. Filling the VP position has brought a rather large task of organizing the gathering. I am still in charge of vendors as well. If you want to be a vendor please contact me directly. If you want to volunteer your time helping at the gathering please contact anyone on Council. Please look over the updated Biennial Gathering information. For those coming early or staying late we have information on local sights as well as 2 highly recommended fishing guides for the area.

I want to thank both Paul Ladner and Rob Burnham for stepping up to run for the vacant Council position. Please take time to vote.

Thank you to the membership for their participation in the discussions on the PBS web site regarding the new identity statement. Emotions have certainly ran high for some but the constructive views

both for and against were for the most part civil and professional. I want to thank those who called and emailed me personally with both in support and concerned. I appreciated the participation calls I received from our associate membership as well.

In my last column I laid out the many reasons for my support of the new identity statement. I do not want make a repeat in this column however I will touch on a few more things to ponder. The PBS has reached a crossroad in declining membership. In the last 15 years under our current ID statement we have watched over a large steady decline of members. Do I blame the current statement? No. But what I can conclude is that it is not growing us.

In my opinion the current statement defines "what we stand for" but fails to go far enough and say "who we are." By taking the extra step we prevent others from defining us. If you allow others to define who you are, you are giving them the power to dictate where your path will lead. Our traditional culture says a lot about us and we have nothing to be ashamed or embarrassed about. The traditional culture in the PBS is the result of a natural progression that happened as a result of our values.

By a vast majority our membership are hard core traditional bowhunters yet we worry about making sure that an extremely small number of compound shooters are treated exactly the same as the traditional guys as to not offend them. This speaks to the heart and generosity of our members however at the same time our traditional members quietly leave in large numbers seemingly ignored and we (the PBS) don't seem as bothered. In a

perfect and fair world we would have an equal number of traditional shooters to compound shooters all sharing the same belief in "professionalism." The fact is the door has been open for years and the



compound users simply are not interested and the numbers reflect this without question. The traditional bowhunters are the backbone in both numbers and financial support and we must not fail to recognize this fact.

The efforts put forth are not about treating one group as a lesser over another. It is all about taking early steps to confirm who we are and a new phase of recruiting new members and holding our old members. It is bigger issue than any one person or any one group. Change can be difficult however it is important to recognize when change is necessary. If the new ID statement is voted down and we continue the same path can we really expect a change in the decline of members? We have all heard the definition of insanity. It is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result.

I do want to stay positive and point out the PBS has a lot of great things happening. The regional hunt program has been well received with fantastic participation. Some great success stories but more importantly is time spent with fellow members. I want to give member Mike Vines a pat on the back. He took it upon himself to do a membership drive through the Trad Gang web site offering his time and a beautiful set of arrows. His efforts signed up well over 20 new PBS members. In my previous term on Council in each of my columns I urged members to just take the time each year to sign up one new member. I hope what Mike has done inspires all of us to do just that. With very little effort we will insure the growth and survival of the PBS.

Sincerely,

~ Norm J.

MOVING

**Let's make sure we get in the right box.
Notify our Home Office of any change of address!**

**PBS
P.O. Box 246
Terrell, NC 28682**

email: probowhunters@roadrunner.com
PBS Website www.probowsociety.net



Senior Council's Report

by Steve Osminski
steveosminski@yahoo.com

Another Good Year of PBS

Organizationally, we are so much more efficient than in the past. As Council we officially meet at least once a month on conference calls which all attend. I can't think of a day that goes by where I do not have multiple emails pertaining to PBS business. Regular Applications are voted on now within weeks rather than months of delays; we've got the same information, we are just much, much better at passing it along to each other. I'm not sure how anything got done in the old days.

Business is not what the PBS is about though. The PBS is about the members and bowhunting. In that regard, 2015 has been my best year yet; not harvest wise, but I've been able to hunt with PBS friends not only at home in Michigan, but also Arizona, Alaska, Manitoba, and Iowa. Lots of great memories to put in the bank and the season is not over quite yet. I'll get to spend Christmas vacation in Iowa with my son and that will be the best hunt of all.

The 2016 Gathering is RAPIDLY approaching. Please think about your donations and getting them in early; send those

early ones to Nathan Fikkert at 9705 SW First Place, Gainesville, FL 32607.

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 Monty Browning and TJ Conrads will be a highlight as well. I was able to spend a couple days in Fairbanks with Monty at the end of our moose hunts and he is working on a completely new presentation for us, one that will "knock your socks off".

Since many of our members will be flying in, we have worked with the hotel to provide transportation during peak times from the Jacksonville airport to The Renaissance World Golf Village. The transportation company is called East Coast Transportation. You will need to contact them with your arrival and departure times and they will set up the most logical transportation for the group depending on demand. This should take care of most of you...you may have to wait a bit or be quick with your luggage at times, but the vast majority should have an easy and free way to get between the Gathering site and the airport. There will be information on the website just a click away or you can go to www.ectjax.com/pbs-transportation-link/ to fill out your information or call ECT 24 hour reservations number directly

at 904-525-8600. Members MUST make a reservation for the free shuttle. If the times don't fit your needs, there are also reasonably priced private options as well.

Politics are not my strong suit. In this issue you will find information on voting for the new Identity Statement for PBS. Voting for the new IS will take us down a traditional only road if that is the will of the membership. You will also see candidate profiles for a Council position as my term ends 2/28/16. Many thanks to Paul Ladner and Rob Burnham; PBS will be the big winner whatever the outcome as both men are extremely dedicated, intelligent, and giving of their time and talents.

Enjoy the rest of your hunting seasons and enjoy your families during the holidays. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

~ Steve O.

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:
Patrick T. Spivey – Benton, AR

THE BEST BOWHUNTING IN THE WORLD...

WE CAN TAKE YOU THERE.

FOR A FREE BOWHUNTING CATALOG, CALL:
(800) 833-9777
WWW.BOWHUNTINGSAFARI.COM

BOWHUNTING SAFARI CONSULTANTS

Council's Report

by Terry Receveur

Terrance.Receveur@Taconic.com

First off, I would like to thank everyone who voted for me in the last election. It was a hotly contested race and Matt Schuster came out the victor. I congratulate him. He is a fine man and will represent us very well. My loss by one vote made me the "first loser" and I was quite content to wear the moniker. However, due to the unfortunate circumstance of Cory Mattson's resignation, I was called upon by the Nominating Committee to step up and join Council.

I really had no choice in the decision to accept or not. When I became a Regular member of PBS I made the commitment to support and promote the PBS in any way that I can. If Council and many Regular members believe I have the "right stuff" to help PBS, then I had no choice but to accept. I vow that I will try and represent each of you to the best of my ability.

In case you've forgotten or just didn't read my candidate profile in the past, I'll add a short paragraph here to introduce myself.

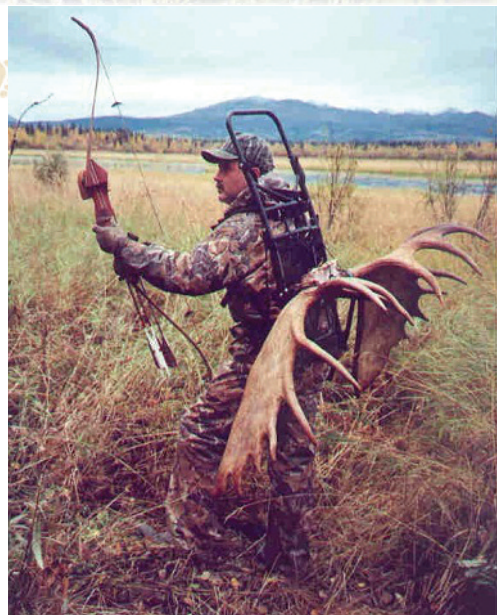
I believe in God, family, country, and outdoor pursuits! I try to live my life in support of all of them. I'm very active in our local church and include family in my outdoor adventures. I love the good old USA, although I've been quite embarrassed by its recent leadership. I've been married to my wonderful wife Tina for 29 years and she has always been very supportive and has on many occasions (from Alaska to Africa) followed me into the field to ensure my safe return. She has also stayed behind many times to raise our four wonderful children. I'm a volunteer fireman and treasurer for our local fire company. I've been extremely fortunate to have been able to travel a bit for hunting or fishing and have been to at least 25 different states including Alaska on nine different occasions. I have now been bowhunting for nearly 40 years.

I love the PBS for the opportunities it affords its members to interact with and learn from some of the best bowhunters in the world. Best is NOT defined by who has taken the most animals or by those who have their name in a book more than anyone else. Best are those who pursue game in an ethical and sportsmanlike manner. It's those who recognize the hunt is in the journey and not the destination. It's those who understand the complex re-

lationships between man and nature. It's those who know there are no shortcuts to success. A faster bow, brighter sight, smoother release, or clearer trail camera do NOT guarantee success. In fact, it can detract from what truly defines success; the hunt! Best are those who go afield to enjoy nature, learn about and respect the game they pursue, meet the challenge of the environment, and are just happy to be there. Best are those who know that life isn't about stuff, it's about making memories (that's all we can take with us). Best are those who know the kill is simply icing. I have been extremely fortunate to hunt with some of PBS's BEST and look forward to many more.

The Biennial Gathering in St. Augustine is coming upon us very quickly and March 3-6, 2016, will be here before we know it. I am very excited to rekindle friendships, meet new friends, peruse all the great merchandise, see the amazing photos, admire the great craftsmanship in the bow and arrow contests, and hear about all the hunting adventures you've had. Another aspect of the Gathering is the multitude of great hunts and donated items that will be auctioned or raffled off. The craftsmanship of the offerings is unparalleled and the hunting adventures are top notch. I'm sure my wallet will be a tad lighter on departure from Florida. This brings me to a very important topic that I need your help with. One of the very first duties, as a new councilman, that I was asked to take on was to help in coordination of donations for the banquet. To help me in my efforts I was forwarded a VERY long list of donated hunts and items from the 2014 Gathering. WOW! Thank you! Your generosity in prior donations is astounding. As you well know, the Biennial Gathering is the largest fund raising event held and the funds are used to support the many programs PBS supports. We need donations of all varieties, from a hunt to a homemade scarf. If you have an item to donate, please contact me at (518) 755-9119 or Email at Terrance.Receveur@Taconic.com. I offer my sincere thanks in advance.

It's no secret PBS is facing some challenging times. There is a pretty significant divide between groups who want the PBS to go traditional only and those that like it the way it is. There is no denying that times are changing and the PBS must



change as well. We absolutely cannot be everything to everyone. I do not know how the vote will turn out for adopting an "Identity Statement". What I do know is that no matter the outcome, PBS will still offer the following benefits:

- Regional Representative Program – This exciting new program is a grass roots effort to connect members for local activities. The membership hunts are one of the best benefits offered. Hunts have been held from Alaska to Alabama

- Professional Bowhunter Magazine®, which includes member's stories, photos, how-to articles, and news from around the country. The Professional Bowhunter Magazine® is one of the best bowhunting magazines around;

- Knowledge Through Experience – PBS members are some of the world's most experienced bowhunters and our goal is to share our experience and knowledge. From Alaska to Africa, Mongolia to Montana, Australia to Hawaii or just in the back 40 our members have been there and are dedicated to helping make your next hunt a success.

- Biennial Gathering – Every two years the PBS Membership assembles somewhere in North America to reinforce our fraternal bond and celebrate the sport of bowhunting. Seminars, exhibits, photo and bow building contests, and friendship make this a unique experience to those who share the brotherhood of the bow and arrow.

- Young Bowhunter Program – Biennially, the PBS conducts a youth leadership hunt to mentor and teach the future leaders of our sport. We believe that an investment in youth is an investment in our future.

~ continued on page 6 ~



Council's Report

by Matt Schuster

matt@easterndynamicsinc.com

First, I hope all of you are having an enjoyable and productive hunting season. I spent a week in Montana with fellow PBS member Joey Buchanan and a buddy of his chasing elk. The weather was not kind to us, but we still had a great time and managed a close call or two with the elk but brought home no meat.

The upcoming vote on the PBS Identity Statement will set the direction of PBS for the coming years. You will find a simpler version here with a few changes based on the feedback by our members. I do not come at my support of the Identity Statement from the bent of someone anti-anything. I am not. I am unapologetically pro-traditional, and believe for PBS to grow and survive in the future, we need to embrace who we are, and promote what we do to anyone interested. It is more honest and will be more effective than what we have been doing in the past. I don't think we gain a thing by being viewed as against things. If we are around as an organization thirty years from now, most of our members will have come to us from the ranks of modern bowhunters so why would we want to intentionally alienate them? But the bottom line is that until these future members find an interest in traditional archery, they don't seem to find PBS either. When they do find an interest, I want us to be a place where they know they will find knowledge through experience. Finally, there are going to be folks who quit over this issue whether it passes or fails. If it fails, some of the more adamant in the traditional ranks will leave. Several on the other side of this issue have already resigned, although I have been told that at least a couple of these were close to leaving anyway because PBS has already

become so dominated by traditional bowhunters. It is my hope that the many good people on both sides of this issue will stick around and work to make PBS a successful organization either way the vote goes. After all, we certainly all agree on the vast majority of issues facing us as bowhunters.

On a lighter note, what family squabble should not be followed by a big party where everybody gets reminded how much we all really enjoy each other. That party, of course, will be in St. Augustine so don't forget to make your plans if you have not already – it will be a gathering to remember. We have great speakers, seminars, and lots of cool stuff to both raffle and auction off. St. Augustine is an intriguing place in its own right, and having all the PBS events just makes it even better.

There is much good going on with PBS. There have been some outstanding membership hunts this fall with more to come, and in October, we signed on to be the primary sponsor of Twisted Stave Production's new video. Clay Hayes, who owns Twisted Stave and is a biologist for the state of Idaho, is a gifted videographer and his most recent production, *Untamed*, got over 30,000 views on Youtube in just six weeks. If you have not seen this piece, you should. It looks and feels like it could have been made with PBS in mind, and it

hits a demographic that is important to our future. It is no secret that our membership is aging, and we need to attract some younger like-minded folks. Clay's videos give us a vehicle to do just that in a professional way. We took no funds from the budget to support this project. All funds were raised

through a few quick phone calls and emails to members who believe this will be the best marketing campaign that PBS has ever done. If you would like to contribute, please feel free. Simply send a check made out to PBS to the home office and put "Twisted Stave" in the note section. If we actually raise more money than we need, any extra funds will be used in further marketing efforts.

Lastly, I want to thank a couple of guys. First, thanks to Mike Vines, who took the time to set up a contest on Tradgang for PBS and ended up signing up 22 new members. He showed what a little creativity and effort can do. Thanks also to Terry Green of Tradgang for supporting the project. Also, I want to thank Cory Mattson for his service to PBS. Agree with him or not, one has to admire the passion he brings to any conversation whether it concerns bowhunting, food, family, or anything else. He will be missed. And welcome to Terry Receveur, who agreed to serve in Norm's place since he has accepted the position previously held by Cory. Terry has agreed to serve at a pivotal time for PBS, so deserves thanks for stepping up.

Hope you shoot straight this season, and look forward to seeing you all in Florida.

Best,

Matt S.

Council Report – Terry R.

~ continued from page 5

- **Quality Members** – As a PBS member you are among the finest bowhunters in the world. The PBS consists of high profile bowhunters like Gene and Barry Wensel, E. Donnell Thomas, Monty Browning, Mike Mitten, Bryce Lambley, and Roger Rothhaar. While most of us certainly don't have such a recognizable name, you can be assured we are just as serious about bowhunting.

- **Lending Library** – Free use of the lending library, including videos and books

As you can see from the benefits noted above, PBS does have something to offer for everyone.

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

Again, thank you for your support and be safe and hunt hard! ♣

PBS Letters to the Editor

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

PBS Protecting our bow season

Fellow PBS members,

As many of you know, Montana's generous archery season is arguably the best in the nation. It has also been a source of controversy, as archery elk harvests and success rates have risen dramatically for a number of reasons, especially the increasing impact of technology. Our FWP department has generally done a good job of addressing this, resisting attempts to legalize cross-bows in archery season and leading the nation in eliminating drones from hunting.

Regulations currently prohibit electronic devices, including lighted nocks, as legal archery tackle. Unfortunately, in a recent poll of Montana Bowhunters Association (MBA) members 60% of respondents indicated that they favored legalizing lighted nocks. If enacted, this change would result in just one more step toward the reduction of our six-week general archery season.

When I learned from concerned members of the MBA and the Traditional Bowhunters of Montana (TBM) that the MBA was petitioning the commission to change the regulations in early December, I contacted PBS President Jim Akenson and explained the situation. Within hours that same day, Jim had contacted the PBS council and approved a very well written letter opposing this change. That letter reached all the FWP commissioners in less than twenty-four hours. The result of this effort has not been determined at the time of this writing.

This is an example of our organization doing just what PBS was meant to do to protect our bow seasons. I know I speak for everyone in the TBM when I express my thanks to Jim, the Council, and the PBS.

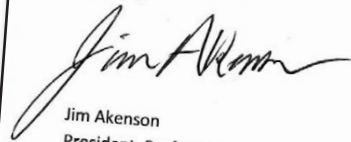
Don Thomas

December 1, 2015

Dear Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Commission:

I understand that the FW&P Commission will soon be voting on whether to allow lighted nocks in Montana archery seasons. As a national organization, with strong membership numbers in Montana, the Professional Bowhunters Society (PBS) stands in opposition to lighted nocks. Our reasoning is simple. Archery seasons were established on the premise that bowhunting would involve going afield with simple, close range, hunting gear. The addition of electronic devices to either bow or arrow deviates from this original intent of archery equipment and bowhunting. Lighted nocks will increase a bowhunters interest to push both the limits of shooting range and conditions of poor lighting. Please continue to oppose lighted nocks for Montana bowhunting seasons. Montana has one of the richest bowhunting heritages in the United States that is founded on traditional hunting values. Allowing lighted nocks will be a slippery slope to ever increasing technologies being allowed in bow seasons, which ultimately, will lead to shorter season opportunities for bowhunters. Bowhunting in Montana epitomizes taking on the challenges that are inherent with the state's great, diverse, and rugged landscapes. Let's keep this sport challenging for both current and future generations of Americans!

Sincerely,



Jim Akenson
President, Professional Bowhunters Society

Additional Letters to the Editor follow on the next two pages.

PBS Belt Buckle

Show off your PBS pride with this classy buckle!

Only

\$6200

Includes shipping!

Send all orders to:

PBS

P.O. Box 246 Terrell, N.C. 28682

Make sure to include your name, street address, and telephone number with all orders.



PBS Letters to the Editor

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

PBS Identity Statement stirs up lots of comments

Please support the PBS Identity Statement

Through a groundswell of long-time regular membership, a PBS Identity Statement was drafted by Council and will be voted on soon by all regular voting members.

As a long-time regular and life member, past councilman and past president, an active and activist PBSer who has supported PBS for over 40 years, I urge all voting members to vote yes on implementing this identity statement.

We have seen our membership ranks dwindle and our effectiveness as national leaders fade due to a myriad of reasons, not the least being the unwillingness to stand and be proud of what we are and have always been: an organization of the most experienced and finest traditional bowhunters in the US. It is time to make our identity clear.

As far as attracting new associates, by all means we should welcome anyone who wants to join. I don't care if someone uses helicopters and hand grenades to hunt; they should be welcome to join PBS as an associate and learn how and why we hunt the way we do; to learn woodsmanship, craftsmanship, hunting ethics, and to gain experience in following the traditional path.

Only by once and for all clearly identifying ourselves can we distance ourselves from the mainstream ugliness that passes for modern bowhunting. When that happens, we will grow again and be recognized once again as the premier national bowhunting organization.

It is sad to see how PBS has been in membership decline for over 15 years, and how many of our best supporters have left the fold. If we fail to pass this now, I am afraid many more will leave and take their support to another venue that has more clearly defined goals and objectives. This is a new start for PBS, thanks to the council for their efforts bringing this forward, it is an easy yes vote.

Doug Borland

PBS, The Professional BOWHUNTERS Society...

For those who believe that PBS is not about what you carry, read that again, BOWHUNTERS. Our very name expresses an equipment restriction. PBS was founded in part because of the inclusion of sights on bows by the NFAA, an equipment restriction. In the not too distant past the compound did not offer a great advantage over the traditional style bows. However the ever increasing pace of technological advancement with compounds makes one wonder at what point does a compound cease being a bow? Some contend that ship has already sailed. To be a bowhunting organization, the organization must define what a bow is, otherwise it is simply a hunting organization. The Identity Statement serves that purpose in a manner that should not require revisions as technology evolves, unlike our current Code of Ethics.

PBS is a traditional bowhunting organization. It really is that simple. Just look at our membership. Yet many want to remain officially non committal about this simple fact stating we need to continue to welcome the compound users into our ranks. I'd be good with that if it wasn't a bald-faced lie to ourselves. The PBS

membership may smile and say, "Bless their hearts, they shoot a compound," but compound shooters currently don't join PBS. They feel they don't belong because they view us as a traditional organization....and they are right. The Identity Statement simply removes the lie and expresses what we all know is the truth.

The Identity Statement will allow us to be more visible within the traditional bowhunting community, our target market, as the experienced resource for traditional bowhunters, or those wanting to explore the switch to traditional equipment. The recent partnership with Twisted Stave media will expose 10's of thousands to PBS and will help in recruiting new traditional members who might otherwise be hesitant to join an all inclusive bowhunting organization.

Because of this, I believe the Identity Statement will lead to sustained growth of PBS making us the national leader in the preservation of our bowhunting heritage.

*Don Davis, PBS Regular
Melbourne, Florida*

I joined the PBS as an associate when the organization was flourishing. I was proud to be affiliated with such outstanding bow hunters while learning to become a bowhunter myself. Ten years later, I had begun to note a decline in member numbers and participation.

It saddened me greatly when a motion put forth by members to become a traditional organization failed to pass. I believed it was a turning point in bowhunting, and other organizations formed to represent traditional hunting archers.

I have gone along with the PBS in welcoming all Bow hunters, but in light of continuing technology encroaching in archery season, I do not feel that I can continue to do so.

While at the gym yesterday, I happened to catch an outdoor hunting show on a monitor at the treadmill. The hunter had just shot a goat with his rifle and was now going bow hunting. They checked his preparedness by having him shoot expandable broadheads at a 3D target at 100 yards. When several struck the kill they smiled and the caption read, "Enough Said!"

I could not agree more, it was certainly enough said for me as I turned off the monitor. I believe bow hunting should be a close distance experience for archers. Not 100-yard kills expected by mainstream archers. How any serious PBS member can support what currently passes for bowhunting is just difficult for me to imagine.

Lets vote YES for our new identity statement and take a step in the right direction.

Krista Holbrook

A Fork in the Trail

When I joined PBS 25 years ago we were a thriving organization. Now we are in steady decline. What has happened? You can easily plot our demise. In the mid 1990's it was obvious there was no stopping the technological advances in bowhunting or the neg-

PBS Letters to the Editor

ative impact of these advances. Many, many, prominent traditional bowhunters to include Glenn St Charles knew it was necessary to have an organization represent serious bowhunters. Most hoped it would be PBS, which at that time was a very strong organization. It did not happen. Compton picked up that ball and ran with it. Even the traditional values statement and equipment standards put it place then by PBS were swept under the rug and ignored by past administrations so as not to alienate anyone. Why have we lost over 1000 members since then? Some of council and some members believe our future is tied to bringing in modern compound shooters. Where have they been? We have been open to anyone and they haven't come. I am all for inviting anyone to join PBS but I believe we desperately need our identity statement and something to stand for now or we will surely die. The statement is the culmination of several years of hard work by many members. We invite all to join us as associates. It does not affect any old members but we can no longer ignore the fact of what PBS really is about. Every good bowhunting buddy I have, shot compounds when we met. They saw the challenge and the fun we had and all swapped to traditional just like the majority of you. It is no longer about the old Whitetail 2 compounds of 20 years ago. I keep hearing it is all about ethics but ethics have been tossed out the window by mainstream hunting. I stopped by Sportsman Warehouse moments before I wrote this and pretended to shop for a bow. I was told they could set me up in a few minutes and I could expect 80 to 100 yard accuracy on hunting shots at caribou upon leaving the store. Is this the ethics some of you refer to as modern hunters having? If so am I supposed to condone and encourage such shooting? If so I guess I have been wasting my time and in the wrong group. It is beyond my comprehension that I would even have to explain why we need this identity statement to a PBS member. In this day and age fraternal isn't enough we need to stand for something. We have a fresh start with the Clay Hayes production and this statement lets take it and move ahead of the rest inviting all aboard to join us and learn who we are.

*Sterling Holbrook
Life Member*

PBS Identity Statement

Two PBS banquets ago, I accepted the challenge to reverse the declining membership by trying to recruit two worthy young bowhunters to the ranks. I knew just who I had in mind. I invited them over for dinner and made my pitch. The first question was, "Is PBS a traditional organization?" My answer—"Well, pretty much, but not officially..." didn't make the grade. They chose not to join.

This is really so simple. The hardworking members who crafted this identity statement took great pains to remain inclusive, offend no one, and leave the door open to all willing to make some basic choices. The statement is nothing more than an acknowledgement of who we are, and we need it. Please vote yes, for the future of the organization.

Don Thomas

Traditional Values are a Mindset

I have bowhunted every year since 1954. I was surprised to learn, while reviewing the proposed PBS Identity Statement and accompanying articles, that I "lost" my traditional values several years ago when hunting with a compound bow. I used a compound bow to achieve the draw weight I wanted for hunting elk

while recovering from a severe burn to my left arm, later switching back to recurves and longbows. Hopefully I regained my traditional values!

Traditional values are a mindset. Do 'traditional values' truly translate to traditional equipment? I argue NO! Does PBS have a 50+ year Traditional Bowhunting Heritage? NO! However PBS does have 50+ years of respected Traditional Values that includes both traditional and compound members.

"For many years the PBS has allowed others to define who and what we are..." Who are these "others?" IMO the PBS knew who and what they were in the 70' and 80's. Unfortunately "others" began trying to change the PBS. As a result, two splinter organizations were conceived; both traditional equipment only. One failed and one survived. Despite the opportunity to join two traditional organizations, many traditional equipment-only members retained their PBS membership. Now those individuals again want to change PBS. Perhaps PBS is "withering on the vine" because of this constant fighting.

Someone please define what constitutes "close-range bowhunting". I have seen shot distances of 45 yards in the Compton records. Are these traditional bowhunters welcome in PBS? Would our traditional value forefathers (Pope, Young, Hill, Pearson, and Bear) qualify? Mention was made of the difficulties of 'policing' equipment. In my opinion policing close-range bowhunting will be much more difficult.

"...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." This mindset implies self-bows, homemade broadheads and arrows, etc. Is this what the PBS membership truly wants?

The "all or none" attitude is reminiscent of an adolescent mindset; 'Play my way or I am taking my marbles and going home'.

As was mentioned, PBS has an aging membership that is mostly traditional shooters. PBS, like most organizations, has experienced a drop in membership. I see this identity statement as a deterrent to membership growth. It will assure all members shoot traditional equipment but not result in significant membership growth. Currently the PBS endorses and promotes high ethical bowhunting standards. I fail to see how converting to a traditional-only organization will improve upon those standards.

Mike Schlegel, Life Member



TRUE NORTH ARROWS LLC
TRADITIONAL WOOD ARROW SHAFTS

The Industry's
Best Eco-Friendly
Arrow Finish!

Cresting Paints
Crown Dipping Paints
Clear Arrow & Bow Finish

www.TRUENORTHARROWS.com

Fire!

Chaplain's Corner

by Gene Thorn

912 Kedron Rd., Tallmansville, WV 26237

(304) 472-5885 pethorn@hotmail.com

Just a few weeks ago I made the trip over the mountains to Bath County, Virginia to meet some of my PBS brothers for the Rough Mountain Hunt that Rob Burnham puts on each year. The leaves were in their full glory and the mountains were beautiful. We had a great time sitting around the campfire in the evenings, talking to the wee hours. Campfires are just a pure pleasure. What is it about staring into a campfire? It is hard to tear yourself away from it.

In my career as a Wildlife Biologist I had many encounters with fire. We used fire to manipulate habitat that had grown undesirable plant, shrub, and tree species, or habitat that needed set back into a younger stage of growth. We would rake or bulldoze a fireline around the tract and then backburn it. The targeted stand or field was carefully strip burned in increments to keep the fire hot enough to do the job but not do any unwanted damage. We always were diligent to make sure it was out before we left. The next day it was checked again.

Fire can start from a lightning strike or the carelessness of a human and get out of control in forests during dry seasons, especially in the fall. We fought many wildfires on Wildlife Management Areas in Southern West Virginia. I have raked many a ring around forest fires and backfired them. That is where the saying "fight fire with fire" came from. It is a major strategy in fighting wildfire. I was called on to help get hunters out of the woods when the Governor declared the season closed due to fire conditions. It was a long, hard, dangerous job. Many of those fires were started by arsonists and were so unnecessary. What a waste of resources. I have seen literally miles of fire ringing the slopes and burning its way up the mountains at night and choking the region with smoke during the day. On one hand fire was used for good for forests and wildlife and the other extreme was destructive to the timber and destroyed food and cover for wildlife.

The Bible refers to our tongues as being like a small ember that starts a roaring forest fire. How true! Fire in this case is the destructive kind.

³*Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body.*

⁴*Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires.*

⁵*Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles!*

⁶*And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.*

The things we say can have far reaching effects for good or bad. Each of us has sole control of what comes out of our mouth or with

technology we say things by printed words, photos, and videos over the internet. Just as we cannot retrieve the words we say, words and images that go out electronically can't be removed. Once you send it, the good or damage is done. You may be able to remove posts on social media, but if people have seen it, copied it, forwarded it, or saved it.....it is out there forever.

1 Peter 1:6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,

*⁷that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to *praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,*

There is another kind of fire that the Bible talks about. The fire of trials is never pleasurable. The Bible equates our trials as being like the purification process that refined pure gold goes through. We are made better people by the hard times we go through. You either become better or bitter. It is all in the attitude you choose. Let's become better to the praise, honor, and glory of the Lord! God is with us through every minutes and every step of a trial. He turns

the bad into something good. He is tempering us like a good steel knife blade.

Hebrews 12:25 See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, ²⁶whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven."

²⁷Now this, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the

things which cannot be shaken may remain.

²⁸Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.

²⁹For our God is a consuming fire.

We can be sure that time spent in the presence of the Lord and in His Holy Word have a shaking, refining, effect on us. The negative, bad, unprofitable things in our lives have to go. More and more, as time goes on that God works on us, we reflect His attributes. Just like a controlled burn takes out the undesirable vegetation and encourages the release of mast producing oaks and other wildlife food and cover, God makes our lives better and more productive. We need that! We need that as an ongoing process. We can all stand to be a little better, or a lot better. Hallelujah, the writer of Hebrews fired God as being up for the job, for He is a consuming FIRE! ✠



* * Important Notice * *

Please note the below modifications to the Identity Statement and being placed into a ballot format.

PBS Identity Statement

These changes have been voted on and approved by Council, effectively amending the previously announced Identity Statement from last Magazine (3rd Quarter, 2015). The changes are a result of input from the membership via the website, from emails to Council, and from phone calls to Council members. The intention of these changes is to make the Identity Statement better suited for ballot printing and voting, to be more appropriate for by-law compliance, and to apply the summary of comments made by you all as members. You will see that the number of kills have been maintained at 8 (a frequent request), but still with at least 5 being made with traditional equipment. You will also see that the statement has been significantly simplified so that there are not multiple yes/no vote items that would need to be addressed, nor is there relaxing of let-off requirements for associate members.

~ PBS Council.



YES Vote on this Ballot is to adopt the following proposals in their entirety.

A NO Vote is to make no changes. Please notice – there is a change to the Qualified Regular Membership requirement section of the by-laws in the ballot below in Proposal #2.

Proposal #1: To adopt the following PBS Identity Statement as a companion statement to our Code of Ethics

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.

Proposal #2: To change the PBS By-Laws, Article 111 Membership, Section A Regular Member, 6E1, which currently states:

Having taken by bow and arrow, in a loyal and sportsmanlike manner, a minimum number of big game and small game species as designated by the Executive Council as follows:

1. Eight (8) big game animals plus a substantial number of small game animals and/or varmints.

A positive vote will change this article as follows:

Having taken by bow and arrow, in a loyal and sportsmanlike manner, a minimum number of big game and small game species as designated by the Executive Council as follows:

1. Eight big game animals, at least five of which must be taken with traditional archery equipment (longbow, recurve, self-bow) plus a substantial number of small game animals or varmints. All current regular members retain their regular membership under by-laws in force on the date that they earned their qualified regular status.

The Stick Shift Syndrome

By Gene Wensel

Our next PBS election is going to have vitally important decisions on the ballot. I'm getting too old to stick my neck on the chopping block but each voting member needs to think hard about this vote and the direction of our organization. Never has your right to vote as a Regular PBS member been more important. Please don't check off the "abstain" box unless you really need to. In my opinion, this will be the single most important ballot ever presented to the membership. It will decide and determine the course of our organization, both its direction and its future.

First of all, I urge every member to get on our website, www.probowsociety.net, open up the Membership Forum via password and read the concerns and opposing views from both sides of this issue, then vote with your conscience. I can see good arguments coming from both sides, with the deciding factor being whether PBS should continue to be essentially a fraternal organization or get more deeply involved politically by taking a stand, among other things, on the use but not necessarily abuse, of high tech equipment by the vast majority of modern bowhunters. PBS is already made up of 95% traditional bowhunters who voluntarily self-limit themselves in their conservative efforts in the field. For decades we have confessed "its not the bow but the person behind it" philosophy while marketing proudly our "knowledge through experience" slogan.

As a long time member of PBS, I can't help but ask myself why we are where we are right now. The "if it ain't broke, don't try to fix it" reasoning doesn't quite fit this scenario because in a sense our engine is not running smoothly. We might need an overhaul or at least a tune up. At the same time, as our membership falls, I can imagine our founders once admitting right up front that PBS was never meant to be for everyone who draws a string. Even though our founder's goals were to break away from the target archery crowds, the high tech side of archery had not even been invented yet. So why do we even need a statement of identity that will divide our already thinning roster? I'm tired of seeing friends face each other in disagreement. I'm not as sure as many of my friends who seem to think there is a vast pool of traditional bowhunters out there who will join or rejoin PBS if we make a traditional statement of identity. Nor am I sure that taking a stand is the wrong thing to do. Nor am I

sure whether our presently poor American economy has tightened the purse strings of middle income American bowhunters who have to cut corners on expenses like memberships and magazines. Nor am I sure that "poor or weak PBS leadership" in the past was a major factor in bringing us to where we are today. PBS has always had a very high percentage of leaders, many being genuine pioneers in bowhunting. If ever there was a case of "too many chiefs and not enough Indians," we are a fine example.

This identity crisis within PBS reminds me of our automobile industry when automatic transmissions first showed up on our roads. Carrying a stickbow versus a compound is a lot like weighing the options of driving a vehicle with a stick shift versus one with an automatic transmission. When I was a kid, almost all automobiles were made with foot clutches and gear shift levers. Jeeps and VW bugs all had sticks. So did most sports cars and pickup trucks. I don't really remember when automatic transmissions came into being, probably full force in the '60s, but they quickly took over the market by making driving easier. So did power steering, windshield wipers and tubeless tires for that matter. Not many people know that a bowyer applied for and got the first patent on automobile windshield wipers. Today its common to find 50 year old people who have never pushed a clutch.

My first girlfriend happened to live on a hilly street. I remember worrying about the clutch when I had to get out of a tight parking spot with her dad's car parked too close to my front bumper. My front end was always pointed straight at her old man's rear bumper (downhill) in front of mine. His daughter was hardly worth the effort. Many years later when I got married (not to that same girl by the way), my new bride drove a red convertible Spitfire sports car with clutch, gas and brake peddles all set very close together and way too small for my hunting boots.

Most professional drivers prefer stick shifts. Why? They work and feel better for the job. Pros enjoy shifting gears by use of clutch and stick. I assume they feel more "one with the vehicle," not unlike the same reasoning traditional bowhunters and most (95%?) PBS members choose to shoot simple "stick and string" bows. By increasing challenge and having to get closer, stickbows simply put more hunt into bowhunt-

ing. They get the job done with deeper personal satisfaction and more physical involvement. Like using a flyrod or fighting via hand to hand combat, a stick shift vehicle has special and unique appeal that can't be ignored. That calling will never go away for some folks. But is it for everyone? Definitely not.

That being said, I can't help but ask this.... did automatic transmissions put more drivers on the highways, or did traffic jams come about simply because there were so many more people in the world with vehicles and driver's licenses? Yes, automatic transmissions definitely made driving easier, but did they make more drivers? Indirectly maybe, but not really. Did they make better drivers? I doubt it. Electric razors didn't make more beards, they only made shaving easier even though many people still prefer razor blade shaves with shaving cream.

Do NASCAR drivers have more road rage issues on public highways? It seems like they would easily get frustrated dealing with lesser driving skills of 99% of the general public. I have a friend who constantly entertains me by yelling at almost everyone else on the road. His clutch peddle gets regular workouts.

What do you think would happen if professional truckers asked for their own roads? Or if automobile drivers asked for interstates with no "big rig" trucks allowed? I'm sure many drivers would be for that option but its never going to happen. Automatic transmissions are not going to go away. Nor will stick shifts with clutches as long as people keep asking for them.

So, can stick shift folks get along with automatic transmission drivers? Of course they can. Some even marry each other and have babies who quickly grow up into toddlers who drive miniature Jeeps. As soon as redneck kids get old enough, they try to run over their own puppies.

Should new highways be designed by truckers? Nope. Do we really need passing zones on bridges? Nope. Should bicycles be considered equal to motorized vehicles on interstate highways? Nope. Should congested high traffic areas be managed and controlled by race car drivers? Nope. For that matter, should rodeo riders wear helmets? Probably, but not in this century. John Wayne would never have looked right riding his horse into town while wearing a helmet.

We're to the point where we're all going

to have to share the roads. Qualified professional driver recommendations are definitely worth listening to, but no matter how much a dude on a Harley might need a seat belt, it ain't gonna happen.

Should PBS become the voice of traditional bowhunting? Where does Compton fall into this equation? I thought that was who and what Compton is all about and unless I'm wrong, they have always been. In truth, their membership is also falling. Someone said that Compton attendance at their summer rendezvous hovers around 5,000 people annually. I've been there many times and simply don't see those numbers. Not even close. 5,000 people is a decent sized town!

Traditional bowhunting magazines are having a hard time getting readers to send in more than a handful of "hero pictures" per issue. Magazines are giving way to digital media and even outdoor television shows have saturated their appeal with plummeting ratings. In my opinion, at least 75% of modern bowhunters are simply opportunists... in reality nothing more than gun hunters looking for different opportunities with more ways and means to kill extra stuff. Let crossbow seasons fall only during gun seasons and see how much interest they generate. On the other hand, there are thousands of ethical, seriously dedicated people using compounds because they've known no other way. Most PBS members have used compounds at one point in their lives before increasing the challenge and limiting their yardage by way of stickbows. I happen to be one of very few guys in PBS who has never shot a compound. But some of my best friends carry them and use them very effectively, always with the right attitude.

Those of you old enough to remember PBS in the '80s know that many of our leaders and bowhunting pioneers have disappeared. Look how many PBS officers have simply faded away. I can see a "Whatever Happened To....." type article by going through our old membership rosters. Lots of these guys were very active members. Of course some have passed away, but many have just faded into the shadows, still actively doing their thing.

Unfortunately there will be more than a few leaders drop out of PBS no matter how this election turns out. That is a real shame, especially if they jump ship even before they vote.

I'm not going to tell members how to vote. I only hope those who are qualified to do so vote with an open conscience and accept the outcome as being what is best for the organization and our beloved passion. *



Old School
Limited Edition

Old school:
a term used to
describe traditional
abilities and skills
based on self
reliance and a
resulting skill.

Here's the new "Old
School". Old school
green glass on our
entire line of classic
bows. The look of the
past and the per-
formance you
expect from
Great Northern.

2 of 7 models

Call or write
for a FREE
catalog

**GREAT
NORTHERN**

**BOWHUNTING
COMPANY**

201 North Main, P.O. Box 777
Nashville, MI 49073
517-852-0820
Fax 517-852-2082
www.gnbco.com

Attraction is high ethical standards, NOT equipment

By Joe Lasch

I have followed with interest the discussions on the PBS website membership forum regarding the proposed identity statement. While I do understand where the people promoting this idea are coming from, I disagree that it will accomplish the goals they envision.

What attracted me to PBS was the high ethical standards the membership upholds, not the equipment that they use. It is the same standard I use when choosing hunting partners. I have hunted with some people that use traditional gear that don't have the ethics I want in a partner. I don't have any desire to hunt with them again, and I don't think that they belong in PBS. I also hunt regularly with some people who use compound bows and I would hold their ethics up as a standard for any bowhunter to be judged by.

There are those who will say that the identity statement welcomes compound hunters. The problem though is in the perception that it creates. It's like being told you can ride the bus, but you're going to have to sit in back. We can't say we are welcoming them if they are classified as second class citizens. Although the traditional gear requirement only applies to regular members, the requirements we establish for regular membership are perceived as the ideals of our organization. I can point to the former 50# bow minimum as a perfect example. Prior to the recent change, how many times did we hear criticism of that requirement? How many people didn't join because of it, even though it technically only pertained to regular members?

I'd like to give you an example. My closest hunting partner spends thousands of hours each year on outdoor related projects. He collects prairie flower and grass seed by hand to spread not only on his own land but on other prairie restoration projects in our county. He personally has built and annually maintains well over 300 wood duck houses. He mentors youth hunts for kids that he doesn't even know. He has served on state and county conservation boards and committees. But he hunts with a compound bow. Why? Not because he is looking for shortcuts. On the contrary, while he is actually a good instinctive shot, he is so worried that he might mess up and wound an animal that he simply won't take a chance.

My friend would make a great PBS member, and at one time he actually was. But as an organization we have been very unwelcoming to people like my friend for a long time now, and the identity statement as proposed will only serve to make that worse.

Kevin Dill made an interesting observation in the discussions on our website. If you go back to the 1970s and 1980s in our PBS Magazine you'll find lots of pictures of members hunting with compounds. You'll find stories written by these members and contributed to the magazine.

If you open up the old PBS photo albums (usually on display at banquets and sometimes at bow events) you'll see enough success and on-the-hunt pictures of members with compounds to know they were numerous.

Over time our organization has gotten less accepting of compounds in our midst. Derogatory comments about those weapons and the people that choose to use them are not at all uncommon within our magazine or on our website. We have been hashing this subject repeatedly for a long time now. Personally, I am not at all surprised that compound hunters have chosen to leave us, and that has certainly contributed to our decline in membership. Those people didn't leave because their ethics died. They left because we made them feel that they were not welcome.

Following are the principals that PBS stands for according to our own website, and they are the things that drew me to the organization.

"It is the purpose of the Professional Bowhunters Society to be an organization whose membership consists only of persons who are considered Professional Bowhunters in ATTITUDE, and who vow:

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 in 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."

Those are the reasons I chose to become a member. Apply each and every one of them to my friend and I think you would have to agree that he exemplifies them all. In fact, he is better qualified than I am right down the line. While he may be a minority among compound shooters he is far from alone. There are many just like him, and in my opinion they are exactly the kind of Bowhunters we desperately need more of. If all bowhunters could honestly follow the above bullet points then equipment truly wouldn't matter.

Shouldn't there be a voice of reason that tells compound hunters that 70 yard shots are not ethical? That abiding laws even when nobody is looking is the honorable way to hunt? That mentoring kids and new hunters is the way to pass on our heritage? That much of the gear that is sold today is more effective as separating hunters from their money than it is at killing deer? That sharing archery season with crossbows is ultimately going to reduce opportunity for us all? Do you honestly think that only traditional hunters feel that those things are important?

If PBS wants to be that voice of reason, will the mainstream bowhunters hear our message if we are just a bunch of traditional guys? Not likely. They don't think that we have anything to tell them, and a bunch of traditionalists preaching will only fall on deaf ears.

We should be looking for people with high moral standards and ethics and that fulfill the standards all of us strive to live by. Those are the type of people who will naturally gravitate toward greater challenges in their bowhunting. If some of them take up traditional gear after being exposed to it, wonderful! If not, and they continue to be ethical and responsible hunters, that is fine as well.

Like it or not, we share our season with compound hunters. They are here to stay and will always represent a vast majority of bowhunters. That is simply not going to change. We need honorable, ethical, knowledgeable compound hunters with high character more than ever today. We need them writing articles in magazines, appearing on TV shows, speaking at deer and turkey shows, etc., etc. We need them in PBS to help carry out the mission of club was founded on. *

IDENTITY

Who are we to the world?

By Mark Baker, Regular Member

A half century hence, the Professional Bowhunters Society came into being with specific, expressed ideals and goals. We all know them...they are clearly stated in every magazine/newsletter that we print and distribute. Fifty years ago, bowhunting was a very different sport than today... and so were the bowhunters – in general – that took to the woods in its practice. It was clearly journey over destination, process oriented hunting over end results. We all wanted the same end results, but HOW we got there...that was the thing. PBS formed to unite like-minded folks...and set up a tiered membership to INSURE that it remained a brotherhood of such. It was about hunting, with what we then thought, quite naively, was and would be bowhunting – perhaps forever. How our world changed...

It is doubtful that any of those who fought so hard to achieve our bowhunting opportunities, establishing the long seasons we still somewhat enjoy, would have done so with today's equipment in hand. Likewise, that men like Saxton Pope or Art Young would lend their names to an institution like the one that now exists and promotes trophy acquisition with modern machinery in their name today. These men that inspired us took to the woods at a time when game populations across this country were in poor – at best – health, with tools that required the most skill at woodsmanship and abilities to succeed. It was that character that lit the fire in men returning from the World Wars and Korea, that lived through the depression, to take to the field with a bow and pursue scarce game honorably, by earning it. And the world knew it.

Fast forward to the world today. The vast majority of modern “bowhunters” lack every trait and characteristic inspiring to our forefathers, and to myself as well. I suspect most of us are sick at the thought of what “bowhunting” has become on OUR watch. For at least 40 of the past 50 years, we have kept silent...so as not to make waves among fellow sportsmen, to what end? Where has it taken us?

Modern “bowhunters” have stolen our title, our quippy monikers (stick and string), and lately even our “journey” de-



scription – regardless of the fact that it mirrors none of what they are about – and we have hardly whimpered in protest. Our long seasons – granted for our minimal impact on the resource – can hardly be defended as such any longer. Their motivations and pathways are not the same as ours once were. And the equipment they carry tells their tale too well. Bowhunting's image has deteriorated from one of hardy woodsmen who earn their trophies, to a bunch of gadget toting, opportunist looking for instant results no matter the costs. It is not the past-time PBS practices, and differences are getting progressively worse.

While we can't change the past, we can step up and be leaders – as we proclaim ourselves to be – by our example. We have a chance with this Identity Statement to welcome those who have true interests and want to learn, into our fold... to retain our elders who have earned their right as regular members...and to “walk the talk” we so boldly proclaim and show the world again what bowhunting is about.

There are plenty of good arguments regarding this proposed Identity Statement that all voting members should take the time to read through. There

is a lot of fear-mongering, a lot of emotional rhetoric....but good arguments on all sides. In the end, it is my belief that we should present ourselves as what we believe true bowhunters should be or aspired to be by others. Leadership is not easy, and some will not like whatever choice is made, but the choice, nonetheless, reflects who we are and will be in the future. I choose to be a bowhunter.

In the end it's about where we came from, who we are, and who we want to be. This Identity Statement leaves little doubt about that. It is welcoming to all who have interests, sets boundaries for development of those that choose our path, and gracious and understanding to those who have already proven themselves. That is mentorship at its root, and it is an essential update for our organization in these times. That's why I support it. *

J & M Traditions



Finest Custom Arrows



**We carry a full line of all
“Traditional Archery Supplies” along with
the “Finest Custom Arrows” anywhere.**

We do our best to follow your arrow designs.
We handle Samick bows, all of Foley Custom Bows,
new and used archery equipment.
Our own “hand” made Flemish & Fast Flight bow strings.

Call Jim or Marcia at anytime!
570-758-2190

1266 Cherry Town Road, Dornsife, PA 17823 USA
JMTradit@aol.com • www.jmtraditions.com

PBS IDENTITY

My thoughts on the Statement

By Mark Viehweg, Life Member

I just returned from a PBS Regional Hunt on Kodiak Island, Alaska. It was a fantastic hunt and experience in all respects. All participants were exceptional hunters and more importantly wonderful to share a camp with. This speaks to the quality of the members of our organization. Not surprisingly, they all carried traditional bows. Of the eight participants, only two had never hunted with a compound. Most of our membership since the onset of the compound in the early 70's has began their bowhunting journey with a compound in hand due to availability and the marketing power of the compound industry. The Identity Statement written by council in the past newsletter addressed this reality. To grow and reach out to the entire bowhunting community, PBS needs to be honest about who we are.

I try to take an honest approach when looking at my strengths and weaknesses when assessing my business or personal life. Who am I and where/what do I plan on achieving in the next year and beyond? PBS needs to do the same. The identity Statement addresses this issue. Why are some within this organization afraid to admit to the outside world of bowhunters that our membership is made up of 97% traditional bowhunters? Mike Vines recently ran a wonderful membership promotion on TradGang. One prospective member, inquired whether the PBS was traditional only. Several members bent over backwards making sure he knew it wasn't and compound shooters are welcome. Why didn't they say PBS is 97% traditional, but always looking for compound shooters looking to continue their journey of challenge? I see it as simply compound guilt from those who at one time shot a compound not wanting to exclude any compound shooters. I've seen on various forums a concern over a spouse, sibling, parent, child, grandparent, etc. being offended by PBS not being more welcoming to the compound shooter. Some declaring they're compound shooting acquaintance as ethical or more ethical with better woodsmanship than those in the PBS membership. They continue to shoot a compound because of greater ethics. I don't disagree that equipment doesn't dictate ethics, but would argue you can be ethical

with a heat seeking missile. So, they don't find us welcoming currently. They haven't joined. Have we asked why? PBS is delusional if it believes the mainstream compound shooter is going to consider joining. They ain't coming on a white horse to save us. We need to actively recruit the compound shooter looking to continue their journey of challenge. PBS needs to offer them a bridge to traditional bowhunting. We espouse knowledge through experience offering our traditional bowhunting expertise to all showing an interest in continuing their own personal journey of challenge. My own brother, one of my best friends from college and best friend as an adult all shot the compound as they were starting out. However, it wasn't long before they were hunting with a traditional bow after I showed them the increased challenge and enjoyment. All shoot longbows/selfbows today with two being PBS Regular Members.

President Akenson in the most recent magazine mentioned in his column the Identity Statement only receiving 60% Council support. What he didn't make clear is the president doesn't vote unless there is a tie on Council. The Identity Statement in actuality received 3-1 or 75% support in Council! He mentioned on the PBS membership forum of concern over losing four members when the Identity Statement was listed in the magazine although it is yet to be approved. Is there the same concern over losing 1200+ members over the past fifteen years? We have had one past president vocally oppose the Identity Statement, who watched 350 members leave during his watch. My concern is how do we grow the organization going forward?

I am going to offer one last line of thought. Those who know me, realize I am a follower of our Lord Jesus Christ through the Roman Catholic Church. With that in mind, I strongly believe in my children being educated within the Catholic School system of Sioux Falls. The enrollment of the Catholic schools are made up of 97% of those of the Catholic faith with other denominations making up the remaining 3%. The non-Catholic's believe in the value of our education system, the safety of the schools, and other shared values. We welcome those of other faiths with open arms.

However, our Catholic Schools only teach our Catholic faith and values. Are the children or parents of other faiths offended? No, because the Catholic schools system are very straight forward and honest in their identity.

Let's be honest about who we are then try to recruit compound shooters looking to grow through their Journey of Challenge. With the new identity statement, PBS should have Clay Hayes run a new promotional video on BowSite, Facebook, etc. asking them to accept the challenge of shooting a bow. 🏹

BOWHUNT 2016 IN WYOMING!

ANTELOPE • hunt 2 private ranches with 80,000 acres. 100% shooting and 82.3% success on P & Y bucks. Licenses available until August 2016.

MULE DEER • hunt a 20,000 acre private ranch. Limit 6 hunters per season to ensure quality.

ELK • hunt the rut in our camps on private and National Forest lands. Excellent success on 5 pt. bulls or larger. Limit of 4 hunters per camp. Licenses available until August 2016.

Experienced Archery Guides
Quality Camps
References Available
Licensing Assistance
Great Food

Table Mtn. Outfitters
P.O. Box 2714-A
Cheyenne, WY 82003
307-632-6352 Lic. #29
Member:
PBS • NRA • NAHC • PRO

Regional Membership Drive!

Sign up 3, Yours is Free!

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

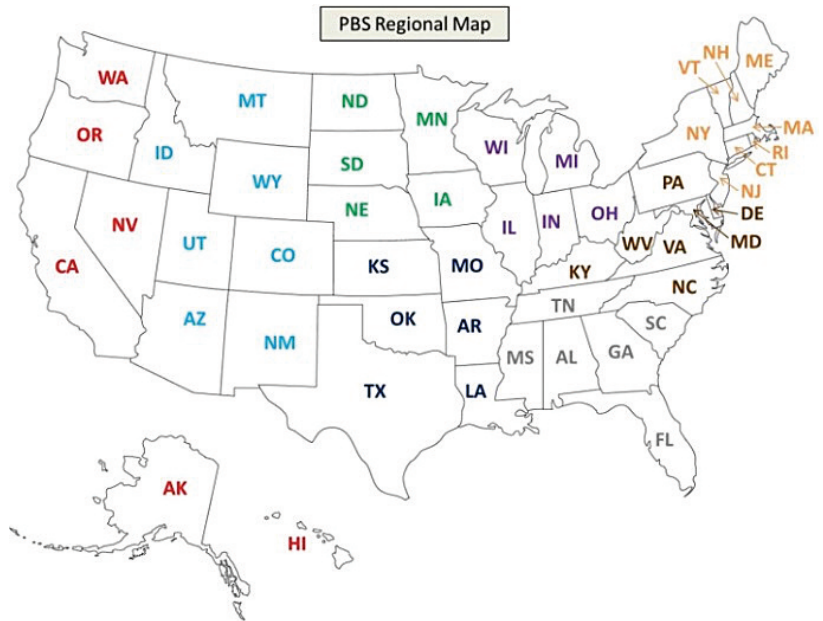
There will be a prize for signing up 3 new members to PBS. You will get 1 year free membership and one of these fine PBS commemorative Mugs!

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



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

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



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

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

Join Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, a group that may love the backcountry more than their spouses.

www.backcountryhunters.org

Candidate Profiles

3 Year Councilman Candidates: Rob Burnham & Dr. Paul Ladner

One vacancy, for every vacancy, there must be a minimum of two candidates.

3 Year Councilman Candidate Dr. Paul Ladner

120 Lakeland Drive, Galesburg, IL 61401
Ph.: 309-341-0238 • paulladner@comcast.net



I consider myself extremely fortunate to have been introduced to the PBS and am proud of my regular membership status. I am running for Council because I want to serve the organization and its members. Having benefitted from my membership I would like to return the favor. I am currently serving as the Illinois rep for the PBS regional program and am on the board of the United Bowhunters of Illinois.

I am excited about the future of the PBS and look forward to many more memories made with friends, some of whom I have yet to meet. The regional representation format and member hunts are a real positive move for the PBS. I hope everyone is able to take part in some PBS member hunts. It is a great way to connect with other PBS members and hunt different places and game.

I was born and raised in the city of Chicago (NW side) and camped and fished with my family in northern Wisconsin and Canada. We also did some epic transcontinental pop-up camper tours. I have visited all 50 states if only for the briefest stays or drive-through. I had no exposure at all to hunting in my youth and early adulthood. Following rabbit tracks in the snow through the Cook County forest preserves is about as close as I came until I was 28 years old. The hare tracks in the snow I saw on Kodiak Island last week pleasantly reminded me of those days.

Thoughts of my first hunt with a borrowed shotgun and no mentoring makes me cringe. I was a gun hunter gone archery in order to extend my season and opportunities. I bought the tricked out Mathews with the bells and whistles and even managed to take a deer with it. The

gadgets and tuning were a frustration for me. I felt if only I had that other rest or that other release... maybe I bumped my 30 yard sight? I needed to get out the Allen wrench and adjust my machine. I fired arrows to tune the device and not myself. I didn't enjoy shooting it.

About the same time I bought that Mathews I met a PBS regular member who lent me a long bow. It immediately changed my outlook. This was it. This was how it is meant to be done. I now could become a hunter. It was me, my quarry and this simplest lethal device. I have had pretty good success but consider myself a mediocre hunter compared to you all.

I am an orthodontist now living and practicing in western Illinois. It may not be anyone's image of paradise, but I am happy to be in a rural community and out of the madness that is a major city in the 21st century. My wife Sheri and I have 4 kids age 16-22, 3 labs, a shih tzu and a couple cats. I own some Illinois farm ground and enjoy habitat improvement as much as hunting. I am not a trophy hunter and will never have any animal I take measured for comparison sake as competition has no place in hunting. I think that is demeaning to the quarry. Every hunt is successful and every animal a trophy.

At the age of 51 I find myself trying to make up for lost time. I feel the need to make some tracks and cover some ground. To that end I have made the best of the connections made in the PBS. I have enjoyed hunts with PBS members across the US including some of the membership hunts. I plan to continue with that and plan to host a member hunt next summer for flying carp on the Illinois River. I will have more to follow about that, but if you might be interested let me know.

The PBS has been a traditional archery group to me and I hope it continues to be that way. I don't see any problem with stating who we are. The United Bowhunters of Illinois did so in recent years and whether or not we are better off we at least have a clear identity. Frankly I would prefer a pure traditional statement now as that would avoid the inevitable dredging up of this issue again in the future. It is not a matter of looking down on anyone it's just stating who we are. No apologies needed.

I am confident of my upcoming vote on the Identity Statement, but I will not abandon this organization based on the outcome. Perhaps I am not as passionate as others. Perhaps I am willing to accept that although the PBS isn't a perfect organization, but it is what we have. I urge all of you to continue to support and participate in the PBS. There is just so much worth while about this special group of bowhunters. 🏹

Candidate Profiles

3 Year Councilman Candidate Rob Burnham

13320 Dove Tree Lane, Rockville, VA 23146
Ph.: 804-402-6900 • rob@burnhamphotography.com

First, I would like to thank those that encouraged me to step up and run for office as well as entrusting me with this extremely important opportunity to represent the members of the Professional Bowhunters Society. My bowhunting journey began in 1978 at the age of 17. Twenty-one years later in 1999 I met a qualified member who introduced me to PBS. I am forever grateful for that introduction which has led to many life long friends, endless bowhunting opportunities and my membership in the best bowhunting organization.

In 2001 I saw a need to include youth in our organization and after spending many hours working out the details with then president, Larry Fischer, I came up with the "Young Bowhunters Program" which I presented to the membership at the San Antonio Banquet and the program was launched. I have been hosting member hunts here in Virginia since 2011, known as the "Rough Mountain Rendezvous". I have worked on several committees and currently chair the Bowhunting Preservation Committee where we have several projects in the works. I am a member of my local archery club, the Dixie Bowman, my state organization the Virginia Bowhunters Association where I served as a club representative along with sitting on the deer planning committee for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

Over fifty years ago a group of men from West Virginia created an organization called the Professional Bowhunters Society. They came together with one common bond that has held up to the test of time, Bowhunting. Little did they know that five decades later this small band of men that made up the society in the beginning, would grow to over a thousand strong with members around the world. We, the current members are responsible for carrying that torch forward and to pass it on to the next generation. So just how do we accomplish this task?

Technology has advanced at an incred-

ible pace and the bows of today have very little resemblance to those around when PBS was created. Inches and fame caused many to push the limits and take short cuts all at the expense of the animals we hunt. Along the way the importance of a kill began to out weigh the reasons for bowhunting. For PBS members, however, the journey is still the key with a kill being a celebrated bonus to a hard hunt. By choice more than 95% of our members choose to limit themselves with regards to technology and short cuts by using traditional equipment. We rely on experience, woodsmanship and dedication. We realize that without the adventure the kill has very little meaning.

This tradition is what we need to capitalize on and where we continue to grow our ranks. The average age of our members increases each year, yet we have not replenished our crop with the seeds of young bowhunters. Most of these budding bowhunters have been sucked into the main stream of instant gratification and tv hunting porn. They don't know any different and if we don't take the time to share our way of doing things how can we expect to exist for another fifty years?

My goal if elected will be to build on the programs we already have in existence as well as to seek out new ways to reach and connect with the younger bowhunting crowd. I understand that many, including myself, don't totally understand the full impact of things like social media and how it can help to share our message. What I do realize however, if we refuse to accept this technology and embrace it for what it can do for our organization, we cannot succeed in reaching this younger generation. Along these lines the Young Bowhunters Program needs to be overhauled and made a priority. Next I will fully support the Regional Representative Program and continue to look at ways to promote it. This program along with the member hunts are two key elements to our growth. Having hosted and attended several of these member hunts, I can vouch



for their importance. Next I would like to see PBS continue to build relationships with all traditional organizations, local, state and national.

We have made some great strides over the past few years, but we need to keep the momentum going. There has been a resurgence of members applying for Qualified membership. We have implemented the Regional Program and member hunts are at an all time high. I propose that we concentrate on what the PBS is all about and avoid being negative by preaching what we are not. If we don't get non members through our doors to show them how we do things, how can we expect them to join. A person will ultimately decide if PBS is for them. If they are of the same mindset with the same dedication and desire to do things the hard way, they will become one of us. If elected my primary responsibility will be to represent the membership and act as your voice. My door will always be open as well as my campfire. If I don't have the answer I promise I will get it. If any member has questions don't hesitate to contact me.

In closing I would like to thank each member for your support, understanding and taking the time to read the council profiles.

Feathers in the wind
>>~~Rob Burnham~~>>

PBS – Regionally Speaking

By Jeff Holchin and Steve Hohensee
Fourth 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 abbreviated reports for the second and fourth quarter magazines. We've had at least six regional membership hunts so far this fall with at least five more hunts planned before the Banquet in March 2016. This is a great thing and we need to have even more regional membership hunts next year. There is still a little time remaining to schedule a bowhunt and/or fishing trip before or after the upcoming Banquet in Florida.

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

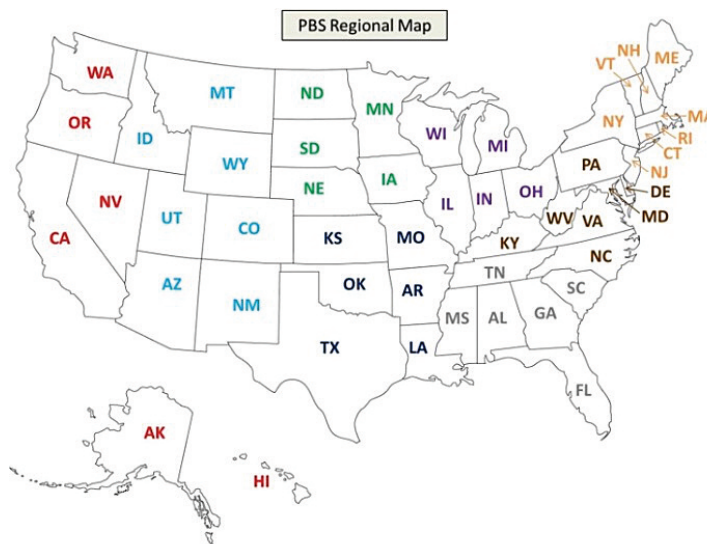
The current Regional Representatives are as follows:

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

Pacific West Report

(Washington, Oregon, Nevada, California, Alaska, Hawaii)
by Tom Vanasche – Regional Representative

Oregon has now legalized lighted nocks. We are still holding off crossbows and expandable broad heads. Fortunately our game commission voted to delist the gray wolf, much to the dismay of the anti hunting crowd. It does not mean we can hunt them yet but it is the first step in that process. Our combo deer and elk seasons have ended but late season blacktail hunting is on now. Jim Aken-son led a group of PBSers to southern Oregon for a membership



hunt of the wily blacktail deer. The hunt is not over at the time of this writing but no arrows had been flung at this primarily nocturnal deer.

Eight PBS bowhunters just returned from the Kodiak Island Membership Hunt. Five Sitka blacktailed deer were hung from the camp meat pole by Mark Viehweg (SD), Joe Lasch (WI), Ben Pinney (AK), Mike Schneider (AK), and Steve Anderson (MN). Paul Ladner (IL), Steve Hohensee (AK), and Greg Szalewski (WI) were said to have either scared deer and/or to have killed rogue birch trees in the process. Mike Schneider not only arrowed the largest buck of the trip but was voted "Best Camper" and awarded a memorable prize! Tales and photos from the hunt can be viewed on the PBS website. Remember after this coming July, to bow hunt in Alaska, you will need a bowhunting education certificate.

Rocky Mountain West Report

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

By Dan Mathis

Bill Kissner hosted a successful elk hunt in Colorado in September, with many wapiti encounters and one nice bull killed. There is an upcoming regional membership Hunt in Arizona for deer/javelina: January 1 - January 10, 2016. Contact Rick Wildermuth for details.

Great Plains Central Report

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

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

John Vargo is taking reservations for the 2016 Spikebox Ranch hog hunt in Texas; Feb. 8-12 and 15-19

Great Lakes Report

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

by Ron Lang

I just got back from a PBS Membership hunt in Colorado and hope to have a story to follow. A big thank you goes out to Bill and Jeannie Kissner for sponsoring this hunt. If other membership hunts went as well as this one, we should have many good stories for the magazine. Wisconsin's whitetail deer season is in full swing as I write this. New for Wisconsin deer hunters will be electronic registration of harvested deer. You can register by either your cell-phone or computer. Some registration stations will still register your kill if you bring it in. It will be interesting to see how the system will work because while convenient for many not all hunters have moved into the technology age. Tradition is a big deal in Wisconsin and some resist change. Meeting at deer registration stations was a big deal for many and only time will tell. There is also a bill in the legislature to do away with the required back tag hunters must wear when deer or bear hunting. It has strong backing as of this writing and could pass. While most bowhunters find the back tag a nuisance and would support this, land owners like to be able to ID who is on their land. Another proposed change in Wisconsin is adding "blaze pink" to the already required wearing of "blaze orange" during a firearms season. You would be able to wear either. During any firearm season bowhunters are also required to wear blaze orange and now maybe blaze pink. In more whitetail deer news Native Americans won the right to hunt deer at night on the ceded territories which is a large portion of northern Wisconsin. The judge based her opinion on the fact if the Wisconsin Legislature could allow non-Indian hunters to shoot wolves at night then it was safe for native hunters to shoot deer at night. The Legislature rescinded the night shooting of wolves and Wisconsin no longer has a wolf season but the right to shoot deer at night by Native Americans still stands.

In other news a black bear over 700lbs was harvested by a young girl near Rice Lake, Wisconsin. Wisconsin does produce some dandies. While I don't know what weapon she used Wisconsin does have a lesser weapon law so you can use a bow. It takes 7 to 8 years to draw a Wisconsin bear tag in the good zones. Wisconsin is also in its second year of full inclusion for the cross-bow and some interesting numbers are surfacing. In short, gun license sales are down while archery licenses are up. Cross bow license sales are up while bow licenses are down. What a surprise! On a closing note the Ojibwa PBS Odd Year Gathering was a huge success despite hot weather and a little rain. A big thanks to Jerry Leveille, Brian Tessmann, and the rest of the Ojibwa Club members (too many to mention) for the wonderful time, food, and preparation.

Also, Jeff Holchin hosted a regional membership hunt in Ohio in November for deer and turkeys. Two nice whitetail bucks were killed and everybody saw deer and/or had chances; no turkeys killed.

Northeastern Report

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

by Terry Receveur

Sean Bleakly hosted a regional membership hunt for deer in the Catskill region of New York in October. No deer were harmed this time.

Appalachia Report

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

by Gene Thorn – Regional Representative

Reports from State Regional Reps in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and here in West Virginia indicate that early tallies of deer taken in early bow seasons in this region are up due to a scarcity of acorns causing deer to move more for food. There have been a lot of big bucks taken this fall.

The PBS Appalachian Region 5th annual Rough Mountain 2015 Membership Hunt was held October 17-25, 2015. It was beautiful weather and I had a great time sharing the camp and fellowship around the campfire with the guys that attended. The food was great too! Duane brought two cookies that we shared. Besides tasting great, the impressive thing was that they were made in #9 cast iron skillets. Monster cookies for sure! Rob Burnham has written about the hunt below. I am looking forward to St. Augustine in March! I hope to see you there.

Report for the Rough Mountain Rendezvous: Rob Burnham - Another great camp took place in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. In attendance: from Virginia - Ed Frye, Sean Frye, Duane Means, Rob Burnham & Wes Burnham, from West Virginia - Gene Thorn, from Florida - George Galan, from Utah - Craig Burris. We had a great week of hunting with excellent campfire stories and discussions. No game was taken on this hunt, most likely due to the lack of mast crop and the increase of coyotes in the area. The fall colors were just about at peak creating a beautiful backdrop for the gathering of a fine group of PBS members. Our youngest member in camp, Sean Frye, did get his first ever shot with a recurve at a nice doe, but the arrow missed it's mark. Sean didn't seem to be disappointed in the least and was still shaking from the excitement of the hunt.

In PA, any treestands, blinds etc. left on game lands and other tracts managed by the Game Commission must be tagged with owner identification. The CWD rules have been amended so that deer carcasses can be imported from OH, MD, NY, VA and WVA.

Southeast Report

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

by Ethan Rodrigue – Regional Representative

Jeff Holchin will be hosting a regional membership hog hunt near coastal Savannah, Georgia from January 30 to February 7, 2016. This area can only be hunted by boat and three 3-day slots will be available to choose from, with previous hunt attendees getting first dibs on these slots. Would like to limit it to ten hunters per time slot if possible. Contact Jeff for details or watch the web site.

International Report

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

By Richard Flett – Regional Representative

No report. ☹

Member Photos



*"And the Lord opened up the Golden Gates for His deer to see and said,
"Behold. As a provider to mankind, you are welcome into My heaven."
~ submitted by Gene Wensel*



Michael Green took this boar a year ago using an old Wensel Woodsman head and Owen Jeffrey bow.

PBS 2016 Biennial Gathering – St. Augustine, FL

Gathering Donations Needed!

The Gathering in St. Augustine is just around the corner and we need more donated items for auction and raffle. With this event serving as a primary source of our organization's finances it is critical that the Gathering is a success. We have a beautiful facility arranged, lots of great programs and activities on slate. Hopefully you can both donate something and also be present for the festivities! This site was selected because of the incredible Florida weather, scenery, and things to do in the area when the rest of the country is still in an ice-box! For those of you who have not attended a Gathering, they are incredible opportunities to meet like-minded bowhunters, learn of new places for bowhunting adventures, and generally enjoy the comradery of an incredible bunch of bowhunters. In sum, please make a donation and also get registered to celebrate the beginning of spring in sunny Florida!

Thank You!
~Jim Akenson

Donations may be mailed directly to:

Nathan Fikkert
9705 Southeast First Place
Gainesville, FL 32607
920-296-7958
nathanfikkert@att.net

(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



March 3–6, 2016
PBS Biennial Gathering
St. Augustine, Florida

R

RENAISSANCE®

WORLD GOLF VILLAGE RESORT
ST AUGUSTINE

*“Outstanding will be there
again. Great service, food,
golf, easy to get around to
Jacksonville and St. Augustine”*

- CW Hibbs

As reviewed on September 12, 2015

Discover!

Our hotel in St. Augustine is the perfect getaway! Located within minutes of everything you need for a weekend getaway, business stay, golf retreat, wedding or meeting. A golfer's paradise, our hotel features on-site golfing at two exceptional championship courses as well as the World Golf Hall of Fame museum. Relax and rejuvenate at The Spa at World Golf Village, a short shuttle ride from the hotel. Enjoy an evening of fine dining at our award-winning Villaggio Italian Grille after spending the day exploring historic St. Augustine,

Hotel Details

24-Hour Fitness Center & Game Room
Resort Shop – We Proudly Serve Starbucks
Outdoor Pool
Concierge
Mini-Fridge in all guestrooms
Flat-Screen TV in all guestrooms

Local Attractions

World Golf Hall of Fame Museum
IMAX Movie Theatre
St. Augustine Outlet Malls
Fountain of Youth
Spanish Quarter/St. George Street
Alligator Farm

Golf

Slammer & Squire – King & Bear – PGA Tour Academy

Property Highlights:

- World Class Golf
- Excellent Location
- Award Winning Chef
- Service Excellence
- Amenities Galore

Reservations

Room Rate is \$134.00. Use the Promo Code “PBS” when making reservations.

For Reservations Call 877-212-5752 or go to

<https://resweb.passkey.com/go/PROFESSIONALBOWHUNTERSOCIETY>



Guest Speakers



Friday Evening Speaker: TJ Conrad

T.J. Conrads is the Editor/Publisher/Founder of Traditional Bowhunter® Magazine, the number one publication serving the traditional archer/bowhunter for over 27 years. Although he primarily hunts with a longbow, he is also a devout fly-fisherman and hunts upland game and waterfowl with his trusty side-by-side 20-gauge shotgun. T.J. and his wife, Robin, live in a log home on a small ranch located in the high desert of Idaho.



Saturday Evening Speaker: Monty Browning

Monty Browning lives in Central, SC with his high school sweetheart, first date and wife of forty five years, Annie B. He is proudly her cook and house boy.

Monty has bowhunted around the world paid for --by climbing and topping dead trees for forty plus years. Monty is a blue collar bowhunter shooting heavy longbows and arrows. His favorite game animal today is Alaskan Yukon Moose. Monty has always supported those organizations that support hunters and gun owners. His latest accomplishment was publishing his book, "Bowhunting, A Passion For Life."

When asked about the upcoming banquet Monty said he was excited and working hard to present an evening worthy of the members.

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

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

Jacksonville Airport Transportation

Contact East Coast Transportation with your arrival and departure times and they will set up the most logical transportation for the group from the airport.



You MUST make a reservation with East Coast Transportation to use the FREE shuttle!

Use the PBS Specific Link at:

www.ectjax.com/pbs-transportation-link/

or call the 24 Hour Reservations Number: 904-525-8600

East Coast Transportation (904) 525-8600 or (888) 932-3932

14125 Beach Boulevard, Jacksonville, FL 32250 • info@ectjax.com

PBS Magazine • Fourth Quarter 2015



PBS 2016 Biennial Gathering – St. Augustine, FL



PROFESSIONAL BOWHUNTERS SOCIETY



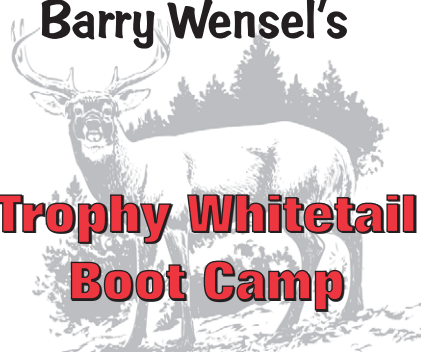
FOUR FOR FLORIDA RAFFLE

#1

Barry Wensel's



Trophy Whitetail Boot Camp



Learn tips and tricks for taking monster whitetail deer.

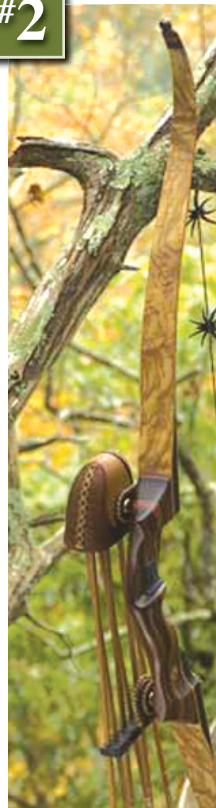
Choose from two dates: #1-March 17-18-19, 2016;

#2-March 31, April 1-2, 2016. \$895 Value!

For more information visit: www.brothersofthebow.com



#2



Black Widow Bow

\$1,200 Value!

www.blackwidowbows.com

#3



Great Northern Bowhunting Co. Bow*

**Snakeskin and Limb Hinge not included.*

www.gnbco.com

#4

Fedora Bow

www.fedorabows.com



Tickets are \$10 each or 6 for \$50

Drawing to be held Saturday, March 5, 2016
at the PBS Banquet in St. Augustine, Florida.

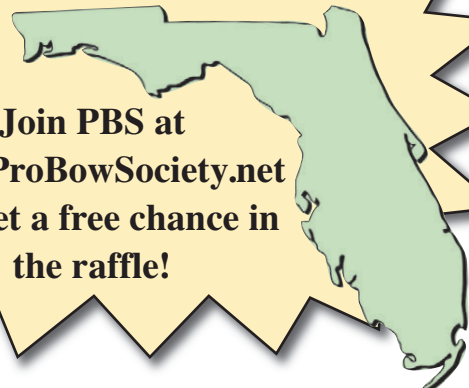
Do not need to be present to win.

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

**Payment and completed ticket stubs must be
turned in by March 1, 2016 to the PBS Office.**

Special Offer!

Join PBS at
www.ProBowSociety.net
and get a free chance in
the raffle!





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 MATT SCHUSTER, 1663 IVEY RD., WARRENTON, GA 30828. 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.***



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
(any bow from the five categories)

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

Fishing Opportunities

Native Fly Charters

Capt. Willy Le
Mosquito Lagoon

Chasing reds about an hour to hour and half south of St Augustine.

321-303-7805

www.nativeflycharters.com

Sea Love Charters

St Augustine

Deep sea fishing for Snapper, Grouper, Amberjack, Wahoo, Tuna, Billfish, Dolphin, Cobia, Shark

904-824-3328

www.sealovefishing.com

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



2016 Biennial Gathering Contact Info

Donations may be mailed directly to:

Nathan Fikkert
9705 Southeast First Place
Gainesville, FL 32607
920-296-7958
nathanfikkert@att.net

(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:

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

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



The Dream Bull of a Lifetime

By Dennis Dunn

When a hunter goes afield, expectations are one thing; dreams are usually quite another. Only rarely in life does reality arrive on the scene to overwhelm both expectations AND dreams — and utterly take your breath away. Yet this is exactly what happened to me in Arizona this past September. I'm still floating three feet off the ground, pinching myself constantly, and asking, "Did that really happen to me?"

For 16 long years, I had been applying for an archery elk tag in the Grand Canyon State, and finally — in 2015 — I got drawn. The season opened on Friday, September 11th. Because, for out-of-staters, these draw-tags are usually a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, I had arranged for guiding services with Travis McLendon and Arizona Elk Outfitters. The outstanding guide he assigned me was Lane Buck from Cottonwood, Ariz. (about whom I cannot say enough).

For the first six days of the season, Lane and I hunted hard but saw a grand total of

just one branch-antlered bull. He was in his bed midday, and my stalk went for naught when an unseen cow and spike bull bedded near him spotted me and spooked before I could get any closer than 50 yards. The rut was just not happening! Of Travis' 16 bowhunters scattered around the best archery elk units in the State, not one had put a bull on the ground in six days of hunting! Very few bulls were talking at all, and nothing was responding to our calling. Then on the seventh morning of the hunt, our luck turned. We managed before sun up to get in between two bulls that started talking to each other. As we zeroed in on the first bull, the second one began to come in from behind us. By the sound of their voices, the one in front, upwind, seemed much the bigger and more killable. Suddenly, a bugle from him convinced us he was fewer than 100 yards away.

At that point, we were just inside the edge of a large patch of junipers and pinion pines, looking in his direction across 50

yards of open meadow. I immediately pulled my face-mask down out of my camo-cap and quietly hot-footed it across the open ground to the nearest patch of brush on the fringe of the next big patch of junipers. With an arrow now on the string, I was ready for him, regardless of whether he chose to enter the meadow via the forest lane on my left, or via the one on my right. Once I was in position, Lane started chirping and moaning like a cow in heat. For three or four minutes, he kept this up, then fell silent. We heard nothing from our quarry. Lane next made some dull, hollow, popping sounds (called "glunking") by repeatedly hitting the open mouth of his grunt-tube with the open palm of his hand. (He explained to me later that "glunking" is the sound a bull often makes while he is mounting a hot cow.)

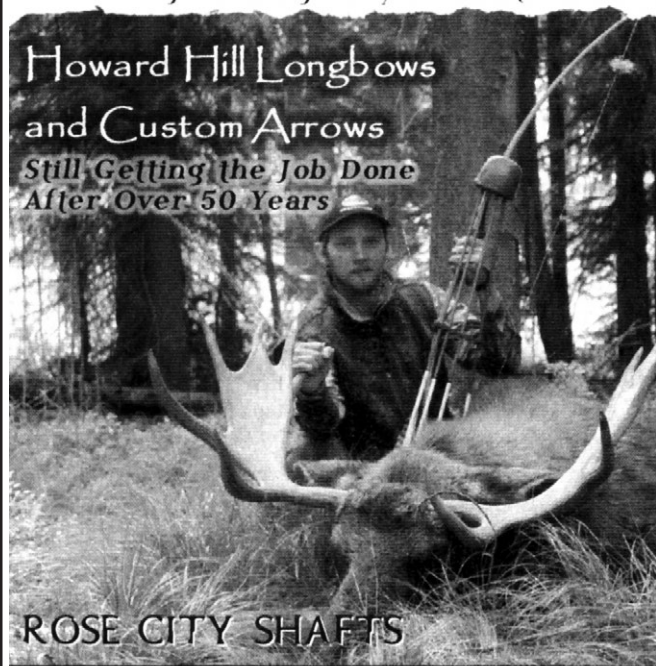
That was all that was needed! Instantly, the bull we were after let out an enraged scream of challenge and decided to abandon his cover. Thirty yards from me, a cow

Howard Hill Archery

Longbows Designed by "The Master"

Howard Hill Longbows
and Custom Arrows

Still Getting the Job Done
After Over 50 Years



ROSE CITY SHAFTS

Howard Hill Archery
54 N. Canyon Dr.
Hamilton, MT 59840

email @howardhillarchery.com
www.howardhillarchery.com
406-363-1359

POPE AND YOUNG CLUB



*Ensuring bowhunting for future generations
by preserving and promoting its heritage and values*

- FRATERNAL MEMBERSHIP
- RECORDS PROGRAM
- CONSERVATION PROGRAM
- MUSEUM OF BOWHUNTING
- ETHICS & RULES OF FAIR CHASE

NEWS

- * "A Traditional Journey" is now available, selling for \$36.95ppd.

Demonstrate your support for bowhunting
by joining:

Pope & Young Club
Box 548

Chatfield, MN 55923

(507) 867-4144

www.pope-young.org

entered the meadow first, heading in Lane's direction. Then all of a sudden, the herdmeister, which we had never laid eyes on till that very moment, appeared 40 yards away, trotting toward me with his head held high — and possessed of the biggest set of antlers I'd ever seen alive on the hoof. At thirty yards he stopped briefly, gave my inert figure a quick glance, and — seeing nothing that alarmed him — changed direction by about 90 degrees and began walking in the direction of the well-hidden "glunker." Immediately I drew my Suzanne St.Charles cedar shaft, moved my bow arm along with the moving target, and quickly released the 720-grain missile for its rendezvous with destiny.

I'm always most grateful for any providential assistance at such moments, and I do believe the Almighty had a hand in the happy outcome. Paced off later, it was a 32-yard shot. The arrow struck the bull just behind the last rib and ended up in the far lung. The stricken bull accelerated from four to 40 in nothing flat, and his death run carried him about 250 yards before he crashed into the near edge of the second big patch of junipers. We didn't witness the crash, but it was probably all over in 60 - 90 seconds. Everything had come together and happened so fast, Lane and I were in disbelief. He had seen neither the bull nor the hit, but I assured him the bull was a "keeper" and the hit was good. The sudden thunder of many hooves quickly suspended our jubilation, and we turned our heads to see the abandoned harem of 24 cows hightailing it across the open meadow in the direction of their recently-departed ruler and slave-master.

As for the trophy bull, how good was he? Well, I'll let the photos speak for themselves. I had prayed at the outset of the season that I might be blessed with the taking of a Pope & Young quality bull (something I had never accomplished previously). For most bowhunters, that is dream enough come true — especially for the traditional archer like myself. Something like the harvest of a true Boone & Crockett giant had never even entered my head as a possibility! And yet, that is, indeed, what happened on Thursday, September 17th, at 6:45 am in the elk country of legendary Coconino County. I think I'll be pinching myself for the rest of my life! ♣



Dennis Dunn had prayed at the outset of the season that he might be blessed with the taking of a Pope & Young quality bull...for most bowhunters, that is dream enough come true...something like the harvest of a true Boone & Crockett giant had never even entered his head as a possibility!



Why attend the Biennial Gathering? Why not!

By Paul Ladner

Sure it might be at quite a distance from home, but hey it's Florida in January. Maybe you can combo the meeting with a hog hunt, fishing outing, golf trip or beach vacation. There is great fellowship and networking with the world's greatest bow hunters. There will be great presentations and entertaining speakers at the banquets. There will be bow and arrow competitions and a photo contest. There are lunch and sightseeing activities for spouses and activities for youth.

Those things are all great and I would go for any of those reasons, but the icing on the cake is the auctions, both silent and oral. I am a sucker for a great value and for the PBS. The auction proceeds benefit the PBS activities for the next two years. Why not be generous for a cause you care about? The list of things I have won at the auction over the years looks like the list of the entire auction billing! Bows, arrows, quivers, artwork (OK the bows, arrows and quivers were all works of art) and trips.

Bob Brillhart self bows are crazy awesome. I own a couple and I have hunted with them all long enough to take deer with each. They are extremely well made and functional bows, but I can't bring myself to tote them around in the woods after baptizing them in blood. Not saying I would never take them hunting again but now they hang in prominent places for all to enjoy their beauty.

I own a Monty Browning self bow too. One of the "It had to be fate" bows mentioned in his recent book. Then there is the Brad Jansen longbow that is my killingest bow. Well made and good shooting. I love it. There are other bows too and I have shot them all, but you get the idea.

There are dozens of arrows of all spine weights (some came tipped with Eclipse broad heads to boot!) If you like to shoot different bows (especially self bows) you need to have a variety of arrows to try. The "lifetime guaranteed" flint tipped cane arrows from Sterling Holbrook are still un-shot. They are all handmade works of art as well.

Birch bark quivers, otter pelt quivers, leather quivers, armguards, handmade baskets, framed pictures... the list goes on. Owning any of these wonderful items is owning part of PBS history and that is precious to me.

I know it sounds like I won everything at auction, but what I describe is just the tip of the iceberg. Others walked away with many items I wish I got. My mom told me to share, so I try.


Stuff is nice to have but memories are impossible to purchase. There are many to be made at the meeting and more to be made on trips. Yes I have won a couple of those too. The Larry Fischer cabin in Idaho was a great base of operations for my family summer vacation to explore Yellow-

stone. It included a great collection of fly fishing equipment as well.

At the last auction I won the Molokai condo stay/hunting trip. It took a bit more to win than some of the other things, but wow what a neat adventure and talk about experiencing PBS history. Other PBSers have written of it in the magazine in the past and I found it to live up to my expectations. I was the only hunter in our party so I didn't hit it too hard, but got into game and had opportunities. A serious hunter could have a serious good time hunting the island paradise.

The connections I have made while attending these meetings have resulted in opportunities to hunt bear in Quebec, stingrays in Virginia, hogs in Georgia, mule deer in South Dakota, antelope in Montana, elk... It makes my head spin to think of what the PBS has done for my hunting. Who knows what connections I will make this year! I have also had the privilege of hosting PBS members to hunt Illinois whitetails. I am only too glad to be able to reciprocate.

If you have never attended one of the biennial meetings or you have never missed a single one (if so you know why I am excited) plan to attend this one and make some connections, learn some things, support the PBS and have a good time. I will see you there. ♣



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

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



My Saskatchewan Bear Hunt

aka Phil Connors wins!

By Ron Herman

I was sitting on a stand named "Roger's Bait" as Roger Rothhaar shot a very nice bear at this same bait a couple years earlier that measured over 20 inches. So I had just seen one of the biggest bears in my life and did not shoot as it walked directly away from me before dark as the quad was rolling in on the trail to pick me up. So ended my hunt in the area of Carrot River, SASK the first week of June, 17 years ago to the date. Now here I sit a few miles down the road from this original hunt with a new guide service collecting my thoughts and trying to calm my shaking hands and labored breathing as I just stuck a good arrow in the largest bear I had seen all week. Time was 4:30pm and I was waiting on the death bawl.

Six months earlier I decided to finally take the hunt I had dreamed of and wished for over the past almost two decades. My first hunt was possibly one of the best hunts of my life even without arrowing a bear. I was hunting with a good friend (Phil Harris) who got a nice bear and met a man I had only read about named Roger Rothhaar and his oldest son Ron who were also in camp that week. I called the original guide service and they stopped bear hunting a couple years ago as apparently the price of canola is through the roof so they decided to maximize their farming and skip the spring baiting and hunting tradition. Then I tried an up and coming guide and camp in Manitoba that has quite a bit of success with some really nice bears but he was booked solid through 2017 and I was not willing to go on standby list and wait for someone to cancel. My schedule was not

that flexible and frankly, I was not willing to chance waiting another year or two and wanted to strike while the iron was hot and wife is in agreement and my bank statement concurred it was possible. I found Kent and Lori of Rock Ridge Outfitters in Carrot River, SASK and after speaking with him a couple times and then asking for reviews from some people within PBS and a couple of the online forums...I had a good vibe. Especially since Kent hunted with traditional bows and had his stands set up predominately at the 16-18yd distance and about 8 feet high. Sounded like my kind of place and I had been shooting my longbow for a while and doing quite well with it.

Final plans were made and all my friends backed out for that week so I was solo but slots filled quickly. Soon I was on the flight north with a new Pelican 65qt cooler holding my rubber boots and some wool shirts and jackets while my duffel had the majority of my other gear. I arrived in Saskatoon and then after getting a rental car headed to Cabelas to buy the bear tag and non-resident license and hit the road for the 5 hour drive north to the location north east of Carrot River. I arrive near midnight and am welcomed by Kent as he leads me across the river in my rental. He asks if I wanted to park it and shuttle my gear in his truck as it was up a little but was only a foot or so...I told him all rental cars were four wheel drive and I would just turn the radio up louder. At which time he laughed and said, "Right On" in his joyous accent.

The next day, Sunday, the remaining hunters were to arrive so I volunteered to help in any prep work so soon myself and the guide, Jordan, were on two quads and out for 8 hours to re-bait 9 different bait locations in the Pasquah Hills area we would be hunting. After putting beavers, oats, cake frosting at baits as required and checking tracks and scat while also felling some trees for some muddy areas for a new crossing...the long day finally came to an end and upon our return I met the rest of the hunters. Jim is from Chicago and his friend Charlie from New Hampshire were to stay in the first floor of my cabin. Todd and his son Lucas and their good friend Charlie were in the other cabin. So six of

us in camp and all of us shooting traditional bows. I was stoked.

The first day I see a beautiful cinnamon boar at the bait named Pumpkin Man. Perfect coat, no rubs, nice head but not real large...guessing maybe a 3-4 year bear. He still had that lanky look so I had told myself the past 17 years I would not shoot the first bear unless it was a hog....and even on last day would not shoot a lanky bear. I quickly second guessed that choice after seeing that Jim shot a similar bear at his stand that was a nice black the first night and about the same size I suspected as the cinnamon. That decision to not shoot would haunt me but decided to stick with my goal of a nice representative boar or nothing. The second night I see nothing at same stand and the third night nothing comes in before dark again. I was concerned but could hear movement around me but nothing in bait. Then right after dark in the gray light...I hear branches break as something large walks in and then two fat light colored bears come in that I guess are 2nd year cubs as they were immediately followed by a huge black sow...as wide as she was tall. They were fearless and instead of popping her teeth and grunting...she went straight for the bait without hesitation. She also did not run far when I was picked up by the guide a moment later.

The next day I go to a new stand, it was called "Bill tuh sutts" as a fellow named Bill took two shots at a bear...so it was named (Bill Two Shots). First hour I see a big bear coming...huge bear...blonde through the trees. It comes and walks by the barrel and I draw and focus on a spot on the side and then notice a ripple effect in the fur that I have always been told indicated a sow possibly. So I let down slowly and start scrutinizing the bear...wide head, beautiful unrubbed blond coat, beautiful white chevron on its chest...but start thinking it is sow for some reason...the fur, the narrow nose...and then I see another bear following. I get ready to see a black cub and a blonde sibling come in 15 minutes after the sow entered. Whew!!! I was THIS CLOSE to letting loose my Douglas fir shaft I put together just the week before for this hunt. 10 minutes later another bear is coming so I get ready...black...looks good...wait...wait...damn, another cub...so now there are three 2nd year cubs on the bait with a beautiful sow that anyone would be

~ continued on page 32



Ron Herman, 17 years ago in a camp 3 miles down the road from his current location, posing with Phil Harris' bear.

My Saskatchewan bear hunt

~ continued from page 31

proud to have shot. So I wait and film and snap pictures as she feeds...occasionally running off something in the woods around us. I hoped it was a boar and she was about to kick out her cubs as they did not travel with her and left before she did this night. Jordan said he was proud I did not shoot this sow as she was a very good bear. One of the other hunters said that in any other camp...most guys would have shot her as that hide was phenomenal and she was a trophy herself. I was sure I made the right decision as another told me that while they try not to shoot a sow nobody would blame me for that bear as she was awesome. Still I was determined not to shoot a sow no matter how pretty or large if at all possible.

I related the events and everyone thinks the cubs are about to get kicked to the curb so I go again a second afternoon and the same sow appears....with her straggling line of cubs that come in one at a time, many minutes apart. This time the cubs kept winding or hearing something and running off while the sow would continue to eat. Then the sow would get up and walk with purpose in one direction or the other and again chase something away...huffing and snapping. Quite exciting but I never saw the culprits but she was adamant to not let them in...thinking it was a boar I thought it was a matter of time. Later she rips the beaver out and takes it off behind the bait and I can see her covering it up with leaves or dirt with her front paws throwing dirt by a tall poplar tree. Suddenly she tears off and I see a flagging shape in white and the sow changes directions as I catch glimpses of gray and black and off white...and then hear a YIP. It was wolves that were harassing her the past two days...she must have connected with the one that yipped. I hear them around me but can't see anything and then catch the shoulder and rear of a gray with black maned wolf enter the bush on a small clearing behind me and departing. Wow!!! Five minutes later I see her on the side trail and she lets out a tremendous roar...as goose bumps stood on my arms and neck. She then came back to the bait and laid in wait at the trail intersections and listened as the cubs returned to feast. This bear was the boss of this bait and it was likely her core area as even though she would leave the cubs alone unprotected or they would leave her behind...they always met back at the barrels as a place to interact but not yet fully depart from each other's presence. Then she alerted and I see a black bear cir-

cling behind me and she chases it off and on for an hour but the black bear is persistent and actually makes it into the bait for about 2 minutes before getting its fanny smacked by blonde-momma. It was a young boar and then it was dark. Another night without a shot opportunity.

The antics were discussed and Jordan and I decided that I would go out right after breakfast and hunt all day until dark. I would start at "Bill tuh sutts" and see if a boar comes in as it has to be close for her to kick out her cubs and now with a boar circling her as well. Then he would bring some water and a sandwich around 2pm and we would see how it went if no shot and decide whether to stay or go somewhere else.

Saturday, the 6th day of the hunt and my final day, started as the others...an almost GROUND HOG DAY experience. You see, on my first hunt 17 years ago I would see the same bears all afternoon over and over and never took a shot. Looking for that perfect shot on a perfect bear and second guessing whether all of them were boars or sows or too young or something else which turned out to be excuses NOT TO SHOOT for fear of doing something wrong or missing. I was new to traditional archery really...having only been shooting for 6 years or more but not a lot of hunting success with multiple military deployments and not a lot of time left free for hunting when I was home with a family. So every day was the same but different and an article I wrote for PBS and also the Traditional Bowhunters of Maryland newsletter was titled Ground Hog Day and here I was again in same region experiencing the same comedy of activities day after day with this sow. So 2pm arrives and it is more of the same...I have decided I am going to leave. Jordan had mentioned a new bait not used in a

few weeks that has heavy activity and he had baited it up again a couple times this week just in case I needed a fresh bait to try. So I tell him I would like to try Pumpkin Man again...and if a boar walks in that is great...but if not I am resolved to go home without a bear and know it was an outstanding experience and he worked his tail off for me. So off we head for quite some distance to the other side of the area and to the bait. We arrive and he says it has been hit from that morning when he put a fresh beaver out. We find chocolate hair on the tree and a nice Coke can sized turd on the main trail from the meadow that runs under my stand to the clearing to my right. So I smile, get settled as he rides off on the quad. We had agreed that unless I got a bear early I would stay on stand until absolute dark.

Ten minutes after the quad leaves I see brown fur in the trees to my left...circling down wind of the bait. I am thinking it is a nice bear as Kent told me there is a huge brown boar near that bait nobody has gotten. So I get ready and it enters the bait and is a 2nd year cub. Beautiful chocolate coat unrubbed and a little boar. He steals the beaver heart and then licks frosting for about an hour and then leaves. I am settled down and enjoying the sounds and wishing the wind would stop swirling as I hear something behind me and look to see a

DALAA
Olympic Performance
in a Hunting Bow

Silent Shot
"Hunting Quiet"
Anti-Vibration
Shoot "Off the Shelf" or Elevated Rest
Comfortable, Always Warm Grip
No Tools Take-Down

3Rivers Archery
LONGBOW & RECURVE EXPERTS
866-732-8783 Always Open 3RiversArchery.com



Action cam photo a couple of second before the bear moved forward and Ron shot.

chocolate cub walking alone downwind skirting the edge of the meadow...so I hang my bow on limb and sit again. Taking a swig of water I look around and notice movement...dark movement and look and see a large dark mass moving my way from 150 yards away. I pick up my bow and put tension on the string. I see a huge head on a black bear with brown muzzle lumbering my way. Waddling from side to side and built like a Volkswagen... square and short...thick in every proportion. My breathing increases as my heart races and the bear walked directly under my stand on the trail with the large turd...and walks to the beaver carcass but smells the chocolate frosting on the tree. I then marvel as this beast climbs awkwardly and then sits its ample rump on the top of the smaller 30 gallon barrel and hugs the tree in a lovers embrace and goes to town licking up and down on the tree with its back directly facing me. No shot and the substantial rump surrounding the top of the barrel... This went on for quite some time and had just turned on my head-cam...the Sony Action Cam I had on a headband mount to capture whatever I was looking at before and during any shots. Time dragged as my nerves were shot, my adrenaline was making me shake and I had to force myself to breath and exhale as I moved my hand loosely on the grip and fingers alternated between loose and tension on the string. Then it got down and just as its arm went forward I drew...but a quick lurch and it was behind the tree and no shot. Soon it came around again and wanted some frosting from on top of the oats barrel and stood and looked massive and as the arm went forward to expose the vitals I released...only to be shocked as the arrow impacted the barrel and tree behind the bear and exploded in wooden shards of disappointment and regret. How did that happen? I was boring a hole, that arrow should be sticking in the ground covered in blood now...what hap-

pened. My only guess is the nock slipped down the string in my attempt to stay loose and relaxed for the shot. I guess that is a good reason to go to double nocking points. No time to think or regret the action so I pull another arrow and nock it immediately ensuring it was up against my nocking point and tension on string increased while the bear had jumped to the other side of the clearing and was looking at the sound of the breaking wood where some sticks were stacked by the beaver bait. Could it be the bear thought it was just a limb breaking? Then I see the bear looking down the trail it walked earlier and my heart sank as it started lumbering slowly toward the trail and under my stand...then suddenly without warning it turned to take a last taste or smell of the oat barrel and the frosting on top and as the leg went forward I forgot about the earlier shot and released again. This time the shot went true. The next few seconds were a blur as I did not remember shooting but saw the arrow hit high behind the shoulder. The bear launched towards the trail to my left into the bush and at a run I could see my red dyed turkey fletching high on its shoulder and my broadhead silhouetted against the lush green vegetation out low behind the armpit. FULL PENETRATION! I looked and listened and heard the bear crash. I listened another 5 minutes but there was no death moan.

I sat down...shaking, thanking the Lord for this opportunity to hunt in Saskatchewan again after 17 years of dreams; disappointments in not having money or time; of watching bear videos and reading of other bear hunts. I was sorry my buddy Phil was not able to come on this trip...and that other good friends-Mark and Tony, were also unable to join me and how this was a moment I wish I could share with them. I noticed some moisture in my eyes and thought it must be allergies or sweat...though it did not burn. I climb down and check the shot location and see blood everywhere...and look into the trail and can see it for 20 yards into the bush. So I take a picture of the blood and record video of blood, last direction seen and heard and compass heading I took from the stand to last the sound for when we return.

No cell service...so I put on my backpack and break down my bow and decide

to not track the bear with no death bawl. Instead, I choose to hike out and hope the guide is waiting at the rendezvous point 3.5 miles away. I start the walk and it reminds me of humping a ruck in the military or climbing the Cascades as I was going through Survival School 20 years earlier. Finally I make it to the area and no truck... just the prepositioned quads that never have keys in them. What? There is a key...someone messed up and I am so glad...so after walking over 3 miles I ride another 3 miles and get one bar on my phone to text Kent that I shot a bear, it says, "good blood, full penetration, no death bawl, tell Jordan to bring help as it is big."

Jordan and Kent's son-in-law return and after we all pile on quad to head to the bait...we finally arrive. We track the bear and Jordan thanks me for a blood trail that RAY CHARLES could follow. We laugh but I am scared the bear would be lost still. I read too much of bears being like hogs and the wound clogging with fat or hair and blood trails that look promising fizzle out with unrecovered animals. I was optimistically pessimistic. Thirty minutes later we have a bear down and stiff as a board already. It must have died when I heard it crash. The three of us dragged it to the bait area to load on the quad after lots of sweating and grunting. It is a long ride out with a guide on front, another guide driving, a bear on the back and me on the bear. I am sure we exceeded every weight rating for that quad between us and the bear but who cared...I was on cloud-nine. A long night of skinning, caping and then doing a gutless-meat cutting to pull the back-straps, both shoulders and both hams from the bear ensued. We were done around 1am and dead tired so I go to my cabin to shower before eating as I was covered with sweat and dirt and blood and stink and lots of ticks from the bear.

During dinner everyone wanted to hear the story of my day after congratulations were received. Jim and Charlie had left earlier after breakfast so they were not there but Todd, Lucas and Charlie came in later after searching for their own bears. Jordan and I retold the track and recovery tales as I was quite emotional after this roller coaster of anticipation and then melancholy and then hope and then elation swept through me this day. Videos were watched and pictures taken...I was a very pleased and blessed hunter.

Preliminary measurement of the skull was right at 19"...maybe slightly more or less as it was not cleaned completely and was measured at 1am after hours of work... but should be close for a green score. The weight that

~ continued on page 34

My Saskatchewan bear hunt

~ continued from page 33

night was recorded as 206 by myself since I was reading the scale. This week after thinking, I informed Kent that I forgot to put the calibration weights back and lock the bar in place on his scale and apologized and told him that in addition to the 100# disc that is attached to the weight bar...I had placed one marked 200# on top of it so I hoped it was not lost since I failed to put it back where I got it originally. Kent told me, that was a 306# bear you got then if you put the 200# disc on the scale...not a 206# bear as you thought. You read the scale wrong, "That is a NICE BEAR!" Kent had gone to a wedding so I did the weighing myself and Jordan did the skull measurements before we put the meat and skull and hide in the freezer.

I made it home to Charleston, SC, with a cooler full of meat...a nice skull and anticipation of a hide being tanned and returned in the future. A final scoring of the skull after it is cleaned and dried came out to 18 1/8"...and now that I know it was actually a 306# bear it makes me in awe more than ever.

One other change of note....when drag-

ging the bear out we discovered it was a dry sow. I really had no idea and apologized to Jordan and Kent for taking one as she was a great breeder especially if she was the same black sow with the chocolate cubs I saw earlier. Obviously if that's the case, the black sow with chocolate cubs that came in like gang-busters three nights earlier had kicked out her cubs after that night and was now alone. With no reference it was difficult to tell but in the video she has no tell-tale ripple in her fur that was nearly 6 inches thick still and unrubbed. The space between her ears was as wide as my spread hand from thumb to pinky fingers...and some 5 to 5.5 inch front pads. Definitely an old but still prime breeding sow even with her worn yellowing teeth and a broken lower canine. I have also sent her pre-molar to the aging laboratory in Montana for aging and to determine how many breeding cycles she has seen. All of the info will be given to the outfitter for his records. She must have been a 400# plus bear in her late fall prime fat and fur before



**Final scoring of the skull came to 18 1/8".
Now it is just waiting for the
tanned hide to be turned into a rug.**

hibernation. What a bear!

Seventeen years ago I experienced GROUND HOG DAY but this time was the redemption tour, the day of reckoning, the completion of the circle when Ground Hog Day stops and "Phil Connors" finally wins and stops the cycle of missed opportunities and learns happiness and resolve from his actions. I can close this chapter that played over and over in my head for decades....as I watched my own video from the first hunt and now from the most recent as well. The sense of reward and satisfaction is still like a dream but I know it is real this time. My wool shirt is hanging in the garage awaiting dry cleaning as it is soaked in dried blood...but I have caught myself sniffing it as I leave for work...remembering that day

Kustom King Archery

Your #1 Source for Traditional Archery at its Finest



BEARPAW™
PRODUCTS
Master Distributor

KustomKingArchery.com
5435 West 75th Ave, Schererville, IN 46375
877-Longbow (877-566-4269)

**Save 5%
Order Online
No Minimum!**



Ron Herman, 17 years later, posing with his own bear. She topped out at 306 lbs!

and that experience as my Ground Hog Day came to an end and another chapter of adventure awaits to be written. Keep 'em sharp until the next Ground Hog Day! 🐘



INTERESTED IN NAMIBIA?



MAKALAAN HUNTING SAFARIS



- **UNBELIEVABLE LOW DAILY RATES**
- **BOWHUNTING ONLY**
- **23 SQUARE MILES OF HUNTABLE PROPERTY**
- **ABSOLUTELY FAIR CHASE**
- **TROPHY QUALITY**
- **FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED**
- **REMOTE: NEAR BUSHMAN LAND**
- **AND MUCH, MUCH MORE...**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

RUSSELL LANTIER

MAKALAAN@BELLSOUTH.NET

BOOKING LIMITED NUMBER OF HUNTERS FOR 2012

blacktailbows.com
812.824.BOWS (2697)

handcrafted bows —
for the discriminating purist

Mock scrapes work... ...sometimes

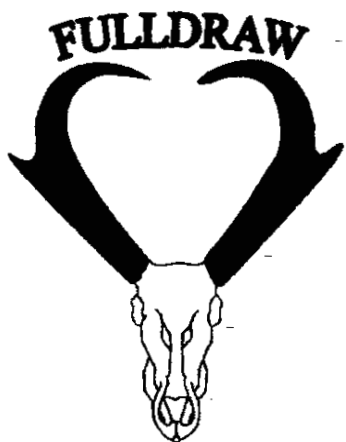
By John Stockman

Whitetail bucks make scrapes to communicate to does their availability as a mating partner. Scrapes are usually made where does travel. Favorite locations are along trails between bedding and feeding areas. Just prior to the breeding season, bucks paw a circular spot on the ground so that it is readily visible and so that the urine they deposit there will soak into the exposed dirt. The scrape will almost always be made under a sapling or small tree that has an overhanging limb about five feet from the ground. In addition to rubbing his antlers and forehead on the sapling's trunk, the buck usually rubs his head on the overhanging limb and sometimes carefully touches his preorbital glands on twig ends and chews the branch. All these actions are done to leave his unique scent at the scrape site in hopes of attracting does in estrus. If a doe is interested based on what she smells at the site, she will sometimes urinate in the pawed up area and often stay nearby waiting for the buck. If she wanders off, the buck (or bucks) will usually scent trail her.

For years, I have toyed with making mock scrapes. To me, one of the major advantages of making these artificial sites is that you can locate them where you want them rather than hunting over scrapes where bucks made them. I frequently hunt small parcels of land where suitable stand sites are extremely limited. For example, I sometimes hunt in a large subdivision comprised of homes located on building lots under five acres in size. A large common ground area meanders through the subdivision. The deer usually bed in this largely undisturbed sanctuary which contains a

stream and heavy brush and thickets. People seldom venture there. The deer leave this haven to feed on the plentiful domestic flowers and shrubs on the surrounding landowners' property. Unfortunately, I am not allowed to hunt in the common ground area though I am permitted to retrieve deer there that I shot on the adjoining private property. This subdivision situation seemed like an ideal location in which to create a man-made scrape and hopefully have deer begin using it.

The first year I hunted in the development, I selected a cedar sapling (the preferred species for rub trees in my hunting area) about 15 yards from my tree stand for my mock scrape. The sapling was beside a well used deer trail from the bedding area to some homeowner's flower gardens. Wearing rubber gloves and rubber boots to minimize my scent, I carved some bark off the sapling's trunk, cleared a circular area under the overhanging limb, dribbled synthetic doe urine in the scrape and placed some commercial (James Valley) scrape gel on the overhanging limb. After I did the initial work on the site, I rigged up a mono-filament line that extended from my tree stand to the overhanging limb. I would then fill my scent dripper from my tree stand and allow gravity to send it to the rub tree. By doing this, I could eliminate leaving my scent at the scrape site. When I wanted to refill the scent dripper I merely pulled it back with my return thread. I thought I was clever, but I hunted that scrape every weekend for the duration of the season and never had a mature buck come into the scrape during daylight hours. They came in after dark though. By the end of the



OUTFITTERS

**Southern Colorado guided hunts for
Elk, Deer, Antelope, Bear, Mountain
Lion, and Merriams Turkey**

Call 719-941-4392

P.O. Box 451, Aguilar, Colorado 81020

Email: fred@fulldrawoutfitters.net

Website: www.fulldrawoutfitters.net

ST. JOE RIVER BOWS

*"Join the St. Joe River Bows family in the
fastest growing family sport - Archery!"*



**THUNDERBIRD ENDURANCE
BOW EPOXY**

High Performance - Super Tough

517-617-3658

stjoeriverbows.com tbirdarchery.com

season the scrape was a huge crater, the sapling was stripped of bark and the overhanging limb had been reduced to a few frazzled stubs. I saw several does and small bucks visit the site during daylight and urinate in the exposed soil and loiter in the immediate area. I learned the hard way that older bucks are more likely to visit scrapes under cover of darkness and monitor them from downwind in the daylight where they don't have to expose themselves to danger.

Being a stubborn individual (according to my wife), the following year I continued to make fake scrapes in the hopes of setting up a mature buck for an easy shot. In one such case, I located a suitable sapling along a trail within bow range of one of my tree stands. There was one problem with the sapling. It had no overhanging limb at the appropriate height. I can fix that I thought. I'll put one there. The following day I returned with a cordless drill and drilled a hole in the trunk of the small cedar tree about five feet above the ground. I then cut the licking branch off a rub tree where I couldn't hunt and inserted it in the hole I'd drilled. A horticulturist would probably wonder why a maple limb was growing out of a cedar tree. It fooled a young four pointer though a few days later that came to the scrape, urinate in it and bedded down about 20 yards from it.

One November evening during the rut I was hunting from my tree stand that overlooked my cedar/maple sapling. I was watching a spike buck harassing a doe about 20 yards from my tree. Some inner voice urged me to look behind me. I slowly turned my head to see a mature buck approaching my artificial scrape. Wow I thought, "It's finally working on a big buck." the buck swaggered up to the Judas tree and forcefully pawed dirt and leaves from the scrape. He then hunched his hind legs forward and urinated over his tarsal glands and rubbed them together. Next, he rubbed his head vigorously up and down the tree trunk. Finally, he thrashed his head in the overhanging limb and nibbled a twig at the end of the limb. It was a textbook performance. The extensive time and effort I had expended in trying to deceive a "shooter" buck was finally paying off.

I thought, "It doesn't get any better than this." I was wrong. The buck walked five yards closer to my tree, turned broadside and looked away from me at the young buck and doe. He laid his ears back, lowered his head and erected the hackles on his back. The buck was totally oblivious to my presence above him. He made it so easy I almost felt guilty taking the shot. I quickly put my guilt aside and shot him. He fled into the common ground sanctuary. The



John with the buck he fooled using an artificial scrape he made.

blood trail created by my STOS broadhead was short and profuse. At the end of it was a symmetrical eight pointer. I smelled his musky odor before I saw him. As I always do, I said a prayer of thanks for the privilege of hunting such a captivating creation of God. I looked forward to sharing my experience with some of my skeptical bowhunting friends who had expressed their reservations to me about the viability of hunting artificial scrapes.

Recently, an old friend of mine (and I use that term advisedly) resolved a particularly vexing problem with a combination of knowledge gained from many years of painful experience and a bit of skullduggery. When I asked him to elaborate he merely smiled and said, "John, old age and treachery will prevail every time." While I don't think that is true, at 80 years of age I do believe that the combination works – sometimes. ♡

The Slickest Broadhead on Earth

STOS CLASSIC

www.stosbroadheads.com

806-433-7319

I spent four days in some of the best big buck country in the United States, saw the most incredible trophy buck sign I've ever seen; and while I did not see a live P&Y or B&C candidate, I enjoyed the best big buck related experiences I've ever had in 35 years of pursuing whitetails! How does one explain such a statement? Well, it's rather easy, you see, because I was fortunate enough to attend one of Barry Wensel's Whitetail Boot Camps in Iowa, this past February, along with eleven other whitetail fanatics. Three full days of immersion in trophy whitetail bowhunting! What I learned and observed has totally changed the way I will hunt trophy bucks for the rest of my life.

Like many other bowhunters who know (or know of) Barry and Gene Wensel, I have spent countless hours trying to apply their lessons to the places I hunt in the mid-Atlantic region. I've read the books they 'til the pages are worn thin. I know by heart most of the articles that they have written for the PBS and many other publications. I've watched all of the videos and outdoor cable shows that they have done so many times that I know the scripts by heart. When they describe the bucks they've taken, I can play back where and when they shot them! I have enough correspondence from them to fill a book. And yet somehow, it still wasn't coming together for me. Yeah, I'd see some of the big ones in the area I hunt, but putting my tag on them has been a whole different matter.

I would console myself by thinking I knew all there was to know and simply blame my lack of success on the fact that I hunt in the crowded East, where there are no undisturbed deer. I used to say stuff like: "I'd like to see what Barry and Gene would do if they were hunting the places I hunt!" Well, after spending this time in Boot Camp, I know what they would do – they would shoot the biggest bucks the Eastern Shore of Maryland has to offer!

Like most whitetail enthusiasts, I am an avid hunter and invest all my spare time in



This is what we are looking for!

Barry Wensel's Whitetail Boot Camp

By Bill Barker

monitoring buck movements through personal observation and trail cameras. I try to do everything right! And, while I really do derive a great deal of satisfaction from observing "up close and personal" large whitetail bucks, on occasion it would really, really be nice to actually harvest some of the big bucks that travel through my hunting areas.

Right after the bow season closed in January, I began thinking I've either got to figure out what I'm doing wrong or face the fact that I'm really not very good at bowhunting whitetail bucks – and deal with it! At age 55, I came to the realization that I probably don't have too many seasons to go before I'll slow down and my chances of tagging a record book buck will decrease even further – not a good feeling! I knew I had to do something. Well, I'm no quitter and I refuse to be defeated. So when I learned of Barry's Boot Camp, I immediately called and registered for a session.

The present Boot Camps run Thursday morning thru Saturday night. The first day of Boot Camp is in a classroom setting. The remaining two days are spent in the fields where Barry and Gene actually bowhunt. Going into the camp, what I thought I wanted to get from this experience was the chance to see for myself the kinds of places Barry hunts and where he places his stands, and why. What I got from the camp was all I wanted and a whole lot more!

Upon arrival, I was immediately drawn to the huge whitetail sheds Barry had placed on each table in the meeting room.

Barry started the program by telling us the stories behind the impressive sheds. The massive matching sheds on my table had 18 points! The previous Sunday, Barry and Gene had found 82 sheds! Yes, 82, many of which were in the 140's and 150's, with some in the B&C class! He then brought out several sets of sheds from the same monster non-typical that scored in the 215 to 230 range! Barry said this buck has never been seen by anyone who hunts this particular farm, yet his sheds have been found in the same CRP field for the last four years.

Barry then went on to explain how he hunts for shed antlers, passing on several pointers. One of the most useful/important is to use a grid approach while examining fence and creek crossings, food plots, heavy rub concentrations, and buck travel corridors.

The classroom session, itself, was very, very informative. Barry spiced up the discussions on each topic he covered with anecdotal information about how his techniques and strategies have been used in the past to outwit particular trophy bucks. He was emphatic about making sure we



**Author with
impressive rub.**

understood the importance of terrain and how bucks use edge, cover, and light to dictate how they get from point A to point B in their travels. We learned how to study aerial photos and how to interpret them correctly. Barry stressed the importance of always being ready on stand and of never getting caught in a position where you cannot draw your bow undetected. He talked extensively about rubs and how they relate to terrain and about buck behavior throughout the hunting season. Barry stressed the importance of arriving on stand before daylight and staying on stand all day during the rut, especially during the 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. time frame.

He also gave many examples of how he uses various calls during the rut. He mentioned how he uses one call, above all others, to bring the biggest bucks in the area – even when the buck is tending to a doe. No, I'm not going to tell you which one it is. You'll just have to go to camp yourself or keep guessing! Let me add that it has never, ever failed to work for Barry!



Uncle Barry assures the class a "cow horn" didn't make this!

Barry covered when and how he does his scouting and how he uses trail cameras to keep tabs on specific bucks. The trail timer pictures that he passed around depicted numerous B&C bucks. Yes, I said B&C. One of the things I noticed early in the program was how Barry describes many of the bucks they have seen and taken; he says B&C quite often. At first some of the participants thought he might have been using the term loosely until Barry showed us their success photos and more trail timer photos. And, while everyone agrees you cannot accurately determine the size of the bucks rubbing trees by the size of the rubs, as you can see in the accompanying photos, many of the rubs we saw looked like they were made by bull elk.

Barry then described in detail the personalities of the big bucks he has studied. He has found that some are homebodies while others essentially travel circuits that cover many miles over a period of days. He also noted that, while some bucks are docile, others will go out of their way to fight with other bucks. He also talked about the relationship between weather conditions and deer movement. Particularly strong winds and heavy rain hamper deer movement, while deer seem unaffected by a light rain.

On Friday morning, after breakfast, we began our travels from one incredible farm to another. We got to see where Barry and Gene had placed their stands and why they chose those locations. We learned how the deer traveled in these areas given the prevailing wind, cover, light, terrain and specific features like the heads of creeks and drainages. We not only got to hear the stories on how a particular record book buck was taken from a particular stand, but we also got to see the pictures of the successful hunters with their trophies. To say that these were impressive farms and hunting

properties is a major understatement. Most were somewhat remote and offered the kind of peace and solitude big bucks and bowhunters crave.

Once the field trips started, we covered many miles each day and Barry was in his element. I have to admit that, in the past, when Barry and Gene would say they wear out several pairs of Bean hunting boots a year I had my doubts. However, after following Barry all day Friday and Saturday, I believe him and then some. He

can really motor! As we were hiking, Barry focused on and shared with us the little details that make a huge difference in figuring out buck movement and where to place treestands. He showed us time and again which individual tree (mostly clumps of trees) was best for the specific circumstances we were observing. He also showed us why it would be fruitless to hunt in areas adjacent to where a particular stand was hung. He showed us why Gene tends to hunt a little lower in the creek bottoms than he does and told us the reasons for each of their preferences.

One of the most important facets of stand hunting Barry covered extensively was how he determines the very best routes to take to get to and from his treestands undetected. Quite simply, he will not take any shortcuts that could possibly jeopardize his being discovered by the local deer herd, let alone a mature buck. In some cases, he has to walk an extra mile or more to avoid detection. Also, in approaching and leaving his stands, Barry made it very clear that he always does his best to avoid crossing trails



Tree stand placement.

he expects a buck to use. The way he studies to place his stand how to get to them is a science unto itself. To me, this is one of the most important lessons I learned. That, and what he taught us about the importance of terrain, the wind, cover and light, and their effects on buck travel. In addition to all that I learned during the classroom sessions and field trips, I really enjoyed the camaraderie and info sharing that took place during the meals. This was a great opportunity for everyone to continue asking Barry questions and for Barry to get to know the camp's participants in a very relaxed atmosphere.

The attendees also got to know each other while ride-sharing to and from the various farms we visited. David Miktuk, from Ohio, and I were particularly fortunate in that we got to ride with Barry and his son's Weimaraner, Sage, to all of the field trips. This time with Barry gave us an opportunity to hear all about how he and Gene scout and monitor bucks on the farms.

It is evident that Barry really enjoys sharing with serious bowhunters all that he has learned; and, he is a very, very good and effective teacher. He really listens to the attendees and does his best to immediately respond to all questions thoroughly. In fact, I remember many instances in which Barry had answered a question in the classroom on the first day and then several days later, Barry would recall/reference the question in the field setting. He would elaborate on his original answer, explaining how specific terrain features, then wind, cover, etc., led to his original answer.

I found myself constantly lagging behind the group and taking pictures of the terrain, the bottlenecks and funnels, the remote fields and food plots, the rubs, the scrapes, the treestands. I didn't ask a lot of questions because I was busy taking in all that I was observing and trying to relate what I was seeing to the areas I hunt back home.

I have little doubt that this part of Iowa contains some of the finest big buck territory in the nation. As Barry said, the whole state is one big food plot. For him and Gene to uproot their families and move to Iowa, you know it has to be a great place to study and hunt world-class whitetails. The deer live in mile after mile of cornfields, bean fields, CRP fields and hilly hardwood ridges and brush-choked river bottoms that are absolutely perfect for growing trophy bucks. There is virtually no winter kill and the shotgun-only season takes place after the rut. It really is a bowhunter's paradise.

Before the Boot Camp program was over, Barry

~ continued on page 40 ~

Barry Wensel's Whitetail Boot Camp

~ continued from page 39

arranged a special evening for us. We were treated to a visit to Gene Wensel's new home in Iowa – Gene and Barry live about 100 miles apart. Walking into Gene's living room, all of us were awestruck as we observed the huge mounted bucks and other assorted trophies. Gene was very gracious and took the time to show us his incredible collection of sheds and world class bowhunting memorabilia from bowhunting's founding fathers and legends such as Art Young, Saxon Pope and Fred Bear.

This time spent with Gene and Barry talking about their hunting experiences was priceless. They also talked fondly about past hunts in Africa and their experiences with local tribesmen, which we found both enlightening and humorous. Having gained

so much knowledge during the Boot Camp and then seeing all of the big bucks Gene has taken with his bow was added reinforcement that Gene and Barry's techniques really work!

When I got home, I studied my notes and the photos I took. I went to my favorite stands and applied what I had just learned in Iowa. I quickly discovered that most of stands were in the wrong places. Based on what I had learned in Boot Camp, I easily identified where my stands should be this coming fall. Then I headed out to my favorite hunting spot, applied what Barry had said about shed hunting, and within an hour I found three shed antlers! Over many years, in all the same time I'd spent in the woods in February and March, those were the first fresh sheds I'd ever found! Like the majority of bowhunters who have attended Barry's Boot Camp, I am confident that my success on big bucks is going to increase dramatically given what I learned.

Overall, I learned more in just the first day's session of the Boot Camp than I'd been able to put together over many, many years. The time I spent in Iowa with Barry and the rest of my class was, in many ways, an epiphany for me. It has brought about major positive changes in my outlook on hunting and the way I will hunt and where I will hunt for as long as I can draw my

bow and climb into a treestand.

For me, this whole trip was the equivalent of what baseball fans probably experience when they participate in a fantasy baseball camp with the likes of Cal Ripken. This Boot Camp is the ultimate experience for any really serious whitetail trophy hunter! Throughout my days in Iowa, I realized that I have to gain access to real trophy territory. I also realized I must focus all of my attention on improving my scouting and stand placement and plan on going the extra mile to reach my stands if that is what it takes to get to them undetected.

Oh, what I would have given to have attended a Barry Wensel Boot Camp when I was beginning to bowhunt in the early 1970's. Barry, I will be forever grateful! ♣

FREE Classified Ad:

**WANTED:
ROOM MATE**
for St. Augustine Gathering.

Have res. for Mar. 3-6.
Contact Paul Shore at 715-675-6757
or bowfish@charter.net

PBS Sweatshirts!

GOLDEN SPECIALTIES

EMBROIDERY * SCREEN PRINTING
VINYL LETTERING & GRAPHICS
PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS

(607) 277-4983

www.golden-spec.com goldnspec@aol.com

**PROFESSIONAL
BOWHUNTERS
SOCIETY**

**EMBROIDERED
LOGO'S!**

**CREWNECK
SWEATSHIRT
\$34.50**

**PULLOVER
HOODED
SWEATSHIRT
\$41.50**

**NEW DESIGN
CALL FOR PRICING**

Thanksgiving blessings and a lion to be thankful for!

By Dennis Dunn

I just got back Saturday night from BC, where I spent this past Tuesday thru Friday hunting mountain lions in minus 20 degree cold and 15 inches of fresh powder snow. After three full days of driving snowy roads in the Caribou Region, a good 11 hours a day, we finally found a very large, fresh tom track just at dark on the third evening. The next morning we found his track again, about two miles away from the one we'd found the night before. At 10:30 am, we set the dogs loose on his tracks, but by then they were already many hours old; the four hounds finally worked out his cold trail and jumped him around 1:30 pm. By 2:00 pm, they had him treed. By 2:30, we finally reached the tree, only to have him bail out over the top of us. The dogs treed him again after another chase of about 200 yards,



but this time he was 35 feet off the ground, high up in a big Doug fir. I was using my orangewood selfbow and had only a small window to shoot through, right up near him — no bigger than a football. My first two arrows impaled the tree, missing just under him by an inch or two. The third drilled him through the brisket. He ran straight down the tree-trunk in all of one second flat and took off downhill. We kept the dogs chained up this time and gave the arrow time to do its job. After a half-hour, we followed his tracks through the snow, but there was precious little blood-sign along the way. I was just starting to worry that the shot might not prove fatal, when suddenly — twenty yards ahead — we saw him lying dead under a tree. His total travel distance was less than 100 yards. He turned out to be a monster tom, with the guides estimating his weight at somewhere between 180 and 200 pounds. He measured over seven-and-a-half feet long — from nose to tail. ♣

Take A Break!

We can't bowhunt all the time!

- Knowledge Through Experience Topics
 - Discussion Forums • Online Store
 - Membership Group Hunts • Youth Hunt Info
 - Gathering Information • Membership Dues Payment
 - PBS History
- and Much, Much More!



Experience it for yourself!



See what's happening at www.probowsociety.net



Eye See

By Barry Wensel

Did you ever hear the saying, “He has bedroom eyes”? Well, I’ve been told I have what they call bathroom eyes.... They look like crap.

My dad was a very good hunter. Before he died prematurely in an accident at the early age of 44 years, he displayed an unusual amount of woodsmanship skills, especially for a guy living most of his formative years in the city. I’ve since thought about this in detail. I’m not sure exactly where he gained his hunting knowledge as he tended to be a loner in the woods. No one in his family hunted at all as far as I know, which means he was likely self-taught.

You have to realize this was in the late 1940s and early ‘50s. I doubt there were such things as deer biologists and/or much literature on deer research compared to today. All available that I know of were the “big three” outdoor publications of Outdoor Life; Sports Afield and Field and Stream. And most of the articles in those were published stories of “me and Joe shooting a nice buck behind the barn”.

But dad was a “two-season hunter” before Fred promoted it. He shot a lemon wood longbow around the time brother Gene and I were in first grade. We also had a hunting camp on a farm in Dutchess County, New York. We spent literally EVERY weekend on the farm year around hunting and learning. Dad loved to share his knowledge freely with Gene and myself.

I distinctly remember when I was about ten years old him telling me, “If a deer is looking right at you, you can lift your weapon slowly (stress on slowly) straight up (vertical) and you might get away with it. But if you swing your weapon horizontally, left to right or right to left, you don’t have a chance. He’ll explode out of there.” I always remembered that.

I recall dad explaining this was nature, in that most of a deer’s predators came at them horizontally, such as coyotes, dogs, cats, lions, etc., unlike birds of prey that would come in vertically on small game.

I would just about bet the farm this was self-taught info. Today our deer biologists likely have all kinds of research papers on the subject. I’ll try not to make this scientific but I would like to touch on some biological facts that are important in our hunting encounters.

All eyes have rods and cones. Rods are better motion sensors, sensitive to light, but not that color sensitive. Cones are color sensitive. Deer have a much higher density of rods than cones in the retina. Rods are photoreceptors and more sensitive to light but are not as sensitive to color. Cones provide color sensitivity and high resolution vision. Additionally to this, a deer’s eyes also don’t have an ultraviolet filter, unlike humans. Therefore, some objects seem to “glow” in low-light conditions to a deer.

And we won’t even get into the subject of specific color spectrum sensitivity for deer. Let’s just say their sensitivity to certain colors tend to be mostly in low light conditions, which happens to be when deer are most active. Coincidence? I think not.

How many times have you read about watching for the shine of an eye; the horizontal line of a deer’s back or belly; the white throat patch or the “V” of the tail? And how many times have we mentioned what you need to look for is MOTION? Watch for movement. I love to have deer feeding or bedded where I can watch their body language. Not only will they act as live decoys, they will detect other incoming deer way before I will.


Another hard fact most hunters never think about is the shape of the pupils. Did you ever think about the shape of the pupils on different species? Prey species tend to normally have horizontal pupils whereas ambush predators tend to have vertical pupils. Another coincidence? I again think not. It makes perfect sense for the prey species in order to better detect predation coming in laterally. That is exactly why dad said you could lift your weapon vertically and get away with it much more often then swinging on a buck that’s on red alert. Dad didn’t know the biological reasoning but he knew through hunter’s instinct.

Just so you know, the high density of rods determine their motion detection. And with the placement of their eyes on the sides of their heads they are able to distinguish objects and movement

*A collection of stories written over 40 years of
bowhunting, travel and adventure.*

BOWHUNTING

A PASSION FOR LIFE



HARD COVER - 240 pages with 340 color photos.
\$65.00 includes shipping.

ORDER AT:
www.montybrowningbook.com
email: browningsannie@bellsouth.net or mail check to:
123 Todds Creek Rd., Central, SC. 29630

• MONTY BROWNING •

310 degrees around themselves without moving their heads. Be aware when drawing a bow on a deer walking by it's not a sure bet you won't get busted even if they're already quartering away.

How many times have you read predators eyes are on the front of their heads/faces, whereas prey species have their eyes on the side of their heads? Is nature not cool?

Critters will absolutely pick up on a hunter's eye contact. I never try to look them right in the eye. I always try to squint. Did you ever notice when looking at the pair of black/open windows on most pop-up hunting blinds the two giant black shooting holes in an otherwise perfectly camouflaged set-up will freak out game? It looks just like two giant predator eyes eyeballing them. Use shoot-through netting.

When stalking game, never look them right in the eye and walk straight at them. Trust me... they know you're up to no good. Instead, try to walk towards them at an angle so they get the feeling you don't see them and are just walking by. Watch them in your peripheral vision. It's just a good hunter's common sense.

How many times have you been on stand on a perfect, cold/frosty morning with almost no winds? You're not batting an eye. All you're doing is breathing. The sun comes up and every deer within sight will lock onto you. Why? Because the sun is shining on your cold/frosty breath. Not much you can do other than double your facemask because breathing is a big thing in life. My point is, they picked up on the movement of drifting breath. It's a wonder we're ever able to actually kill one.

It's an interesting study between nature and human nature. Deer might not be able to distinguish some details with a lack of reasoning capabilities. They sometimes just see things "differently"... quite often like our wives do. Now... I think... eye understand... I mean, I understand. 🐾



Barry Wensel's Trophy Whitetail Boot Camp

2016 Dates

March 17-18-19, 2016

March 31, April 1-2, 2016

"I attended Barry's bootcamp and truly believe it's the best investment I ever made when it comes to deer hunting. It's priceless. I'm seeing more and bigger bucks on the same property I've hunted for thirty years. I attribute it all to Barry's Bootcamp. Just do it!" Trap- MO



Details at www.brothersofthebow.com
under Barry's Boot Camps in the menu

"I attended Barry's Bootcamp. It's probably the best single investment I've ever made for hunting whitetails." D.D.-MO

"I went when I had 35 years of whitetail experience and learned a ton. A strong recommendation." M.S.- VA

"You better take advantage of this opportunity. I went and obtained a wealth of knowledge. It will be the best \$895 you will ever spend." G.D.- WV

"I attended last year. It was excellent in every way. I learned a lot and had a lot of fun. I was absolutely astounded on his details." J.S.- IL

"Invest in yourself. What a chance to teach my grandchildren the proper foundations for their future years of chasing whitetails." M.S.- MD

"If you don't go for this you will regret it. Trust me." R.S.- WI

Individual Rate- \$895

(The price hasn't gone up in 11 years.)

The price includes the entire boot camp, three nights lodging in a beautiful, modern lodge and eight full home-cooked meals.



Proverbs 19:20 says, "Listen to advice and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise."

**For more information contact
Barry Wensel**

**28942 Woodland Rd., Lineville, IA 50147
(641) 876-2144 • barrywensel@hotmail.com**



Where are all the BOOGYMEN?

By Gene Wensel

*"I have no doubt that Adam fished with a worm after his expulsion from paradise."
~ Theodore Gordon, 1947*

A hundred years ago, over 30% of Americans resided on farms. Not only did farming provide the bread of life, but it produced honest, hard working Americans who **earned** almost everything they did and owned. According to census records, by 1970 over 95% of American families lived either urban or suburban. American family life has changed.

I recently read a book about men at war. Wars have a way of subtly changing things. World War II in particular disconnected many children from their fathers. What came to be known as The Baby Boom arrived shortly thereafter. With limited availability of men during WWII, the responsibility of turning growing boys into men was quickly dumped onto their mothers. Adult males were once thought of as hunters/gatherers, while women were most often seen as "nest makers." But during any war, women, God love them, often inherit by default the task of trying to teach their sons to be men. War times were tough. During all my early years of schooling, I had only one male school teacher. I'm not saying men make better teachers, but, in my opinion, turning boys into men is a role best handled by the same sex.

A hundred years ago, boys grew to be men by working with and along side their fathers, uncles, grandfathers and cousins. There was what many could and would define as an apprenticeship in becoming a man. After the wars, boys saw their dads go off to work at non-farming jobs every morning, often returning home dog tired from long hours. What little free time American men enjoyed often brought addictions to their new jobs, television, alcohol and sex, causing millions of unhealthy divorces. The American divorce rate has since soared past 50%. Our society quickly changed, indoors as well as outdoors.

Even though Dad went off to war, I think back about my own childhood, which thankfully unfolded more smoothly than most. When I was a youngster, suburban boys aggressively rang doorbells searching for lawn mowing or snow shoveling jobs

during what minimal free time we had. Today, a person has to run classified ads looking for youngsters who want to earn a few bucks doing physical chores. Then, if we do happen to find any, the kids expect \$50 an hour to do odd jobs! I can't remember the last time my door bell rang after a snow storm. Most young men are down at the mall or glued to some sort of screen. Yes, times have definitely changed.

How does all this relate to whitetail hunting? Deer hunting too has transformed over the decades to a point where it's just not the same as it used to be. I must say I miss it. When was the last time you saw a pipe smoking guy in a red and black checkered shirt hanging out at a deer camp reeking of Hoppe's #9? Fifty years ago, thousands of young hunters could not wait to get invited to their elder's deer cabins. Today, many camps are not much more than places to play cards, smoke cigars (or worse), drink alcohol or "test drive" a new girlfriend.

We produced a vicious cycle; progressive disinterest in the "Big Three" monthly hunting magazines of yesteryear was promptly addressed and all but dissolved, first by broadcast television and later by the computer age. Home computers brought fewer letters to the editors but more emails. Chat rooms and public forums quickly turned into electronic coffee shops or taverns, where someone with an opposing view might not just disagree, but could verbally butcher anyone with a different opinion. Subject matter didn't seem to matter, be it sports, religion, politics, parenting or life in general.

Many, if not most, of the negative changes I witnessed in outdoor interest and philosophy were brought on by multiple television hunting shows and an accompanying cultural shifting of gears that allowed Nimrod to get to the top of any mountain a whole lot quicker. These short cuts turned out to be the festering root of a big aching tooth. Most of society ultimately decided it was perfectly okay to skip any degree of outdoor apprenticeship along the trail.

The ways and means modern hunters went about their passion took another turn for the worse when commercial interests gave birth to untold numbers of instant ex-

perts, all dwelling mostly on ego trips while quickly skipping over the amateur skill levels. The goal seemed to be to utilize the quickest, easiest ways they could come up with to legally fill as many tags as they were allotted. Simple yet mysteriously defined differences between love and lust eventually became unclear. What was once pure spring water quickly turned to mud, certainly not suitable for drinking. More often than not, outdoor passion swiftly evolved from hunting to shooting, with little or no regard to any values actually earned. "Just put me in a good spot" type thinking by-passed, and even avoided, all levels of basic woodsmanship skill. The "music" of hunting increased in tempo but lost it's rhythm. There is not as much silence and solitude offered or noticed, while the whispering became overbearing. Hunters barely out of puberty quickly turned "pro," with deadly serious attitudes but foggy direction. Many, if not most, mainstream hunters are now being driven by the warped perception that success needs advantages, gadgets, short cuts, and dozens of dead critters wearing huge antlers or skulls. It's now mostly about numbers and inches. Far too many outdoorsmen still don't get it. People who spend far too much of their free time watching outdoor television shows are no longer experiencing the real romance of hunting. I personally don't mind genuine enthusiasm or excitement as long as its not obviously staged.

When I was a youngster, I liked the idea of being a boogeyman. I really did. I still do. Not the kind with warts who hides under the bed or jumps out of a closet to scare little kids, but the type who simply lurks in the shadows to strike at opportune times.

I place the primary blame of our outdoor cultural swing on the invention and acceptance of broadcast television. It was bad enough a half century ago when TV first stole our free time, but things have become much worse in the past decade or so, when "hunting shows" established their own niche right along side soft porn and horror flicks. Hunting shows deteriorated even more when many of them promptly mutated into "reality shows," building genuine

life and death competition among team participants of the blood sports. Is hunting a team sport? I don't think so. Am I right, wrong, or just missing something here?

Along came dozens of sponsored "celebrity hunters," figuratively crawling out of the woodwork, jockeying not for entertainment or educational value, but for pole positions of recognition among their peers, sponsors, and "fans." Who would have ever predicted that celebrity hunters would someday travel in gaudy tour buses or fancy pick up trucks decked out with multiple flashy sponsor logos and "clever," if not disgusting, marketing slogans? Egotistical clowns in camo seemed to come out of nowhere, all racing to establish some sort of "professional hunter" identity while tossing things like ethics, common sense, modesty and humility right out of deer camp windows. A questionable degree of pride in achievement was rapidly and regularly demonstrated by shameless antics displaying various forms of enthusiasm, both verbal and physical. Any respect for wildlife was shadowed by insane degrees of zealotry and ranting. Don't get me wrong; hunting is supposed to be fun and pursuit is a 100% natural instinct, but its almost out of control these days.

Rude folks have gone out of their way to eliminate much of the process. In a sense, society tried to make Italian food using no tomatoes. Televised rednecks quickly out numbered the gentlemen. Terminology and grammar were fumbled, many speaking as if they had marbles in their mouths or whispering whatever they had to say. Handsome whitetail bucks were crushed, smoked, whacked, or popped. Arrows became "meat missiles," while bullets became "pills." One only has to look at the brand names of commercial broadheads these days. Many imply destruction, hatred or evil. One would tend to think we are at war with deer.

Today, there just isn't much of a story involved in the taking of 90% of the deer shot on television. Sure, a few hunting celebrities attempt to disguise their tales as some sort of romance, but nearly all fail miserably. Many televised hunters don't even actually get into the woods anymore.

I really don't have anything against gun hunting if it is done right, using firearms as honorable tools to actually hunt our quarry. I used to do it myself when I was young and I have good, respectable friends who still do. But when bows and arrows are quickly cast aside to justify filling a tag or finishing the making of a TV show, firearm use leaves a bad taste in my mouth. Far too often guns can turn hunting into shooting. I want to feel intimate with distance. I

hunger to see how close I can get to my quarry. Personally, I don't want to see how far away I can be when I shoot a deer; I want to see how close I can get. I guess what I'm trying to say is that one can make a campfire by rubbing two sticks together, use of a flint and steel, a wooden match, a butane lighter, or even a flame thrower. I happen to be a wooden match guy.

In-line "primitive weapons" wearing huge scopes, bi-pods and thumbhole stocks do not belong in "primitive weapons" seasons as far as I'm concerned. What's the point? They too have evolved to be nothing but single shot rifles missing only the brass part of the cartridge. The hunting industry now has the audacity to call scoped in-line muzzleloaders and crossbows "primitive" weapons. It's more than a little bit insolent.

My brother and I used to hunt several farms bordered by property owned or leased by whitetail nuts. Almost every year during late season, they would blast bucks on film for TV.... bucks that needed just one more year to reach full maturity... bucks that both Barry and I let walk earlier in the season. They would do it in cold weather by planting soybean fields, then leaving them unharvested. Other people "harvested" standing corn with Brush Hog equipment rather than standard farm machinery. When hungry deer crossed fences to feed in the beans or corn, they got shot from up to 250 yards away with "primitive" weapons during what is nothing but an extended gun season. Yes, if you sense frustration on my part, you would be right. I even had a TV host once tell me that he "hunts 99% of the time with a bow and arrow and prefers bowhunting." He went on to say the only reason he used guns was because one of his sponsors was giving him free firearms. Right. I was tempted to ask him if he thought it would be okay if his wife did not sleep around 99% of the time.

One of these days, a fired or retired hunting show cameraman is going to write a book about some of the things that go on behind the scenes of what we actually see on television. Half the time, a bored, waiting "hunter" has ear phones plugged into their ears! I-pods and cell phones offer music, video games, opportunities to chat with friends, conduct business, "sexting," and whatnot. And if you think hanky-panky between cameramen and female bowhunters has never happened, I have a bridge to sell you. Pop-up blinds got their name in more than one way!

Many hunting show celebrities don't even get into the woods much anymore except to look for shed antlers or put out trail cameras. They prefer spending their time in elevated shooting houses with sliding glass

windows and propane heaters set on the edges of food plots. I really don't have a problem with food plots or simple blinds. Other than the fact food plots are essentially planted to attract and kill deer, they are also an important supplemental food source for wildlife trying to make it through harsh winters when competition for available food is intense.

And then we come to the canned hunts. If there were some way to count, I'm sure we would discover the fact hundreds of wealthy people have paid well over \$10,000 to shoot the "buck of a lifetime" inside a high fenced enclosure. Did they earn these trophies? No, they only earned the money to buy them. The "hunt" may have cost them a small fortune, but in reality they never paid the full price.

Can an automobile mechanic also be a good driver? Of course he can. Is everyone who swigs a hammer a good carpenter? Not quite. The ironic part of all this is that some of these canned hunt "trophies" are actually killed by people with adequate hunting skills, if only they took the time and effort to apply them. Lack of time and a fat wallet ultimately confirm their decisions. I'm told one can even kill huge bighorn rams inside high fences if you are willing and able to pay the price. "Wildlife" farming has even changed the way deer are photographed. How long has it been since you last saw a magazine front cover photo of a big buck whitetail that wasn't taken inside a park or high-fenced enclosure? Genetic tampering, incest among deer, drugs and electro-magnetic application to velvet antlers has produced racks on immature bucks that are approaching the 600" mark! Many racks displayed at hunting expositions are pen raised.

Wisdom, maybe brought on with old age, has convinced me that humans can justify almost anything if they try hard enough.

I treasure any and all opportunities to study deer sign, find funnels, decipher wind patterns, and set camera traps to see what is on the menu. I delight picking out fantasy trees to hide in while my imagination conjures ultra-close range encounters where I can strike with no warning. I feel I am an honorable predator and specifically selected mature deer are worthy prey. I love being a boogeyman, or at least think like one when I'm outdoors. I find great pleasure trying to figure out what's going on while walking in the woods at my own pace with a simple bow and arrow. While some might see it as a desire to be sneakier or to be some sort of purist, I see it as an honest way to close my deals with truer dignity. I sleep better like that. *

Trail Cam Tidbits...

Big Ones That Got Away

By Gene Wensel

This buck had a deformed rack on one side that started as a leg injury at age 3 ½. At age 6 ½ he lost an eye due to the fact he had no main beam to protect his right eye. I passed up a 32 yard shot at him at age 5 ½ because that is simply too far for me. I saw him multiple times just out of range. He disappeared before his seventh birthday.



This fine drop tine was also blind in one eye. I got multiple photos of him for two seasons but he always disappeared as soon as his velvet shed.



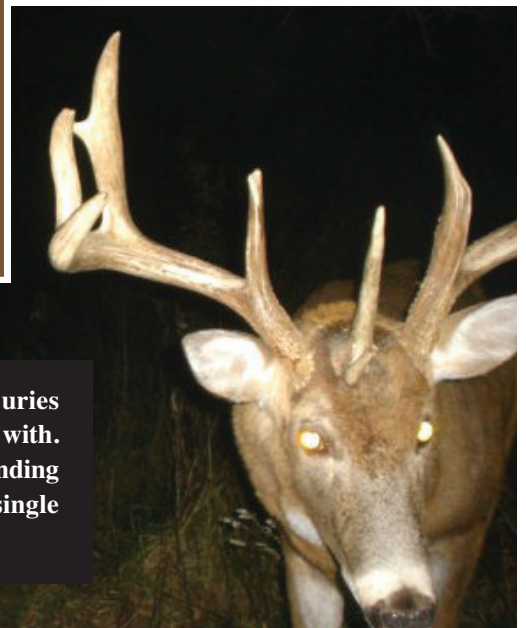
Here is another old gentleman that was blind in one eye. Eye injuries are a lot more common than many people realize, about 90% coming from fighting. This buck was poached within a week after I got this last photo of him.



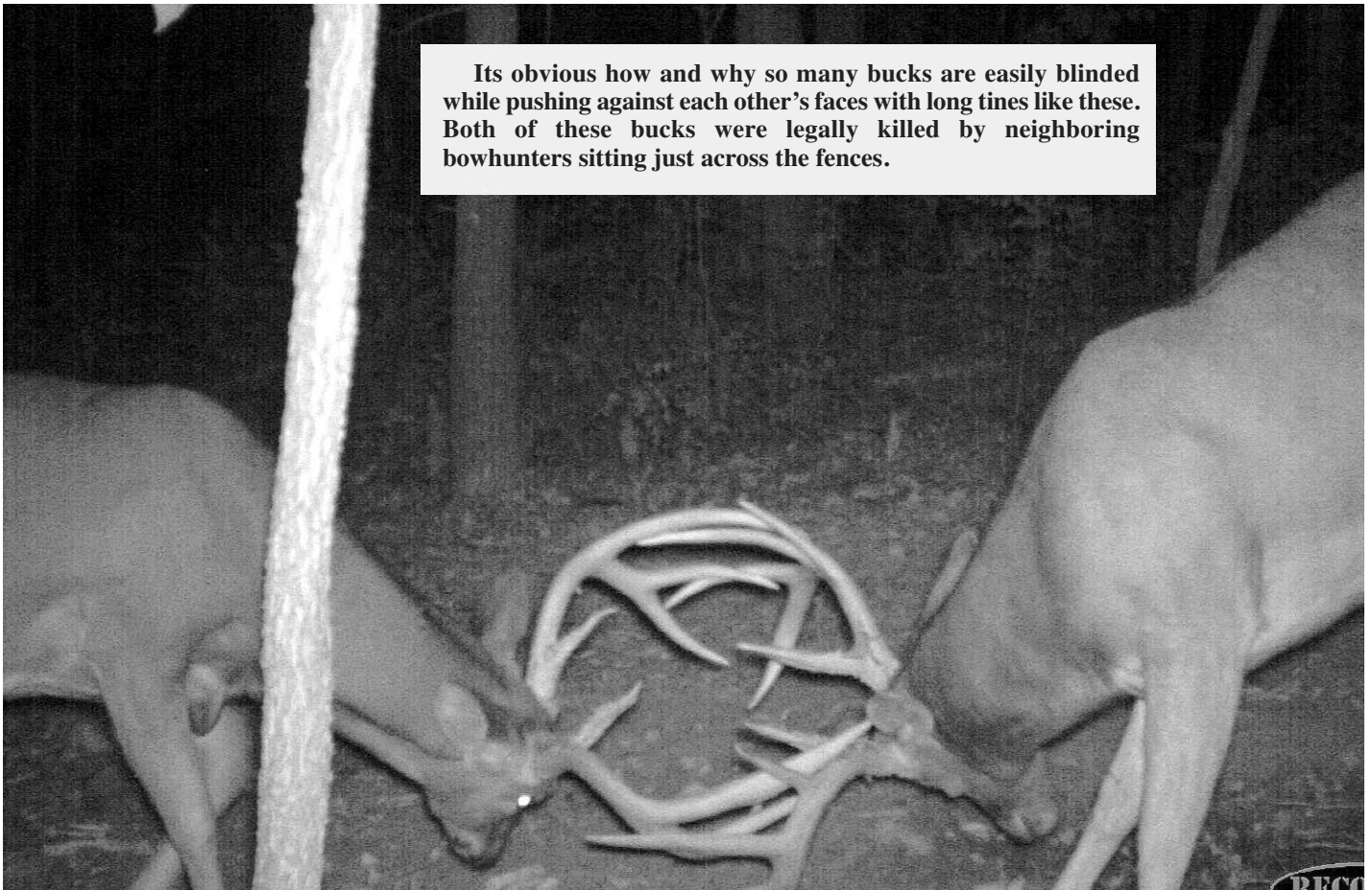
Big brow tines like this one cause a lot of eye injuries during fights. This buck was legally shot by a farm hand during gun season that fall.



This buck caused more eye injuries than any other buck we've ever dealt with. He earned the name "Popeye" by blinding at least three different bucks in a single season.



Its obvious how and why so many bucks are easily blinded while pushing against each other's faces with long tines like these. Both of these bucks were legally killed by neighboring bowhunters sitting just across the fences.



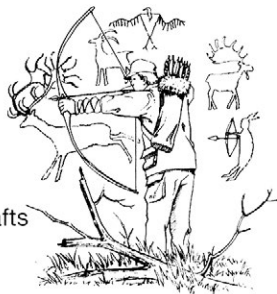
~ continued on page 48

The Footed Shaft



Your source for traditional archery equipment

- new and used bows
- arrows
- arrow making equipment
- broadheads/points
- flemish strings
- string making supplies
- footed shafts
- cedar/aluminum/carbon shafts
- trueflight feathers
- books/DVDs
- and much more!



**Over
25
Years**

The Footed Shaft
5510 North Highway 63
Rochester, Minnesota 55906
507-288-7581 • fax 507-288-3262
footedshaft@charterinternet.com

*The Footed Shaft is a full-time dealer/distributor.
Open Monday through Saturday.*



GOT PASSION?

VISIT
BROTHERSOFTHEBOW.COM

STIR YOUR SOUL WITH THIS
334 PAGE HARDCOVER KEEPSAKE

A GREAT VALUE AT \$38 PLUS S+H

BROTHERS OF THE BOW,
P.O. BOX 234,
LIBERTYVILLE, IOWA 52567

Trail Cam Tidbits...

Big Ones That Got Away

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



Mark Wang believes this is the only photo of this deer he has. It was taken in mid October of 2011. *

Index to Advertisers

3Rivers Archery	32
Backcountry Hunters & Anglers	17
Barry Wensel's Trophy Whitetail Bootcamp, 2016	43
Black Widow Custom Bows	BC
Blacktail Bows	35
Bowhunting, A Passion For Life	42
Bowhunting Safari Consultants	4
Footed Shaft, The	47
Fedora's Archery Shop	IBC
Full Draw Outfitters	36
Golden Specialties – PBS Merchandise	40
Great Northern Bows	13
Howard Hill Archery	28
J&M Traditions	15
Kustom King Archery	34
Makalaan Hunting Safaris	35
One With The Wilderness	47
PBS Belt Buckle	7
PBS Website	41
Pope and Young Club	28
St. Joe River Bows	36
STOS Broadheads	37
Table Mountain Outfitters	16
Traditional Bowhunter Magazine	IFC
True North Arrows	9
Tuffhead	30



PBS Merchandise

Embroidered Patch (<i>qualified life</i>)	\$5.50 ppd.
Embroidered Patch (<i>qualified or associate</i>)	\$5.00 ppd.
Decal (<i>qualified or associate</i>)	\$3.00 ppd.
Hat Pins (<i>qualified</i>)	\$9.00 ppd.
Anti-Crossbow Bumper stickers	\$1.50 ppd.

Send all orders to:

PBS, P.O. Box 246 Terrell, N.C. 28682

Make sure to include your name, street address, and telephone number with all orders.

Magazine Layout and Design by



Charles City Press

Composition Manager Kim Bucknell

801 Riverside Drive, Charles City, IA 50616

www.charlescacitypress.com

Have a Dream?



**Experience for yourself the
Xtreme Longbow**
*Most advanced Deflex Reflex Bow
in the World!*



**Give us a call and we'll
help make it come true!**



Fedora's Archery Shop

Custom bow building for over 55 years

115 Wintersville Road, Richland, PA 17087

(717) 933-8862

e-mail: fedora@comcast.net

Custom Bowyer
**Mike
Fedora**

**Personal Shooting
Instruction
Call Mike Fedora**

**Archery Consultants
Used Custom-Made Fedora Bows**



5607D
HUNTER
6'8"
40#-20"
X1700C1
CUSTOM BUILT FOR

For free catalog of our complete line of
traditional bows and accessories write or call:

Black Widow Custom Bows

1201 Eaglecrest

P.O. Box 2100

Nixa, MO, USA 65714

phone: (417) 725-3113

fax: (417) 725-3190

www.blackwidowbows.com





PROFESSIONAL BOWHUNTERS SOCIETY FOUR FOR FLORIDA RAFFLE

1. **Barry Wensel's Whitetail Boot Camp** - Learn tips and tricks for taking monster whitetail deer. Choose from two dates: #1-March 17-18-19, 2016; #2-March 31, April 1-2, 2016. For more information visit: www.brothersofthebow.com \$895 Value!
2. **Black Widow Bow** \$1,200.00 Value
3. **Great Northern Bowhunting Co. Bow***
*Snakeskin and Limb Hinge not included.
4. **Fedora Bow**

*Drawing to be held Sat., March 5, 2016 at the PBS Banquet in St. Augustine, FL.
Do not need to be present to win.*

Please send payment and completed ticket stubs by March 1, 2016, to:
\$5.00 each PBS, P.O. Box 246, Terrell, NC 28682 6 for \$20.00

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Email _____
Must Indicate Prize Preference - #1 #2 #3 #4

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Email _____
Must Indicate Prize Preference - #1 #2 #3 #4



PROFESSIONAL BOWHUNTERS SOCIETY FOUR FOR FLORIDA RAFFLE

1. **Barry Wensel's Whitetail Boot Camp** - Learn tips and tricks for taking monster whitetail deer. Choose from two dates: #1-March 17-18-19, 2016; #2-March 31, April 1-2, 2016. For more information visit: www.brothersofthebow.com \$895 Value!
2. **Black Widow Bow** \$1,200.00 Value
3. **Great Northern Bowhunting Co. Bow***
*Snakeskin and Limb Hinge not included.
4. **Fedora Bow**

*Drawing to be held Sat., March 5, 2016 at the PBS Banquet in St. Augustine, FL.
Do not need to be present to win.*

Please send payment and completed ticket stubs by March 1, 2016, to:
\$5.00 each PBS, P.O. Box 246, Terrell, NC 28682 6 for \$20.00

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Email _____
Must Indicate Prize Preference - #1 #2 #3 #4



PROFESSIONAL BOWHUNTERS SOCIETY FOUR FOR FLORIDA RAFFLE

1. **Barry Wensel's Whitetail Boot Camp** - Learn tips and tricks for taking monster whitetail deer. Choose from two dates: #1-March 17-18-19, 2016; #2-March 31, April 1-2, 2016. For more information visit: www.brothersofthebow.com \$895 Value!
2. **Black Widow Bow** \$1,200.00 Value
3. **Great Northern Bowhunting Co. Bow***
*Snakeskin and Limb Hinge not included.
4. **Fedora Bow**

*Drawing to be held Sat., March 5, 2016 at the PBS Banquet in St. Augustine, FL.
Do not need to be present to win.*

Please send payment and completed ticket stubs by March 1, 2016, to:
\$5.00 each PBS, P.O. Box 246, Terrell, NC 28682 6 for \$20.00

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Email _____
Must Indicate Prize Preference - #1 #2 #3 #4

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Email _____
Must Indicate Prize Preference - #1 #2 #3 #4



PROFESSIONAL BOWHUNTERS SOCIETY FOUR FOR FLORIDA RAFFLE

1. **Barry Wensel's Whitetail Boot Camp** - Learn tips and tricks for taking monster whitetail deer. Choose from two dates: #1-March 17-18-19, 2016; #2-March 31, April 1-2, 2016. For more information visit: www.brothersofthebow.com \$895 Value!
2. **Black Widow Bow** \$1,200.00 Value
3. **Great Northern Bowhunting Co. Bow***
*Snakeskin and Limb Hinge not included.
4. **Fedora Bow**

*Drawing to be held Sat., March 5, 2016 at the PBS Banquet in St. Augustine, FL.
Do not need to be present to win.*

Please send payment and completed ticket stubs by March 1, 2016, to:
\$5.00 each PBS, P.O. Box 246, Terrell, NC 28682 6 for \$20.00

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Email _____
Must Indicate Prize Preference - #1 #2 #3 #4



PROFESSIONAL BOWHUNTERS SOCIETY FOUR FOR FLORIDA RAFFLE

1. **Barry Wensel's Whitetail Boot Camp** - Learn tips and tricks for taking monster whitetail deer. Choose from two dates: #1-March 17-18-19, 2016; #2-March 31, April 1-2, 2016. For more information visit: www.brothersofthebow.com \$895 Value!
2. **Black Widow Bow** \$1,200.00 Value
3. **Great Northern Bowhunting Co. Bow***
*Snakeskin and Limb Hinge not included.
4. **Fedora Bow**

*Drawing to be held Sat., March 5, 2016 at the PBS Banquet in St. Augustine, FL.
Do not need to be present to win.*

Please send payment and completed ticket stubs by March 1, 2016, to:
\$5.00 each PBS, P.O. Box 246, Terrell, NC 28682 6 for \$20.00

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Email _____
Must Indicate Prize Preference - #1 #2 #3 #4

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Email _____
Must Indicate Prize Preference - #1 #2 #3 #4



PROFESSIONAL BOWHUNTERS SOCIETY FOUR FOR FLORIDA RAFFLE

1. **Barry Wensel's Whitetail Boot Camp** - Learn tips and tricks for taking monster whitetail deer. Choose from two dates: #1-March 17-18-19, 2016; #2-March 31, April 1-2, 2016. For more information visit: www.brothersofthebow.com \$895 Value!
2. **Black Widow Bow** \$1,200.00 Value
3. **Great Northern Bowhunting Co. Bow***
*Snakeskin and Limb Hinge not included.
4. **Fedora Bow**

*Drawing to be held Sat., March 5, 2016 at the PBS Banquet in St. Augustine, FL.
Do not need to be present to win.*

Please send payment and completed ticket stubs by March 1, 2016, to:
\$5.00 each PBS, P.O. Box 246, Terrell, NC 28682 6 for \$20.00

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Email _____
Must Indicate Prize Preference - #1 #2 #3 #4



UNITED WE ACT

for Preserving Bowhunting's Traditional Values

It is the purpose of the Professional Bowhunters Society® to be an organization whose membership consists only of persons who are considered Professional Bowhunters in ATTITUDE, and who vow:

- 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.

Associate Members receive these benefits:

- A quarterly magazine, The Professional Bowhunter
- Participation in PBS programs
- Use of the PBS Information/Education Services
- Free use of the lending library, including videos and books
- The opportunity to defend the sport against anti-hunting forces

Associate Member Application

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Age _____ Hunting Bow Weight _____
Email Address _____
Phone () _____
Referred by _____

☐ Gift

Yearly fee: \$35.00 per year • (Canadian members: \$40.00 U.S. per year) • Shoulder patch: \$5.00 • Decals: \$3.00

I firmly agree with the goals and principles of the
Professional Bowhunters Society®
and apply for Associate Membership.

Signature _____

Mail completed application to:

Professional Bowhunters Society®

Associate Membership

P.O. Box 246 • Terrell, N.C. 28682

Phone 704-664-2534 • Fax 704-664-7471

email: probowhunters@roadrunner.com

PBS Website: www.probowsociety.net

Payment Method

(choose one)

Check Visa

Mastercard

Credit Card Number _____

Phone () _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____