

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 2018 BIENNIAL GATHERING TICKET ORDER FORM
MARCH 15 – 18, 2018

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Matt Schuster
Warrenton, GA

THE PROFESSIONAL BOWHUNTER MAGAZINE

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SEPTEMBER - 2017

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– Nick Dedaker from Kokomo, Indiana and Dave Doran from Bend, Oregon –
who have passed from this life.*

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President's Message

by Norm Johnson
norm@blacktailbows.com

It has been an honor to serve the PBS in past years as a Councilman and it is truly an honor to serve as your new President. My term began March 1st and shortly thereafter the Council met in Madison, Wisconsin to lay out the groundwork for the gathering and go over the PBS business for the next year. I feel blessed with an outstanding Council who are hard-working and are united in sharing a vision for growth and financial stability within the organization.

I have had the privilege of speaking and corresponding through email with many of our long time members these past few months. Many have concerns for the future of the PBS. The world is ever changing and so is the way in which everyone, (including bowhunters) communicate. Many of the old ways we have been conducting our "business" will have to change. While most of us share a common bond in keeping our archery tackle simple and traditional we have no choice with regard to the way we communicate, grow membership, and take care of day to day business but to conform to modern methods or we will die, simple as that. Current Council has already laid the groundwork to begin modernizing with a larger, more active website, Facebook, and the ability to communicate via email blast. Those of us in the older crowd will have to become familiar with terms such as "podcast", "shares", "likes", "Instagram", "blog" and many others.

At the time of this column PBS has a new and updated web site. Thanks to Councilman Rob Burnham and member Alan Pope. It is a work in progress however with the small amount of knowledge I have on the subject, all great websites are a work in progress while you add content and update to stay current.

We have begun an aggressive membership drive with a lofty goal of 500 new members by the time we reach Madison.

The details are in the current magazine. The membership drive relies heavily on our current membership to just sign up one new member before Madison. Please, if you haven't already signed up a new member please participate and do so. We have seen an uptick in new members joining since the launch of the drive. Many of the new members are young, energetic and excited to be a part of the PBS.

I would like to give our new members a heartfelt welcome to the PBS! We welcome any hunting related articles for the magazine. We welcome any assistance with our new web site, social media, video, Facebook, etc. Much of the modern communication is so "out of the wheelhouse" of us old guys. Not only that, but we don't kill stuff like we used to. Please reach out to a Councilman or our home office if you would like to help.

I had the opportunity to attend the Compton traditional gathering located in Berrien Springs, Michigan this past June. I reached out to the President of Compton, Dennis Harper. Our sit down discussion was about how the PBS and Compton's share so much in common and that we need to encourage dual memberships between the organizations. Dennis was a long time member of PBS and has reinstated his membership and I have also joined Compton. Welcome back to the family Dennis!

My closing paragraph will go to a phone discussion I had with a Life member of PBS. He said he was disappointed with PBS. Of course I asked why and he said, "We have become a good ole boys club and we do nothing political, or stand for nothing anymore." In some

ways his statement was correct, in others there needs to be some educating and clarification. For a decade or more the PBS fought the inception and the use of crossbows during bow seasons all across the nation. When I first came on Council back in 2009 the Crossbow Committee was taking its last gasps. The crossbow movement had swept across the nation and they became legal in most states all across the US. As the pro-crossbow advocates moved state to state, the manufacturers poured in money and new lobbying efforts and people were recharged each time. The PBS had a limited budget and the same people to try and make their case. Although a valiant effort, we did not stand a chance without large numbers of people and a much larger budget.

I want to bring the topic up because my guess is there are other older members that probably have the same feelings. So how does the PBS become more politically involved? We can only do it by becoming relevant. Becoming relevant involves healthy growing membership numbers and lots of money. This goes back to my point of participating in our membership drive. For the PBS to become relevant we need everyone on board participating.

All the best,
Norm Johnson

Thank You

I would like to thank PBS members for their calls, cards, thoughts, prayers and flowers when my dear wife, Jane, recently passed away.

I deeply appreciate your kindness.

Roger Rothhaar

Vice President's Message

by Matt Schuster

matt@easterndynamicsinc.com

If you are like me, you are tuning up your bow, building arrows, and sharpening broadheads for the hunting season that is just around the corner. I hope I never get too old to not be filled with hope and anticipation about all the exciting adventures that I have planned this fall and winter. Most of my hunts are with fellow PBS members so I know that even if the critters or the weather doesn't cooperate, we will always have a great time. No doubt, few of the hunts will be nearly as exciting as the way I picture them in my summer daydreams, but a few will and that makes it all worthwhile.

PBS has a lot going on right now – the membership drive is doing well, and the new website (professionalbowhunters.org) and a more consistent presence on social media are helping out with that. For those of us that are a bit tech-challenged and old-

fashioned, nothing in PBS will change, but to attract and hold younger members who will keep PBS moving forward, the web-based communications are critical. There are thousands of young, competent guys out there who are just as passionate about our sport as you and I were when we joined PBS years ago - but they don't communicate the way we do. I think it would be really cool if a bunch of these guys got involved and used PBS to promote knowledge and experience their way. Please don't let the concentration on web stuff frighten you. None of the features that have made PBS what it currently is will go away - the PBS Magazine will still be there for those who don't spend time on the web.

In this magazine there is an announcement of a PBS On-Line Auction on Tradgang.com. Please read the description and take action NOW. Not only will it



help PBS, it will be a lot of fun. If it is successful (and that depends on our membership and the number of donations that we get!), the nice thing about the auction is that we can do it on an annual or semi-annual basis to help take the pressure off the Gathering as our sole fund-raising source. Please take the minute or two that it will take to donate to this auction, and when it gets started on-line, go on Tradgang, you might just find that special bow or out-of-print book that you have been looking for.

Finally, thanks for your support of PBS and hope you all have a safe and enjoyable hunting season. When you are fortunate enough to have an interesting or productive hunt – write a little something about it and send it to the PBS Magazine or post a story on the website so that your PBS brothers can celebrate with you.

Best,

Matt Schuster

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 Matt Schuster, 1663 Ivey Road, Warrenton, GA 30828.

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: Dennis Mahoney – Plymouth, MN

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April 20th for 2nd Qtr. 2016 issue
July 20th for 3rd Qtr. 2016 issue
Oct. 20th for 4th Qtr 2016 issue
Jan. 20th for 1st Qtr. 2017 issue

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Senior Council's Report

by Rob Burnham

rob@burnhamphotography.com

download Instagram, follow PBS and check out the steady stream of great member photos. Finally if you have not been on the PBS Facebook page give it a try and like us.

While you are planning and preparing for this fall and bow season, give some thought to planning a trip to Madison for the next PBS gathering. This is going to be a don't miss event. The speakers and seminars are top notch. Check elsewhere in this issue for all the details or you can visit our website, just click the "Gatherings" tab at the top. Not to beat a dead horse, but PBS needs you to be there to help make this one grand event. Of course not everyone can get the time to attend, you can still help make it a success however. Consider donating an item to the auction. Every item received will benefit the organization. If you have questions don't hesitate to contact any of our members on Council.

Finally we, PBS, can really use some help with our regional program. The region reps are doing their best to keep the

members informed in their respective regions, but they need your help. If you know of any archery related items that are worthy of sharing with the membership please make the effort to contact your rep. If nothing else you can send an email. Speaking of email, we are currently putting together a master email list for every member of PBS. There are some that we have old outdated email addresses for and some we don't have an address period. If you would like to be included in future emails that go out from PBS take a few seconds the next time you login to your email and send us your correct contact info. You can send this info to info@professional-bowhunters.org

Wishing each of you great experiences this fall in your pursuit of wild game with bow in hand. Remember to keep notes and take lots of pictures of your hunts so that you can share them with your fellow PBS brothers and sisters by way of our magazine and on the new website.

>>~~Rob~~<<

Hopefully this issue of the PBS Magazine finds each of you well and enjoying a wonderful summer. It's been a busy one here for sure, but my thoughts are focused on the approaching fall and the opening of bow seasons. I'm really looking forward to getting back into the elk woods come September. Maybe this will be the year that a big bull makes a mistake and I can capitalize on his misfortune. The annual ritual of building a new set of hunting arrows in August begins the process and preparation for my fall hunts. It's this beginning of each new archery season that I look forward to each year. My rewards later in the season are a direct reflection of the amount of effort I devote to the preparation and entire process in the off and pre season.

I see our organization much like my bowhunting seasons. What we get from PBS is a reflection of what we put into it. Being involved and seeing things happen can be very rewarding. There are so many ways that each of us can be involved in helping to make PBS the best bowhunting organization, bar none. Yes, we have had some ups and downs and hit a few bumps in the road, but we are going forward and the future looks bright from where I stand. Take our website for instance. If you have not visited the NEW site, do me and PBS a favor, the next time you are on your computer skip hitting the bookmarked forum page and type in this URL: www.ProfessionalBowhunters.org take a few minutes or an hour and go through the site and look at the information available. You can now read past issue's of the magazine back to 2013. There are links to some really great videos as well as podcasts from fellow members. If you operate a "smart phone"



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Council's Report

by Ethan Rodrigue
woodsmanbows@yahoo.com

This is my first report as a Councilman, I am very humbled and would like to say that being asked to run has been an honor. I would also like to thank everyone that stepped up to run for office. As usual, PBS would have been on the winning side no matter what the outcome. Being on "this side of the fence" is a different perspective and I can say there are many things that go on behind the scenes to keep our organization running. Thank you to our home office and the outgoing Council for all of your efforts and hard work!

I am very excited to be working with such a fine group of individuals and I believe that we as a Council are on the same page and focused on the task at hand. As you probably know, one of the biggest things we are focusing on is the membership drive. It's been said many times before that if every member would sign up one person we would double our membership. That's a statement we've all heard before and one that can easily be over looked. But think about that for just a second and imagine if just half of us

could sign up one new member. That would be a huge shot in the arm for us! Have you talked to anyone about PBS? Drop off some old copies of our magazine you have laying around at a local bow shop, buy a year's membership for a friend and introduce them to what PBS is all about. Do you know a younger person just getting into bowhunting? Why not mentor them and show them the ropes? There are a lot of guys and gals out there that would be a great fit for PBS, they just don't know about us. Who better to advertise for our fine organization than our own members?

Along the lines of advertising, our social media presence is really starting to make an impact and the bow give away generously donated by our very own Blacktail Bows has been a huge help. PBS'er Nathan Bailey of Oregon has generously offered to do an "I am the PBS" series of podcasts featuring several of our members on his Barebowhunter Podcast. Our Instagram account is very active and is a great way to show off snapshots of



who we are and what we do. We've seen a great increase in requests to join the PBS Facebook page. This may not sound like a huge deal but like it or not, this is the way marketing is done these days. We all know it's not a secret that our membership is maturing! I just turned 42 and I've often been referred to as "one of the younger guys". We need to attract new members and younger members are the future of PBS. These media outlets cost nothing, and are the best way to reach potential members and spread our message. It only takes a couple of seconds to go to like or share on these venues. If you're not on Facebook or Instagram, you can still find someone to introduce to PBS. Of course, you could also ask your niece, nephew, or grandkid to show you how!!

Ethan Rodrigue

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This is my first report as the junior Councilman and I am honored to do so. For those of you wondering, my good friend, Ethan Rodrigue, won the open Councilman position. However, Matt Shuster won the vice president race and I was appointed to his prior council position. The new Council did meet in Madison, Wisconsin, at the next gathering site,

Council's Report

by Tom Vanasche

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and set up a course of action for PBS. I'm impressed with the caliber of people on this team and we need it to accomplish our goals. I discovered that there is and will be a lot more work to do to continue to make PBS stable and that has to include expanding our membership. At one time we had over 2,000 members [several years ago] and recently we had dropped to 1,100. We have added 100 members since the first of the year and that is a good start and hopefully all members are trying to recruit additional prospects. We have updated the website [though there is still work to be done], thanks to Rob Burnham. We have Instagram and Facebook at your disposal and hope to get lots of members to contribute and observe. Matt and Norm

are giving an amazing amount of time and energy to this society and the rest of the Council is trying to follow their lead. It is surprising how much work there is to do to keep it all functioning and making the next "gathering" a success. You should all have received information on the gathering through a valid email or phone call from a Councilman, as well as in this magazine. If you were not contacted by email, send an email to a Councilman with your correct information, as I know several I attempted to contact returned as invalid addresses. We need a big turnout in Wisconsin and I hope we can set a new attendance record as well as having a great get together.

Tom Vanasche

Chosen!

I reached into my stash of boxes of arrows and chose a dozen that were blue dipped, white crested, and fletched with white feathers. Six were tipped with field points and six had Magnus two blade broadheads. Of dozens and dozens of arrows, this dozen was going to Quebec with me and arrow 1 and 4 would each bring down a bull caribou. Those arrows were very special to me. My friend Paul Rebarchak had made them up for me as a gift. Those dozen arrows have taken a lot of animals including several deer and wild hogs. I first met Paul when I was a grad student at Penn State in 1981. He was teaching a fly tying class for Trout Unlimited that Sandy and I took. We developed a great friendship that remains to this day. I have stayed at his house in PA several times to deer hunt with Paul, his wife Gretchen, and son Caleb, and he has stayed at ours in WV to do the same. Those arrows were chosen because they are special!

I have my gear sorted into Rubbermaid containers and gear duffels according to hunts such as deer hunting backpack, turkey hunting bag, wild

Chaplain's Corner

by Gene Thorn

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hog container, elk hunting container etc. When we make gear choices it is because it is the best item for the use, or the item is special to us.

I Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

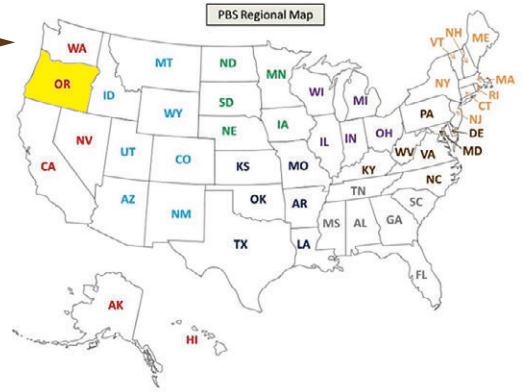
Each of us is special to God! He has chosen us to be His own special people. He has made us for a purpose. We are to praise Him. He has called us to live in His marvelous light. Always remember how special you are to God. Just like I number my arrows, he knows the very number of hairs on your head. But it goes far beyond that, He knows and calls your name. You are **Chosen!** ✠



Regional Profile

We are starting a new segment in the magazine titled "REGIONAL PROFILE". In this segment we will highlight one state and give a brief explanation of species available to hunt, out of state license fees, public land opportunities, and any other information that might be helpful to fellow members interested in taking advantage of that state's hunting opportunities. This addition will probably be an evolving process so any suggestions or comments are welcome!

Ideally, we would like to select a state in one region then move to another region altogether and continue the cycle until we have eventually covered all states. So please give some thought to contributing to the magazine in this small way for upcoming issues.



by Nate Bailey

Bugles ceased, the air is warming and I am at full draw. The politicians in my mind start lobbying, release, all you have to do is release. The tenacious strain on my shoulder agreed, pressuring my split fingers to straighten, but it is interrupted by the other party. "Let down. It's an immature three point; do you want to give up the whole second season?" The side of reason beat impulse in the election that took place in my mind: my shoulder relaxed, my hand followed the string back to brace and I told the young muley, "It's your lucky day."

In Oregon, this is the dilemma every bow hunter goes through. Do I shoot a small buck in the early season or do I hold out and hunt the mature blacktails during the November rut? I hear Oregon bowhunters always complaining about the choice at hand, but if they just sat down and considered the prospects the Beaver State offers I would bet their tunes would change.

Oregon offers one of the most diverse hunting landscapes in the west. East of the Cascades the state looks a lot like any rocky mountain state, but as the Cascades flatten towards the west they give way to oak savannas, monster rainforest, and green grasslands. Most of this diverse landscape can be explored with the same over the counter archery deer, elk and bear tag, making the green state a great place for any

bowhunter to visit.

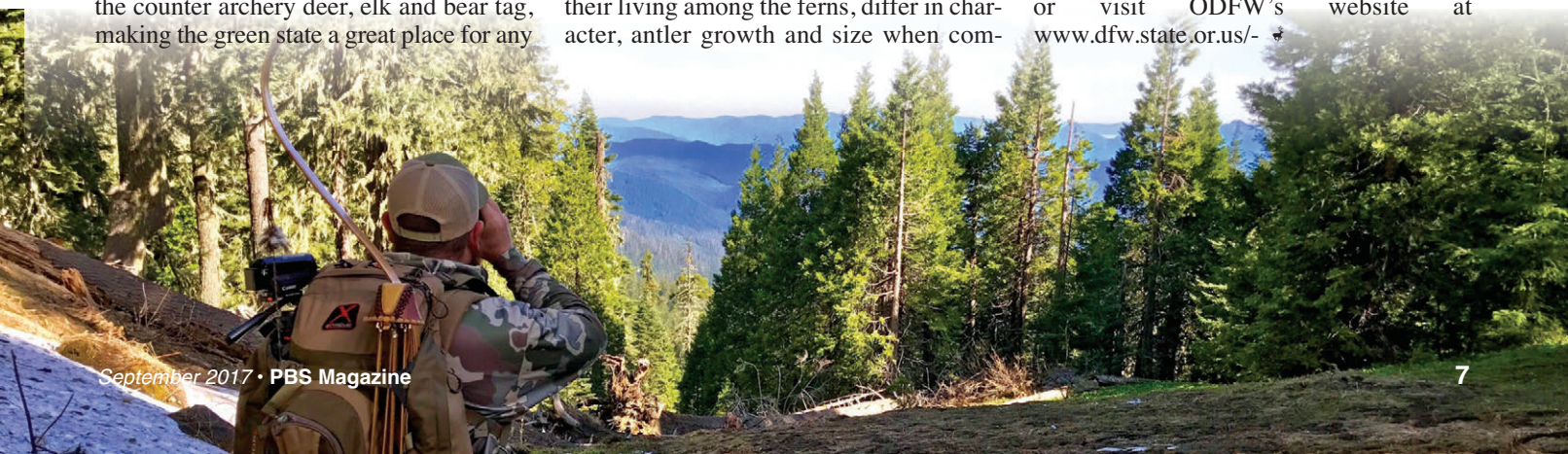
Beyond the diversity of the landscape Oregon also boasts a diverse selection of game. We have three different deer species including: blacktail, whitetail, and muley. Three different elk species Roosevelt, Rocky Mountain, and Cascade (people argue the validity of the latter, but if you have ever hunted Cascade elk you know they are vastly different than their brothers of the east and west.) Pronghorn antelope, both species of bighorn sheep, mountain goats, black bears, cougars, and two species of wild turkeys (Merriam's and Rio's.)

One of the best things about Oregon is you can hunt every week of the year. Cougar season lasts all year long, even though the use of dogs is prohibited, hunters who target the big cats have a good chance of finding one as their numbers are on the rise. Oregon also boasts a liberal black bear season and has one of the highest population of the bruins in the lower forty-eight. There are several spring opportunities as well as fall OTC tags. There are several elk OTC tags as well as some great draw tags. Oregon elk are fewer in numbers than in other states, but Oregon offers the chance to hunt three different subspecies. The Roosevelts that like to make their living among the ferns, differ in character, antler growth and size when com-

pared to their eastern cousin the Rocky Mountain elk. Roosevelts average size is a couple hundred pounds larger than their cousins, but usually sport a smaller rack. If you're looking for the best of both species, you'll find it in the mountain range that divides the state. Although, technically the Cascade Elk isn't considered a subspecies, those of us who chase them would disagree. They boast bigger bodies than a Rocky Mountain elk, yet grow headsets more reminiscent of their juniper loving cousin. If you're lucky enough to draw the tag, there are elk opportunities in Oregon that would keep you in the field for months. Antelope, sheep and goat tags are all draw, but there are some real attractive units and antelope tags that afford the bowhunter some serious effective time in the field.

As a fifth generation Oregonian, I can understand why my pioneer descendants decided to strike out on the Oregon Trail, opportunities abound in this great state. Still today Oregon beckons the pioneering spirit, calling those who love the wild places and its bounty to head west and taste the goodness that the trail promises; with all the opportunities this state holds—who could resist?

For more info Call Nate 541-951-6952 or visit ODFW's website at www.dfw.state.or.us/ -



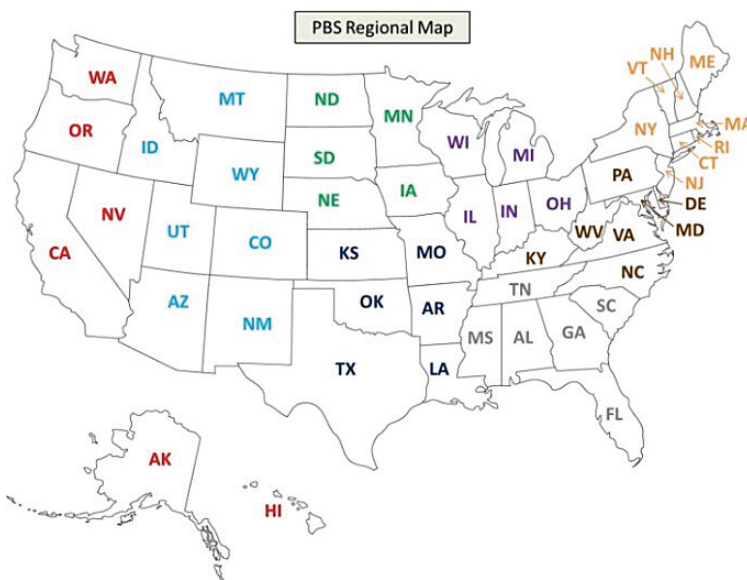
PBS – Regionally Speaking

By Jeff Holchin
Second Quarter 2017

We've had some turnover with some regional reps this year and I want to thank Gene Thorn, Ron Herman, Russell Lantier, John Vargo and Dan Mathis for their help in getting this program off the ground. I also want to welcome and thank the new regional reps Randy Brookshier, Vance Henry, and Preston Lay - we're still looking to fill the Rocky Mountain region spot. There were several goals in mind when this program was resurrected a few years ago, including (1) giving our members a better opportunity to connect with other members in their state and region and (2) providing bowhunting news and updates for the various regions, including announcements for membership hunts. With the big membership drive under way, this program can also be used to help our new members get involved with the PBS.

In one of our regional reports, it was mentioned that the membership hunts have become a cornerstone of what the PBS stands for, and I agree. I have four big bowhunts planned for this fall (had to delay a fifth one until 2018) and ALL are with my PBS friends, including three membership hunts. I am very pleased about that. If you have hosted a membership hunt in recent years, thanks! If you have not participated in a membership hunt, what are you waiting for? If you are considering hosting one, please do it, no matter how small. They do require some planning and work, but if you start small and build from there, you should be fine. Contact me if you are thinking about hosting a membership hunt and have questions.

If you have any relevant bowhunting-related news from your state or region, send it to your state or regional rep, or to me. Also, we need your current contact information – PLEASE email your regional representative with this information and get your state representative's contact information in return. We need to build our member database to more effectively communicate between members and representatives of each state and region. We need more activity within each state and region, such as gatherings, fundraisers and hunts. Check out "PBS Regional Program" and "PBS Membership Hunts" forums on our website – we need more activity. Don't forget to take some good photos and submit an article about your fall hunt for the PBS magazine - we need fresh material.



SoutheastAlabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee

InternationalAustralia, Canada, England, France, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand, All Other Countries

The current Regional Representatives are as follows:

Chairman - Jeff Holchin (jeffreyholchin@gmail.com)

Appalachian - Randy Brookshier (stykbow59@comcast.net)

Great Lakes - Ron Lang (rlang46@gmail.com)

International - Richard Flett (deerhunter_4life@hotmail.com)

North and Central Plains -

Mark Viehweg (mark@v-testequipment.com)

Northeast - Terry Receveur (Terrance.Receveur@taconic.com)

Pacific West - Tom Vanasche (tomvanasche@mac.com)

Rocky Mountain West - Currently open

South Central - Preston Lay (longbow@cimtel.net)

Southeast - Vance Henry (vhenry.ga@gmail.com)

Pacific West Report

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

by Tom Vanasche – Regional Representative

California - New regulations for here include mandatory harvest reporting. Successful deer hunters must report within 30 days, others by January 31. Penalty is a \$21.60 fee when purchasing a deer tag the following year. Blacktail deer and hog hunting are in full swing now in the Golden State. Pigs are near the water holes as the habitat dries up.

Alaska - The Haul Road remains open to nonresidents as the natives tried a last minute closure petition. Yours truly will be personally checking it out this September. New regulation for moose hunters in the Kenai Peninsula makes you complete a moose antler configuration orientation. The quiz is fun and informative. You will find it at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=quiz.mooseidentification.intro>. Good luck to the PBS members that will be hunting Alaska moose this fall. Plans are being finalized for the 2017 Kodiak Invasion - Steve H is leading yet another

Region	States
Pacific West	Alaska, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Oregon, Washington
Rocky Mountain West	Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming
North Central	Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota
South Central	Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas
Great Lakes	Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin
Northeast	Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont
Appalachian	Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia

Membership hunt for blacktail deer on this famous island.

Oregon - Crossbows are still not allowed anywhere in any season yet. I see the new ads certain brand that say "look at your next rifle".....Out here we are gearing up for the opening of deer and elk season on August 26th. It has been hot and dry so hopefully officials won't close the woods down.

Rocky Mountain West Report

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

By Currently Open (need a new representative)

No report.

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

From Mark Viehweg: As I write this report, the dog days of summer are upon us. However, we all know the beginning of archery seasons are right around the corner. In the case of high country mule deer hunts and antelope are only weeks away. Our licenses have been purchased and the gear is being sorted. One of my favorite old time quotes is: "The hay's in the barn and its time to go hunting." The PBS South Dakota Membership Hunt is in the final planning stages. We have members coming from South Dakota, Illinois, North Carolina, Mississippi, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. Membership Hunt coordinator, Jeff Holchin, is a late welcome addition. We hope to build on the knowledge gathered last year and capitalize on more opportunities. The PBS Membership Hunts have become the foundation of PBS. I look at this as a great opportunity to share a campfire and explore new country for our membership. Hunting is what we're all about. On the South Dakota front, we are seeing a few more counties open up for the use of the whitetail doe only tags. The effect of EHD seems to have lessened. However, many in the NE corner of the state are concerned with the possibility of an EHD out break this summer due to drought.

Great Lakes Report

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

by Ron Lang

The OJIBWA BOWHUNTERS 2017 PBS Odd Year Gathering just finished up and was another success. Won't be long now and we'll all be meeting in Madison. Here is info for reserving your room - do it soon:

Madison Marriott West, Middleton WI

608-831-2000 • Group Code: Bowhunters Society

Ohio: The Membership hunt for deer is full and just around the corner. The bucks at this wilderness lake have no idea what is coming after them this year. Rumor has it that a truckload of Tarheel hunters are participating this year and plan to hang some bruiser bucks from the meatpole.

In other Wisconsin outdoor news, we had our Conservation Spring hearings in April where any citizen can attend the hearing in their county to voice their opinion on hunting, fishing, and environmental issues, vote on DNR proposed changes or submit their

own resolution to whatever concern they have. Each county has 5 delegates who are elected at the Spring Hearings and serve 2 and 3 year staggered terms. The WCC (Wisconsin Conservation Congress) then meets in May to discuss all DNR proposals and citizen resolutions that were passed at a county level where they are voted on again by the 360 elected delegates. If they pass there they are moved on to the Natural Resources Board (NRB) and if passed there the DNR could enact them or if a change in law is required it could go to the Wisconsin legislature and the legislative process to become law. There you have it, an example of grass roots politics Wisconsin style and proof we do more than make cheese and beer. I just mention all this because it is just one example of how one can be involved in matters that involve all of us who love the outdoors and for us, bowhunting. I have been a member of the WCC for over 15 years and find it rewarding. My years of service pale in comparison to those who have served 30 and even over 40 years on the WCC which celebrated its 75th year Anniversary in 2016.

In other Wisconsin news, good friend and fellow PBSer George Henrich reports that the Wisconsin Traditional Archers (WTA) celebrated their 25th Anniversary in 2017 at their banquet at Stevens Point, WI with 267 in attendance. WTA has a membership of just over 500 and growing. Barry Wensel was the banquet quest speaker and as expected kept us entertained. Howard Edwards one of the key persons involved in founding the WTA passed away last year and was honored. At the banquet, every kid who didn't yet have a bow was given one along with arrows. The WTA also gave three \$500.00 Student Scholarships this year to attend the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point noted nationally for their excellence in Conservation. Next year the WTA could give up to five of these \$500.00 Scholarships. Just a small but important part of investing in the future!

George also reports that the WBH (Wisconsin Bowhunters Association) held its convention at Wisconsin Dells, WI and celebrated 76 years since it was founded in 1941. Some of the notable founders were Roy Case, Aldo Leopold, Larry Whiffen and Art La Ha to name a few. WBH has been and continues to be the voice of bowhunting in Wisconsin with over just 5,000 members. No doubt that being one of the oldest if not the oldest bowhunting organizations in the nation the WBH has undoubtedly effected laws and bowhunting regulations in other states as well. The WBH has a fine museum and it is located in Clintonville, WI. I have talked at length here on what happens in Wisconsin but do so because in 2018 the PBS Gathering is coming to Madison, WI and all of us "cheese heads" are proud of our involvement in bowhunting and its history and our deeply honored and privileged to host the greatest of all national and international bowhunting organizations, the PBS!

Illinois by rep. Paul Ladner: We in Illinois are currently waiting to see what happens to a bill for full inclusion of crossbows in archery season (they are currently allowed in about half the season). The United Bowhunters of Illinois has repeatedly resisted industry efforts. I assume it is a battle that will be lost eventually. As is the case generally, when these technology issues arise, the concern is for restricted archery seasons/harvest when more efficient weapons are brought into the traditionally low impact, inefficient pursuit of archery hunting.

Perhaps of greater concern are the attempts of anti-hunters to limit hunting and trapping in general. The United Bowhunters of Illinois is currently getting our act together to alert all members of legislative issues and encourage contacting legislators in support or resistance of proposed legislation as indicated.

~ continued on page 10

PBS Regionally Speaking

~ continued from page 9

Northeastern Report

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

by Terry Receveur

New York: The dog days of summer are now upon us. One of the fun activities that you can enjoy at this time of year in New York is bowfishing. One of the trips in the recent Big Five Hunt raffle was a fishing and bowfishing trip in upstate New York. Greg Szalewski was the lucky winner and a trip was planned for June 16-18th. Greg works over 55 hours a week and he really relishes his free time and if there is an opportunity to maximize his time with his son and wife he will do so. Greg asked if it would be OK to bring along his son Bryan and wife Karen and that was no problem at all and very welcome.

First off I want to say THANK YOU to Greg for all he does to support the PBS. You won't find a more dedicated member. Bryan and Karen are as supportive as you could imagine and I'm sure Bryan will be just as dedicated as his dad. Finer people you will never meet. My wife and Karen hit it off right away and Karen soon showed my wife some knitting tricks that she loves.

I'm still trying to decide if I won the trip or Greg did! Greg and family came bearing gifts. My wife loves her home made knitted pot holders and as I type this I'm enjoying some amazing cheese curds and tasty venison sticks. Bryan also brought me some great sausages and other custom meats from his neck of the woods. If Greg ever quits his 55 hours a week day job, I'm pretty certain he could make a living as a butcher and sausage maker. He has skills in the venison processing and preparing area. Fantastic!

Greg and family arrived right on time and we made a quick test run bowfishing trip for a few hours and the carp were scarce but shots were fired. Bryan connected on a nice fish and had lots of fun. Karen was an enthusiastic observer and we all had a great time. The next day we hit the Hudson River fairly early for some fun fishing. Karen had the hot hand and caught a few nice fish. She is very excitable and the screeching and dancing upon hook-up is a sight to behold. What fun! That night we made a trip to a new body of water to try our luck bowfishing. Some big rains came through right before Greg's arrival and muddied the water a bit. Add in high winds and the ability to spot the fish was difficult at best. However, there were many shots fired and some connected. Greg was the obvious pro and managed a few fish. Overall, it was a great night on the water with good friends.

The fishing and bowfishing wasn't as good as I had hoped. However, as a PBSer you know it is more about the total experience than the actual harvesting of game. From this perspective it was an exceptionally successful weekend.



Connecticut: NEW this year! Unsold Deer Lottery Permits will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis starting March 15, 2017. Unsold lottery permits can be purchased online or at select DEEP offices up until sold out or the season ends. All unsold lottery permits must be purchased at the end of the transaction.

Connecticut will now participate in the National Archery in the School Program (NASP). NASP is an in-school program typically taught during physical education classes. The program is designed to teach International-style target archery skills with the help of a pre-written curriculum which meets or exceeds national physical education standards.

Connecticut is looking for landowners willing to provide public hunting access! The Wildlife Division recently received a \$612,500 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program to expand the Permit-Required Hunting Program and increase private land hunting opportunities. Under this program, landowners who own farm or forested land can be paid between \$3 - \$20 per acre annually if the land is made available for hunting by the public.

New Jersey: The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife announced that Hunter Whitehead of Frenchtown, NJ, landed the new state record grass carp for archery on June 3, 2017. The fish weighed in at 65 pounds, 13 ounces, eclipsing the previous state record by 13 ounces. The fish measured 48" in length and had a girth of 36". Hunter was bowfishing in the Delaware River when he got the fish.

I hope you are having a great summer and if you have any Regional hunts or other NE information give me a call or shoot me an Email. Terrance.Receveur@Taconic.com, 518-755-9119.

Appalachia Report

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

by Randy Brookshier – Regional Representative

The Appalachian PBS Odd Year Gathering was held May 19-21, 2017 in conjunction with the Baltimore Bowmen Traditional Classic. Winter Storm Stella slammed the original dates in March, necessitating a postponement. The change in dates was a good opportunity to broaden the presence of PBS at a big event in the Mid-Atlantic area so it is all good. There was plenty of traffic through the P.B.S. booth during the weekend, and several nice items were raffled off to benefit the P.B.S.

Kentucky (Scott Record): The Kentucky spring turkey season has come to a close with over 33,000 birds harvested. Archery had little impact on harvest with only 300 birds reported. Bow fishing opportunities have been very limited in western KY due to extremely high lake and river levels this spring. The elk quota hunt drawing results have been released and just over 700 lucky hunters have been awarded permits. Whitetail season opens September 2nd and continues until Jan 15, 2018. See KDFWR website for details on license requirements, season dates, and bag limits.

Archery season in KY runs Sept 2nd to Jan 15th. New regulations this year require hunters to leave proof of sex on harvested deer prior to tele-checking the animal. Also, the 15 inch antler spread requirement has been removed from all Wildlife Management areas. The quota hunt application period is Sept 1-30th. There are several opportunities for archery only quota hunts throughout the state. Bear hunting regulations are still in legislation but likely changes include expanded harvest zones, separate

weapons seasons and higher season harvest numbers. Non resident hunters may also have bear hunting opportunities this fall. See fw.ky.gov for more details.

Maryland (Tony Sanders): Maryland Governor Larry Hogan signed House Bill 1427 into law. Sponsored by Delegate Herb McMillan, HB 1427 creates an “apprentice hunting license” that will allow a new hunter to hunt under the supervision of a licensed hunter for up to three consecutive days. The apprentice hunter will be required to watch a short online safety video before obtaining the license. Lengthy hunter education requirements often discourage potential hunters from going afield because they are unwilling to dedicate the necessary time to complete the course in order to pursue an activity that they are simply trying out. Eventually, the goal is for these apprentices to complete a hunter education course so they can hunt on their own, which has largely been the case in the states with similar programs.

A new law went into effect July 1st which allows any veteran who had received a Purple Heart for injuries defending our nation to qualify for a 50% discount on Maryland hunting and fishing licenses. Purple Heart recipients will join disabled veterans and former prisoners of war, along with current members of the U.S. military who can receive special pricing on Maryland licenses, permits and stamps.

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources has announced that hunters reported harvesting 4,175 wild turkeys during the 2017 regular spring and junior hunting seasons. This year’s harvest was 8 % higher than 2016 (3,874) and marked the third consecutive record harvest in the state. Hunters in 10 counties were able to hunt on Sunday this year, resulting in a harvest of 337 birds.

West Virginia (Gene Thorn): WV DNR Wildlife has a great collection of Wild Game and Fish Recipes on their website - Wild Cookin – at <http://www.wvdnr.gov/hunting/wrecipe.shtm>

Pennsylvania (Tim Denial): One VERY significant change for Pa. bow hunters is that the BEAR archery season Oct.30th-Nov.4th takes place for the first time within the same season as the archery deer season. You need to possess a bear stamp. Pennsylvania has some monstrous bears.

Virginia (Randy Brookshier): Virginia hunters have seen an increase in wild turkey sightings and the kill has reached peak numbers. That trend should continue for the upcoming season. Gary Norman, DGIF forest game bird project leader says that Virginia’s wild turkey population is at a record level.

“Virginia’s wild turkey has increased 2.7-percent annually over the past 10 years,” he said. The population is estimated to be as high as 195,000 birds.

Some sportsmen believe the spring kill should be given a boost by increasing the daily limit from the current one to two. But that idea was dismissed in a 5-to-4 vote of the DGIF board at its recent meeting in Richmond.

Drawing the most attention at the recent DGIF meetings were bear regulations.

The board approved a controversial, three-day early October season in 37 counties. It will be open to all methods of hunting, including the use of hounds. The vote was 8-to-1. Hunting will take place just prior to the bow season. This proposal was vigorously opposed by several groups, including the Virginia Bow Hunters Association, as it will obviously interfere with bow season. The board felt it was needed to help control Virginia’s exploding bear population. Kill levels have risen rapidly over the last several years, but so has the incident of vehicle accidents in-

volving bears and bear nuisance complaints.

Biologists predict that the new season will increase bear mortality by hunters nearly 12 percent, something needed to keep the big animals from becoming a nuisance.

Virginia’s Hunters for the Hungry program has received a \$25,000 grant from the Walmart Foundation, which will provide funds to process 27,000 pounds of venison from deer donated by hunters. That amounts to 111,111 servings of meat for the needy, said Laura Newell-Furniss, director of the program.

Southeast Report

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

by Vance Henry – Regional Representative

Hi everyone. My name is Vance Henry. I’m the new Southeast rep and proud to serve. It’s the dog days of summer here in the south and not a lot is going on. It’s hot, very hot. That being said, I’m sure there are currently hogs being pursued with longbow and recurve in every southeastern state. Here in my home state of Georgia, hunters have been concerned about the reduction in deer populations so as a result, the number of days doe deer can be taken during hunting season have been reduced. However, bowhunters are not restricted by number of days and can take doe deer any day of the season. Down in Florida, it’s my understanding Mr. Don Davis drew the coveted Golden Ticket. I’m not sure if that’s a chocolate bar or the most exclusive gator permit offered in the state of Florida. Either way, I’m sure we’ll hear more about that in the near future. That’s all for now but feel free to contact me with any news effecting the Southeastern region at vhenry.ga@gmail.com.

South Central Report

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

by Preston Lay – Regional Representative

I want to thank Russell Lantier for being the region representative the last few years. I also want to thank Jeff for asking me to step in for Russell. No big changes in wildlife laws in Oklahoma. The special hunt draw results were announced in early July for the upcoming fall. I happened to be fortunate to draw the last weekend of the traditional bowhunt at the McAlester Army Ammunition Plant. The hunt will be November 10,11 & 12. The rut should be heating up then and traditionally this weekend is the best. Members should keep an eye on Bubba Graves if he braves hosting the Davis Mountain pig hunt again. A fantastic time was had by all in attendance. This hunt can get our northern friends out of the cold. Keep in mind this is not an easy hunt. The terrain is very steep and rough. Horse/mules are required so a little horsemanship helps. Stay tuned on this one and it would likely be January or February.

International Report

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

by Richard Flett – Regional Representative

No report. ☺



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- A 'drawing entry' will be assigned to the sponsor of each new member enrollment during the **PBS Membership Drive** period.
- No limit of entries. The more new PBS members you enroll, the greater your odds of winning!

Welcome new members to the PBS family!

Say hello
to someone
new!

January

ALAN BARNICK – SHAWANO, WI
JOSHUA BUNTE – ARLINGTON, TN
GEORGE CAMPBELL – LUTHERSBURG, PA
JOHN COTTRELL – DERBYSHIRE, ENGLAND
NICKEY ISON – FAIRBORN, OH
DANIEL MARKS – COLONIAL HEIGHTS, VA
BRIAN MORRIS – FAIRFIELD, CA
BRIAN PEELER – FRONT ROYAL, VA
MARK PUTRA – WATERTOWN, WI
JOHN WERT – LITITZ, PA

February

ROGER BALIS – MIDLAND, MI
JAMES CLARK – VICKSBURG, MI
TOM COLSTAD – IRMA, WI
JACOB HAWKINS – COLUMBIA CITY, IN
THOMAS JORGENSEN – GRAND HAVEN, MI
JON KLOOR – EUGENE, OR
JONATHAN LANCE – ZIONSVILLE, IN
JOHN MAY – DAVISON, MI
JON MCCOY – EUGENE, OR
DARIN J. MILLER – NEW PARIS, IN
JIM MORLEY – MEARS, MI
WILLIAM NEWMAN – COLUMBUS, IN
TIM OTTERSEN – POULSBORO, WA
DANNY RED – NEW WAVERLY, TX
JASON SENN – CLARKSVILLE, TN
BRIAN STALLMAN – FIARFAX, IA
EDDIE STEPHENS – FOUNTAINTOWN, IN
JASON TAYLOR – NEWAYGO, MI
DONALD TAYLOR – HART, MI
TODD TRAHAN – CECILIA, LA
ELI E. TROYER – BALTIC, OH
JACOB VELDHAUS – CINCINNATI, OH
JAMES R. WARD – ELECTIC, AL
BRIAN WESSEL – KEOKUK, IA
J. RICK WILKINS – MUIRKIRK, ONTARIO, CANADA

March

JON HARTMANN – SPRING, TX
ROBERT B. NANCARROW – NATIONAL CITY, MI
JOSH PARCHMAN – FT. STEWART, GA
ZAC SHARP – KNOXVILLE, IL
SCOTT TINLEY – UNION GROVE, AL
RICK WELKER – DALMATIA, PA
D J ZOR – PHOENIX, AZ

April

RICHARD KOHLBERGER – COS COB, CT
DAVID LAWSON – EUGENE, OR
CHRISTOPHER MORRIS – SLIDELL, LA
JOHN RUSSELL – SHELLEY, ID
SHANE UNRUH – COPELAND, KS
TIM ZEIGLER – SUMMERVILLE, SC

May

CLAY BURKHART – QUINLAN, TX
RICHARD COBB – ROCKWOOD, ME
EDWARD CONOLLY – MAHSPEE, MA
CLAYTON DAVIE – BALL GROUND, GA
CHARLES STATLER – MOUNT VERNON, OH
TIEGE ULSCHMID – TROY, ID
WILLIAM ACHATZ – ARVADA, CO
GRAY DRUMMOND – CHIEFLAND, FL
RYAN GILL – BROOKSVILLE, FL

JOHN HARNEY – SMITHVILLE, TN
PAUL HEDINE – ALEXANDRIA, MN
LACEY KELLY – CHIEFLAND, FL
IAN KOHLHOFER – TEMPERANCE, MI
TIMOTHY LATIMER – ELLICOTT CITY, MD
CHASE MALAN – FREETOWN, IN
PAUL MARSHALL – ALEXANDRIA, VA
ROB MCABEE – FERNANDINA BEACH, FL
MARCO OLIVI – PADOVA, VENETO, ITALY
FLIP PALLOT – MIMS, FL
ROBERT PEEL – TULLAHOMA, TN
GLENDA RECORD – KEVIL, KY
PAUL SHIREK – MAUSTON, WI
JIMMY TWITCHELL – CEDAR CITY, UT
AUSTIN WALSH – COLUMBUS, IN
NICK WALTZ – MAIDEN ROCK, WI
COREY WHITE – NEOSHO, MO
DONNIE WILKERSON – GAINESVILLE, FL
AARON WILLIAMS – OLD HICKORY, TN
JOHN WOLF – WATTS, OK

June

RYAN SANPEI – KAPOLEI, HI
JACOB SCOTT – SYLVA, NC
GREGORY T. WHELTON – MANDEVILLE, LA
CHRIS FARLEY – WHIPPLE, OH
RICHARD BAKER – TROUTDALE, OR
PATRICK WOLF – HILLSDALE, WI
HARMON CARSON – HAUGHTON, LA
MATT DOOLAN – DUNEDIN, OTAGO, NEW ZEALAND
JAMES QUILLIN – WALES, MI
BRYAN SZALEWSKI – EUCLID, OH
NATE BAILEY – WHITE CITY, OR

July

CAMERON SCHUSTER – GRAYSON, GA
TERRY GREEN – CALHOUN, GA
RANDI GRAFFT – LISBON, IA
BEN POSPISIL – MOUNT VERNON, IA
JASON HANSEN – HOWELL, MI
DALE WADE – CHRISTIANSBURG, VA
MYRON BAKER – ACCORD, NY
FAHAD BAFAKIH – CHARLESTON, WV
WADE PRESCOTT – UPPER CHICHESTER, PA
TEDD DRUCK – NEW FREEDOM, PA
WILLIAM BRIDGES – ELLICOTT CITY, MD
HARVEY OLIVER – TOLEDO, OH
CONWAY HAYDEN – SPARROWS POINT, MD
ROBERT "BUBBA" BEW – QUINTON, VA
JOHN ADDAIR – KING GEORGE, VA
STEVEN FRAHM – WEST ALLIS, WI
CHRIS BAHR – WINNEBAGO, IL
GARY VATER – PLYMOUTH, WI
DOUG RULLMANN – TREVOR, WI

August

NATHAN KILLEN – CASTLEWOOD, VA
JOSEPH GREENLEAF – AZTEC, NM
MARK KLONICKE – LIGONIER, PA
GLEN DICKLE – BARRIE, ONTARIO, CANADA
KEVIN CONROD – BETHEL, CT
ART HECKATHORN – SHARPSVILLE, PA
DAVID GRANT – FAIRFAX STN., VA
DAVE YODER – HADLEY, PA
KEVIN SCOWDEN – ST. CHARLES, MO



2017 PBS Legacy Program

Members often ask what they can do to help PBS and supporting the Legacy Program is one of the easiest ways to do that. Funds will go to the General Fund and help support the redesign of the PBS Website, the production of the PBS Magazine, the 2018 Gathering and numerous marketing efforts that will help us grow. No amount is too large or too small and all donations are appreciated. Businesses donating at the Diamond or Gold are entitled to a free quarter page ad in a PBS issue of their choice and all supporters of the Legacy Program will be acknowledged in the 3rd Quarter Magazine. Please make checks out the Professional Bowhunters Society and send to PBS, PO Box 246, Terrell NC 28682.

****Diamond Level \$3500***, Custom Doug Campbell Knife,
Invitation to the Paradise Legacy Hunt*

****Gold Level \$2000***, Invitation to the Paradise Legacy Hunt*

****Silver Level***, \$500 CRKT Larry Fischer Memorial Knife

****Sponsor Level***, \$100 PBS T-Shirt

The first eight Diamond or Gold Legacy supporters will be invited to a 3-day PBS Legacy Hog hunt at The Paradise Hunt Club in south Georgia. The hunt will take likely take place in early May and will be a great chance to chase critters and discuss PBS with fellow supporters. Food will be provided. In the event that a supporter cannot make the hunt, they are welcome to request the Larry Fischer Memorial Knife by CRKT.

Please check with your accountant to confirm that your donation is tax deductible.

MADISON

2018 Biennial Gathering

WISCONSIN

March 15 – 18, 2018



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Reservation Code: Bowhunters Society

Website Reservation Code: bhabhaa



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For More Information

General Inquiries and Questions:

Matt Schuster

404-386-2229

matt@easterdynamicsinc.com

Donations may be mailed directly to:

Jerry Karbon

1531 Red Oak Court

Middleton, WI 53562

(Jerry will receive and store donation items and will trailer the donated items to Madison. 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:

Rob Burnham

804-402-6900

rob@burnhamphotography.com

Hunt/Fish Trip Donations:

Ethan Rodrique

423-448-9658

woodsmanbows@yahoo.com

Dealer Space:

Tom Vanasche

541-990-3946

tomvanasche@icloud.com

Watch for more information about:

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in the next magazine
and online at

professionalbowhunters.org

Facebook: Professional Bowhunters Society

SEMINARS

Friday

9:00 am – Remembering Jay Massey, *Doug Borland*
11:00 am – Camp Cooking, *Monty Browning*
1:00 pm – Buying Your Own Hunting Land, *Nathan L. Andersohn*
3:00 pm – Regional Hunt Round Table, *Jeff Holchin and Friends*
Dinner Speaker: Clay Hayes

Saturday

8:00-11:00 am – General Membership Meeting
11:30 am – Cultivating Woodsmanship, *Clay Hayes*
1:00 pm – Wilderness First Aid, *Drs Leffler and Vanasche*
3:00 pm – Alaska Moose Hunting, *Bryan Burkhardt*
Dinner Speaker: Nathan L. Andersohn

Jerry Pierce Bowyers Contest

The intent of the Jerry Pierce Bowyers Contest is to highlight the best efforts and artistry of the talented and generous bowyers who donate to support our organization.

2018 Bowyer Categories:

Professional Class – can be recurve or longbow made by those who sell bows commercially

Amateur – can be recurve or longbow made by those who do not sell their work

Primitive – self-bows only

Bows become the property of PBS and are highlighted in the Saturday Night Auction.

Friday Dinner Speaker: Clay Hayes



Clay Hayes grew up on a small ranch in the Florida panhandle surrounded by horses, cattle, alligators, and what was once a seemingly endless expanse of pine savannah and Spanish moss laden live oak hammocks. When not in school, or being wrangled into church by his grandmother, he was roaming the swamps attending to the serious business of a mostly feral boy – catching snakes and building forts. Clay never outgrew that childhood affinity for wild places and wild things, which led to a career as a wildlife biologist and eventually to the mountains of north Idaho.

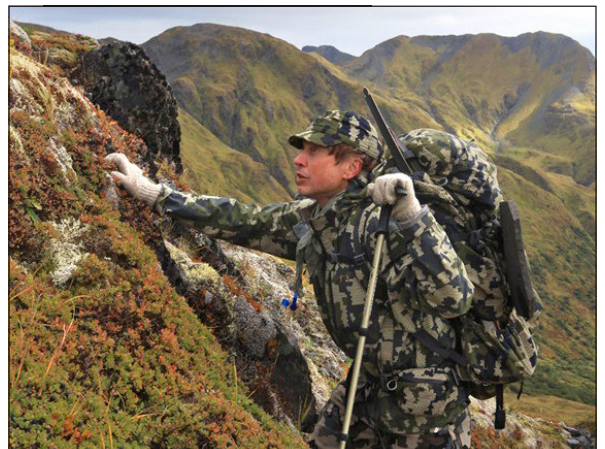
At a very young age, Clay settled on the path of traditional archery and bowhunting and realized very early that there was much more to hunting than killing an animal. Clay is a bit of an anomaly, not growing up in a hunting family, he had to figure it all out on his own and sometimes wonders how much that influenced his development as a hunter. His first big game hunting began at the age of 14, and by the time he was 19, he was exclusively shooting selfbows.

Clay's lack of early guidance made him acutely aware of the availability, or lack thereof, of good information. There were too few books on our sport, and even fewer quality ones. Realizing that kids these days have YouTube, Clay started twistedstave.com to provide the kind of information that he wished had been available when he was a kid. His videos and website have exposed the thrill and challenge of traditional bowhunting to tens of thousands of people.

Saturday Dinner Speaker: Nathan L. Andersohn

Nathan L. Andersohn was raised in southern Michigan and was heavily influenced by the exploits of his in-state hero Fred Bear. He traveled west with his Bear take-down recurve to attend the University of Denver. There, he obtained a Bachelors of Science in Accounting and Doctor of Jurisprudence. Along the way he climbed 14,000 peaks, skied extreme terrain, and kept shooting his bow.

In 1987 he switched to a longbow. His travels took him on adventures throughout the western states, Canada, and Alaska. He became the first person to obtain the Grand Slam of Sheep with a longbow. Currently, with a longbow and hand crafted arrows, he has just taken all of the 29 species of North American big game animals!



PBS Knife Contest



NEW!

NEW!

*PBS is home to some very talented knife makers
so we have added a simple open category for knife makers.*

- ◆ Open to all. The membership will vote on the Best Hunting Knife.
- ◆ All entries become the property of PBS and will be highlighted in the Saturday Night Auction.
- ◆ Entrants need not be present to win.
- ◆ Entries can be sent to Jerry Karbon, 1531 Red Oak Court, Middleton, WI 53562. Please note clearly that the knife is to be entered in the knife contest.
- ◆ Include an index card with entrants name, address, phone number and any other information that you would like the judging membership to know about your entry.

Member Photo Contest

2018 Rules

There will be three categories as follows

- 1). **Scenic/Wildlife**
(also includes hunting action shots)
- 2). **Hero Shot**
(Includes big and small game hero shots)
- 3). **Trail Cam**

Contest Rules are as follows:

- Participants may enter multiple photos per category
- All photos must be 8"x10" prints
- All photos become property of PBS
- All mailed photos must be received by March 10, 2018.
- Photos may be hand delivered at the Gathering.
- Each photo must be marked with entrants name, address, phone number and email address.
- All photos must be on photo paper or light backing material. No matting or framing.
- Please package photos to prevent bending and send to:
Professional Bowhunters Society
P. O. Box 246
Terrell, NC 28262

PBS Arrow Building COMPETITION

2018 Rules

- To be held at the PBS Biennial Gathering, Madison, Wisconsin, March 15-18, 2018.
- Open to any PBS member in good standing.
- Members need not be present to win.
- A member may enter as many times as they wish.
- If the arrow shaft is footed, self-nocked, or inlaid, then all work must have been done by the entrant.
- No sharp broadheads or field points.
- No illegal components (eagle feathers, etc.)
- All entries become property of PBS
- Each entry must be titled and include an index card with the title, entrant's name, address and any other pertinent information that the entrant wants the judging members to know.
- **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 15, 2018.
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 March 16, 2018.
- Those members planning to attend are asked to please bring entries with you. For those not bringing their arrows, they can be sent to Jerry Karbon, 1531 Red Oak Court, Middleton, WI 53562. **Entries much reach Jerry before March 10.**

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



2017 "Garage Sale" Online Auction

It is no secret that PBS needs a vehicle to help raise funds during off-Gathering years and this is it. The date of this auction is dependent on how quickly we can gather enough commitments to donate items. It will be announced on Tradgang and in a PBS email blast once we have enough items. The success of this auction will be determined by our members – we are not soliciting any items from those wonderful folks who donate to our Gathering. Just from you.

If you are like most PBS members, you have an archery room full of bows, arrows, quivers, and other hunting related items that for whatever reason, you know longer use. Somebody out there would love to have this stuff and is willing to pay for it.

So **RIGHT NOW**, drop this magazine, walk back to your archery room, and decide what items you would like to donate in support of PBS. Then, using your phone, take a clear picture of it and email it to one of the volunteers at the bottom of this page along with a short description of the item. If your donation is a dozen 2016 shafts or a six-pack of Wensel Woodsmans, you can even skip the picture – although pictures are always better. That is all you have to do until at auction's end when you are informed of the winner and where to send the item.

It is very simple BUT YOU NEED TO DO IT NOW!

**This is
going to be
fun!!**

Why NOW?

Because this will not be successful if we do not get hundreds of items and we need to know that we can do that. Items need not be new, just in good shape, and they don't need to be expensive. Online auctions are fun, and participants who may not be able to afford a like-new Black Widow Bow, might be happy to score a half-dozen broadheads or kid's arrows for \$20.

Our goal is to have at least four full pages of items, and if we do not get enough, we will cancel the auction rather than make a poor showing. So **PLEASE DO THIS. OUR SUCCESS DEPENDS ON YOU!!**

This is how the auction will work:

For several days before the auction begins, the listed volunteers will begin posting the donated items on the Tradgang site but no bids will be accepted until the auction officially begins.

Once it opens, anyone registered on Tradgang (an easy process if you are not already registered) can bid on any item simply by posting his bid. The auction will run for ten days or so (the closing date and time will be noted on each page) and each page of items will close on a different day.

A link to our Paypal account will be on each page of the auction and winners can pay via Paypal or credit card, or, if absolutely necessary, they can send a check to the office.

This is a fundraiser and the more folks who bid, the more money we can make, so this auction is open to anyone on Tradgang. An added benefit to PBS is that we will get some good publicity out of this in support of our Membership Drive.

**We know you love your PBS magazine,
but put it down just for a minute!
That is all it will take for you to snap a
picture and send a quick email or text.**

**Please email your donations to the
volunteer listed below for the region you live in.**

Southeast: matt@easterndynamicsinc.com

Mid-Atlantic: Julian.tisdale36@gmail.com

Northeast: alligatordond@cs.com

Upper Midwest: spud.3@hotmail.com

Northwest, Alaska, or Canada: amcdonnel@vccusa.com

Southwest or Texas: woodsmanbows@yahoo.com

**If you don't know what region to which you belong,
email your donation to Rob@burnhamphotography.com**

The success of this depends on you! PLEASE ACT NOW!!

The Midas Touch

By Barry Wensel

During the 2015 season I saw three of the four biggest bucks of that entire year from the same stand. Two of the three got downwind and boogered me. In early 2016 I tweaked the set-up and moved the original stand about 60 yards. The stage was set.

The new stand position was the result of a combination of accumulated observations, new and old buck sign and reading terrain.

I always enjoy hunting a new stand for the first time. It's like starting a new chapter in a good book. So it was on the afternoon of November 7, 2016. It was a beautiful fall day in the timber. Probably 55 degrees, sunny and maybe a five MPH breeze from the southwest.

I snuck in about 2 PM. How could it get much better? This was Iowa, in a great, proven area, during the early stages of the whitetail rut. The temp and winds were perfect with fall foliage glowing yellow in the low afternoon sunlight. Life is good... no... life is great!

When I first climbed into the ladder stand, I set up my camcorder in hopes of maybe recording a kill. About 3:45 PM maybe 80 yards to the south movement caught my eye. Walking west to east was a single, mature buck, all alone, out cruising for chicks. It was a strikingly pretty scene with the fall foliage colors and low, filtered rays of sunlight coming through the hardwoods. I put the binoculars on him. He was a nice mature buck in his prime. In all honesty, I didn't really intend to shoot him because I'd seen a potential B&C buck in the same general area both last year and the previous week. Sometimes my playful nature gets the best of me. I decided to mess with him just for grins and maybe get some good video footage.

As mentioned, he was about 80 yards away slowly walking in the dry leaves. I wheezed once and he never broke stride. A second wheeze still brought no reaction. I had a grunt tube with me so gave it a blast. Nothing. I also had a rattle bag hanging there so hit it and he still never broke stride. I'm not sure if he was deaf or maybe the noise of him walking in the dry leaves over powered my attempts to stir him up. Even so, I thought he definitely should have heard the rattling from 80 yards. But he just walked off and was gone. As I said, I wasn't very upset because I didn't intend to shoot him anyway.

About an hour later, here he came again. He was still walking west to east which meant he must have just made a big loop looking for the girls. This time he was only about fifty yards or so. I was just reaching for the camera when he turned and walked right toward me. The closer he got, the better he looked. I put the binoculars on him and decided he was a lot better than I first thought. His right antler was very unique, splitting into a palmated double main beam. Seriously, if his right antler would have been "normal" and matched his left I would have let him walk. I'd already let a couple other bucks bigger than him walk earlier in October. I thought about the fact I hadn't shot a buck in the last two years, I'm getting old, and I had two buck tags in my pocket. Yep... that right antler did him in.

Now, because of the angle he walked toward me, I didn't dare reach for the camera. He was walking right down the major deer run that would pass me at 12 yards. When he got to fifteen yards he did something rather strange by making a scrape right on the main run itself but out in the open with no overhanging branches. I could have shot him right then but he was just very slightly quartering toward me. If I waited just a little while he would be perfectly broadside or quartering past me. The fact struck me this would have made great video footage. I again started to reach for the camera and

here he came on. No time. Sorry folks. He veered off the main run and frankly was now too close at ten yards. In order to not hit my lower bow limb on the side rail of the ladderstand I had to reverse-cant my bow tilting the top limb to my left, counter-clockwise. I almost instantly regretted it because the shot just didn't "feel right". The arrow hit almost a foot to the right but blasted completely through him.

Sometimes things happen so quickly our mind's eye registers different than reality. I think this was the case here as when I shot, I was confident he was perfectly broadside. But the arrow zipped right through the liver and angled out the paunch sticking in the ground.

He never had a clue what just happened. He jumped forward two bounds and just stood there looking around. Even though he was still close I knew I couldn't get a finishing arrow into him because of trees, branches and brush. Still obscured by limbs, he stepped forward a couple more yards and bedded down. Within maybe five minute intervals he stood up, took a few steps and bedded back down three different times. I could tell he was really sick. A half hour later he was still bedded with his head up and appearing very alert. I was frustrated because I wanted to end his suffering but couldn't get an arrow through to him. And I knew if I climbed down and tried to advance on him, I'd run him out of the country.

Just before dark I heard a vehicle coming down the county road a few hundred yards away. It sounded like he needed the Midas Touch, as he either had a giant hole in his muffler or no muffler at all. Using that stroke of luck I made a quick decision. Leaving everything but my bow in the tree I used the "No Midas Touch" background noise to bail out and drop over the ridge crest to the north, then swung wide, downwind and out of sight, praying at every step.

The next morning I drove my four wheeler rather than my truck, knowing I could get right to him (positive thinking). There he was. He hadn't made it fifty yards from point of impact. But I was alone. No one to take photos and the adapter I normally use to take self-portraits in the woods was in my truck. Yeah, I could have driven back to get the camera adapter but it was warm, mid-70's and I needed to get him out before he spoiled.

Long story short, I finally got him loaded up on the four wheeler and home. But no "hero pictures", other than the one posted here. My apologies, I'll try better next time. Sorry. That's my story and I'm sticking to it. 🍀



My Quest for a Bruin

By Tim Jones



It has always been a dream of mine to take a bear with a bow. I think it all began when I was a kid about five or six years old. I had a dream that I was fighting a bear bare-handed. I woke up screaming, waking everyone in the house. I never knew who won that fight.

As a young man in the 80s, I had the opportunity to take a couple of trips to Ontario with a group of fellow taxidermists to hunt black bears. I took a bear on each trip but these were gun hunts, so all that did was fire up my interest for a bow hunt.

I didn't have any opportunities to hunt bear for several years, so I was content chasing whitetail deer in my home state of Tennessee. Then in 1994, I read an article by the TWRA stating that they had reintroduced black bear in the area of the Big South Fork on the Cumberland Plateau. This article stated that these bears would need to be hunted in about ten years. I said then that I sure hoped bowhunters would get the first shot at this hunt. This sounded exciting and I definitely wanted to be a part of it. That was, of course, if they didn't let the gun-and-dog guys in at the same time which was the reason I hadn't gone farther east to hunt bear.

My enthusiasm for bear hunting increased when Steve Hohensee invited me to go to Alaska with Ben Pinney, Thomas Burns, and himself on what appeared to be a guaranteed hunt. However, the bears wouldn't cooperate and we all came home empty-handed. That is what hunting is all about. All said, it was a great hunt and we made many memories that will last a lifetime. After that hunt, I was even more determined to take a bear with a bow. Finally in 2014, the Eastern Tennessee bear hunt was opened in 13 counties south of the Big South Fork for those long-forgotten bears they had released 20 years earlier. Their population had really grown! The hunt was to be just what I wanted - archery only, no bait, no dogs! It even coincided with the archery deer season. "Perfect," I thought. I must give it a try.

I chose to hunt in the Pickett State

Forest because it was public hunting land. There were other state-owned properties, too, but Pickett joined the Big South Fork where the bears were originally released, so I thought this would be a great place to start.

During my three-day hunt in 2014, I scouted on Saturday and hunted on Sunday and Monday. I found lots of bear signs including a small holler with rocks jutting from the walls of the hills on both sides forming perfect caves for a bear to take a midday nap. I even found a spot with bear hair in what appeared to be a bed. In the center of the holler was a small stream with hardwood timber all around. On top of the hills on each side of the holler were thickets of bear berries (huckleberries?) and mountain laurel. After finding a fresh pile of bear scat beside the stream along with small, medium, and large bear tracks, I knew this was the perfect spot for an ambush. I named this little holler The Booger Bear Den.

The only thing I found wrong with this was the ATVs. They were everywhere. I had never seen so many off-road vehicles. But, according to the law they had to stay on the trails and I did not.

On Sunday, I sat on a rock ledge in the Booger Bear Den all day without seeing a single bear. Monday, I hoped the ATV action would be gone, so I stalked the trails for most of the day. I saw two bears and even called in a large bear to about 30 yards, but he took off when I stopped calling. Man! What an experience! He came in fast with slobber foaming out of his mouth. I thought he would slow down and walk at least ten more yards giving me an opportunity for a shot. He might have seen me before he cut out.

That evening I

went back to The Booger Bear Den. About an hour before dark, a bear came walking through the holler. I just knew I was going to get a 12-yard shot. When he got to my shooting lane, however, he turned and went the other way, and I went home empty-handed again.

I returned to the same area in 2015. This time I found no sign of bears or berries in the area so I came back home to hunt deer.

In 2012 while I was on a PBS elk hunt in Utah, I received a book from Jeff Holchin. One chapter of the book was about a guy who blew on a predator call in Alaska and almost got eaten by two grizzlies. Since there are no grizzlies in Tennessee, I figured it would be okay to use a predator call for black bears. I did some research and found a video entitled "Call'n Bears" by Wayne Carlton. This helped educate me on some of the do's and don'ts of calling bears.

In 2016, I purchased a tag in Colorado to be used on Bill Kissner's PBS hunt. I had two close calls, but again went home empty-handed.

Things would change a couple of weeks later back at The Booger Bear Den in Tennessee. There were tracks everywhere in Pickett State Forest and I knew this was going to be my lucky hunt. By now I had gained some experience with calls. I had learned to use a squeeze-type call instead of a mouth call. The mouth calls made me exhausted and dizzy. This has caused me



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problems in the past.

The trails must not have been muddy enough for the ATVs, so their numbers were low. This must have pleased the bears as they seemed to be moving quite well. I saw a bear on Friday and another on Saturday, both of which caught me while I was setting up to call. On Sunday I spent all day on the rock ledges over the Booger Bear Den. At midday I saw a sow and two cubs. Then a short time later I heard some bear vocalization and started calling to what I thought was two bears chasing each other. Only one bear came to the call. He came in slowly to about 15 yards but wouldn't come out in the open. I stopped calling and he left.

A little while after that I took a little nap under a tree on top of the rock ledge. I awoke to the sound of some leaves crunching in the thicket beside me. I searched the shadows and I could see bits and pieces of black fur about ten feet from me. No, I did not squeeze the predator call!

About an hour before sunset that evening, I saw another bear across the valley. I immediately began calling. After about 45 minutes of calling the bear had finally traveled about 60 yards. He was now about 18 yards in front of me and in the open. So I stopped calling and he stopped coming. The only problem I was facing now was that the shadows had made it hard to see exactly where to shoot on the bear's black coat. As he turned to go away, however, he stepped forward and exposed a thin-haired spot in the area of his underarm. Now I knew just where to put the arrow. My shot felt good and I watched my yellow feathers disappear just behind the shoulder.

Then the bear let out four loud growls. I had never heard a death moan before, but this sounded more like he was pissed.

By the time I backtracked about 200 yards to get off the ledge, the sun had set and it was so dark I couldn't tell exactly where he was when I shot him. I found myself shining my flashlight in the caves on the opposite side of the holler where it sounded like his growls came from. After that, I returned to where I thought he was when I shot him and found my blood-soaked arrow stuck in the ground proving to be a complete pass through! Good! By now, however, my light was yellow-dim so I went back to camp to get another one. While at camp I called my wife, who promptly reminded me that I had promised not to do anything stupid while on this hunt alone. So I waited until daylight to pick up the trail.

At first light, I retraced the short ten-foot blood trail to where I had lost it the evening before. Then I looked in an opening in a patch of mountain laurel brushes and there was my bear. Although his growls had sounded about 100 yards away, he hadn't gone over 20 yards before he collapsed.

Finally, I can say that I called a bear in to eat me and shot him with my homemade longbow!

I would have had better pictures but this was a solo hunt and I had no one take the pics.

Calling bears can be risky, but very exciting, and can be a good substitute where baiting is illegal. Calling doesn't seem to work if you don't see the bear first and set up downwind, so hunting from a tree-stand isn't practical unless your primary hunt is for deer or elk which was the case for me in Colorado.

Please remember that bears are unpredictable. They may come in very quickly, or very slowly. Some of the bears I saw appeared to be confused because I was on a high ledge making it hard for them to get to me. I carry a can of bear spray for backup and try to set up in an area with dry leaves so I can hear if one comes in behind me.

On this trip I used a Quaker Boy squeeze call and a Primos mouse call because the mouth calls made me exhausted and dizzy. If you think calling bears is for you, give it a try! But be careful. ♣



Hunters Beware!

Tick Borne Diseases

By Mike Schlegel

Spring is a welcome relief from the doldrums of winter. Outdoor activities rev-up as the days grow longer and temperatures rise. Unfortunately this phenomenon has a few negative side effects for the outdoor enthusiast. A growing issue across the country is tick borne diseases. The U.S. has 82 species of ticks some of which are responsible for transmitting ten major diseases:

- **Lyme disease:** a bacterial disease transmitted by the blacklegged tick primarily in the northern and upper mid-western U.S. and the western blacklegged tick in the Pacific coast region.

- **Ehrlichiosis:** a bacterial infection of the south-central and eastern U.S. resulting from the bite of the lone star tick.

- **Anaplasmosis:** a bacterial disease of the northeastern and upper mid-western U.S. and along the Pacific coast transmitted by the blacklegged tick and the western blacklegged tick.

- **Babesiosis:** caused by a microscopic blood parasite infecting the red blood cells; transmitted by the blacklegged tick, occurring primarily in the northeast and upper mid-west states.

- **Tick Paralysis:** paralysis caused by salivary neurotoxin(s) produced by five tick species; reported throughout North America.

- **Tick-borne Relapsing Fever:** a bacterial disease transmitted by "soft" ticks; reported in 15 states, primarily western states. There is also a louse-borne form of relapsing fever.

- **Tularemia:** a bacterial disease, transmitted by the dog tick, the wood tick and the lone star tick; occurs throughout North America.

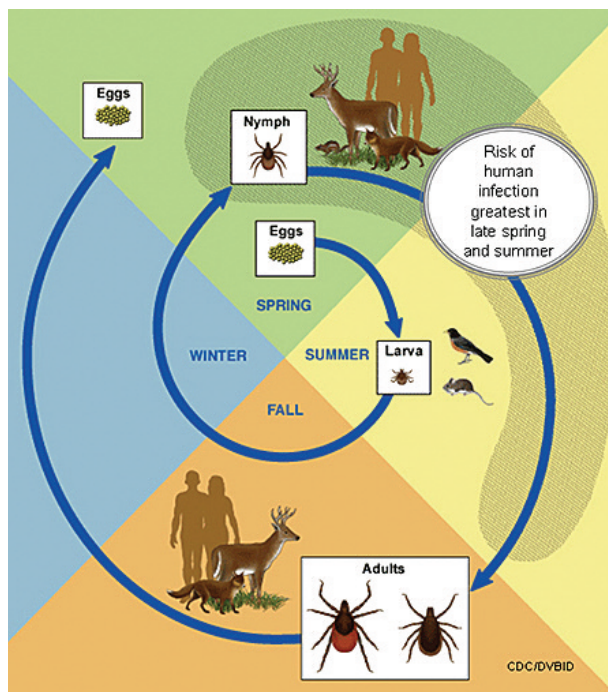
- **Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever:** a bacterial disease occurring throughout North America; transmitted in the U.S. by the American dog tick, the Rocky Mountain wood tick and the brown dog tick.

- **Colorado Tick Fever:** a viral disease of the western U.S and Canada; transmitted by the Rocky Mountain wood tick.

- **Southern Tick Associated Rash (STARI):** the disease agent is unknown;

rash similar to that associated with Lyme disease; occurs throughout southeast and northeast U.S. and transmitted by the lone star tick.

Most tick species have a four-stage life cycle: 1) egg; 2) six-legged larva; 3) eight-legged nymph; and 4) adult. It may take up to three years to complete a life cycle, depending upon the species. Once hatched, each stage must feed on blood to survive. Mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians serve as hosts for ticks. Most ticks die because they can't find a food source. Ticks become active when the temperature reaches 45 F. The life cycle of the blacklegged tick is displayed in the following diagram.



Interestingly, ticks 'find' their host by detecting breath and body odors as well as sensing body heat and moisture. Ticks don't fly or jump. They attach themselves to vegetation with their third and fourth pair of legs while holding their first pair of legs outstretched, waiting to attach to a host.

Once on a host some ticks attach almost immediately while others migrate to preferred sites; usually areas where the skin is thinnest such as the nape of the neck, armpit, groin or the navel. At this point the tick uses its mouth parts to penetrate the

skin and inserts a feeding tube until a blood supply is found. The reason you don't feel this 'bite' is due to the anesthetic compounds found in the tick's saliva. It is at this time, if the host has a blood borne disease, the tick acquires the disease agent. It is also at this time, if the tick is infected with a disease agent, the disease is transmitted to the host via the saliva. Once gorged with blood, the tick releases itself from its host and proceeds to the next stage of its life cycle, at which time the disease agent can be transmitted to a new host.

Precautions to avoid tick-borne diseases

There are ways to minimize your risk of contracting a tick-borne disease:

- Once attached to your clothing, ticks migrate, looking for a place to attach. Tucking pant legs into socks and shirts into pants helps prevent ticks from gaining access to your core body skin areas. They will, however, migrate to the head/neck region of the body. Thus, while in the woods, conduct frequent "tick checks" on your clothing and exposed skin areas. Wearing light clothing makes finding ticks easier.

- Insect repellants may also be applied to your clothing and/or exposed skin. DEET and Permethrin are the insecticides of choice, however only DEET may be applied directly to the skin.

- When you return from the field conduct a thorough body and clothing search for ticks on everyone involved on the trip, pets included. Clothing can be further 'de-ticked' by spin drying on high heat for 20

minutes.

- Showering and shampooing will also help remove ticks from your body if they have not already attached. Again, conduct a full body search to look for attached ticks.

Tick Removal

Do not panic if you discover an attached tick on yourself, family member, friend or pet. Remember, not all ticks transmit diseases. The goal is to remove attached ticks as soon as possible. In the case of Lyme disease, research has shown the disease transmission takes 36 to 48 hours after the



The changing face as the deer tick engorges. Left to right: unengorged female, 1/4 engorged, 1/2 engorged and fully engorged.



Above: Deer ticks in the larval, nymphal, and adult stages. (Not actual size.)

Large, red, slowly spreading rash characteristic of Lyme Disease called erythema migrans (EM) rash.

tick attaches. However it best to remove attached ticks as soon as possible.

Use the following procedure to remove an attached tick:

- Grasp the tick by the head where it enters the skin with fine-pointed tweezers or use a commercially available tick remover.

- Pull firmly and steady away from the skin; **DO NOT** twist.

- **DO NOT** use nail polish, petroleum jellies or heat to make the tick detach as you want to remove the tick as soon as possible rather than waiting for it to detach.

- **NEVER** crush the removed tick or any tick with your fingers.

- To dispose of the tick submerge it in rubbing alcohol, place it in a sealed container or flush it in a toilet.

- It may be advantageous to save the tick until the incubation period for disease has passed as tick identification may be important in diagnosing a tick-borne disease should you develop symptoms.

- Once the tick has been removed clean

the attachment area, as well as your hands, with rubbing alcohol, an iodine scrub or soap and water.

- Monitor the attachment site up to 30 days, checking for the appearance of a rash.

A study conducted at Ohio State University concluded commercial tick removers are more efficient in removing attached tick nymphs and adults than tweezers. Amazon carries the Pro-Tick Remedy Tick Remover tool kit. This kit includes the removal tool, a 5X magnifier and a tick identification card. Cabela's carries the Tick Key tick remover. Neither tool is very expensive; each is around \$5.00.

Symptoms of Tick-borne Diseases

Most of the diseases transmitted by ticks are successfully treated with antibiotics. Unfortunately, however these diseases are difficult for doctors to diagnose. The following are common symptoms of tick-borne diseases:

- Fever and/or chills.
- Aches and pains, i.e. headaches, muscle aches, joint pain and fatigue.
- Rash

A rash is very common and usually associated with the following diseases:

Lyme disease: A rash generally appears 3-30 days after the tick bite and typically before a fever. The rash is a distinct circle and initially occurs at the site of the bite (see figure 1); however a rash may develop in other areas of the body several days later.

Southern tick-associated rash illness (STARI): This rash is identical to the Lyme disease rash, with a distinct expanding "bull's eye" lesion. However, this disease has not been associated with arthritic and/or neurological symptoms.

Rocky Mountain spotted fever (RMSF): About 10% of victims do not develop a rash. In those that do the appearance, location and time of onset varies greatly. Most commonly the rash occurs 2-5 days after the onset of a fever. Initially the rash is small in size, flat, pink, not itchy and usually located on the wrist, forearms

and ankles, often spreading to the body trunk. About 35% to 60% of people infected with this disease develop a red to purple spotted rash six days or longer after the onset of the symptoms.

Ehrlichiosis: A rash of varying appearances normally occurs on about 30% of all people exposed and up to 60% in children. The rash most often occurs after the onset of a fever.

Tularemia: Most commonly a skin ulcer appears at the bite site. A swelling of lymph glands, normally those in the armpit and/or groin, accompanies the ulcer/rash.

Tick Paralysis

In addition to the above diseases, ticks may also cause paralysis. The paralysis is suspected to be caused by a neurotoxin(s) in the saliva of ticks. Although rare, cases have been reported throughout North America. Five tick species have been associated with tick paralysis. Children under age ten are the most common victims. As the name implies, the symptoms include numbness of the legs as well as muscle pain. Paralysis moves from the lower to upper body. The greatest release of toxins occurs between the fifth and seventh day post attachment, hence the need for early removal of attached ticks. It is very important to make sure all mouth parts of the tick have been removed as toxins can still be released if they aren't. Paralysis is normally gone within 24 hours after the tick has been removed.

It is apparent, regardless of where you live in North America, if you spend time outdoors you will be subjected to the possibility of a tick borne disease. Hopefully the information presented in this article will prevent you from becoming the victim of a tick borne disease.

More in depth information regarding tick borne diseases can be found at:

- The Center for Disease Control: www.cdc.gov/tick/
- The American Lyme Disease Foundation: www.aldf.com
- www.tickinfo.com
- www.vdh.state.va.us/ticks

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Coastal Education

A story of youth and brown bears



By Michael Dhaemers

Landing in a heavy rain, my plane touches down on a gravel runway on the coast of Alaska. In my bags along with my Jackknife bows was a bag full of strings, tabs and arm guards. My brother, Paul, for some time now has taught school in the coastal villages of this beautiful part of western Alaska.

We grew up hunting and fishing together and I miss hunting with him being he's so far from our South Dakota home. With the next to kin rule in Alaska on brown bears and him as my guide, it just made sense to be here. This trip brought me here again to pursue the coastal brown bears as they forage on the berries and dying salmon. With still many hours of day light yet, the tundra is a blaze of color with the changing of the season.

My generation of bowhunters was fueled by Fred Bear pursuing the great bears. In later years, the writings of Monty Browning and Paul Schafer with their bears.

The morning sun is out as I ready my gear and recover from the many flights for the first day afield. The waterfowl are moving about including a beautiful Emperor goose. Being protected, I could only watch draw to the barb in my mind in the spirit of Maurice Thompson fletchings in flight as they flew close overhead unlike the brant,

whitefronts and Canada geese that eluded my arrows. The tundra glistens with days of rain. Paul always tells people that come to fish with him, if you do not like to fish in the rain, stay home. This day was the only day that rain did not pelt us at one time or another. Good gear is a must as one's well being depends on it in this wet, cold, almost harsh environment.

Moving along, taking in the country, Paul spots a flock of ptarmigan. I spin off the four wheeler and draw the judo. The first arrow hits it's mark in a flurry of feathers. We have supper tonight. What a great confidence builder for me! My backup brother was impressed as well.

In a storage closet at school were a number of Stemmler bows and Ben Pearsons from days gone by when archery was common in the schools.

I was to teach a number of classes on archery during my second week stay. First we started with classroom sections of safety and shooting form. They took to it with excitement that I cannot put into words here. Behind the little village school with a ptarmigan drawn on a box, the old wooden shafts would fly toward their mark. Each session the group showed much improvement and a lot of excitement for this new weapon.

These kids, like my brother, are subsis-

tence people. Many go home and grab their A-5 Browning to shoot at the geese on their lunch break as the masses of waterfowl are staging for their journey south. I thought to myself, how refreshing to see youth involved in hunting, even for different reasons, and I'm a world away from my South Dakota home.

During my stay many bears were spotted but many in open places where a stalk within longbow ranges was not possible. Day eight yielded a stalk that will always be embedded in my mind.

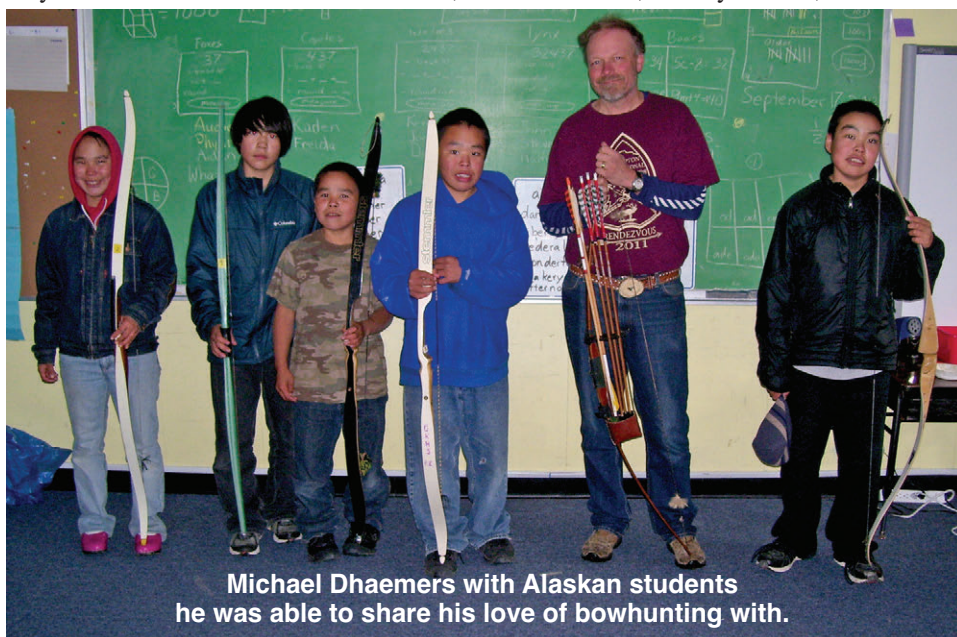
As we were slipping along the bank of a creek, there was a beautiful brownie, almost blonde in color, with copper back and flanks shimmering. At 45 yards below us we watched him drinking and chewing on grass. We were out of cover along the steep bank, like so many times before. As we lay there watching him, he looked up at us with grass hanging out of his mouth and gave us a Yogi bear look then slipped into the alders directly behind him.

Paul and I just looked at each other, foiled again! Then, just in the thick alders, he stood up on his hind legs for one last look! That bear was huge!! His arms were above the alders. "What a bruin," I thought as my heart raced.

This was my fourth try for one of the great bears. What an education and a rush when you get in close! Days were spent glassing. There was a lot of light left, yet each day this time of year it gets less and less after Paul is done teaching for the day. Those hours were spent in a blind, waiting on the thirteen yard shot as bears moved along the bank foraging for dying salmon. That shot never came to pass.

The last night in the blind, my brother was kind of asleep on the floor. I said to him, "Mom never liked me doing this you know...I was sure she would walk one by me this time." Our mother had just passed away the month before after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. His response to me was, "Maybe she was keeping them away." Mmmm...I never thought of that.

The plane lifted off in a steady rain as I sat next to the pilot watching the gauges as my hunt was coming to an end. We were flying low, following the coast. As



Michael Dhaemers with Alaskan students
he was able to share his love of bowhunting with.



my eyes were scanning the country below for bears and wandering herds of caribou, my mind wandered to what I learned and how close we came.

Those kids, whose grandfathers used the bow as means of their subsistence, what a good feeling to instill my love of the bow back to them. I hope when I return they will still be loosing the feathered shaft.

I carried my 57# Great Northern Jackknife longbow with Cliff Zwick heads mounted on a mix of wood and weighted Easton arrows. It rained every day, some days all day. I wore a King of the Mountain jacket, a modified Cabella's wool vest, I like shooting with a vest when I can, and a mixture of Sitka, Kuiu and Goretex shell for the changing coastal weather and winds.

*I live in South Dakota with my wife, Donna, and work as a Product Manager for Hy-Vee Food Stores. Much of the off season is spent watching grandchildren involved in hockey, baseball, soccer and figure skating. **

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Leaping Eland

By Mike Mitten

After years of asking, “Mike, for a guy who loves diverse wildlife, why don’t you come with me to bowhunt South Africa?” I finally said yes to Gene Wensel’s request. Gene has been a hunting consultant and booking agent for dozens of African bowhunts, which took out a lot of the guesswork and built early confidence in a foreign adventure. Most of the logistics, gear, climate, cost, tipping, customs, medications, and travel questions were readily answered in Gene’s “African Primer” instructional pamphlet. A year’s worth of anticipation was finally over on July 2nd as six traditional bowhunters boarded the scheduled 16 hour flight from Atlanta to Johannesburg. After getting through the uneventful customs inspection, a van took us to the Afton House Inn where we were met at 9:00 PM with a steak dinner and comfortable beds.

Early the next morning we boarded another flight to Polokwane, the capital of the Limpopo province. We were greeted at the airport by the smiles of our professional hunter (PH), his guides, and trackers who helped load and stow our gear in the backs of Land Rovers and pickups fitted with elevated racks. During the three and a half hour drive to the north-east, the conversations were quite interesting for the first-time African hunters. We saw many species of plains game, animals and birds along the route, and could soon identify game concessions that harbored rhinos by the security watch-towers that rose above the brush and tree line. I noted habitat distinctions between agricultural fields, working cattle farms, and private wildlife reserves.

It was hard to believe I wasn’t dreaming as our caravan traversed the gates of the Doorvaard ranch, which is the anchor farm of five contiguous properties that gave us access to approximately 100 square miles of managed wildlife habitat known as Matsuri Safaris. Gene chose this concession because of its similarities to old Africa, no modern electricity at the base camp, and all animals were born here and run wild. We met the camp manager, Van Reenan van Vuren (Van for short) who is also the

nephew of the owner of Doorvaard. Van took us to our rondavel sleeping quarters, showed us the hearth and outdoor pavilion where all meals would be served, and introduced us to the camp chef, trackers, and additional native help who lived on the ranch and were available to assist us during our two week stay.

As all hunters and guides sat at the long dining table in the pavilion that first afternoon, Van queried us as to the species of plains game we were most interested in hunting. Our answers would dictate the habitat and specific waterholes in which to direct us. Zebra, wildebeest, and gemsbok tend to hang out together and prefer more open country where they eat more grasses and sedges, whereas kudu, eland and giraffe feed more on browse during winter’s dry season. My hand shot up like a school-boy in the front row after Van finally got to the question, “So who among you are interested in eland?” Directing his response to me and my friend Aaron Lamers, Van noted, “The older eland bulls tend to be alone or in groups of two or three this time of year, while the cows and younger bulls associate in larger herds of twenty or more. We have observed large bull tracks in the sand frequenting a few of the waterholes in the thicker brushy areas which could provide some excitement for you guys.”

We readied our gear and shot a few practice arrows before climbing up into the elevated seats of the safari trucks. Our first trip down the sandy trails were slow and deliberate as our respective guides pointed out diverse habitat, plants, and many animals native to this coun-

try. I was quickly made aware of the thorns and pricklers that lined the limbs of nearly every tree and bush along the trail-way. We learned that much of this portion of South Africa was reverted back from cattle ranches to wildlife concessions where the supplied water is mandatory for the health of great herds that can’t migrate during the summer rainy season and winter’s drought due to the fences. The water supply would not be maintained without sport hunters, and hunting dollars are the main source of habitat restoration, and the livelihood of rural communities.

Van informed us that no self-respecting

rifle hunter would sit at a waterhole. Their primary hunting tactics involve driving the ranch in search of desired prey and glassing from bluffs. Once game is spotted it usually requires tracking until sight is reestablished in the bush, followed

by a slow stalk into range. This technique can be successful for bowhunting, but many first time bowhunters to Africa prefer to sit and wait in ambush near waterholes for a close range ethical shot. To facilitate even closer range desired by recurve or longbow hunters, portable stands or blinds





One of the warthogs was a very old boar with droopy facial warts, gaunt ribs, and ivory tusks with worn tips. He chased around a sow before drinking. Even though I considered shooting a warthog, my mind was still fixed on eland. In February, Gene sent us photos of various animals that were on the ranch including magnificent eland bulls with massive bodies filled out from



were erected even nearer to the water, and the far sides of certain waterholes were brushed-in to aid in a higher percentage broadside shot at unsuspecting prey.

After arriving at my hunt location, I jumped down from the truck rack, walked 15 yards past the edge of the waterhole and stepped three feet down into the belly of the permanent termite mound pit blind. The blind was dome shaped from cement walls formed by pressing mortar into a wood and chicken wire frame. From the outside it resembled a six foot African termite colony mound, but from within it sheltered me from the sun and wind. There were several framed slots in the walls measuring 5 ¾ inches wide and over a foot long for which to observe or shoot out of. The walls were curved inward which would require me to shoot standing up with my bow positioned in the center of the blind to allow for unobstructed bow limb clearance. This waterhole was set in thick brush which only allowed visibility in place out to fifty yards. There was no vegetation in the area around the water due to the daily churning of animal hooves. Warthogs soon approached, but blew out of there in a cloud of dust after catching a whiff of my scent. I closed off two of the windows on the down wind side of the blind in hopes of reducing my odor exposure.

Eventually the wind died down and many animals came in for a drink including impala, nyala ewes and more warthogs.

the lush rainy season nutrition. For five months I wondered, "Could I cross paths with one of those great antelope?" and "I wonder what my eland is doing this very moment?" Being selective of individual animals put more uncertainty into this game rich hunt. I did not see an eland that day, but the outlines of the huge tracks in the sand from the previous day were enough incentive to keep my motivation.

The next morning I sat in a tree stand next to a very active waterhole. The stand was positioned with dense brush and trees behind me, but little to no vegetation out to a hundred and fifty yards past the waterhole. Unlike the closed-in ground blind, the tree stand allowed for great visibility and filming opportunities. I understood how species like zebra earned their reputation for wariness, as a stallion stood out at two-hundred-yards watching the water hole for two hours before deciding it was safe to come. I knew I would not get a shot at him when young impala and kudu approached down wind and barked warnings of my intrusion. I stayed in the stand all day filming and observing the wildlife in their natural habitat, while listening to sounds and vocalizations I never before heard in North America. Recognizing utterances of warthog grunts, impala roar, monkey chatter, kudu barks and wildebeest snorts allowed for a preparation advantage long before I laid eyes on any of them.

After allowing a herd of forty blue wildebeest to refresh and splash in the waterhole, I decide to try for a shot at a large bull with a black face and forehead, sporting wide curled horns; that was until I heard the faint clicking of approaching animals from behind me. Even though I never heard the sounds before in the wild, I knew it was the splayed hoof of heavy eland clapping back together as weight shifted off the foot of each lifting step. The wildebeest got a pass from me as I shifted in the tree and trained my binoculars through the dry brush on moving patches of grey and tan hair. Spiral horns parted tree limbs above the flowing herd of twenty eland. As they broke out into the open, the mostly female and juvenile herd bucked and kicked at each other. The squaring off of two young bulls caught my attention as their foreheads met and short horns slid off center. Short hairy dewlaps flopped in the dry sand, while snorting nostrils puffed the earth. A red dust cloud framed the scene as the lead cow halted her advance and looked back at them. The crowd of wildebeest left the water, making room for the rambunctious antelope. With the majority of the eland visible, I continued to film them while keeping a close watch on their back trail for any mature bulls. There were distinct differences between the size and stature of the cows. Some had extremely long almost parallel horns, while others had crooked horns, and lacked symmetry with tips bent downward. The lead cow paused two more times before cautiously reaching the water. When her lips wetted, the others rushed in on either side and immediately drank. I settled in for my first experience with eland, when all of a sudden the lead cow threw her head back, spun 180° and bolted away from the water causing the entire herd to flee with her. As if these large antelope were just looking for an excuse to jump, I was astonished to see them leaping high in the air at full stride, some lifting over the backs of others. With the open terrain of sandy but firm ground stretching out for over two-hundred yards, I could not

~ continued on page 28 ~



Leaping Eland

~ continued from page 27

rationalize why the eland were still jumping and clearing seven foot high bushes that far away from the apparent danger. Clearly eland are far from mindless cattle!

After five more days of hunting, I ended up back at the first water hole in the termite mound blind where a herd of nyala ewes came into water. They fed in the thick brush and bedded in the morning sun. The wind was stable and blew from the water toward me. The temperature rose from the upper thirties to upper sixties, as I enjoyed the company of a duiker, a huge herd of over forty impala, and two steenboks. I was not bored at all when a band of eland came single file toward me from the trail to the north. The eland drank, and they too milled around the site, and bedded near where the nyala were. Shortly thereafter, a hulking mature bull came up to inspect the others and finally closed in to drink. I leaned my bow back down against the wall and started filming this bull after deciding he may need a year or two to become fully mature.

Around the campfire that evening I showed Van the footage of the bull I passed up, and he said, eland bulls come in different shapes and colors and tend to get darker, longer dewlaps, and thicker hair rugs on their foreheads with age, but the bull I filmed was a good representative, and that he had not started to wear down his

horn length. I should have shot. Nearly all of the animals lose weight during winter's drought, and big bulls aren't as filled out. I informed Van that a similar weight reduction occurs with our deer and elk during winter as well. I was glad that Van lets us hunt alone if we choose to. Self imposed selectivity increases the challenge.



Two days later I was hunting out of a temporary canvas ground-level blind about an hour after daylight, when eight immature nyala rams ventured close. I started up the video camera and recorded their sparring. A half-hour later I was surprised by a group of five eland, and also elated to see the big bull I passed up at the other waterhole that was three miles from this location. Van's words echoed in my ears, as I prepared to take this bull if given the opportunity. I focused through the six inch opening of the blind to a spot seventeen yards from the blind and to the right of the waterhole. The entire far side of the waterhole was

blocked off with brush and briars, leaving only broadside or front access. The wind was blowing in as I took a wide stance with bent knees in order to gain the required overhead limb clearance. The bull was coming right to left when I started to pull the string, but a cow stepping between us caused me to check my draw. I knew that some African game animals tend to have vital organs lying much more forward in the chest cavity than North American ungulates; however, we learned from Van that eland have much greater body mass and don't fit this paradigm. He suggested aiming slightly higher and further rearward from the shoulder on eland than other large antelope like kudu. After the cow cleared, the bull flipped end for end, presenting me a slightly quartering away broadside shot. I drew my bow and sent the arrow, which struck a rib and buried deep. The eland bull charged off, leaped over the first bush in his flight path and disappeared into the thick cover.



Waiting for the trackers to arrive from camp was not hard, since after the dust settled the oasis of water still attracted impala rams to keep me company. Soon after the trackers arrived, it didn't take long to locate the balled up droplets of blood and sand with huge divots from the bull's fleeing





feet that led us to the great eland bull. The word “eland” is Dutch for moose, which I understood why when I approached the bull from the rear, walked the length of its massive body, and knelt beside its neck to lift its head from the cool sand. The mature bull had matching 35 inch horns and a dewlap that was much more pliable than that of a moose draping his under neck. Its forehead rug was thick and reddish-colored like an impala hide, while his nose was nearly black. My admiration of my prize was interrupted when the guide commanded the skinnners to quickly load the beast because he just received word on the radio that my friend Aaron also arrowed an eland bull.

After winching my bull onto the bed of the truck, we hurried over to where Aaron was hunting, and found him still in an excited state as he described his morning events. Aaron watched a lone eland bull come toward the blind, but never offering a good shot. He knew he wanted to shoot the bull and stood at ready with a nocked arrow for nearly 45 minutes. Aaron’s patience didn’t wane, and when the bull finally turned to leave at 28 yards, his arrow took flight, catching the bull tight behind the shoulder and angled steeply forward. The savanna went quiet as soon as the bull left. Aaron pointed us in the direction the bull fled and told us he felt it couldn’t have gone far. The trackers dispersed and immediately found a blood trail that told of a mortally wounded eland. After tracking for seventy-five yards, we heard the bull break from his hiding spot and jump over brush in classic eland fashion. We crept to the sandy bed where the bull laid, and nodded to each other in affirmation at the large amount of coagulated blood he left behind. Aaron’s look of disbelief gave credence to the many stories of supreme stamina and extreme will to live associated with many African antelope. Tracking a wounded eland did not challenge the skills of the African trackers, but their pointing out that

the increased splay in the hoof track on the weight supporting side, opposite the shoulder wound, was indicative of a willingness to teach us. The long stride of the eland drew us further into the tangled thorns of the brush country, but the trail eventually ended with the falling steps of our prey.

A joyous celebration began as we surrounded the bull and contemplated a route to its retrieval. We could not believe our good fortune in taking two eland bulls within an hour of each other using traditional bows. Hunting moose in Alaska encompasses a grand adventure filled with hardships, and the romance of exploring a vast wilderness. The hunter becomes intimate with the skinning and packing out of moose meat. But in contrast, bowhunts in

Africa where self-limiting selectivity, long hours of proximity to an array of species, and close range shots is just plain fun. The nightly tales at the hearth were so much better when accompanied with South Africa’s best table fare, eland filets!

Mike Mitten is a cancer researcher, author of “One with the Wilderness”, and co-producer of the films “Primal Dreams” and “Essential Encounters.”

Equipment notes: Author used 64-inch Tall Tines recurve with 67 pound draw weight. Arrows were 2219 Easton XX75 shafts tipped with TuffHead broadhead, giving total arrow weight of 790 gr. #



Making Wooden Arrows

By Randy Brookshier

I have been shooting, breaking and loosening arrows off of stick bows for thirty years now and have developed an appreciation for a good set of wooden arrows. I have had several guys ask me questions about building wooden arrows and the advantages/disadvantages of them. I end up teaching a class down here every year or two on building wooden arrows so, I figured I would put together a tutorial on the way that I build them. Obviously, my way is not the only way, but it works for me and the guys I build arrows for. I figure I may be able to give some of you a little insight into what is involved in putting together a good set of wooden arrows and maybe you will understand why a good set is so expensive. I will put this together geared towards someone who has never shot a wooden arrow before, or maybe has never built an arrow of any type before, so it will be pretty basic. I am in the middle of building six dozen wooden arrows right now so I will try and post a few photos as I go along.

There are several advantages to shooting wooden arrows. For me, they are the

easiest shaft material to get good arrow flight from a bow when I am shooting it off of the shelf, be it a longbow or recurve. Carbons work well when shooting an elevated rest and plunger, but are still critical. Aluminums are easier to get to fly good with a broad head than carbons but are still not as forgiving as a good wooden arrow. Guys who are messing around trying to get their bow to shoot quiet are amazed when I hand them a wooden arrow. Hands down the quietest arrow material. I guess that is because it is a solid material and isn't hollow like carbons or aluminums and doesn't resonate. I find that good woodies are at least, if not more so, durable than other arrow materials. I do a lot of small game hunting and stump shooting and although a lost arrow is a lost arrow regardless of composition, I end up breaking a lot fewer woodies than other types of arrows. I like shooting a heavy arrow and it is fairly easy for me to get up into the 600-grain range with wooden arrows. Besides that, they are just plain cool, and fun to build.

There are some disadvantages to

wooden arrows though. You can't just walk into a Walmart and pick up a good set. They require you, or someone else, to spend a goodly amount of time putting them together correctly. They are expensive, but then again so are all arrows today. At today's prices, by the time you buy a dozen shafts, three dozen feathers, points, stains, dips etc. you probably have \$80.00 invested in a set of wooden arrows if you build them yourself. It is not uncommon to spend \$120.00-\$150.00 for a good set of ready mades.

First off you need to decide what type of wood you want to shoot. Over the years I have shot larch, Sitka spruce, ramin, cedar and Douglas fir. Several of my friends shoot hard wood shafts... hickory, ash or walnut. When I first got back into traditional archery in the late '80's all I shot were cedar arrows. I shot the premium tapered shafts from Kustom King. I killed several dozen deer with them and Snuffers and then the supply started to dry up. For a couple of years cedar shafts, in the heavy spines anyway, were almost non-existent.

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They were back ordered forever. I switched to aluminium for several years and then carbons for a dozen or so years.

Four or five years ago I got in a set of Surewood Douglas fir shafts. They were without a doubt the straightest and best-looking arrow shaft I ever put together up to that point. Since then I have ordered in numerous sets of shafts for myself and others. They require very little hand straightening, have beautiful grain patterns, are tough as anything out there and give me some nice heavy finished arrows. The set I am shooting off of my longbows now weighs in at 685 grains with a 160 grain point. The guys at Surewood know how to make a shaft. I am always amazed when I finish up a dozen and at least ten of them are as straight as any carbon I have ever shot. For those of you who are interested, here is a link: <http://surewoodshafts.com/>

Once you figure out what type of wood you want, you need to figure out what size shafts you want. The common size for woodies is 5/16", 11/32" & 23/64". If you go much above 70 pound spine weight, it is hard to find shafts in anything other than 23/64". I try and stay away from the 23/64" shafts as a 5/16" nock fits my strings nicely and I have to go to an 11/32" nock on the 23/64" shafts. You also need to decide if you want to shoot a tapered shaft. There are

two ways of doing this. You can taper the back 9-11" of the shaft down from and 11/32" shaft to 5/16", which is called a back taper. You can also have a breast or barrel tapered shaft. This is usually a 23/64" shaft that is tapered down to 11/32" at the front and 5/16" at the back. There is a lot of debate about the advantages of a tapered shaft over a parallel shaft. Me personally, I firmly believe that my arrows recover faster, are more forgiving and fly better when they have a 9 or 10 inch back taper on them. I order in 11/32" shafts that have the back 9" tapered down to 5/16". Tapered shafts are naturally more expensive, but I feel that they are worth it.

You now need to figure out what spine you need. Most of your wooden shafts are going to come from the supplier in sets matched to five pounds of spine weight and 10 grains of arrow weight. For example you may get a set that are 50-55 pound spine and 450-460 in weight. In my experience, I feel that having them as closely matched in spine is a lot more important than matched in weight. If you can get them both, that is great. I don't see much difference, in my shooting anyway, if an arrow is plus or minus 20 grains or so but can definitely see a difference if they are off by about 10 pounds in spine. That is one of the reasons that I usually buy my shafts

in lots of at least three dozen. I know those three dozen are fairly closely matched and I don't have to worry about going back to the supplier and them not have that weight in stock.

As far as appropriate spine goes.... for my longbows which aren't center shot, I go pretty close to my draw weight. I shoot a 29" arrow and the rule of thumb is to add 5 pounds to the arrow spine for each inch over 28" and deduct 5 pounds for each inch under 28". One of my longbows draws 63 pounds at my draw length so I shoot a 65-70 pound shaft off of it. For recurves which are cut to center or beyond, I start out by adding about 10 pounds to the spine.

Once again, I draw 29" so I add another 5 pounds and will generally add another 5 pounds for a broad head. On a 50 pound recurve I will also shoot a 65-70 pound shaft. If you ever get confused, just call up the shaft supplier and they will generally get you pretty close on the proper arrow spine for your bow. One of the best ways to get started with wooden arrows is to order in a test pack of shafts that has 3 or 4 shafts or a couple different spine weights.

You need to go on line or make the phone call to order some shafts. Kustom King, Hildebrand, Surewood and Braveheart are all great places to deal with and all offer some outstanding shafts. Then all you have to do is wait for the long skinny box to show up at your door. I am going to show how I build a wooden arrow, literally, from box to bow.



They are going to show up bundled together pretty tightly. They are going to have some type of documentation on them stating their spine, shaft diameter and weight range. It is a good idea to hang on to this in case you need to reorder down the road.



The first thing I do is to go through them and hand straighten them. I do this by basically just eye balling them down the shaft and then using pressure against my thumb to straighten them. If you bought good shafts to start with, you aren't going to need to do very much of this. Once I have them to where I think they are fairly straight I roll them across a table top. It is very easy to pick up on any wobbles when you do this.

~ continued on page 32



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Making wooden arrows contin-

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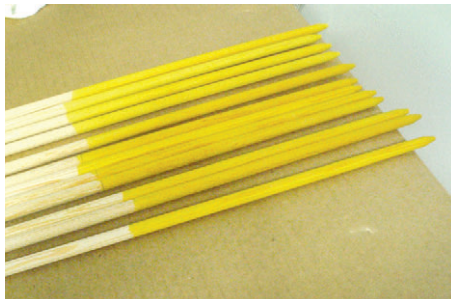
Then I go over them with 0000 steel wool. They are generally sanded fairly smooth but I want to take any of the raised grain off before I start working with them.



You want to put some color on your arrows. You don't want them to just be plain, white wood. I lay them out and make a pencil mark across them where I want my cap to start/stop.



There are several different ways to add color to your wooden shafts. I have stained/dyed them over the years with Rit dye, Koolaid, leather dye. I have also cap dipped the back end in white and various other colors of Bohning Fletch Lac. One of the best, and easiest, ways to put some color on your shafts is by using some of the aniline wood dyes. I get mine from Woodcrafters. I have red, yellow and blue. They give you a very bright color and that stuff will stain ANYTHING! It comes in a powder form and you mix it with denatured alcohol and just wipe it on the shafts. There is enough powder in one of these little bottles to stain about a thousand shafts! I like using the dyes over paints because it still allows me to see the grain of the arrow through the color.



Now it is time to add a little stain to the shaft to bring out the color. I will stain up to the cap, and I don't worry about being too careful with the transition line. I know that my crestring is going to cover up the rough edges. I like to use a good oil based stain. Min wax or something of the like has always done a good job. The wood grain will really soak up the stain. I will wipe it on, let it set for a minute or so and then wipe it off.



Once I get them stained and dyed, I just prop them up and let them sit for about 24 hours or so.



The stain and dye will raise the grain up on the shafts so once they have dried for 24 hours or so, I will steel wool them again.

They are usually smooth by this time and showing some nice contrast with the wood grain.

Now it is time to start sealing the shafts. Guys use a lot of different products for this. I have used Bohning Clear & Blue Clear both before and had excellent results. I know some guys like to use gasket shellac, Min wax Poly and several other things. I know that a lot of the pros have their own secret mixture and a lot of them use Dally's Pro-Fin, which is a deck finish for boats. The last several years I have used Bohning Super Coat. You are supposedly able to get away with using only one coat. I like it because it gives me a tough, gloss finish and I get very little target burn on my arrows when I use it.



I dip the full length the shafts. I have utilized several different contraptions over the years for this. Everything from a piece of pipe with a cork driven in the end to commercial dip tanks. In my opinion, you are heads and shoulders ahead of the game to just go on and spend the \$13.00 on one of the Big Dipper dip tubes. It is sealable with a screw on lid and the reservoir holds a lot of liquid. I leave the shafts full length to dip them as that leaves a short "handle" on the end for me to hold on to. It doesn't get the coverage that the rest of the shaft does but it is going to be cut off when I trim the shaft to length and taper it.





A suggestion here... have some way to support your dip tube. I use a tall box that I cut a hole in the center of it. I have had one turnover on me, making a monumental mess, and I know of two of my friends who have had the same thing happen. Just to make it easier, some guys use a wipe on finish or brush on the finish.

I full length dip the shafts and then hang them up to dry for about 12 to 24 hours, whenever I can get back to them.

I hang them in a home-made rack that I built using the metal arrow clips. Works well.



You notice that I am doing the dipping in a corner of the "dungeon" of our house. A storage/junk room in the basement. Most of the year I like to do this out in the garage due to the very offensive odor. During the summer months, the humidity is so bad down here that if I try and dip out in the heat and humidity, it ruins the finish. It will either crinkle or turn milky. The temperature was 94 and humidity was in the 90's when I dipped these shafts. When the conditions are like that I go into the "dungeon" where I have a dehumidifier running. I like the finish to be thin enough so that it runs off and stops dripping in about 5 seconds or so. I then hang the shafts up and let them dry. Then I steel wool them again, wipe them down with a rag that is damp with lacquer thinner and dip them again. I like to do this until I have three good coats on the shafts. Some guys like to do more, some less. Three gives me a good, protective finish. I like them to be completely smooth, high gloss and look like they are covered in glass.

Now the shafts have been dyed, stained, buffed and dipped, it is time to dress them up a bit. Nothing makes your arrows look professional like a matched set of crestring. It is one of those things that you just have to practice at to become decent. It is easy to make one really nice-

looking arrow. It is kind of tough sometimes to make twelve that are exactly the same. The smaller the lines you paint, the harder it is to match them up. Cresting of your arrows is where you can go crazy and make something that is personalized for you. As gaudy or as sedate as you like.

Some guys use paint pens to do their crestring. I have tried them and have 8-10 different colors here at the house but I don't think it gives me as good of a job as regular old paint and a brush. Lots of guys use Testers or some other variant of paint. I have used Testers and some of the water based paints from time to time but in my opinion, it is hard to beat the regular Fletch Lac crestring paints. They are oil based and are definitely compatible with the dips that I use. They give me very bright colors and hold up well to rubbing and wiping as the arrow gets shot. They may be a little pricey, but one of those little bottles goes a long way. I probably make upwards of 30-40 dozen arrows each year and most times a bottle of crestring paint will dry up and become unusable before I run out of it.

A couple of givens here. Don't skimp on your brushes. I buy good quality camel hair brushes from an art supply store. You will be surprised at how much better a job you can do with a good quality brush compared to a cheap economy brush. Secondly, make sure you thin your paints. I like mine to be about the consistency of milk. It may take two coats to cover but I do not end up with any brush marks in the crestring if my paint is thin enough.

I started out with a home-made crester, and it did a decent enough job. There are several commercial cresters out there now that do a great job.

This is one model that I use the most, a Bohning Pro model crester. I bought this one new in about 1984 and it has done literally thousands of arrows over the years. Very easy to use and user friendly. Just slide the arrow nock end in the chuck and turn on the switch. This crester make it fast and easy to lay down a lot of paint. I generally use this crester to lay down my broader base lines. I usually put down a base coat of white and then lay down my colors over top of it. This makes the colors cover better and brighter.

~ continued on page 34 ~



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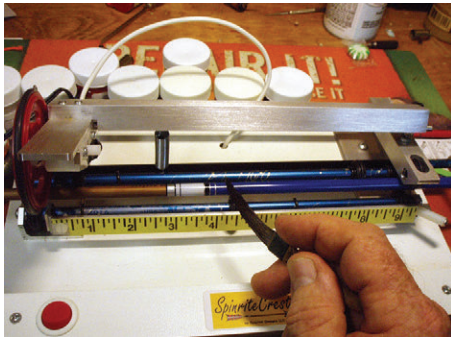
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Making wooden arrows continued

~ continued from page 33

This is another popular crester, the Spin Rite. It is a lot more delicate and intricate to use. I like to use it to put my finer lines on wooden shafts as it has the opposing rollers which hold the arrow shaft down and take away all of the bounce that you sometimes get with a not so perfect shaft and the Bohning crester.



Both of these cresters cost about the same...you can find them both for around \$170.00 or so each. If I had to confine myself to only the one crester, it would be the Bohning Pro Crester.

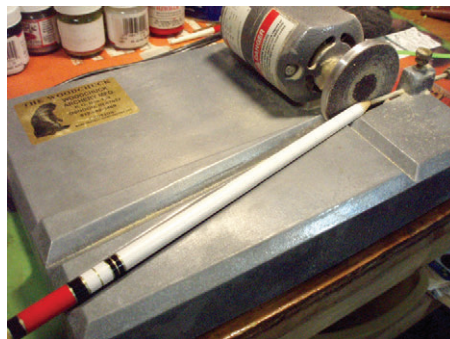
To me, and my nearly 60 year old eyes, this is the most essential piece of equipment to have on the bench when I am cresting arrows...



I built a simple wooden rack to hold my arrows while they are being crested.



Once they have been dipped and crested it is time to install the nocks. Before I glue them on I clean up the nock taper. By now they have 3-5 coats of various stains and dips on them and it is hard to get a nock on straight. I run them through my Wood Chuck to grind off all of that paint and get it back to bare wood. This gives me a good, clean, true surface to install the nocks on. If I am shooting florescent nocks, I will generally then just dip the nock cone in some white paint and let it dry. Then I will glue on the flo. nock. It makes the nocks glow 10 times brighter in the woods.



Having the nock properly aligned with the grain of the arrow is one of the most important things to get right when making wooden arrows. You can't just glue your nock on any way you want. If you think of the layers of wood grain as pages in a book, you want them stacked on top of each other when the arrow is aligned on the string. It is pretty easy to figure out if you just look at the grain orientation of the arrow. The easiest way to do this is to have the "vees" of the wood grain on the top of the arrow when it is on the string and rest. This is the only way to get your arrows to fly consistently. The toughest bend of the arrow is against the sight window of the bow. This is also the orientation that the shafts were originally spined at. If you don't pay attention to grain orientation and glue your nocks on disregarding this orientation, it is the same as shooting arrows which all have a different spine rating.

Like I said, you want the "vees" of the grain on the top of the arrow like this...

Once I get my nocks glued on, I generally go on and cut my shafts to



length and put the point tapers on them. You can cut the shafts to length any number of ways. I have marked each shaft individually and cut them with a handsaw, scored them with a knife and then broke them off and I have even cut them with my arrow cut off saw. Now I just rubber band them together real tightly, mark where they need to be cut and then run the whole dozen through my bandsaw at once. Remember when cutting off wooden arrows that you have to allow an extra 3/4" to 1" for the point taper that you will be putting on them.

There are several tools on the market from Bear Paw and others to put a taper on your arrows. The simplest and cheapest is the simple pencil sharpener type of taper tool. They are manufactured by several companies and have two holes for you to insert the shaft into, one for the 11-degree point taper and the other for the 5-degree nock taper. This is one of the disadvantages of the Douglas fir shafts. These pencil sharpener type of taper tools do not work too well with them. They tend to chew through the wood instead of making a smooth cut like they do on cedar. Here is one of the cheap taper tools.

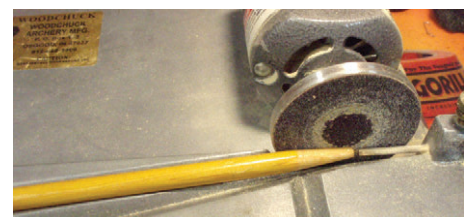
There are several tools out that are an



upgrade to this type of tool. I have one made by Tru Taper that has a machined aluminium body and different diameter inserts for the various size shafts. Bear Paw makes a similar tool that has an adaptor for a power drill.

This is the best taper tool out there. It grinds on a perfect taper, regardless of wood type. This one is called the Wood Chuck and runs about \$150.00. If you do more than a couple of dozen shafts each year, this tool is well worth the investment. I have bought two of them at swap meets in the last year or so for \$50.00 bucks each.

One of the things I do before I glue the



points on is to take a fine point Sharpie marker and write the spine on the taper. Then I hot melt the point on. The hot melt seals the end of the arrow but I can still read the spine under the glue when I heat the point and pull it off. I have dozens of arrows in my basement, some of which were made 12-15 years ago. When I find one that shoots great off of one of my bows, it is nice to be able to see what the spine was on it when I made it. Makes it a lot easier to go back and replicate that set of arrows.



Now it is time to fletch the arrows. Like I told you earlier, I use all Bohning products to prep my arrows so I use Bohning glue to attach the feathers. I usually use Bohning Fletch Tite Platinum and I have never had a feather fall off. It makes a great bond to the dipping/sealing products and I have to cut the feathers from the shaft.

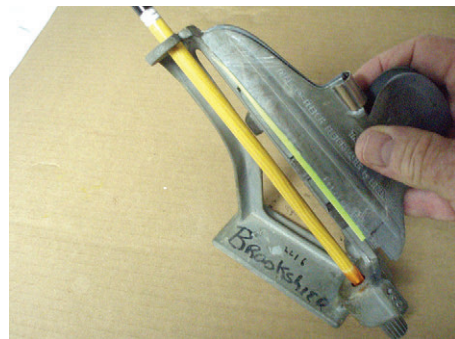
Feathers... the big three suppliers are AMG, Gateway and Trueflight. I have never gotten a bad feather from a bag of Trueflights. I like to shoot shield cuts and I like the shape of theirs a little more than Gateway and I think they may be a little more durable. I have used a lot of AMG feathers and have had no problem with them either. They have some of the brightest colors out there, and are a little cheaper. When it comes to the fake natural barred

feathers, I think that the Trueflight looks a lot more realistic than the others. I make a lot of arrows and usually when I find them on sale somewhere, I stock up, regardless of manufacturer. Bear Paw has recently been putting some feathers out on the market and I have used a bunch of them over the past year. Maybe not as good a feather as Trueflight or Gateway, but a great price point. In the last year or so I have been using a lot of real natural barred turkey feathers that I have processed. I save mine, my son's and my friend's turkey wings in the spring and process them when I get a spare day during the summer.

As far as right wing vs. left wing and parabolic vs. shield.... I don't think that it makes any difference at all. You just have to make sure that all of the feathers match, i.e., from the same manufacturer, have the same cut and same wing. I like to shoot shield cut feathers basically because I think they look better. I only shoot left wing feathers. Several decades ago I read somewhere that a right-handed shooter should shoot left wing feathers as the rotation of the arrow gave you better flight. That thought stuck in my feeble mind and everything I have and all my fletching tools are set up for left wing feathers.

Fletching jigs.... Bitzenberger. Period. I know a lot of guys say they can get as good of an arrow from a Bohning or a Grayling or Arizona or Jo Jan fletcher, etc. I have messed with them all and there is none easier to use or that turns out a better arrow than a Bitzenberger. I have three of them and my sons each have one. Two of mine were bought back in the early 80's and have fletched I have no idea how many arrows.

They still work great.



There is a lot of debate as to whether four fletch works better than three fletch, 4" vs. 5" etc. A couple of years ago I set one of my Titans up with Carbon Express shafts. It would shoot a bare shaft in the center of the ten ring at 20 yards. I took several dozen shafts and fletched up three of them with different fletching patterns. I had three that had 4" four fletch, three that had 5" three fletch, 5" four fletch, 4" three fletch, 5 1/2" high back three fletch, 3" four fletch. All of the more common fletching patterns and I fletched them different colors so I could easily see which were which. I shot almost every day for a full month and took a note book out with me, recording the results out to 40 yards. The short and sweet version is that more and higher fletching gives you stabilization, but you trade off a lot in trajectory. Sometimes as much at 24" at 40 yards. the bottom line at the end of all of that shooting was the realization that 4" four fletch and 5" three fletch were the best compromise between stabilization and trajectory, and there doesn't seem to be one bit of difference between the two. Shoot what you prefer.

~ continued on page 36

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

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

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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!

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Making wooden arrows continued

~ continued from page 35

I came to the conclusion that whoever the old guys were that settled on 5" three fletch arrows being a standard a 100 years ago, were pretty smart dudes. That is what I shoot today.

The finished product. My personal hunting arrows for this fall. 65-70 SureWood Douglas firs, stained, dipped and crested and then fletched up with a yellow natural barred cock feather and two natural barred hen feather. Snuffer, of course, on the down range end.

I usually make up 18 matched arrows for each fall season. I hope to run 10-12 of them through deer and bear. I spend a lot of time making up pretty arrows, but I don't get too attached to any of them. I go through at least two dozen arrows each year. I hunt a lot, shoot a lot and like roving/stump shooting. I take a lot of stupid shots at things and then also take good shots at stupid things. Don't ever bet me that

I can't hit that, whatever, out there at 80-90 yards 'cause then there is only the one way to find out!

Making wooden arrows, like a lot of things in this sport, is addictive. They are fun to make, fun to shoot and there is a real sense of satisfaction when you walk up to that deer that you have shot with a woodie that you built from scratch yourself.

Something that I forgot to mention, field points are notorious for pulling off the end of wooden arrows in targets, especially 3-D's. Part of the problem is that there is a release agent or grease inside of the field point taper. I now take a Q-tip and swab out the inside of the field point with acetone and then let it set for a while before I try and hot melt the point on. I also have a bit for my Dremel tool that I can use to rough up the inside of the field point if I want and then clean it with acetone. *



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Ron Tandy harvested this nice redfish in Louisiana.



This picture shows Bill Terry's successful harvest in Quebec. He made the broadhead from a piece of steel from a hay cutting machine off a friend's farm. The feathers were made from a turkey he harvested on the same farm.

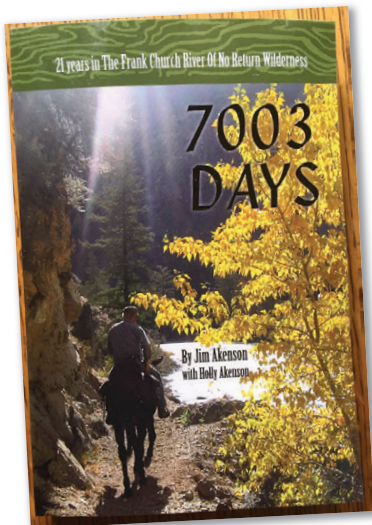
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7003 DAYS

21 years in The Frank Church River Of No Return Wilderness

By Jim Akenson with Holly Akenson



Deep in the Idaho wilderness the last vestiges of Old Idaho linger. In 1982, an eager young couple seeking adventure and challenge, Jim and Holly Akenson, moved to a log cabin in the back country to manage Taylor Ranch, the University of Idaho's wilderness research station. In 7003 DAYS, Jim describes their encounters with wildlife and nature: tracking wolves and cougars, using mules for transportation and ranch work, and introducing university students to life in the rugged Salmon River Mountains of Central Idaho.

Jim's bowhunting stories are tied to the first bowhunters in the region...the Sheepeater Indians, or "Tukudika."



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The Geezer Years

In the Sunset of Our Seasons

By Gene Wensel

Years ago, I was digging through some family heirlooms when I discovered the original hospital bill made out to my parents in October, 1944. Since I'm a twin, bear in mind the costs were for two infants, not one. In 1944, standard procedure was to keep women hospitalized longer. Get this..... a private room for eleven (11) days in the hospital, delivery of two babies, all medications, lab work, delivery room, doctors and 24 hour nursing, a complete staff, etc. added up to a grand total of \$81.50! Yes, times have changed! I had that bill framed. I might add, it was paid in full!

Let's face it, we're all getting older. Thumb through almost any bowhunting magazine today. Chances are you'll see a lot more gray hair than dark. I prefer to call what's left of my gray hair "silver." It'll soon be white. As the median age of American bowhunters creeps higher by the decade, many of us are suddenly hit with the realization we simply can't do things we used to do. Hills somehow got steeper, miles seem longer and our bodies start talking to us, sometimes even yelling at us. I'm told our learning processes never stop, only slow down a bit even though we seemingly can go from agile to fragile in literally a heartbeat. Memory loss becomes an issue of importance, especially during preparation of needed gear, personal safety, responsibilities to our families, dressing accordingly for weather predictions and simple management of our time schedules. I've made it a habit to write down telephone numbers for help and directions to various farms or favorite stands I regularly hunt for my family in case they need them. They are posted on my refrigerator.

I'll be pushing 73 years old by the time you read this. More than a decade ago, I commented in an article that I was "down to a quarter tank." A dozen or more people later told me they could relate to that analogy. "High mileage" affects almost every bowhunter over sixty years old. An old friend of mine even wrote a song entitled

"When My Good Knee Went Bad." How we handle physical and mental limitations, our attitudes, poor memories, health issues, various bowhunting techniques and our equipment can be vitally important to those of us who love our outdoor passions as much as life itself. As fruit ripens, sooner or later it falls from the tree; sometimes with a gust of wind, other times with only a breeze, or eventually all by itself.

Handling lost opportunities, irregular prosperities and general adversities that life throws at us affects each of us in different ways. The death of friends and hunting partners is often the first catalyst to hammer home a realization that each season could be our very last. One of the worst parts about getting older is seeing people younger than ourselves leave at what we consider too soon. When friends pass early, it makes us reflect upon how precious being able to play in overtime really is. I'm not a funeral type guy but I look at memorial services as due respect to those who deserve and earn recognition. In the years after 70, bad news and funerals often become annual happenings, as life-long hunting companions and landowners we've known for decades are buried one after another. Even if we're able to dodge our own grim reaper for awhile, just having to sit on the sidelines as mourning spectators can't help

but remind us that our own turn is coming. Knowing the clock is always ticking makes us wonder about how much time we each have left. After all, birth certificates never reveal their expiration dates. In my case, in recent years I have to admit bucks that "need one more year" are harder to pass up.

By the time we turn sixty, many if not most, friendships have been well defined and rooted. Most personal standards have been solidified. Some goals might have been achieved, while others will always remain as dreams. At 70, I accepted the fact I would never be able to hunt wild sheep, polar or brown bear, leopard or many other species because of financial or physical limitations. I'll never again be able to af-

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ford to own or make payments on a large parcel of prime whitetail habitat. I missed some great opportunities for doing just that many decades ago. I admire friends who risked lots of money by investing their savings in prime land. Luckily, I have good friends who share theirs with me. Most of us can't afford to buy a new pickup truck these days. Even if dreams are a disappointment, that's okay. Only fools never dream.

By the time a bowhunter turns 60, I like to think most have graduated to the final stages of maturity every hunter needs to go through. By now, I feel I'm pretty much who I want to be except for the wealthy part, and even that can't buy real happiness. As long as I'm blessed with decent health, I'm comfortable and satisfied with what I have and what I've accomplished. I'm quite sure I've already killed the biggest buck of my life. Although responsibility is always present, family and business obligations eventually lighten to allow more free time to pursue at least some of our bucket list interests. During senior years, more recreational time is often allotted to spend outdoors with family,

friends
and
youngsters.
More attention
can be given to children, grandchildren, spouses and close friends, which have to be considered blessings in and of themselves.

Not long ago, a 50 year old man told me I influenced his life as a teenager. Needless to say, that made my day but it also woke me up to a bit of reality. There's a lot of personal satisfaction involved in hearing that one unknowingly directed or affected the life of a 50 year old adult several decades previously. Small incidents of opportunity that didn't slip past young eyes and ears can't help but lift our hearts. In many ways, I feel and know I've been blessed.

Age often brings on the realization that filling a tag is not as important as the journey itself. I remember having a conversation over 40 years ago with Dick Robertson's dad, Oscar. He explained to me that someday I would be driven less to fill my deer tags and eventually might even mellow out to become more of an observer, mentor or teacher. I remember saying to myself, "Ya....right."

Low and behold, his prediction came true. I wish I could have thanked him for that seed of wisdom before he passed. I've definitely geared down with age but my drive to hunt is still very strong. I have a harder time passing up bucks that need just one more year, but my desire to shoot something just to fill a tag is gone.

How does age affect us physically, mentally and in attitude? I find I'm less critical of myself. I worry too much about close friends and family, people I love. I try not to over-analyze situations. I've personally geared down in many ways. I'm not afraid of dying. I have little or nothing to prove to myself anymore. I take smaller steps. I climb shorter ladders in taller trees. I walk, drive and hunt slower, which is a good thing most of the time, almost always better than acting hungry or in the offense. I'm less aggressive and more patient. I can sit longer hours without having to see what is over a hill. I sleep less and wake up earlier. A short mid-day nap feels right when I've got nothing better to do. I

like to think I earned my nap time. I take vitamins and swallow various pills for bodily functions, malfunc-

tions or maintenance. The bad habit of nibbling between meals and not drinking enough water become real. Losing weight becomes more difficult as physical activity wanes or slacks off.

I definitely enjoy hunting alone more than I used to. I'm less tolerant of the unethical or illegal behavior of dirtbags breaking or bending laws to make themselves look better while trying to feed their egos or enhancing their reputations. I

know I'll ruffle some feathers by saying this, but I wouldn't be honest if I didn't admit that in my opinion, many perfectly legal gun kills often cause me to believe big bucks and bulls deserve to die a better way, at much closer ranges and even closer still for those using high tech tools and gear. We need to see how close we can be to get the job done efficiently, not how far away we can hit them! Efficiency is often trumped by class.

Last week I looked out my kitchen window to see a big boar groundhog eating clover within feet of the tool shed in my back yard. Since hunting and shooting woodchucks was a passion of my dad's, I feel comfortable in saying our family has probably shot about as many groundhogs as any family. I know I've killed a lot more than my share. During my youth, hunting chucks was one of our major pastimes, done nearly every weekend from spring until fall. It wasn't too many years ago that I would have pulled my dusty .222 from my gun case cabinet to wax that chuck without a second thought. Instead, this time I watched him, filmed him and wished him well. I don't mean to necessarily sound soft, but unless he starts digging where he becomes a pest, that old boar has found a sanctuary in my yard. I'm even looking forward to having him around.

Unless it's my imagination, I find my senior citizen years permit me to tolerate cold weather easier. I stay warm longer on stand, maybe because I walk slower with minimal over-heating. Or maybe it's because I wear my long johns

~ continued on page 40

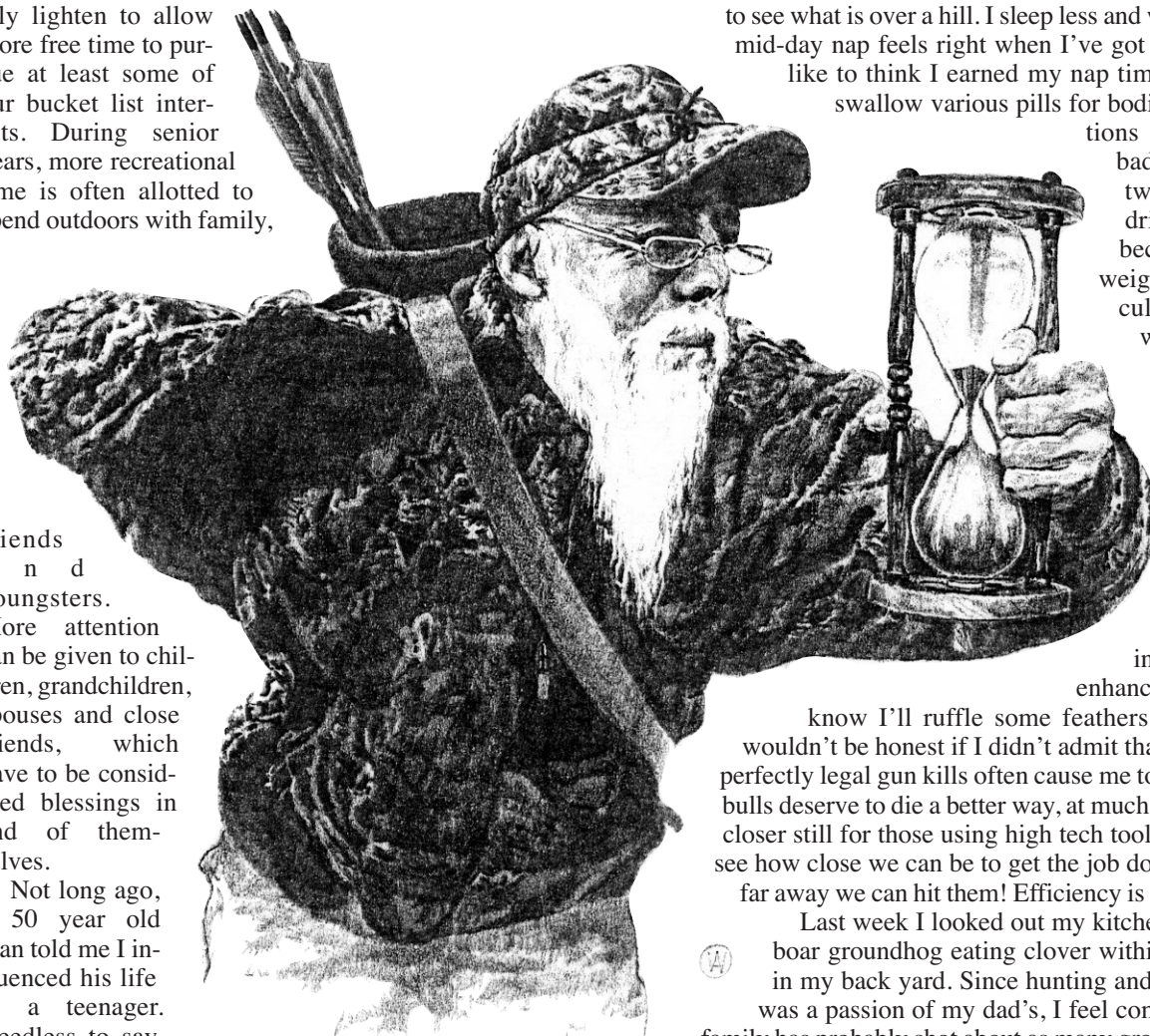


Illustration by Andrew Warrington

The Geezer Years

~ continued from page 39

underneath my skin now! Full day ten or eleven hour November sits are a lot less stressful than they used to be. I find it a lot easier to be positive about all sorts of things.

As I put more deer on the ground over the decades, I tended to grow more selective in what I shot at. A whitetail had to be mature before I elected to shoot. I believe strongly in optimal herd management. At the same time, I also enjoy and really need good venison. I still shoot plenty of does, but I find myself picking and choosing even with my antlerless tags. Being selective can go the other way too. Like I said, passing up bucks that could use one more season has become more testing within my elderly conscience. If and when I'm lucky enough to blow out 80 or more candles, I doubt I'll pass up many 140" bucks.

Discounting internal organs like heart, lungs or digestive disorders, our knees, hips, shoulders and feet begin reminding us of our age. The last house I buy will have a lot less stairs.

How has age affected my bowhunting techniques? I've pretty much gone to ladder stands rather than hang-ons for one thing. Although not as portable, 12 to 15 foot ladders have proven their value in both ease getting into and out of, comfort and effectiveness when placed right. I try not to erect treestands by myself and always wear a safety belt. My days of carrying in portables and hanging them while playing monkey are over. My pop-up blinds also see more active duty. Lord willing, I'll be sitting in a pop-up blind or ladder stand not far from a good friend's truck in my late 80's. It beats the alternative.

As noted previously, when on stand, patience comes more easily to me since I became a senior citizen. I tend to sit more than stand up. When I was younger, I made it a habit to stand until my feet got sore, then I'd sit down for a while. Now, I sit until my butt gets sore, then stand up for a while!

I've also gone down in bow weight. Somewhere around the age of 50, Dick Robertson made my son and I a fine pair of matching recurve bows. Mine pulled 68#, while my son's went 60#. One day I went out to the garage and accidentally grabbed my son's bow. It felt like a toy compared to what I was used to shooting. I borrowed a few of Ken's arrows to discover it shot great. In my heart I knew sixty pounds was way more than adequate, so right then I decided it was time. When I hit age 60, I

dropped once more to 55# or so. Now, I suspect any new bow will be ordered a few pounds even lighter. The good news is that with modern stickbow designs, components and materials, not much is really sacrificed. A quality 50 pound bow of today will probably out perform the 65 pounders of yesteryear. Of course when you change bow weight, arrow spine has to match. In truth, equipment changes often bring comfort as well as performance and expense.

I used to watch young people on outdoor television shows climb mountains without getting out of breath. I would watch hunting buddies hang treestands in five minutes flat with minimal sweat. I can't help but think with luck, they too will get old someday. Many old people get depressed when they think about things they can't do anymore. I've learned to accept that fact rather than fight it the whole way.

Lifting and dragging deer has proven to stretch my limits. In the fall of 2000 I killed a big buck in Illinois while hunting alone. I got him to my pickup with little trouble, but getting him from the ground to the bed of the truck was a comedy of errors. Someone could have made a 45 minute best selling video of me trying to load that buck. I eventually got him loaded inch by inch but the show would have been well worth the

price of admission. A couple seasons later, I shot a brute of a buck at 7am one morning. I field dressed him and took photos, drug him into the shade, then sat in my truck until dark waiting for my brother to help lift him on board. I now carry an extra ladder section in the bed of my truck that acts as a make shift ramp when I'm alone. Dragging deer is still a chore, especially uphill on bare ground. I now own both a snow sled as well as a wheeled deer cart. Help from a friend or hunting partner is definitely advantageous and appreciated, especially if your buddy happens to be big and young. Slave labor can be a beautiful thing, but don't quote

me on that!

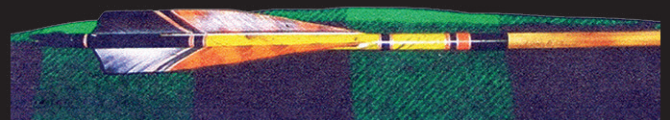
Old age brings a lot of freedoms. One of those freedoms is caring less about what others think. I find myself going to the store unshaven and not really caring what other people think about me. Buying groceries while wearing blue jeans and a soiled sweat shirt is no longer a big deal. Really, it isn't. Not that grooming isn't important, but if I have a spot on the front of my shirt or mud on my boots I don't really care what the ladies think anymore. I guess what I'm trying to say is that I don't really want to dance vertically anymore, not that I ever cared to in the first place.

My dad used to say there is a fine line between wisdom and senility. With that thought in mind, let me leave you with a couple pearls of wisdom to consider. First of all, know your own limitations and abide by them. Think safety. Always let someone know where you plan to hunt, even if it's only with a note. Carry a cell phone. Slow down, hear the birds and smell the wild flowers. Listen to your body when it talks to you. Go by the rule "if it ain't broken, don't try to fix it." But be willing to adapt to all the challenges and changes of older age. Our primary goal should be to have fun in the outdoors as long as we can. Always remember, the oldest guy to put his toys away wins! ♣

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Trail Cam Tidbits...

Big Ones That Got Away



by Bill Terry

These were taken while I was on a black bear hunt in Quebec. No one actually saw the wolf in person and I never got a shot at the bear.

The picture below is another one from my recent Quebec bear hunt. It shows a wolf in the background looking over the bear!



by Mark Viehweg

My brother, PBS Regular David, caught this coyote with a fawn on his trail cam in Illinois.



by Bob Lagone

Here is pic for trail cam section I thought was an interesting find. While shed hunting I came across this carcass. He was an old buck and had been going down hill the last couple years to a broken up 3x3 as of fall 2016. The way I read the scene is he bedded and that was his last bed. Probably bedded there for awhile and while bedded he shed both antlers and eventually breathed his last. Have a good season. Hope to see you at the banquet.



Have an interesting photo? Send it in with 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



A Few Thoughts on Broadheads

By Monty Browning



I can't remember the first stone point I found as a young boy, but I am convinced that boys and girls who are destined to be bowhunters treasure each stone point they find more than non-hunters. Even today, sixty plus years later, I am thrilled each time I find an arrowhead. If only the stone could talk and tell it's story. There is magic in a stone point.

My first arrowheads were wicked looking broadheads that I made from "Tuberose Snuff" can lids. I hammered them into folded metal arrow points on milkweed and wild cherry shafts. Then I sneaked through the Camelia bushes and shot at pigeons sitting in the sloped cornices of the now historic old homes on Haynes St. in Monroe, N.C. I never killed a pigeon but I got close enough to fan the flame of a young bowhunter. Shooting grouse out of spruce trees brings back fond memories.

I had older cousins on the Browning side of the family and they had fancy recurve bows and a rack with hunting arrows with real broadheads. I wasn't allowed to touch them. The memory is clouded but I remember the broadheads looking long and narrow with black plastic ferules and black metal blades, possibly Hilbres. That was the mid-fifties and soon after my bow and my first BB gun consumed most of my free time. I had taken as my life's work to kill every sparrow and starling in North and South Carolina.

Then followed my first .22 rifle and the squirrel population wouldn't recover until my sweet sixteen Annie was cruising in my '57 Chevy. My bow shooting and squirrel hunting suffered from time spent on teenage fantasy and Turtle Wax. The Chevy had to shine!

Then, like many, during those '57 Chevy years, in the 60s', I became smitten by the Bear Archery bug and the Adventures of Fred Bear. I rediscovered the aroma of a broken cedar shaft and bought my first real broadhead tipped hunting arrows. And of course they had to be Bear arrows and Bear Razorheads. I reasoned quite foolishly that arrows, unlike expensive bullets, could be shot over and over,

saving money. That was hundreds of dozens ago.

I killed my first deer with a Bear Razorhead and that was all I used until a friend gave me a four blade stainless steel broadhead called the "MAG II." I was impressed and killed my next ten deer with that head. I still liked the Bear Razorhead and do to this day. I killed a few elk with Bear heads but the "MAG II" was my go-to broadhead.

Then sometime in the mid-seventies I saw an ad for "Zwickey Delta" 4 blade broadheads and once tried, I was hooked. I have been a "Zwickey" man ever since. More on that later.

I have tried and used a number of other broadheads over the past years for special hunts for big and dangerous game. One of those heads was the two-blade head for water buffalo and especially the African Cape buffalo where the ribs can be a real problem. Big, two thousand pound dangerous game leave tracks and sign that can be followed and in most cases, deep penetration is more important than a small improvement in blood trail.

On my Australian hunt for water buffalo, we were quite impressed when I got complete penetration on both arrows with the "Hunters Head and fourteen hundred grain arrows."

Through the 80's, I had quite a bit of success with the original three blade "Snuffer" broadhead shooting my Howard Hill 90 pound longbow. I shot a Snuffer tipped 1500 grain arrow completely through a bison bull. He dropped in twenty yards.

I tried and shot "Magnus" heads from my friend Mike Sohm in Kansas, another great broadhead. I've taken a number of critters with the "Wensel Woodsman", and consider it one of the most accurate broadheads that I have shot. And of course, like many knowledgeable bowhunters with an ace up their sleeves, the ACE broadhead has always been a winner and probably one of the best broadheads of all times.

But the bottom line is this, most bowhunters I have known have tried nearly all of the more popular heads on the mar-

ket. But like myself most have a favorite, and that is the broadhead that you will most often find in their quiver and mine.

I was on a hunt years ago back when I was shooting the 90 pound bow. A compound hunter was checking my broadheads and was shocked to find several different broadhead weights in my quiver.

"Hey Browning," he said "you have different broadheads and there is a 100 grain difference in the weights, you can't do that."

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I said, "Listen, I'm shooting 1400 grain arrows out of a 90 pound bow. I'm not shooting over ten or fifteen yards. At that range, I'm not a good enough shot to tell the difference in 100 grains."

I don't know, but I have been told that there have been more than 3000 different broadheads manufactured and it seems that with the high-tech crowd today, new mechanical heads are popping up daily. I hear horror stories about some of those heads also.

I remember the early razor blade heads that were supposed to supply razor sharp broadheads from the factory with no work on the bowhunters part. That should have been a red flag.

I rushed off an order in 1973 for the new "Wasp" injector razorblades. It looked deadly. We were wrong. We lost nearly half the deer we shot that season because the broadheads failed to penetrate. Every man that shot deer with those heads lost deer. We banned it in our club. Bear Razorheads were suddenly very popular again.

There are a number of high quality broadheads available today, some presharp-ened and all claiming to be the best, both high carbon and stainless steel. For most traditional bowhunters, the new mechanical, open on contact broadheads are simply a gimmick made for those looking for the easy way. And I might add, for those who haven't learned how to sharpen a broad-head or a hunting knife. Actually, I have always enjoyed sharpening my broadheads. It's a classic woodsman skill and part of the bowhunting experience.

I have tried a few excellent broadheads in recent years, one real standout being the big stainless two-blade "Tuffhead". It was a gift from its designer Joe Furlong. I cut the hair off the bottom of the chest of a big black bear boar that I had mouth called to thirty yards. I dug a deep hole trying to find that head after the insert pulled out on black spruce roots. I never found it. It probably penetrated to the Arctic.

Broadheads are expensive these days and most are well made and will last many years. I very seldom damage broadheads

and I've read quite a bit of fluff about broadhead failure. I have seen very few broadheads actually fail. What I have seen personally are broadheads that penetrated into bones and joints and the animal damaged the head as it crashed away. That is not broadhead failure.

I have had to hammer several broad-heads back out from inside the chest cavity that didn't completely penetrate the thickest part of Cape buffalo ribs. None were bent or broken. Broadheads trying to penetrate solid bone have to push the compressed bone apart to penetrate and usually hang up on the ferrule. The edges cut but the tapered ferrule has to squeeze through. Think about that a moment.

I have killed a number of hogs with single bevel broadheads. But personally, I'll take a regular edge that I can sharpen very easily. And yes, I've seen the scapulas of whitetailed deer cracked by single bevel broadheads, but deer shoulder blades are not buffalo ribs. But also, isn't the object not to hit the shoulder? Broadheads are designed to shoot through or between normal sized ribs, to completely penetrate chest cavities and cause blood and oxygen loss to lungs and brain. Then the broadhead is designed to bury into the forest floor with a good enough exit hole to allow enough blood to escape to leave a blood trail that a novice can follow. That's the idea.

There are plenty of good broadheads that do just that. Now, we are back to my personal favorite, the Zwickey Delta four blade. Marketed first in 1958, the Zwickey Delta has taken every species of big game bowhunted around the world. Zwickeys have traveled in quivers around the world for 58 years. I hunted with them in my quiver for forty-one years and when I seat my arrows in my quiver in Alaska in September, it will be full of what I consider the best broadhead ever made, the Zwickey Delta. But that's just me. Shoot what works for you. As my old friend Ole' Tom used to say, "the Bear Razor-head and the Zwickey Delta have killed every species of big game there is, that's good enough for me."

Well said Ole' Tom. I agree. I said that to Ole' Tom across a campfire after he had killed his 50th deer with a recurve in 1972. Ole' Tom was my mentor. *

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Found & Lost Antlers

By Jeff Holchin

The normal phrase is “Lost and Found”. At schools, there is usually a box or tote with clothes, bookbags, etc. that kids have lost. Often in local newspapers,

there is a column that lists items that have been lost. My local radio station sometimes mentions cats or dogs that have become lost - one time I had to list my wandering heifer who took off and was missing for five days! All of these are efforts to locate the owner of something valuable that was lost. In my case, the order was reversed and something valuable that I found on a bowhunt soon became lost.

I planned to attend the 2004 PBS Banquet in San Antonio and wanted to hunt hogs and javalina while there. My friend Terry Receveur had an open spot in his group that would be hunting a large ranch along the Rio Grande, and I jumped at this great opportunity. Terry is an excellent hunt organizer and I felt fortunate to hunt with him and his friends. He even took his lovely wife Tina, and they got the honeymoon shack nestled by the pond full of bass. This is the hunt where I learned that good wives will put on their brush pants and put on a javalina drive through brushy draws, clean any fish that her husband catches, and iron the wrinkles from the day’s hunting clothes. Terry sure picked a good wife.

Upon my arrival at the ranch, the first thing that caught my eye was the piles of shed antlers by the ranch barn, which included some real dandies. I just can’t walk past a shed antler and am always on the

lookout for them, so I asked if I could keep any shed antlers that I found. The answer was yes - not “maybe” or “only the small ones” but an unconditional “yes”. Where I come from, yes means yes and not maybe, so I believed the outfitter. That night at mealtime, the conversation turned to the ranch’s deer herd and there was much talk of their pride and joy buck, the “Runway Buck” who lived near the ranch’s small private airstrip and was reportedly of B&C size. I listened with interest as they went on and on about this particular buck, and how he was worth a lot of money to the ranch. They had some trail camera pics of him and used those pics to advertise the ranch for new clients.

The very next day, as I was moving in on a group of hogs in some brush along the Rio Grande, I paused for a water break and happened to glance near my feet (looking for snakes, actually) and spotted tines sticking out of the grass. Lots of tines, and as soon as I had them in my hands, I knew. I had found the famous Runway Buck’s set of shed antlers! I also knew that I had a problem on my hands and a big decision to make. Immediately I felt a weight on my shoulders - I glanced to my right shoulder and saw a beautiful angel with a harp, but a glance to my left shoulder revealed a hideous demon with a pitchfork. The demon said “Dude, those are your best shed antlers to date! Congratulations, put them in your pack.” The angel said “Jeff, you will have to tell the outfitter about this find. You heard them go on and on about their precious Runway Buck.” The demon yelled “Don’t listen to her! She’s a fool, you know they’ll want those antlers.” I



knew the demon was right, but they had said I could keep any shed antlers I found, right? Maybe they would honor their word? The angel said “Jeff, do the right thing.” I shoved the antlers in my pack, picked up my longbow and soon put an arrow through a nice fat hog’s lungs. It was a great day, because I had also arrowed a plump javalina that same morning. I was in love with Texas! My love affair would be short lived!

After all the hunters were picked up and the game taken that evening hung up on the meat pole, I pulled the set of big shed antlers from my pack and showed them to the ranch foreman. The reaction was immediate - he called over several of his helpers, they excitedly handled the prized antlers and then called the outfitter on his cell phone. Somewhere in the darkness I heard the demon whisper “You big dummy, you can kiss those big shed antlers good-bye. I warned you but no, you had to listen to HER.” Soon enough, I got the bad news - the ranch rules for keeping any shed antlers had just been changed and they would be keeping the Runway Buck’s shed antlers. I never returned to this ranch but a friend who did return later saw a nice mount of the Runway Buck in the trophy room. I was disappointed but at least I had done the right thing, right? Right? What would you have done? ♣



Bear Essentials

By Barry Wensel

I miss my bear hunting the last few years. Over many decades I've hunted them in numerous states from New England to Montana, including five Canadian provinces. I've bowhunted them in the high mountain huckleberry patches; walked many miles of old logging roads while they fed on spring clovers and dandelion flowers. I've hunted them behind a pack of hounds once; spot and stalked them from switch-back roads through mountain clearcuts; sat old abandoned apple orchards; as well as prepositioned bait sites. There's an obvious adrenalin rush when stalking to within a stone throw of an impressive critter that could easily kill you. They have great ears, a nose second to none; and much better eyesight than most people give them credit for. You should be proud no matter how you get within close bow range.

Although they are normally black, they

are available in a wide variety of color phases. Additional to the more common black, I've taken them in about every color they come in from chocolate to cinnamon, auburn, golden red, blonde and a combination of any of the above colors. Brown snouts; black snouts; large or small white chest blazes or no blaze at all, they are unique.

Similar to humans, I've seen a variety of physical structures, i.e., endomorphs, mesomorphs and ectomorphs. Everything from short and stocky, to elongated, big-boned bears, and everything in between.

When it comes to bowhunting them, I am of the opinion they are very similar to big, mature white-tails in that for consistent close-range encounters you are usually better off letting them come to you. So that means your highest probability for close range bow shots will be hunting over some sort of food source.

Putting out bait isn't necessarily wrong. In certain parts of the country it's the only feasible means of ever seeing a bear. An incoming bear will give you the necessary chance to study the animal, not to mention ultra-close range confrontations are very exciting. Although I don't recommend it, I've actually touched a couple live bears in the wild over the years. From a bait you can usually see if they've got cubs. Sound biological management dictates not to shoot sows with cubs. I never have and I never will. One biological research paper I read claimed once a cub reached thirty pounds it would likely survive on it's own without the mother. But they are talking being nutritionally weaned, etc. If the sow is killed, the cubs are very vulnerable to other bears in the area. Older bears will intentionally try to kill the cubs through dominant traits. It's not a pretty scenario.

Unfortunately, and also similar to humans, it's sometimes tough to determine the sex between sows and



boars even for experienced hunters and even up close. It's hard to explain but it's similar to looking for differences between a male and female dog. The face of the female dog appears more feminine. It's more delicate, prettier than the masculine, blocky face of a handsome male stud. But, through age structure facial appearance varies so it's sometimes tough. It's similar to comparing the face of a raghorn bull elk with that of a big, fully mature bull. The raghorn looks more like a cow elk with antlers. You get my drift.

Sometimes a really big sow will be especially hard to tell from a nice boar. One thing to look for that is not common knowledge are "love bites." When a boar mounts a sow during the actual breeding process, the boar will bite the sow on top of her back between the shoulder blades. Often it results in a pretty nasty, significant "love bite" that you can actually see from some distance. Anything anatomically visible there, whether some roughed-up hide to an open wound will be indicative it's a sow. In fact, most bears you observe standing on their hind legs rubbing/scratching their backs on an upright vertical tree are usually sows that are scratching itchy, healing love bites.

The bottom line is when sitting bait, it will let you study the bear, looking for the sex of the individual and any young offspring present.

~ continued on page 46



Bear Essentials continued

~ continued from page 45

As with most other species, when you see a really, really big bear there's no question about it...you'll know it, whereas, "nice ones" are deceiving at times.

Similar to my whitetail hunting stand tactics, I put a lot more thought into a bait site for bear than most folks do. I don't just throw up a treestand for whitetails like I don't just dump a bucket of donuts on the ground for bears.

First off, you need to pick the right spot. I prefer to be near some water source. When spring bears first come out of hibernation they need to consume enough water to loosen/soften the mucosal plug that's been blocking their intestines during hibernation. Just before bears hibernate they consume dry vegetation, pine needles or even their own hair in order to form a mucosal plug that will keep from defecating in the den. Water is necessary to initially pass this plug.

Study the terrain. I like a spot that is semi-open. Not too open, yet not too thick and tight. They like to be able to see the bait before approaching. Don't forget there is a dominant/subordinate pecking order around the bait site. And we're talking serious confrontations, often with serious fights even to the death. Often, dominant bears will lay right next to the bait and "guard" it. Incoming bears, especially the subordinates, will sneak in and/or circle to check the wind before entering. Some will purposely snap a branch so any bear on the bait will audibly hear it and answer verbally he's there. Get ready when you hear a distant branch snap.

It's really interesting to watch. Some bears will sneak in on a direct approach to the bait. They'll take a few steps and lay down to listen. Then advance a few more steps before laying down to listen more. This is where you'll see specific, individual pad marks in the turf where incoming bears

will purposely place their feet in previous pad marks/steps so as to better insure a silent approach.

Just as common as the direct approach, you'll have bears that circle the bait site, wind checking everything before exposure to the bait.

Terrain wise, I also prefer a very slight grade uphill behind the bait site. Incoming animals prefer to approach bait from uphill. If you think about it, it's just common sense. If they approach from the uphill side, any charging, dominant, bigger bear on the bait will have a harder time running uphill than a smaller bear. You have a better chance to get away when the fat guy is chasing you uphill.

So...slight grade uphill from the bait; wind blowing at their backs where they can smell behind them and see in front of them; or sometimes, come in directly down wind of the bait but still be able to see in the semi-open terrain; and near some kind of water source close by.

Let me mention this before I forget. Once you've picked your bait site location, and before it's been hit, I like to draw attention to the area through scent. If there is some kind of a logging road you can drive a vehicle on I like to use a scent drag leading up to or near the bait site. I prefer dragging from a vehicle rather than leaving human scent by walking it by foot. Drag a scent soaked rag (oily tuna works well) or a piece of rotten meat from two directions toward the bait location. Don't forget bears are very capable of directional tracking/scent trailing. So, come in TOWARD the bait from various an-

gles. This way, any bears walking the logging roads will cut the aroma of the scent drag and directionally trail it right to your bait site. This little trick will open a bait site days earlier than if you fail to do this.

Let's build a scenario to compare strategies. There will obviously be some variables here but let's just consider generalities. Bear with me on this (no pun intended) as it's educational stuff. Draw it out if it'll help.

Say you have a predominate wind out of the north. We'll use north positioned as 12 o'clock in our example when viewed from above. Most guys will put their stands at about 6 o'clock and baits at 12 o'clock in our example. They are banking on most bears coming in upwind enough of their location. Some bears will, but a very high percentage will approach from upwind (from the north) then slowly circle around downwind in order to scent check what they can't visually see. Therefore, if the bowhunter is positioned at six o'clock directly downwind of the bait, the bear will likely smell him, depending on the distance from the bait he's circling in relation to the stand itself and densities.

In our example above, I much prefer positioning my stand at a 3 o'clock location. Think about it, the bear approaches from uphill at 12 o'clock angle. He doesn't see anything at the bait, so he slowly swings

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downwind, past the 9 o'clock position until he can get directly downwind of the bait itself. So he can smell anything behind him on approach; see anything below; then smell anything that happens to be waiting in ambush at the bait on entering. Brilliant! ...except I'm positioned crosswind at the 3 o'clock position and he walks right into the bait with a head wind and false sense of security of the set-up where the boogie man is waiting in ambush.

If you are baiting in the spring, this is also a great opportunity to add a little sow-in-heat at the bait. If a circling boar gets down wind of the sow-in-heat scent he will be much more likely to follow the scent upwind rather than continuing to maybe circle. Smokey's deer lures sells sow-in-heat lure also.

Now let's talk about the bait site itself. I always preferred a metal 55 gallon drum with a lid bolted on. Wire the barrel to a tree. I also prefer a small 12"x12" cut out hole in the barrel where they have to work for the contents. If you happen to use grain/oats as your primary bait also have a few smaller, 3" diameter holes cut in the side of the barrel so they can roll it around dispensing grease soaked grain or whatever. Oats soaked with added grease from the Colonel works well.

When opening a new bait site the goal is to have the location known due to the



dissipated strong aromas. Starting with honey burns is a good idea. Put a couple inches of honey in an empty soup can and boil it on a portable burner/stove. I prefer using a small rack to hold the soup can above a can of Sterno. If you use a nice heating unit or camp stove, the boiled over contents will require some necessary clean-up later.

The honey will boil first, then go to a white smoke, then eventually burn down to a black smoke. Let her rip. I prefer to do a honey burn fairly early in the morning. That way there is still dew on the morning vegetation. The sweet smoke will stick to the moist, dew-covered leaves allowing more residual smoke odor to stick which can be more easily tracked to the source.

Once the bait is initially hit you don't have to do anymore honey burns unless you want to. Bears prefer fresh bait. If you have a pile of fresh beef scraps alongside a pile of rancid, rotten, maggot infested beef, they'll go for the fresh scraps first every time. Rancid meat will attract them but fresh meat will feed them.

Once you have them coming for fresh

meat scraps they'll like it. But now is the time to add the sweets/sugar. Once they've fed on the sweets they're hooked and will continue to return.

Next, the secret is to get multiple bears visiting your bait site. There are several secrets here that really help big time. One is to be sure to place some kind of scent on the ground right in front of the barrel opening. You want a scent that is odoriferous. Bacon grease is great, or a can of tuna fish packed in oil rather than water. Anise oil has a very strong aroma too. The idea is for the feeding bears to walk in the scent. The strong odor will stick to his pads, then, as he walks away from the bait he'll leave a scent trail. Any additional bears in the area, on cutting the scent trail will back-track the scent right to the bait site. Once you have multiple bears hitting your bait the fun really starts.

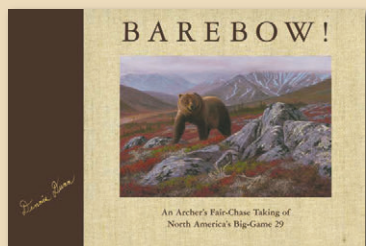
Remember, half of those bears will likely be sows. And any sow in heat will attract boars. So now you have attractive food, scent, sex and nearby water all working for you. Now, the idea is to keep them coming back and staying around for longer times. More little tricks. If you happen to have a screw-in tree step with a three-inch shank you won't need to pack a hand drill. Locate a downed log near your bait. On top of the horizontal log screw in your tree step and then remove it. Fill the 3" hole with either honey or peanut butter. They will spend hours trying to rip the log apart to get every last morsel.

Two other tidbits I like to scatter around the bait site are chocolate chip morsels and/or miniature marshmallows. Same thing, it'll take them hours to find hundreds of scattered morsels. They can see the marshmallows

~ continued on page 48

A BIG *Thank You* to Dennis Dunn from PBS!

Dennis Dunn recently donated close to a hundred of his award-winning book *Barebow* for us to promote our organization.



You will see more soon on how you might get a copy of this classic bowhunting collection in the near future.

If you run it to Dennis in the woods, please thank him for his generous donation!

Bear Essentials continued

~ continued from page 47

easier because they are white and will need to find the chocolate chips via scent.

Another lesser known secret is to add some uncooked bacon to the site. Buy the cheapest brand you can find. Cut the package in half and take each separate approximate 6" strip of raw bacon and gently stretch it out some. You'll end up with a couple dozen strips of raw bacon. Not only is it odoriferous but both bears and birds can see it. Take each strip singly and wing it as high as you can into the surrounding trees. The bears will climb for them but the added bonus will be the birds, including jays, crows, and ravens. Squawking their heads off trying to loosen and steal the bacon strips will attract the attention of bears from long ranges. Remember, you heard it here first!

Another thing I always like to do is place "satellite" baits additional to the main barrel. When I enter to re-bait the site I'll carry in a 5 gallon bucket or a couple bread sacks of extra morsels. Say the barrel is at

15 yards, 12 o'clock from your stand. I place the satellite baits in a triangle location with the main bait barrel at the top of the triangle, then about 8 o'clock at ten yards I'll add some satellite bait and an additional little pile at the 4 o'clock position at 10 yards.

What this does is allow multiple bears the opportunity to feed simultaneously rather than one more dominate bear keeping others off and risking them busting you while they wait their turn.

Let me mention this also while I think of it. If you have a bear in a shootable location but not a good angle or position for the shot, you can make him move his position without running him off by hissing at him. A LOW hiss will cause a bear (especially the boars) to stand up and move around slightly often giving you the option of a better shooting angle. Experiment

with it on subordinate bears until you get the gist of it before you go trying it on a giant though.

Speaking of hissing, another fun little tidbit you've probably never heard before, when you enter the stand carry in a can of pop. Shake her up real good and smear some peanut butter or bacon grease all over the can. Throw it on the ground near the bait site. Get your camcorder ready. Mr. Bear will pick it up and eventually bite through the thin aluminum spraying hissing pop-fizz all over his face. They really freak out. If it's a big one, you better shoot him before he gets to the pop can though! And remember to take the pop can out...don't litter. ☺

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It shall be the purpose and objective of the Professional Bowhunters Society to:

- A. Promote and maintain fellowship among persons who have a primary interest in maintaining professionalism in the field of bowhunting;**
- B. Encourage and promote the taking of wild game by means of bow and arrow in a humane and sportsmanlike manner;**
- C. Share with others the experience, knowledge and skills gained through application of proper shooting skills and hunting techniques;**
- D. Practice and promote good and safe sportsmanship in the art of bowhunting;**
- E. Encourage and support sound bowhunting legislation and to oppose legislation which is not consistent with its purposes;**
- F. Develop and maintain an educational forum to teach and promote the wise and safe use of our natural resources, the conservation of wild game and the preservation of its natural habitat.**



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- To be a conscientious bowhunter, promoting bowhunting by working to elevate its standards and the standards of those who practice the art of bowhunting;
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