

Official Publication for the members of the Professional Bowhunters Society

THE PROFESSIONAL BOWHUNTER MAGAZINE



Roger Rothhaar

February 2, 1938 - January 16, 2018

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PBS Magazine is assembled by the New Hampton Tribune, New Hampton, Iowa and printed by Sutherland Printing, Montezuma, Iowa.

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Cover Photo In Memory of Roger Rothhaar
Courtesy of: Ryan Rothhaar

THE PROFESSIONAL BOWHUNTER MAGAZINE

Volume 41 – Number 1

JUNE - 2018

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President's Message

by Norm Johnson
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With the Madison Biennial gathering now in the books, the Council will shift gears to next year's agenda. The gathering was a big success, both in attendance and money raised to support our operating expenses for the next two years. These gatherings are a team effort and I have to make room in my column to thank everyone who makes these events possible. Thank you to an outstanding and hard-working Council. Vice President, Matt Schuster was the chairperson for the event and worked tirelessly to make sure every aspect of the gathering ran smoothly. I have to thank all of our donors from the exotic hunts to the smallest hunting knife. I have to thank our vendors who worked long hours in their booths and add that special element to the gathering. Thanks to our seminar speakers. I have personally done a number of seminars and they require hours of prep work. I want to thank our keynote speakers Nathan Andersohn and Clay Hayes who both brought their "A" game. I can only think of the quote from the movie *Gladiator*, "Were you not entertained!" I want to thank our new secretary/treasurer Harmony Receveur. She started her position Jan 1st at a time when we were on the home stretch of processing the gathering registrations as well as all of the other day to day business needs of the PBS. Her organizational skills and grasp of today's digital world made the gathering run smooth and efficient. Thanks to the local Wisconsin crew for all of their help. Finally, I want to thank all the members and their wives who took the time to attend and support the event. I was humbled and appreciative at the attendance numbers especially in an era with many archery related events to support.

The general membership meeting in Madison was a packed house and certainly one to remember. I appreciated the opportunity to review and reveal the financial problems that have plagued the PBS for

the last 13 years and the steps Council took to begin a new business model for our organization. I valued the civil discourse, the input, and suggestions to areas we can improve on going forward into the future. There are financials in this magazine and we will include the financials in the magazine once per year to keep the membership informed and show the value of transparency. This is not at all to say that past Councils and home office were not transparent or good stewards. The PBS had a business model that was very successful for decades; however, the ever changing world of technology put the PBS in the same situation as many other nonprofits find themselves in today. You either make the necessary changes to modern ways of the digital business environment or you will die a slow death.

The good news is for the first time since 2004 PBS operated in black for the 2017 fiscal year. Our projected budget for 2018 again shows the PBS in the black and the financial direction has changed to where we are once again financially solvent.

The annual Council meeting prior to the gathering was to create an agenda going forward for the next year. We will again put together an aggressive membership drive. The recently completed membership drive gained the PBS nearly 215 new members and we were up all of last year nearly 275 new members. The winner of the membership drive and a new Blacktail Bow was Bill Thompson of Frederick, Maryland. Congratulations Bill and welcome to the PBS family.

Council will also create another online auction in the off year. Thanks to all who

donated last November, and thank you to Matt Schuster for spearheading the auction. Thank you also to Terry Green from the Trad Gang forum for letting PBS host the auction on his site.

New for the coming year's agenda is an additional page for the PBS web site. The page will be devoted to political action in the support of any state that may have the crossbow or the airbow issues that threaten their bow seasons. This page will be available to post any information in which members can review and assist with support through letter writing or possibly testifying in person. Our ability to send email blasts is gaining momentum and we will utilize this new tool to also inform members of upcoming threats of crossbows and the airbow. We will be asking members to use email to contact Council anytime they have information we can post on the new web page.

Council announced that in 2020 the PBS gathering will be located in Springfield, Missouri. Springfield is the home to the Johnny Morris' Bass Pro Shops World of Wildlife Museum and Aquarium. It has recently voted the #1 new attraction in America. It is also home of the Archery Hall of Fame. For those making a vacation of the week, Branson, Missouri is 40 miles to the south and offers some of the finest music theaters in the US.

Finally I want to congratulate and welcome Dr. Tom Vanasche as the recent winner of the open Council position. Thank you also to Brian Tessman for stepping up to run.

All the best,
Norm Johnson

We need your email address!

In the future, PBS will be sending out email blasts on a regular basis. Not so often as to be a bother, but enough to let you know what is going on with your organization. If you have not received the email regarding the 2018 Membership Drive, then we do not have your correct email address.

**Please email Harmony your best email address at
professionalbowhunters@gmail.com to be added to our email list!**

Vice President's Message

by Matt Schuster

matt@easterndynamicsinc.com

As I write this, it is just a few days after my trip home from the Madison Gathering, and as always, the weekend passed much too quickly. It was great seeing all my old friends and getting a chance to make a few new ones. I will keep this short since all on Council will likely express similar sentiments but THANK YOU to everyone who came to support PBS, to the vendors who displayed and/or donated, to the individual members that donated, to our speakers and seminar leaders, and all those who helped make this Gathering so much fun and to run so smoothly. We had more help than we needed both from the local Wisconsin guys and other PBS members who really stepped up. I would name you all but due to all the concussions I suffered as a youth, I fear that I would leave too many of you out. Special thanks to Harmony Receveur who made all the financial transactions at the Gathering look easy, and to Terry Receveur, who spent an immense amount of time working behind the scenes on a computer to log in and write descriptions of donations. Congrats to both Jim Aken-son, and his wife Holly, on winning the St. Charles Award for outstanding service both to PBS and to the bowhunting/conservation community at large – a well-deserved award. And it was awesome to see Kevin Bahr receive the Shupienis Award for his years of service to PBS. Kevin always steps up when asked, and PBS could not have a better recipient for this award. Well, that wasn't all that short, was it?

During his excellent talk on Saturday night at our Gathering, Nathan Andersohn said that he is often asked how it felt to kill those last few critters he needed to achieve his goal of taking all the North American big game animals with a longbow. He said, "I always say the same thing. That the last ones felt just like the first ones." What I took him to mean by that statement is that his endeavor was not about

ego, it was about the journey, and that each animal taken and each of his hunts was special in its own way and that his personal bowhunting journey is far from over. He still loves to hunt and can't wait to get back out there and hunt something else. And when successful, he will still be both excited about and humbled by the experience. I know how he feels – well, not really, since I have nowhere near his worldwide hunting experience, but I can say that I still get super-excited whether I shoot a good buck or crock-pot-size pig, and I am always humbled by the experience. I hope those feelings never go away. Young or old, experienced or not, struggling or super-successful, all bowhunters are on a journey of sorts. To many young bowhunters, ultra-modern equipment and long shots are all they have ever known. They have not seen the changes like a lot of us older folks have. They really had no choice but to start their journey with the only options available to them. Do we attract these folks by poking at them, calling them unethical, and letting them know that we don't consider them real bowhunters; or do we try to bring them our way by setting a good example, talking positively about what we believe, and showing them that one can be successful with a much simpler bow and reliance on one's own experience, skill, and patience? Let's face it, most modern bowhunters are not going to ever be interested in changing – our society puts too much value on immediate and easy success, but some will. So let's not discourage those that might want to listen with poorly thought out posts on online forums, including ours, or other social media – let's instead find those that have started their journey but just might want to get on the same path that we are on. After all, we all know how satisfying that path is – that is why we are in the PBS.

To help us find some of these folks that



are interested in the PBS and Knowledge Through Experience, we are kicking off the 2018 Membership Drive. The winner will receive a five day cow elk hunt in the Wasatch Mountains of Utah the first week of August 2019. The winner will be drawn in February, 2019 and the package includes air fare to Salt Lake City from the continental U.S., and a license and elk tag. I've taken several elk hunting waterholes on this property, and it is a fun and relaxing way to kick off the hunting season. Tom Vanasche will join me, the winner and probably another PBS member or two on the hunt and a good time is guaranteed, although an elk is not. The hunt is unguided, the lodge is outstanding, and we will cook for ourselves but the winner won't have to buy food as long as he likes soup and oatmeal. One does not need to be a super athlete to hunt this area – if you can walk a mile on a slight incline, you can hunt here. Heck, Biggie Hoffman is going with me this year – if he doesn't survive, it will be because we don't pack enough food, not because of the terrain. As on our previous membership drive, when you sign someone up, you have the choice of putting their name in the hat, or your name in the hat. That is up to you. We signed up almost three hundred new members last year, so let's keep the momentum going.

Finally, I hope all of you have a fun spring bear and turkey season. If you have success, write a quick story and send it to Harmony for the magazine.

Good Hunting,

Matt Schuster

Election & Voting Results

January 2018 Candidate Election

The following results have been counted by the home office, re-counted by the Councilman-At-Large Jim Aken-son, and confirmed in accordance with PBS Election By-Laws

Final Count – Results

Councilman

142	Tom Vanasche
60	Brian Tessman
9	Abstain
211	Total

PBS 2019 Elections

Two Council Positions will be open: President & Vice President

If you are a Regular member of PBS and would like to be considered for a position, please send your nominations to the PBS Home Office no later than July 31, 2018. This nomination must indicate the position sought and must include signed endorsements by five other Regular members. The nominations will be reviewed by the Nomination Committee and the final Candidates will be chosen to run for the Office. Candidate profiles will appear in PBS Magazines' Fourth Quarter 2018 issue.



Senior Council's Report

by Rob Burnham
rob@burnhamphotography.com

It's hard to believe that the 2018 Gathering has come and gone. Madison will surely be remembered as one of the better banquets based on the comments I've been getting from those who were able to attend. I would like to thank everyone that helped to make this event such a success. The Madison crew did an absolutely awesome job. We actually had so much help that we couldn't use it all. The staff at the hotel were great to work with and took care of everything we asked. To the vendors and donors, without your very generous giving, none of the Gatherings would be possible. Thanks to my fellow councilmen, Norm, Matt, Ethan and Tom, you guys are absolutely great to work with. Terry Receveur, thank you for saving my hide with the donations, the countless hours you gave in-between taking care of your grand kids and trying to catch up on sleep, were a life saver. Thank you Harmony, you did an outstanding job. We are very fortunate to have you on board! I would also like to thank those PBS members who could not attend but still gave their time to help make this a successful gathering. Finally, to all of our members, without you none of this would have been possible. The PBS Family is alive and well!

Moving forward, the future indeed looks bright for PBS. We gained about 300 new members in the past year and our ranks grow each day. However, that doesn't mean we can sit back and relax. There is still much work to be done and I have faith that as members you will accept the challenge and keep the momentum going. Speaking of accepting the challenge, I would like each of you to think about your journey with regards to bowhunting. Think about how you were first

introduced to bowhunting and the path that you followed to get to where you are today. Some started with a simple stick & string while others found bowhunting later when compound bows came on the scene. I'm in the latter group. My first experience was with a compound bow in 1978. I was hooked on bowhunting from day one and have traveled down a path that I'm sure is not unlike many of our members. With that said, if you look at our membership and what type of bow we carry to the field, we are predominately a traditional organization, currently more than 95%. So what does that mean exactly? Herein lies our greatest challenge, in my opinion. How does PBS recruit new members, young bowhunters, without coming across as an elitist group, unwelcoming, to put it bluntly, a bunch of snobs?

The older ranks of PBS learned their skills by hands-on in the field, learning from a mentor or from the limited materials available at the time. Today's bowhunter gets much of their information through YouTube videos, listening to podcasts or other online tutorials and forums. The information is more readily available today which can be good and bad. Good in that all bowhunters can find instructions on how to's, research game species and locations to hunt them, and communicate with other bowhunters more easily. Bad in that they don't necessarily feel they have to join organizations to rub elbows with experienced bowhunters or to learn from them. This is where we have our challenge. In order to engage the younger generation of bowhunters we need to be able to offer them something that they can't get by simply going to a website. What exactly do we have to offer? When I think of all the great things that PBS has to offer, I quickly realize that much of what we do is through our Regional program with sponsored events, Member Hunts, and our gatherings. It's the "Brotherhood", this fraternal fellowship that one can't get from social media.

This is where I see the possibilities for PBS to grow.

Unfortunately, there are some who will resist change, they want nothing to do with it. I totally understand this mindset, especially as it pertains to technology. However if we, PBS, are to thrive, we have need to accept and embrace certain technology and use it to further the progress of PBS. The internet and email are perfect examples. With the new "Email Blast" we can reach our members instantly as opposed to snail mail or waiting for the next issue of the PBS magazine to arrive in the mailbox. Facebook and Instagram as well as YouTube are some other examples that can be used in a positive way to help PBS continue to grow. I'm not talking about advancement in bows, that's a given. We cannot and should not continue to allow the latest and greatest to encroach on our bowhunting seasons. The "Air-gun" being one such new gizmo. We'll save that for another article. However, I will submit to you that some technology can be good for and benefit PBS. By using this in a positive way to reach the younger generation of bowhunters, PBS can enjoy the best of both worlds. This is where our experienced members can do the most good. By not closing the door on that younger bowhunter and giving them the opportunity to see the rewards of accepting the challenge, taking the path focused more on woodsmanship and skill in lieu of instant success and technology. Our experienced members have the ability to influence the next generation and in so doing you will help to keep the Professional Bowhunters Society around for the next 50 years.

Wishing all of my fellow PBS brothers & sisters a wonderful 2018

Make sure you take photos, keep good notes on your adventures this year and remember to submit your stories to Harmony at Home Office for inclusion in the PBS Magazine.

>>~~Rob~~>

Council's Report

by Ethan Rodrigue
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I was sitting in the Detroit airport for my layover and thinking back on the wonderful time I just had at our banquet. It is always great to catch up with friends I haven't seen in much too long as well as meeting new friends, connect faces to names, and make plans for future adventures. I feel like the gathering was a huge success. It goes without saying it was all made possible by the generous donations from our vendors and membership and fantastic support we received from our Wisconsin members. Thanks to everyone for their hard work, it wouldn't have been possible without each and every one of you. We as an organization have had to embrace some tough decisions recently but I believe PBS is pretty much on the same page and are all wanting to move forward together. Now the task is to keep the momentum and continue to improve.

There were many conversations had this past weekend about the direction we need to take. The fact that our membership is getting older every year and we desperately need new, younger members is no secret to anyone. The question is how do we achieve this. The PBS literally has hundreds of years of combined experience and there is a tremendous resurgence in interest in traditional bowhunting. This resurgence is coming from both new hunt-

ers as well as a large percentage of very experienced and accomplished modern bowhunters. We've all started our journey in bow hunting at different points in each of our lives and all have a slightly different perspective as to where we are coming from. Let's not forget that and try to encourage, rather than tear down new traditional bowhunters that are simply at a different point in their journey. If your goal is to get new church members, doesn't it make much more sense to reach out to people other than the ones in the choir and who aren't church members yet? Who knows, you just might end up with some real high quality members!

There are some very well known bowhunters who are reaching literally millions (yes...MILLIONS) of hunters and exposing them to the challenges and rewards of bowhunting. Are all of those being exposed PBS material? Absolutely not, but I promise you a lot of them are. So why would you want to do anything other than completely support those who are doing the reaching? I think PBS has some of the most elite and hardcore bowhunters in the world among our ranks and they have a wealth of knowledge and experiences to share. But if less than 10% of the new bowhunters know about us, that means there are a ton of people that have no idea



who we are or what we are about. If there is anything we can do to get our message out there, then we definitely need to be doing it.

Over the years I have attempted to introduce a small handful of people that I thought were good quality bowhunters that decided PBS ultimately wasn't for them. The reasoning for all of these individuals was that they felt PBS'ers were "a bunch of elitists". In my 18 years as a member of PBS I have learned that nothing could be further from the truth. But it only takes a few individuals to cement a reputation for many and I honestly feel that is the situation we are dealing with. Again, I am not suggesting we open the flood gate and pad our membership numbers with people who do not align with our ethics and standards, but we do need to be more mindful of those who would possibly make good quality, and contributing members for all of our future.

Ethan Rodrigue

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Council's Report

by Tom Vanasche
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will come from and with the generosity of Blacktail bows we have over 200 new members.

We will soon start a new membership drive that will feature a Utah elk hunt with the "world's second greatest bowhunter". Stay tuned for details and begin to think of potential new members.

There is a beginning of change in the bowhunting world. Thousands of former compound hunters are switching over to traditional gear. They want to become hunters and not just killers. There are several podcasts and Facebook pages out there dedicated to this transition. We need to embrace them with our ethics and "Knowledge Through Experience". Many of them would make fine members and some not so much. We need to reach out to these traditional rookies with a helping hand and not an "elitist" attitude. First impressions are lasting.

The people I associate with in PBS are certainly not of the elitist variety but I have heard this complaint from others. I signed up a former member who had dropped out many years ago because of that rea-

son. We have recently become friends and he was willing to give it a try again. Our membership numbers are turning, but we are still a long way from our peak in the 1990's. With higher numbers we will be a much more stable organization and have more clout, as well as having more regional hunts, off year get togethers, appeals to game commissions etc. Don't just sit on the sidelines. Get involved.

I must thank our vendors and all the people that donated something large and small. Without you, there would be no PBS. We possibly may have another on-line auction on TradGang and if we do we will need more participation. Look in the closet and see what you may have that is no longer being used. Thanks to those that so generously donated last time. Finally, what a great group of Wisconsin volunteers. They made things so much easier and it was nice to match a face with a name. Go Packers!

Until next time, keep em sharp, have fun and stay safe.

Tom Vanasche

I hope everyone had as good a time as myself at the gathering. Actually, I hope it was better. Because of Council duties and such you can miss a lot of the seminars and greeting the "brothers and sisters". I was hoping to get to listen to Bryan Burkhardt and Monty Browning but it was not to be. Perhaps we can get a redo from them in Springfield and perhaps more dead moose pictures!!

This past year has been a grueling one for Council with the change in Home Office and trying to rebuild a website and get involved with social media. We believe that is where a majority of new members

Chaplain's Corner

by Gene Thorn

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Everything we need!

Back when I started bowhunting in 1967 at age twelve, I had a Bear Grizzly 50 pound recurve, a Kwikkee Quiver, rubber brush buttons for my string, and a dozen Ben Pearson feather fletched fiberglass arrows with six field points and six broadheads. I had saved my grass cutting money all summer to buy them. My mom had given me a Puma Skinner knife, and a Sears Sharpening Oilstone for Christmas a couple years back. We had two Army and Navy Surplus Stores in the nearby town of Warren, Ohio, and a Fairway store in McKinley Heights, from which I purchased a

pair of Northerner rubber boots, a pair of OD green Army surplus pants, WWII camo fatigue jacket, green duty cap, cotton longjohns, wool socks, a plaid flannel shirt, a green & black plaid wool coat, and a wool hat. My dad and I had matching hunting clothes that he got us for deer and rabbit hunting. I picked up a canteen and a face camo kit at the Army Navy Store. My dad bought my hunting license. In short, I had everything I needed to bowhunt rabbits in Ohio and deer at our family farm in West Virginia.

2 Peter 1: 1. Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: 2. Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,

3. as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,

4. by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

5. But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,

6. to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness,

7. to godliness brotherly kindness and to brotherly kindness love.

8. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In verse 3 we see that by God's divine power, He has given us all things (everything) that pertain to life and godliness. Wow - ALL things! Everything we need, both natural and spiritual. When we get saved, just being in right standing with God is all we need. The Bible tells us that our own righteousness is as filthy rags but we are righteous because of our relationship with Him. Righteousness is simply being in right standing with God. As we live on in time and experience, and grow in Christ, our perception of "all we need" changes. As I grew older and bowhunted year after year, the scope of having everything I needed to bowhunt changed. I used the same bow, quiver, knife, and type of clothes through high school and college. I found out along the way that Super Hilbre broadheads were not so super, in fact they sucked, so I bought another dozen arrows; feather fletched Bear cedars with sharp Bear Razorheads on them. I was at Hills Dept Store in Morgantown my senior year at WVU with Sandy. We had just got married and had the money I had saved up from three summers of landscaping jobs to live off of till I graduated and was employed. I had taken a doe with my bow that year on the ground, but I spotted a brand spankin' new Baker climbing tree stand

and of course I "needed" it. I killed several deer out of that stand but a few years later, after having taken the big ride twice, from 20 feet to the ground in a split second, in wet maple trees, I recognized that I needed a safer stand. So I got a Loc-On-treestand, screw in steps, and a better safety belt. Years went by and I acquired new bows, new arrows, better quivers, more knives, binoculars, better and warmer clothing; plain green and WWII camo was replaced by Treebark, and later came Mossy Oak and Sleeping Indian wools. Next needs were a Lone Wolf climbing stand and hang-ons w/ climbing sticks and then ladder stands and pop up blinds. I expanded my hunting to other surrounding States, down South, Canada, Texas, out West, and Alaska trips for a myriad of species. New gear was added and each trip I went on I can say I had everything I needed. My gear today is better; different from 1967, but it is still everything I need.

God supplies everything we need on our spiritual journey as well. We need his divine providence when we need healing, protection, help in relationships, finances and work, and sometimes even a divine miracle. The key to receiving everything we need is also in verse 3. **"Through the knowledge of Him"** we receive in verse 4 - **"by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature"**. We have to grow closer in relationship to the Lord. Reading His Word, and getting alone in a quiet place where we can listen to His still small voice, speak to him, and receive direction is so important. In the woods, sitting in a treestand is one great place to converse with Him.

Matthew 16:18 "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."

19 "And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

I have heard people say that that being alone in the outdoors recreating is their church. That sounds good, but it is a misguided approach to a real opportunity to grow close to God. Church is made up of people, not a building or a place. It is a gathering of at least two or three people in His Name. Jesus Christ died on a cross

for each and every one of us to have a relationship with Him, which is one on one. He established the Church as the way He would reach humanity from that point on. He told Peter that He would be the rock that the Church would be built on. On the day of Pentecost, Peter preached a sermon and thousands were saved. The church started that day. The book of Acts is an account of the start of the early Church. The church has risen up locally in every area of the Earth and grown into millions upon millions of believers over the last 20 centuries. Finding a Bible believing church and plugging in to it is God's plan for us. It is the way we grow in faith by hearing God's Word. It gives us opportunities to be prayed for when we are in need and pray for others in their need. It gives us the opportunity to serve God by serving others. It gives us the opportunity to reach others by partnering with others in supporting missionary ventures. It brings us opportunities to invest our time, talent, and treasures in God's Kingdom. There is no obedience to Jesus by worshiping His creation, rather than He who is the Creator. He never commissioned us to serve Him alone. The Bible tells us to not forsake the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is. In other words - go to church. Go all the time, not just Christmas and Easter. If you have been hurt in church to the point you have written church off, you have your eyes on people, not on Jesus. You really need to get over it and move on. There is not a perfect church, but there is a perfect Savior. There are very good churches though. If you have not found one, pray that the Lord helps you find the church for you. Go and get involved.

His exceedingly great and precious promises are real and are recorded all through the Bible just waiting for us to dig them out and believe them. Verse 4 gives us a great challenge - **"by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature"** How can we know what promises we can stand on if we don't spend time learning what they are? All the good things in life and eternity rest in the promises recorded in God's Word. In the Name of Jesus - **We have everything we need!** ✠





Louisiana



By Associate Member,
Harmon Carson

I sat peering through the dense cypress swamp bow in hand hoping to catch the slightest glimpse of movement. The constant hum of mosquitoes filled the damp, hot, and stagnant air. Even when the sweat rolled down my back, and dripped from my nose, I thought about how blessed I was to hunt in the Bayou State. Although I may never have the opportunity to hunt in the snow here: and the mosquitoes are big enough to stand flat footed and breed a turkey, the varieties of opportunities available in Louisiana make it worth the struggle.

Louisiana's bow season runs from October 1st to January 31st for the majority of the state, although, some areas along the gulf open in mid September. Hunters are privy to six deer tags each year. Three does, two bucks, and one either sex with a daily limit of one buck and one doe. Bowhunting is quite popular here in Louisiana, but it should be noted that southern roots run deep as the black water swamps. If you choose to bowhunt, you will be outnumbered by those who choose to hunt with rifles. Gun season typically starts the last week of October and lasts until the third week of January. There is also a season where dog hunting is allowed for a portion of the rifle season. These conditions make it tough on a bowhunter.

You would think that due to Louisiana's liberal gun season and high number of deer tags available, the state's deer population would see a steady decline. However, the dense sawbrier and palmetto thickets and moss covered cypress swamps give the game ample places to hide. The habitat changes drastically across the state from the aforementioned dense thickets to open hardwood hills and bottoms, pine plantations, and wetlands. The terrain will go from rolling hills to vast low-lying bot-

oms bordered with crop fields and bayous. Due to the dense habitats, treestand or blind hunting is the preferred method of hunting. Spot and stalk for whitetail is nearly out of the question. The highest elevation in the state is a breath taking 535ft above sea level. Yes, you may be gasping for air by the time you reach its summit, but it won't be because the air is thin. It will be because the air is so thick you can all

but choke on it. This humidity persuades many not to venture into the woods until the air turns cooler. Hunting the early season proves difficult at times, because you will sweat profusely just sitting in your stand. Scent control becomes all but impossible for obvious reasons.

Louisiana is largely privatized, but there are ample opportunities to hunt public land, many of these are bowhunting only properties. There are wildlife management areas and national forests scattered all across the state. Often times the best access to these areas is by boat if you don't mind running into the occasional snake and alligator during the season. If you are willing to put in the work, Louisiana definitely produces quality bucks. These bucks tend to be mostly nocturnal due to the high hunting pressure and the ability for hunt-

ers on private land to bait. Early season summer patterns and peak rut are the best times to catch the older bucks unaware.

Along with the skittish whitetails, Louisiana now has a wild hog epidemic that has grown beyond control.

In most places, especially near ag land and swamps, hogs create a target rich environment. These are non-native nuisance animals costing the state millions in revenue each year. For this reason, there is no limit or season on wild hogs and one must only possess a big game hunting license to hunt them.

Wild turkeys are another game of choice for the bowhunter seeking a challenge in the Bayou State. Louisiana has one of the lowest turkey populations that can be hunted, yet boasts one of the densest turkey hunter populations of all the states. Needless to say, the woods get crowded in the spring time but if you're up for the challenge, the rewards are great.

Alligator tags can also be purchased or drawn in a lottery for hunting in September. Although, Louisiana laws require that the gator must be caught on a hook and line before being dispatched by your method

of choice. Louisiana also prides itself with some of the best bowfishing there is to offer. Gar, buffalo, carp, and bowfin are among the species that can be hunted in Louisiana's black waters. If you head down south to the brackish water marshes and coastlines, you will find

better table faring species to pursue such as red drum, black drum, and sheepshead.

Hunting Louisiana has a variety of challenges, but there are great opportunities that a bowhunter can capitalize on if they're not afraid to put in the work. Don't forget this IS Louisiana we are talking about, so even if the hunting is tough, you know you're going to eat good! ♣

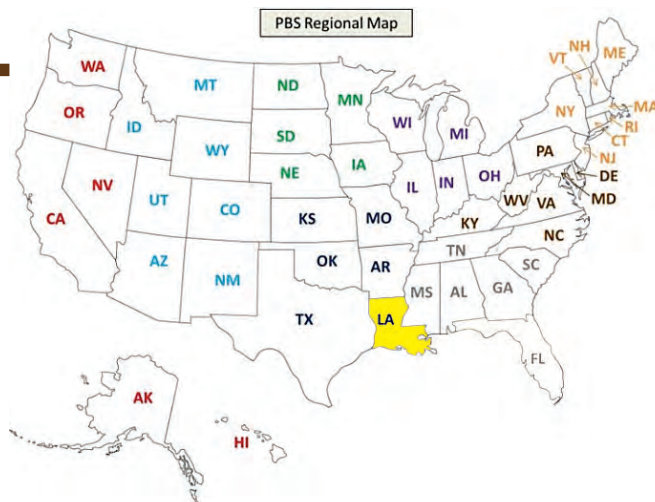
Hunting the Bayou State



← 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!

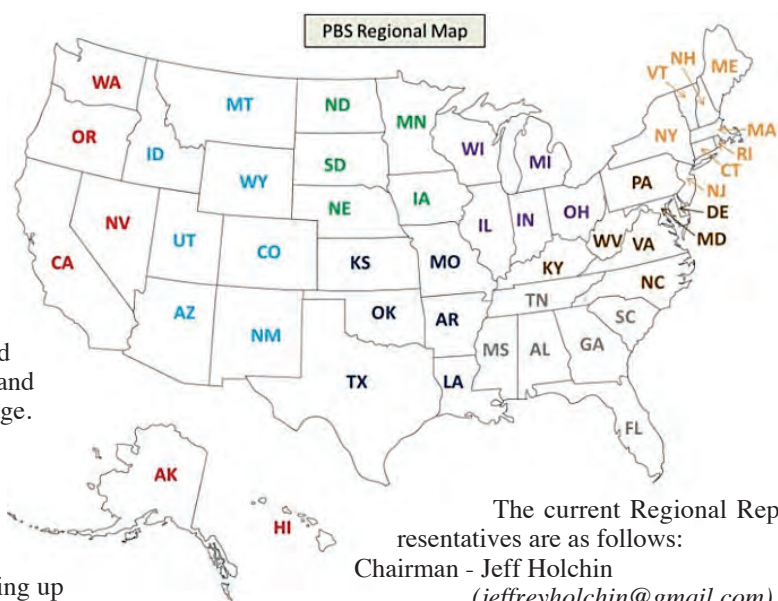
Ideally, we would like to select a state in one region then move to another region altogether and continue the cycle until we have eventually covered all states. So please give some thought to contributing to the magazine in this small way for upcoming issues.



PBS – Regionally Speaking

by Jeff Holchin
Second Quarter 2018

Spring bear and turkey hunting seasons are upon us along with some bowfishing opportunities, and of course, the fall hunting seasons will be here soon. There were some great Member hunts last year and even more are being planned for 2018. You owe it to yourself to join one or more of our great Member hunts around the country. If you have a good area to hunt and are willing to share it with a few PBS friends, please consider hosting a Member hunt soon. At the recent Banquet in Madison, I heard some great hunting stories from the past season and wondered why those stories have not been put into print and submitted for this magazine, or posted on our Facebook page. If we can't be hunting ourselves, the next best thing is to read other members' hunting stories, especially when good photos are included. If you are a new member, or even if you have been a member for years, contact your state and regional representatives and stay in touch with other PBS members in your region. It is a lot of fun meeting up with your fellow PBSers at shoots, banquets, etc. in your region.



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)

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

Rocky Mountain West - Jesse Minish (jesseminish@yahoo.com)

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

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

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

Pacific West Report

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

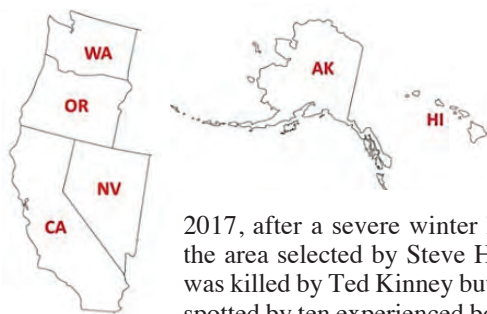
Washington: No report

Alaska: Proposals for regulation changes in southeast Alaska are due May 1. Anyone can submit. The meeting to discuss proposals is not till Jan 2019. There are some new nonresident black bear restrictions

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PBS Regionally Speaking

~ continued from page 9



The fishing was good and nobody got eaten by the brown bears, so all was not lost.

California: June 4th is draw day. Turkey season starts March 31st and it is hog day every day! Hopefully a picture of our California representative, Brian Morris [aka hog king of California], is in this magazine with his most recent monster hog.

Oregon: It has been a fairly benign winter so hopefully the mammal herds have done well. Draw applications need to be in by May 15th. We continue to be the only state where crossbows are not allowed in any season thanks to many in the PBS. The battle is continuous. The current larger issue is wolf management. They are going to hit their exponential growth curve soon if Fish and Wildlife officials aren't allowed to control them. Hopefully with sound testimony and fervent letters, biology will prevail. We are against the anti everything crowd though, so cross your fingers as the goal posts continue to move with these people.

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

By Jesse Minish - Regional Representative



As I write this, winter is still in full swing here in North Idaho and I am very much looking forward to spring. I am sure most of us are excited about the great hunting opportunities spring offers us as bowhunters. The Rocky Mountain West is a vast region and I hope I can highlight everything that needs to be brought up in each of the states. With that said if there is anyone who would like to help out and be a state representative, have any information, or have a member hunt you are doing please let me know. That would be awesome and very much appreciated! This year the Western States Traditional Rendezvous will be held in New Meadows, Idaho on May 25-28 and should be a great time. The Rocky Mountain West states hunting application deadlines are fast approaching. I put together a list of the states and species deadlines for applications. Some of the dates are from last year as they have not yet been updated as I write this, but are usually the same date year after year and some deadlines might

in southeast that might pique some proposal interest.

The run of great Member hunts on Kodiak Island ended in

2017, after a severe winter kill took its toll on the area selected by Steve Hohensee. One doe was killed by Ted Kinney but only one buck was spotted by ten experienced bowhunters all week.

have passed before you read this. Also make sure and double check tag fees as some states had an increase in prices. Good luck to everyone and please feel free to contact me via e-mail at jesseminish@yahoo.com or by phone at 208-818-6251.

Arizona: Rick Wildermuth hosted his annual PBS hunt for javelina and Coues deer from the end of December through the first week of January. No deer were harmed but several javelina were tagged. This is a great hunt and Rick is planning to host it again at the end of 2018; he can't guarantee snow again but he promises a great adventure.

Utah: Craig Burris will be hosting another elk hunt at the East Fork of Blacks Fork in the High Uintas. Limit is ten bowhunters and this one is full already. Stay tuned for pics and stories from this August Member hunt.

Great Plains Central Report (North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, Iowa)

By Mark Viehweg - Regional Representatives



As we head into Spring, snow in the forecast is a reality the first week in April in this part of the world. It is time for thoughts of turkey hunts in the near term and carp will be rolling in a month or two. Fall hunts might still be 4-5 months in the future, but we need to start planning. It looks like we will do another South Dakota mule deer hunt in the Northwest corner of the state. My thoughts are to have this hunt the 1st or 2nd week of October to avoid an over abundance of hunters. I will lean heavily as usual on Paul Ladner for assistance. Keep tuned into the PBS Facebook page and website for details.

North Dakota: Greetings from North Dakota. Our seemingly endless winter finally is relenting it's grip here in mid-April. Time will tell the effects it has had on wildlife. Our mule deer continue to recover and non-resident opportunities were increased again this year. Whitetails are still available statewide over the counter. Most people don't realize western North Dakota has a viable bighorn sheep population. While that hunting opportunity is limited to a once in a lifetime resident only chance, that doesn't mean everyone can't enjoy the beauty of these great animals. There were two mid 170s rams taken last year and rumor has it there may be a couple 180s out there. Those are great sheep anywhere. The same is true of our elk and moose. The northwest corner of the state has

Arizona	Elk, Pronghorn Deer, Bighorn Sheep, Fall Bison Spring Bison, Javelina	Feb 13, 2018 – Too late June 13, 2017 – last year's date Oct 11, 2017 – last year's date	Feb. 14 June 13 Oct. 11
Idaho	Elk, Deer, Pronghorn Moose, Bighorn Sheep, Mountain Goat	Jun 5, 2018 – 2nd Draw Aug 25 June 25, 2018	Aug 25 July 10
Montana	Elk, Deer Antelope Bighorn Sheep, Moose, Mountain Goat Bison	Mar 15, 2017 – last year's date Jun 1, 2017- last year's date May 1, 2017- last year's date May 1, 2017- last year's date	Apr. 18 Aug. 1 June 13 Sept. 6
Nevada	Elk, Mule Deer, Pronghorn, Bighorn Sheep, Mountain Goat	Apr 17 1st Draw – 2nd Draw Jun 26	June 10
New Mexico	Elk, Deer, antelope, Bighorn sheep, Barbary Sheep, Ibex, Oryx, Javelina	Mar 21, 2018	Apr. 25
Utah	Elk, Mule Deer, Pronghorn, Bison, Bighorn Sheep, Moose, Mountain Goat Antlerless Elk, Mule Deer, Pronghorn	Mar 1, 2018 Jun 21, 2018	May 31 July 6
Wyoming	Resident Elk Non-resident Elk Resident & Non-res. Deer, Antelope Resident & Non-res. Bighorn Sheep, Moose, Mountain Goat Resident & Non-res. Bison	May 31, 2018 – left over draw July Jan 31, 2018 Too Late – left over tags June May 31, 2018 – left over tags June Feb. 28, 2018 Feb. 28, 2018	June 21 Feb. 22 June 21 May 10 May 10
Colorado	Elk, Deer, Moose, Pronghorn, Bighorn Sheep, Mountain Goat	Apr 3, 2018 (1st Tues. in April)	June 1

a growing moose population and they are thriving while many areas of the US and Canada are struggling to maintain healthy herds. Seeing elk in the same places Lewis and Clark may have when they came through on their epic journey can't help but take us back. Trying to imagine what this country looked like then is always fun, and sometimes a little sad. What does all that have to do with hunting? If you have to ask, you don't get it. I am sure all members of this great group, get it. Get out, enjoy, and fall will be here soon.

South Central Report

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

by Preston Lay – Regional Representative



My wife and I had a great time at the Madison gathering. It was very well organized by the Council. We had great speakers and the food was good. Hats off to our leadership. Oklahoma has been very dry the last few years so we are hoping for lots of rain as we move towards summer.

The McAlester traditional bowhunt drawing deadline is in May. All the info for this can be found at the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation website. Its a great hunt for free range, well managed whitetails. I was there the last weekend hunt in November of 2017 and two bucks near 180" were taken. The hunt is open to everyone but is limited by a random drawing.

As for me I'm planning a new adventure in Oklahoma this fall. We now have an archery bear season in southeast part of the state. Our population is very good but it's hard hunting due to the acorns. As usual I will always be ready for deer season.

Another attraction that's grown quite large is OJAM near Perkins, OK. Its four days of self bow building and all things bow-hunting. We were blessed with PBS members Mark Baker and Walt Francis a couple years back. I'm told it's the largest self bow jamboree in the country. It's normally the second or third week of March, perfect timing for morel mushrooms and turkey gobblers. More information can be found at the Oklahoma Selfbow Society website.

Also, several successful member hunts were held in this region in January and February, both in Texas. William "Bubba" Graves hosted his unique pack-in hunt in the Davis Mountains for hogs and javelina - better sign up now if you want to join this hunt in 2019.

John Vargo hosted two groups of PBSers at the Spikebox Ranch for hogs, and the hunting was very good again. John has a sign-up posted on our web site for 2019.



Great Lakes Report

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

By Ron Lang - Regional Representative

No report.

Northeastern Report

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

by Terry Receveur



New York: New York State bear hunters took 1,420 black bears during the 2017 hunting seasons, state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos announced today. This is a decline from 2016. "New York has excellent bear habitat and vast, accessible public lands that offer exciting opportunities for bear hunting," said DEC Commissioner Seggos. "With abundant

natural food sources this past year, bears were in great condition, and several hunters took bears weighing in excess of 500 pounds."

Deer harvest statistics are not yet available, but early reports were promising. As a New York resident, I can attest that New York has earned its number one ranking as the worst state in the US to hunt deer. The management plan seems to be mostly slanted toward reduction as opposed to hunter enjoyment.

New York saw the second-lowest number of hunting-related shooting incidents (HRSIs) on record with 19 reported. Also, in 2017, DEC started tracking tree stand injuries for the first time. DEC recorded 12 incidents statewide.

Connecticut: Representative Bill Terry Sr. provided the following update. Connecticut has gone off the deep end and has passed new regulations for the common carp. There is now a creel limit of 5 common carp per day, with no more than 1 fish greater than 30 inches in length, except in "Trophy Carp Waters". Trophy Carp Waters, are you kidding me? Batterson Park Pond, Connecticut River (including the portions of tributaries open year-round), Squantz Pond and West Thompson Reservoir are designated as Trophy Carp Waters with a one carp per day creel limit and a 26 inch maximum length for Common Carp. It appears CT has decided to go to the European style of carp management. These new regulations will likely just result in bowfisherman "releasing" and not "creeling" carp.

New Hampshire: 2018 is a biennial season-setting year at NH Fish and Game. Data from New Hampshire's hunting seasons are reviewed every year to monitor the status of game species, but, unless otherwise necessary, changes are recommended every two years to make sure that season dates and bag limits are in line with population goals reflected in the state's ten-year Game Management Plan. Proposed revisions are based on a review of field data and other scientific information.

New Hampshire's regional deer, bear, and turkey populations are stable or increasing. As a consequence, Fish and Game is in a position to propose additional hunting opportunity in various regions of the state. Following are a few highlights that may be of interest to bowhunters:

Deer: 2017 deer seasons resulted in the 5th highest deer harvest and highest antlered buck take in 95 years. The Wildlife Division's 2018 deer rule proposals call for enhanced hunting opportunity in 11 of the 20 Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) in our state. These opportunities include additional either-sex hunting opportunities in 9 WMUs (C2, D2W, E, F, G1, G2, I1, I2, J1); the provision of 2,000 antlerless-only permits for use in WMU L (permits to be issued via an online lottery); and allowance for the use of crossbows during the archery season in WMU M only.

Bear: New Hampshire's bear population is thriving. Bear populations have recently grown above goal in two of our state's six bear management regions: the White Mountains Region and the Central Region. As a consequence, the Wildlife Division has proposed adding 7 days of bait hunting and 9 days of still hunting to the existing bear season in the

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PBS Regionally Speaking

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White Mountains and Central regions. In addition, the Department is proposing to add 14 days of still hunting in the Southwest-2 and Southeast Regions. Even with this addition, the bear seasons in these regions will still constitute the most conservative in the state.

Turkey: The Wildlife Division's wild turkey proposals call for a spring season that runs from May 1 through May 31 beginning in 2019. Also beginning in 2019, the proposal package allows for the taking of a second spring gobbler in six WMUs (H1, H2, J2, K, L, and M). The annual bag limit would remain at two birds; if you took a second gobbler in the spring, you would not be able to take a bird in the fall.

Moose: NY will issue 51 either-sex moose permits for the Fall 2018 moose season. This allocation of permits is the same as was issued in 2017.

Maine: Maine biologists reported that despite warm spells during both the September and October moose seasons, 73% of all moose hunters harvested a moose last season. With 2,080 moose permits issued, 1,518 hunters were successful in getting their moose. Hunter success rates varied throughout different regions of the state with over 80 percent of the hunters getting moose in Wildlife Management Districts 1-3 and 5 and 6 in Aroostook County. The 73% success rate for hunters is consistent with the 71% success rate for moose hunters over the past five years. The deadline to apply for a Maine moose permit is May 15, 2018.

I hope you had a great bow season 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, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, Kentucky)

by Randy Brookshier – Regional Representative



Virginia- Randy Brookshier:

Big game hunters in Virginia experienced a record bear kill during the 2017-18 season, but saw turkey numbers take a tumble. The bear kill of 2,861 was a full 17 percent higher than the previous season, which also was a record.

Meanwhile, turkey hunting success went south with a reported kill of 2,132. That's a startling 24-percent decline compared to the previous season, and 31 percent below the recent five-year average. The deer kill of 189,730 was nearly 10,000 animals above the previous season, a 5-percent increase that could nudge a tad higher as deer continue to be taken during the late urban archery season. Helping push the bear kill into record territory was a first-ever, three-day, Oct. 2-4 season that was open to all types of hunters, from hound to bow. The early season was held in 37 counties, mostly in the west. It accounted for 395 bears, which was 14 percent of the total, according to the DGIF. Bow hunters reported killing 497 bears, muzzleloaders 395, firearms 1,474, and the youth/apprentice weekend added another 100.

Tracking dogs: Lawmakers eased restrictions on the use of tracking dogs and that is going to make these resourceful animals invaluable for finding wounded or dead deer, bear and turkeys. The old rules said you couldn't carry a gun to dispatch a wounded

animal when using a tracking dog. Once you found your target you had to go back to it without the dog during legal shooting hours. The new regulation allows you to have a weapon in your possession which you may use to humanely kill the wounded animal, even after legal shooting hours. Hunters using a tracking dog must have permission of the landowner and carry a valid hunting license.

Airbows: Bills in the Senate and House to make airbows legal hunting instruments during the bow season were beaten and watered down to apply only to disabled hunters. The Virginia Bowhunters Association were opposed to sharing the woods and fields with airbow advocates. This proposal was beaten largely due to efforts of the Virginia Bowhunters Association and several vigorous mail and e-mail campaigns. If you are disabled, you will be able to hunt with an airbow during the bow season. Airbows will be legal for all deer hunters during the muzzleloading and firearms seasons. To better describe their role and avoid future conflicts with bow season, legislators changed the name "airbow" to "arrowgun."

Bear licenses: Legislation that would have reduced the cost of a resident bear hunting license from \$25 to \$10 was shot down, much to the delight of the Virginia Bear Hunters Association. Three seasons ago, the association helped establish the special bear license that had previously been part of a big game license covering deer, turkey and bear. Many sportsmen felt the increased cost was a ploy by hound hunters to keep bear hunting for themselves. As it turned out, the new license didn't appear to slow down bear hunting. Sales for the past season were 32,687, a 900 increase over the previous year, and hunters also turned in a 17 percent increase record bear kill of 2,861.

Maryland- Tony Sanders: The Maryland Department of Natural Resources has received laboratory confirmation that 10 white-tailed deer sampled in Allegany and Washington counties tested positive for chronic wasting disease, a neurological disease found in deer and elk. All of the positive samples came from within the existing Chronic Wasting Disease Management Area. Six of the positive samples collected in 2017 were harvested by hunters during the statewide deer season and three came from road-killed deer collected during routine sampling. One positive sample came from a sick deer that had been reported by a concerned citizen and collected by staff. "While chronic wasting disease continues to spread, both regionally and nationally, it still only affects a small percentage of deer in western Maryland," Wildlife and Heritage Service Director Paul Peditto said. "In the interest of managing the deer resource for all Marylanders, department staff will continue to work diligently to document and monitor the presence of the disease." The department has sampled for chronic wasting disease since 2002, and more than 9,600 deer have been tested to date. A total of 749 Maryland deer were tested during the 2017-2018 season, mostly from Allegany, Garrett and Washington counties.

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources announced today that hunters harvested 86,542 deer during the combined archery, firearms and muzzleloader seasons, from Sept. 8, 2017, through Jan. 31, 2018. The harvest exceeded the 2016-2017 total by more than 1,000 deer. Included in the statewide total were 7,204 deer taken on Sundays. "Sunday hunting continues to be an important component in managing Maryland's deer population," Wildlife and Heritage Service Director Paul Peditto said. "Nearly 10 percent of the total harvest occurred on Sundays, a remarkable number given the limited number of Sunday hunting days available, and the fact that three of our highest deer density counties did not have Sunday hunting opportunities." The 2017-

2018 statewide harvest included: 30,247 antlered and 53,135 antlerless white-tailed deer; and 1,423 antlered and 1,737 antlerless sika deer.

The Board of Public Works today unanimously approved a Maryland Department of Natural Resources acquisition of 522 acres in Charles County for the development of a new Wildlife Management Area that will provide both conservation and recreation benefits. Adjacent to county managed land, the site will provide numerous recreational opportunities for Southern Maryland residents and visitors, including birding, hiking, hunting and trapping. The new property will be managed by the Wildlife and Heritage Service. The acquisition will permanently protect agricultural fields and forested uplands as well as stream corridors and ravines. The property drains into Popes Creek and its 60-acre estuarine marsh, much of which has been protected by the county. Popes Creek Valley has been identified as a Natural Heritage Area. The acquisition will further protect the creek's wetlands, which support an uncommonly high diversity of flora and fauna, and large woodlands that provide essential habitat for forest interior dwelling species such as songbirds.

Pennsylvania – Tim Denial: New CWD management area established within Lancaster, Lebanon and Berks counties, now need to comply with special rules intended to slow the spread of CWD. These counties are located in the far south/east corner of the state. Anyone hunting those counties should go to www.pgc.pa.gov for more info. The National Archery Schools Program (NASP) Tournament was held March 9th 2018. Grades 4th through 12th totaling about 1,000 archers. That's 95 lanes with two archers each. That's about 9,000 arrows an hour and about 46,000 for the day being shot.

There is bound to be some future bow hunters and PBSers in there somewhere.

Spring turkey season runs 4/28 through 5/31. Good Luck to all and shoot straight.

West Virginia Regional Report - Gene Thorn: The legislature recently passed a bill to allow Sunday hunting statewide in West Virginia. Check the regulations for dates of seasons.

Hunters required to obtain landowner permission; purple paint posting in effect.

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR) reminds hunters to always get written landowner permission before entering private property. "It is important to remember that once you have obtained permission, you are an invited guest and you should always respect the rights and property of the landowner," said Paul Johansen, chief of the DNR Wildlife Resources Section. "A little respect and a simple 'thank you' will go a long way in obtaining permission to hunt there for years to come."

According to state code, "It is unlawful for any person to shoot, hunt, fish or trap upon the fenced, enclosed or posted lands of another person; or to peel trees or timber, build fires or do any other act in connection with shooting, hunting, fishing or trapping on the lands without written permission in his or her possession from the owner, tenant or agent of the owner."

Beginning this year, posted lands include those properties with boundaries clearly marked with purple paint. Purple marks must be a single vertical line at least 8 inches in length, at least 2 inches in width, and be between 3 to 6 feet above the ground. The marks should be no more than 100 feet apart and easily seen by any person approaching the property boundary.

Although 90 percent of West Virginia is owned by private landowners, there is still more than 1.4 million acres of public land open to hunting. Hunters in need of help locating a place to

hunt can contact any DNR district office, the Elkins Operation Center, or go to the DNR's website www.wvdnr.gov to obtain information about wildlife management areas, state forests and national forests that are open to public hunting.

WV DNR Wildlife is in the process of translocating 60 elk to Logan County, West Virginia from Arizona in Spring 2018. They have already been captured in cooperation with Arizona Fish and Game with staff from WV DNR assisting. An additional 17 elk are to be brought from the Land Between the Lakes in Kentucky this year, where 24 were obtained in 2017.

An exciting development for traditional bowhunters is the proposal by DNR Wildlife Biologists to the WV Game Commissioners at their last meeting for a four day deer season open only to longbows, recurve bows, flintlock muzzleloaders and side-camp muzzleloaders. It will be voted on by the Commissioners at their next meeting. The indication is that it was well received and expected to happen in January 2019.

Kentucky - Scott Record: The Kentucky fall hunting guide will be available in June 2018. Several deer regulation changes are being proposed and will likely be in effect this fall. Most of these changes affect zone 1 counties in western KY. The statewide deer permit bag limit will be increased from 2 deer to 4 deer in zone 1, and to the specific county zone bag limit for all others. The youth deer permit bag limit will be increased from 1 deer to 4 deer for zone 1, and to the specific county zone bag limit for all others. An additional deer permit (beyond the 4 deer) will be available for a hunter to take an additional 15 deer in zone 1 counties. Archery season will now open on Sept 1st and run until Jan 21st. An additional gun season for antlerless only has been added the last weekend in September for zone 1 counties.

Crossbow expansion is being pushed and discussed again in KY. A proposal to make crossbow season fully inclusive with archery season was tabled at the March commission meeting. It may come up again at the May meeting. Crossbows are currently allowed during most of Oct-Dec. Expanding crossbows into September and early October will likely result in increased out of state pressure on public lands in KY. Kentucky PBS members should contact their state commissioners and state representatives directly to express their concerns.

The 2017 fall LBL membership hunt was very enjoyable. Mark Wang and myself spent 4 days camping and bow hunting in one of the most scenic areas in western KY. With over 170,000 acres nestled between KY Lake and Lake Barkley, the area provides endless opportunities to bowhunt deer, turkey, fish and small game. Details of the hunt are available in the membership hunt section of the PBS website. Plans for a 2018 hunt are dependent on LBL quota hunt dates that have yet to be announced. Keep an eye on the website for details.

Elk season quota applications are available until April 30th. Deer quota hunt applications are available during the month of September. There are some good hunting opportunities in the state that are open only to quota bowhunters. Please see KDFWL website for all season details.

Southeast Report

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

by Vance Henry – Regional Representative

"Notice and appreciate what makes your heart leap up. If nothing does, examine your life because something is missing." Zell Miller

~ continued on page 14 ~

PBS Regionally Speaking

~ continued from page 13



Zell Miller, former Georgia Governor and US Congressman passed away earlier this week. The above quote was part of his “fourteen life lessons” given to his family members on his 70th birthday, and I thought it appropriate to mention here. Zell Miller was not a traditional bowhunter, but he was a strong supporter of the great outdoors.

Regarding the GA hunt report, turkey season has officially kicked off.

At our farm in Warren County Georgia, it has become a tradition to kick off opening weekend with a ton of friends and a crawfish boil. We had a great crowd this year and I am also happy to report there is one less mature gobbler roaming the property. One of our guests shot his first, always an exciting time. In addition to turkey hunting, if you live here in the south, wild hogs are never too far away. I can’t think of a better way to stay “tuned” and hunting sharp than chasing hogs in the southern woods. There is no season on hogs as long as you hunt private lands. Regarding wildlife management areas, hogs can typically be hunted with bow and

arrow as long as any other hunting season is open, such as small game, turkey, etc. Did I mention wild hogs make for some great eating? Darn skippy.

On a legislative front, baiting deer in Georgia continues to be a hot topic. Georgia is divided in two zones, northern and southern. The southern zone already allows baiting for deer and it has been feared the northern zone wouldn’t be far behind. It came down to literally the last day of legislation but I am happy to convey that baiting deer in the northern zone of Georgia is still **ILLEGAL**, thanks in part to some educated reps in Atlanta and the Georgia Wildlife Federation. This will continue to be a fight moving forward, but for now, chalk one up for the good guys.

Thank you and Happy Hunting - Vance.

Also, the Member Hunt in coastal GA was held at the end of January with 15 bowhunters from 8 states attending. Everybody saw hogs and had chances, and a handful of hogs were killed, including a father-son double by Paul and Richard Ladner.

International Report

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

by Richard Flett – Regional Representative

No report. 🐗



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812-675-0658



2018 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 2020 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 22631, Indianapolis, IN 46222-0631.

**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 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.

2017

Profit and Loss Statement January - December

Income

Registration for Banquet in 2018	\$11,590.64
Vendor Booth Rental for Gathering	\$900.00
Associate Dues	\$29,794.98
Regular Member Dues	\$16,777.50
Big five Hunt Raffle	\$4,060.00
Bowhunting Preservation	\$285.00
Conservation	\$319.00
General Fund Contributions	\$871.00
Regular Member Initiation Fees	\$60.00
KTE Buckle	\$62.00
Magazine Advertisement Revenue	\$5,152.00
Merchant Fees	\$136.96
Deposits from Life Member Acct	\$24,416.03
OYG at Baltimore	\$885.00
Ojibwa Odd Year Raffle	\$1,323.00
Online auction	\$11,494.55
PBS Legacy Program	\$2,000.00
Regular Reinstatement Fee	\$75.00
Merchandise Sales	\$1,613.33
Youth Program	\$355.00
Total Income	\$112,170.99

Expenses

Payroll	\$36,660.09
401k for Employee	\$1,099.90
Payroll Taxes	\$8,856.39
Rent	\$1,800.00
Phone	\$2,144.39
Utilities for Home Office	\$604.18
Bank Service Charges	\$758.34
2017 Election	\$449.42
Insurance	\$3,241.00
Magazine Expense	\$18,819.23
Marketing	\$1,578.50
Merchandise Expense	\$508.16
Raymond James Transfer	\$20,000.00
Office Supplies	\$2,728.50
Online Auction Fee	\$1,203.30
Postage	\$4,716.41
Accounting	\$2,325.00
Travel Expenses	\$2,607.70
Total Expenses	\$110,100.51
Total Profit/Loss for 2017	\$2,070.48

2018

General Expense Account Budget January - December

Estimated Revenue

Current Associate Member Dues	\$34,280.00
Projected New Member Dues	\$6,000.00
Regular Member Dues	\$16,940.00
Magazine Ad Income	\$4,000.00
KTE Belt Buckles	\$496.00
Tshirt and Hat Sales	\$1,000.00
Patches and Decals	\$200.00
Legacy Program Donations	\$500.00
Biennial Gathering	
Merchandise	\$3,100.00
Registrations in 2018	\$31,450.00
Raffle Tickets	\$4,165.00
All Auctions	\$57,061.50
Subtotal for Gathering	\$95,776.50
OYG	\$2,500.00
Online Auction	\$10,000.00
Misc. Member Contributions	\$300.00
Projected Total	\$170,992.50

Expenses

Magazine	\$16,000.00
Merchandise - Hats/Tshirts	\$1,000.00
Biennial Gathering	
Hotel and Food Fees	\$40,429.24
Auctioneer	\$900.00
Travel Expenses	\$5,000.00
Merchandise (Mugs, Shirts, etc)	\$1,500.00
Name Badges/Awards	\$1,318.28
Programs	\$343.80
Charter Bus	\$480.00
Subtotal for Gathering	\$49,971.32
Postage for Magazine/Reminders	\$6,000.00
Postcard Membership Reminders	\$100.00
Phone	\$240.00
Marketing	\$1,500.00
Insurance	\$3,500.00
Accounting	\$2,500.00
Bank Charges	\$324.00
Merchant Processing Charges	\$2,500.00
Election Ballots + Postage	\$400.00
Payroll	\$21,000.00
Office Supplies/Expenses	\$800.00
Website Fee	\$250.00
Projected Total	\$106,085.32
Estimated Profit/Loss for 2018	\$64,907.18

Regular Member Profile

Tim Donnelly

Greetings! My name is Tim Donnelly and I have recently been accepted as a Qualified Regular Member of the PBS. Norm [Johnson] has asked me to tell you a little about myself. I am 63 years of age and in March of this year retired after 30 years of service from our local utility company. My wife Cheryl, she too bowhunts, and I will celebrate our sixth anniversary in October of this year. We live in Springfield, Missouri, home of Bass Pro Shops and our next PBS Gathering. I have two grown children; my daughter, Katie, and my son, Jamie. Jamie is also a PBS Associate Member. I/we have been blessed with three beautiful grandkids; Jazmin, Jayden and Jaxton, 17, 12 and 5 years old, respectfully.

I am a self-taught bowhunter. My dad, brother, grandpa and uncles all used firearms, mostly for small game. Although they went deer hunting I never remember seeing any venison in the back of the pickups! One of my fondest memories was sitting on the steps at grandpa's house reading his Field & Stream and Sports Afield magazines. That is where the dreams began! What I learned about archery came from Peterson's Hunting magazine and Len Cardinale's regular bowhunting column. I began bowhunting in 1978. I gathered all the information I could from print and the rest from the local archery shops and ranges that I frequented. And on December 18 of 1978 I took my first whitetail from grandpa's farm here in Missouri! Although I did start my archery experience with a compound, I switched to a recurve in the mid 80's, switched back to the compound, switched back to the recurve about ten years ago and never looked back. Through all of these experiments I have always shot "fingers" and mostly "barebow" [even with the wheel bows] it is safe to say that my mind set has always been that of a traditionalist.



Professional Bowhunters Society
PO Box 22631
Indianapolis, IN 46222

This is a reminder that your annual membership expires next month. Please visit our website: www.professionalbowhunters.org to renew or mail a check or money order to:

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Hunting Reserve
PBS Secretary/President
info@professionalbowhunters.org

back

Be on the
lookout for these
new renewal
notices in your
mailbox!

NEW Membership Renewal Notices

An email reminder will be sent to you on the 1st of the month prior to the month your membership expires.

If payment is not made by the 10th of that month (or you don't have an email address listed), a postcard reminder will be mailed to you!

As I enter my 41st year of bowhunting/archery, I find [like so many PBSer's] it is more about the experience, the preservation of our lands and the future of this wonderful lifestyle that keeps me grounded. Not the bag limits! Don't get me wrong, I enjoy being successful but I now realize success can be measured in multiple ways. I have been fortunate enough to hunt in multiple states, several Canadian provinces and in 2012 Cheryl and I traveled to South Africa to hunt plains game. My son and I attended our first PBS Gathering in Madison, WI this year and really enjoyed ourselves. We appreciated all the people we met and spoke with. I look forward to extending a welcoming hand in 2020 to many more of you as we gather here in Springfield!



SIGN UP A FRIEND

AND BE ENTERED TO WIN A

ELK HUNTING TRIP

IN UTAH

2018

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE



Giveaway Drawing Details

Winner will join Tom Vanasche, frequent contributor to Traditional Bowhunter Magazine, and Matt Schuster (who has taken several elk on this property) for a **five-day cow elk bowhunt the first week of August 2019**.

Includes airfare to Salt Lake City from the continental U.S. and a non-resident license and cow elk tag. The winner also has the option of inviting a friend for the full-price of \$1500, plus all applicable tags and license.

This is a relaxing waterhole elk hunt donated by C & H Outfitters of Henefer, Utah.

Hunters stay in a three-story log lodge with an incredible view, full-kitchen, and five bedrooms. This is an unguided hunt, the terrain is such that one does not need to be a super-athlete.

*Membership Drive begins April 1, 2018 and the winner will be announced on February 1, 2019.

*Any new associates enrolling on their own will be entered, and any current PBS member who enrolls a new member has the option of allowing his new associate to enter or can enter the drawing himself/herself. Just note who should get entered on the application.

*There is no limit to entries – the more members you sign up, the more chances you have to win.



The PBS thanks C & H Outfitters for the donation of this hunt.

For more information, or to sign up on line, please go to PBS Membership Drive at professionalbowhunters.org.

Welcome new members to the PBS family!

December

TONY HUCKABY - WICHITA, KS
JOSEPH HECKEL - SHOREVIEW, MN
JONATHAN BELL - OVIEDO, FL
JUSTIN SMITH - EATONTON, GA
ROB MATHEWS - WILLISTON, FL
RON GRIST - YUBA CITY, CA
BRIAN FOX - COX'S CREEK, KY
DAVE KRAEMER - BRAHAM, MN
RYAN PALMER - CARLTON, OR
WADE LOVE - ORLANDO, FL
DOYLE L. STRONG - STILLWATER, MN
TOBIN TOLLETT - POST FALLS, ID
TAMARA TOLLETT - GREAT FALLS, MT
ANDY YATES - SANDERSVILLE, GA
JEFFREY RUDD - HARTVILLE, OH

KENT HANSEN - WEST JORDAN, UT
HALEY HIGGINS - GREENWOOD, IN
BILL LANNERS - SHEVLIN, MN
PATRICK KELLY - ADA, OK
CAVIN CASTLEBERRY - HUNTSVILLE, TX

January

GREG LANNERS - PARK RAPIDS, MN
MIKE WAGSTAFF - SHELBYVILLE, TX
TOM HALLORAN - GREAT FALLS, MT
JUSTIN FALON - BALTIMORE, SD
KEVIN WADE - SPIRIT LAKE, ID
NEVIN JENNER - WILLISTON, ND
RICHARD KING - SHERIDAN, MT
JAKE VIEHWEG - MANKATO, MN
KEVIN FENNINGER - LANCASTER, PA
RICHARD LADNER - MORGANTOWN, WV

ERICH DIXON - NORTH SYRACUSE, NY
KIM OSBORNE - HAUBSTADT, IN
JOHN LANDOLT - VANDYNE, WI
JOHN MCINTOSH - ONTONAGON, MI
JEFFREY HENN - PLYMOUTH, MN
JOHN PRENTICE - DULUTH, MN
MARK SCHAFHAUSER - WISCONSIN DELLS, WI
BRENDAN HARTFORD - CHICAGO, IL
SCOT SANTORE - HOPWOOD, PA
RONALD PALMER - TOPEKA, IL
RICHARD RUMFELT - CROUSE, NC
MICHAEL TRUDEL - NESHKORO, WI
JAMES SEITZ - STORRS MANFIELD, CT
KEVIN LAWLER - CREEDMOOR, NC
STEVE SALLEE - ELM CITY, NC
DAMMION HOWARD - TRUSSVILLE, AL
AARON BRILL - MENOMINEE, MI
JAMEY MOSEMAN - HASTINGS, MN
NOAH DOAN - HAILEY, ID
STUART GORDEN - GREENWOOD, SC
SCOTT STIGER - DARNESTOWN, MD
WAYNE SMITH - NOME, AK

February

DOUG FORGIT - MENDOTA HEIGHT, MN
DANCHEN SHAO - FREMONT, CA
SARA GRAYBILL - MARRERO, LA
KEN ZEIGLER - ROCKFORD, MI
JOHN JENSEN - JOLIET, IL
ETHAN STEPHENS - BONHAM, TX
ADAM TREECE - ROGERS, AK
GERALD FORGIT - FERTILE, MN
JAMIE DONNELLY - O'FALLON, MO
TIM GREER - EARLTON ON CANADA
JEREMY LOCKHART - BADEN, PA
WILLIAM SPANN - VIROQUA, WI
KYLE PARKER - MELROSE, WI
CHRISTOPHER SCHROEDER - TIJERAS, NM
JOHN YOST - MAZOMANIE, WI
SAMUEL DUNHAM - HOLIDAY ISLAND, AR
RONNIE BUSH - COEUR D'ALENE, ID
ERIC LINDNER - ALBANY, OH
MARK MITTEN - ZION, IL
ANTHONY ZERELLO - WAPPINGERS FALLS, NY
TOM GORSKI - SUSSEX, WI

March

RILEY SAVAGE - HILLSBORO, OR
ROBERT ROSEVEAR - ELY, NV
CHUCK MATYSKA - CECIL, WI
DAVID KASUBOSKI - MIDDLETON, WI
MICHAEL THOMPSON - WHITEFORD, ND
RYAN MCDOWELL - FOREST HILL, MD
GEORGE DARDEN - THOMSON, GA
DALE WALBURGER - LAFAYETTE, NY
DAVID TETZLAFF - SORRENTO, FL
ANDERS MEYER - MILWAUKEE, WI
STEVEN RUCINSKI - JUNCTION CITY, WI
ARON SNYDER - WHEAT RIDGE, CO
JOHN KINSLER - PORTAGE, WI
CHARLES COTE - DEFOREST, WI
ERIC NELSON - RIO OSO, CA
JACK BARNHART - BYRON, IL
DEBRA SCANTLIN - SANTA PAULA, CA
BILL WEHNER - ROANOKE, VA
ZACHARY BROOKSHIER - ROANOKE, VA
JUSTIN AMMONS - DALLAS, TX
TOMMY HENLEY - EAGLEVILLE, TN
CHRIS POSTLE - AURORA, CO
PERRY HOBBS - LAVON, TX
STEVE DEETHARDT - TOMAH, WI



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A life for traditional bow and bowhunting



in Italy

By Alessandro Fodera

There are men who give so much to the sport that they are identified with it.

This is the case of Giusy Pesenti who can rightfully be considered the father of the modern archery and hunting - shooting in Italy.

He had codified the rules, set up archery competitions promoting for over fifty years the spread and the culture of bowhunting and shooting, opened bowhunting, leaving us a written and spiritual heritage to be preserved and handed down to the future generations.

His passion and his love were to promote the bow and bowhunting. His intent was to transmit it and share it with others.

"COGNITIO, VOLUNTAS, FORTITUDO" (knowledge, will, bravery) the three qualities that man and bowhunter must have is the phrase he repeated on every occasion.

Fascinated since childhood by the bow, as if it were an ancestral call, he built his first toy bows and then moved to bows that were more similar to the current styles.

Given his passion by a family friend, three time gold medal and air hero Anto-

nio Locatelli brought him from Africa an Ethiopian hunting bow with the following words: "It is for me the most beautiful and pure weapon that man has been able to create. Guide the arrow instinctively and get to the corner of the mouth." A smile is the last memory that ignites the spark of that inextinguishable fire that gave life to the instinctive-bowhunting shoot in Italy.

Years and arrows go by; you have to know that we were in the middle of the '40s and in Italy there was nothing about instinctive bowhunting and it was difficult if not impossible to get in touch with the great American bowhunting culture. He studied the images of medieval archers and understood the reason of the position folded within the bow. He realized that by hooking at the mandibular condyle into the cavity between thumb and forefinger, with the nock that is at the corner of the lips, the power of the bow is fully exploited and the arrow comes out more precise without deviations due to uncoupled release; together with keeping the bow slightly inclined. He developed the idea of bringing the bow shot back to its original use: the hunt, corroborated by the vision of a short film by Howard Hill and by the adventure, also with bow and arrows, of Beltrami to discover the

source of the Mississippi river (1823). To this end, he developed and encoded what he calls INSTINCTIVE – BOWHUNTING SHOOT to distinguish it from the one that uses the most varied targeting methods erroneously called instinctive. The rules for this technique certainly faster and more precise in hunting are contained in 9 points:

1. Hunting bow length 62"; except longbow.
2. Poundage minimum 45 lb..
3. 145 grain point with insert or 125 grain.
4. Holding the arrow between the forefinger and the middle finger, hooking at the mandibular condyle into the cavity between thumb and forefinger, with the nock that is at the corner of the mouth.
5. 3 second hook-up time; a correct bow poundage does not give more.
6. That the concentration at the spot of the target occurs with both eyes open, without gap shooting or other kind of targeting.
7. That the arrow is not aimed to the target when the bow is unloaded.
8. That loading the bow by inhaling and from below, one arm pushes while the other pulls.

9. That all the body inclined in the bow participate in the action; the bow had to be slightly inclined.

Years later, conferring with U.S.A. archers, such as Fred Bear, the confirmation of the accuracy of his method: nothing to remove and nothing to add.

He codifies: glove, quiver, shafts, fletching, bow setting and breathing technique.

His home was available to the instinctive-hunting archers.

In '58, always with the conscience that the bow is inextricably linked to hunting and since bowhunting was not yet regulated and permitted, he implemented the idea of a training competition in hunting simulation animal silhouettes quartering away posture at unknown distances, that draws, paints, cuts, glues on supports, like 3D ones, which developed over 100-year period because: "We did not hide the many obstacles and difficulties that, at least for 100 years, we would have had to overcome to see the possibility of an archery hunt reaffirmed, in a period of exaggerated technicality also in the means available for hunting", with inclined, timed, kneeling, from tree shooting at unknown distance. And he called this competition: "NATIONAL ROVING". For this competition He made silver and gold prizes and medals with reference to the hunt, to historical characters and to his great friend Antonio Locatelli, for all the 100 years ROVING.

After talking with neurologists and having studied a lot, not forgetting shooting the bow, simply explained what is the instinct and engrams in archery and the importance of follow through.

He took his first steps in FITA promoting the instinctive- bowhunting shoot until at the end of the '70s his proposal to introduce the hunter FITA targets at unknown distance and without marks on the riser is accepted.

A new and fresh breeze began to blow for the traditional bow; and after becoming a friend of Fred Bear, he founded the first Bear Club of Europe in 1970.

Times were ripe and he was able to collect the fruits of a long, tiring and exciting job. At the first national shooting range he'd reactivated in 1960 and in which he'd dedicated a line for the bow; puts in 1978

a bow in the hands of Giulio Andreotti (a very important politician) and bowhunting after 20 years of dreams became law in Italy,

perhaps the first nation in Europe! Then fixed with the 157/92 law.

In the same year, by his great friend Fred Bear, obtained permission to translate and publish the "Archer's Bible" to which he added the last chapter. To promoting the new law founded an instinctive bow

and bowhunting league (L.A.I.V.O. Instinctive Bowhunting-shoot Orobic League) to carry on his principles, projected from 1983 in FIARC. In the same time obtained on a experimental basis by the competent authorities, the permission to shoot down a roe deer.

I can only try to imagine the emotion experienced: "... You saw that roe deer that just for a moment stopped quartering away near the big tree, you could see the vital part; the air was moist in the dim light of the forest and the leaves slightly drifting; ... without hesitation, the hook, the fly of the arrow, a moment that seems a life ... hit it! You saw my boy, 45 pound bow with adequate broad-head of 145 grain are enough to go bowhunting for the most beautiful and fascinating species of our woods: the roe deer." Behold, at that very moment in which the string is released, the centuries cancel each other to become instant, present and project all of us towards the future of bowhunting. He immediately introduced the test to obtain the certificate of eligibility,

under his responsibility, in bowhunting for all archers hunting license holders, in his competition: the "ROVING". The archers qualified received a stamp "R" for hunting small game and "V" for big game for enabling bowhunting to be submitted to the competent authorities. Now that the sunrise of this reality was even more beautiful, radiant and promising than we imagined, would like to see the advent of a bowhunting season with an earlier opening than the rifle, in exclusive areas and in selective hunts. The new challenge that was now looming on the horizon of this extraordinary adventure was the ethical training of new bowhunter generations. Instinctive bowhunting-shooting, this was for Giusy the essence of archery; so proud of that gesture and that sport by taking time to teach, with patience, humility and fortified by years of hunting, how to go hunting with bow and arrows, where, when and how to hit the animal, the respect due to whom gave you his life with the "last meal" (Bruch), when not to shoot; and to transmit those core values that make the hunter a man and one with nature that is hosting us for a short time and that we must respect and defend.

My brother and I will always be grateful to God for putting him on our path.

See you in the woods! Bye Giusy.



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A WEEK IN THE BIG WOODS

By Andrew Houck

The big woods of north central Pennsylvania often times brings to mind images of mature hardwoods and hemlock covered mountains and hunters donning their Woolrich “Pennsylvania Tuxedos”. Pennsylvania has a very rich hunting tradition. Being blessed with a cabin in the big woods of Potter County has given me the ability to keep this tradition alive. Summer scouting and preseason work are vital to any successful hunt, especially here. Very low deer numbers and vast timber makes it very challenging to get into bow range. But when the red gods smile down and all your hard work presents you with the moment of truth, the reward and feeling you get is like none other.

The spring of 2016 found me in Iowa. I was lucky enough to secure a spot in Barry Wensel’s Whitetail Boot Camp. The trip was incredible and I filled my notebook full of things I wanted to try back home. Spring and summer found me poring over maps and trail camera photos changing my approach and tweaking stands.

Finally October came, the opening of archery season. The month passed with record setting temperatures and deer sightings were minimal. One Sunday I snuck into my best area to check cameras and get ready for sweet November, a time we all live for. I had a week of vacation set for that magical time. The cameras revealed some nice bucks and scrapes were present in the saddle I was planning to hunt. The work week couldn’t pass fast enough and anticipation was high as I double checked my gear and the weather reports.

Friday evening, I traveled back up to camp, accompanied by my hunting buddy, Kevin. We had the week off from work and we were planning on spending every minute of it in the woods.

Saturday morning came and we got geared up for an all day sit in the stand. The stars speckled the dark sky on the mile long walk to my stand. Finally a vi-

olet glow in the east turned a shade of orange streaked with red as the morning dawned. The tell-tale cadence of rustling leaves followed by a twig snap alerted me to a small spike horn moving through across the other side of the saddle. He fed on a few remaining green leaves knowing that soon they too would brown and be ushered to the ground by the brisk northwest winds. Not long after, slight movement to the south revealed four does feeding. The morning sun shining off their sleek forms helped my eyes follow them through the tangle of maple and beech.

By late morning I was sneaking to a stand to the southeast to play the afternoon breeze. As the sun marched across the cloudless sky I heard running in the dry leaves and sticks snapping. As I got into position for a shot opportunity my mind was filled with a vision of a dandy buck, nose down, as he pursued a doe. Suddenly a black form popped over the side of the mountain and a bear came crashing straight toward my tree. He slid to a stop and jumped onto the side of a nearby maple tree. He cautiously stepped off the side of the tree and started to circle my position, never once taking his eyes off my doe decoy and moving to within four yards of my tree. Suddenly like a shot out of a cannon, he whirled around and ran the direction he came, only to stop fifty yards away and stand on his hind legs and look back at the decoy to see if it had moved. He repeated this process six more times until he lost interest in my motionless decoy. The last time he looked back and then continued up over the mountain. I was absolutely thrilled with the day’s events and I figured that was probably the end of the action.

I watched as the shadow of the mountain over took the deep orange glow of the setting sun. Peeking at my watch, it revealed a half hour of shooting time remained. Then once again I heard the sound of crunching leaves. I saw a flicker of white and my binoculars revealed the body of a deer as it paused under a young ash tree. Suddenly, the branch

that masked the cervid’s head began to move and I saw a flash of creamy bone! I did my best to calm my nerves as he worked the branch and freshened the scrape. I watched as he moved across the saddle and away from me. I floated a few grunts his way causing him to stop and stare. Not yet able to see my decoy thru the fallen tree top he was behind, he paused for another minute before licking his nose and turning around to start my way. I squared up to prepare for a shot as he disappeared into the steep draw. He popped up and locked onto my decoy and cautiously he continued his advance. He paused and studied the decoy and after a few minutes he had had enough and bounded back to where he came from. He paused for one more look and then ghosted back into the clear cut. I was thankful for the encounter and was really excited to get back out on Monday.

Stepping outside camp on Monday morning, I was once again greeted by the beautiful night sky as I loaded up my pickup. I made my way to the parking area and made the hike again to the same stand I hunted Saturday afternoon. The first deer I saw was a little three point. A few hours later I saw another buck, this time a nice eight pointer traveling the ridgeline. Mid-afternoon I heard a fire siren off in the distance, followed by a noise closer but couldn’t make out. The afternoon passed with no more game spotted. As I made my last look around before lowering my bow, I caught movement on the skyline. It was another nice buck making his way out the ridge.

As I pulled into camp I knew something was up. Kevin was out on the porch and he greeted me with a smile. I asked him how his day was and he told me his story. After the fire siren sounded, a pack of coyotes started howling inside the white pine grove Kevin was hunting. Suddenly, sixty yards away, two does stood up and cautiously moved toward Kevin as they stared in the coyotes’ direction. The pair calmed down after some time and bedded forty yards from him. He stayed motionless at the ready. An hour later, they stood and stretched

and one doe headed back into the thicket. Kevin figured the lone doe would follow the other one, but to his surprise, with a flick of the tail she started in his direction. He kept his cool as she worked to within fifteen yards. As she made her way from behind some beech scrub, she knew something wasn't right. She gave him a few head bobs and as she turned to leave Kevin knew this was his chance. She paused one last time before disappearing into the beech scrub, and that's when Kevin released his arrow. The doe ran thirty yards then stopped. She stood for a second then took off crashing thru the tangle of pines, then all went silent.

We gathered our recovery gear and hopped back into the truck. We went to his stand and started marking the blood trail. (After following the trail of pines for about thirty yards,) We followed the trail into the pines and thirty yards later Kevin spotted a glow in the flashlight beam of a white belly. I told him to go get her and call me over when he was ready. I thanked God for the quick kill and the chance to help Kevin in his bow hunting journey. After lots of hard work, close calls, and all day sits, he finally connected on his first whitetail with a bow. It was a late night until we got the deer quartered and on ice. The sleeping bag sure felt good!

Tuesday thru Thursday passed (everyone at camp reported) with very minimal deer movement as the temperature climbed, so I hunted other areas to give the saddle a rest.

Friday found me, once again, at the saddle but in my climbing stand. I took notice of all the buck movement in the area and saw that every buck moved thru one small area of beech trees, and I knew I needed to capitalize on this observation and get on the "spot". The day passed with one deer spotted moving thru the clear cut on the opposite ridge. I constantly studied my surroundings for clear areas to shoot since I wasn't able to trim and detail any shooting lanes. The sun started to set and I remained confident, as I knew it was only a matter of time until a buck would cruise past. Once again I watched the shadows grow as daylight waned. I was thinking about my plan for Saturday, our last day to hunt.

My watch said fifteen minutes of shooting time left. Just then I heard a commotion and leaves being raked. I knew what that meant. Soon after, I heard that shuffling cadence and he came into view. Suddenly he came charging at me and I quickly squared up and prepared for a shot opportunity. He was closing fast and I saw his line of travel would take him thru one of my shooting lanes. I was all situated when he stopped at a beech tree and checked an overhanging branch. He took two more steps into my lane and stopped. I remember focusing on the spot and coming to anchor. The shot felt good but suddenly a small noise before the arrow met the deer. I saw the arrows impact and it was back. I watched as the buck ran a 40 yard loop around to the north. He paused for a few mo-

over the mountain. We made our way to the impact sight. I still could not figure how that arrow struck the buck where it did. I crouched down and looked back at my tree then I spotted it... An unseen twig cut cleanly off five yards from the impact!

I told Kevin where the buck ran and as I pointed out the direction of travel we noticed that a flock of turkeys moved up the mountain and scratched up the area covering up the buck's path. I walked up to where I saw the buck pause and that's where we could start trailing. The trail was fairly easy to follow for about 50 yards until the blood stopped. We looked out every deer trail and looked back at our flagging to determine his path of travel.

With no luck we determined to grid off the area. We looked the area over meticulously. Knowing the deer was dead somewhere I paused and said "Lord help us, we need a clue". The next step I took I found a drop of blood!

I waved Kevin over and we flagged the spot. I followed the faint tracks in the leaves, and found a smear of blood on a sapling.

Finally, after hours of looking, we were able to better determine the buck's path. I continued to follow the tracks until once again they were lost in the maze of trails and weeds in the clear cut. Since we better knew the deer's travel path, Kevin and I then decided, once again, to split up 10 yards apart and slowly sift through the thicket. I decided to take the lower side and Kevin follow the grown over logging trail out the steep mountainside. Just a few yards in I saw Kevin pause and glass above him. He turned to me and said, "There he is!"

I clawed my way up to him and saw him in the beech scrub. I slowly made my way up to him and gave thanks for taking the buck and especially for recovering him after hours of meticulous trailing.

We took some pictures and started the work of dragging the hefty buck off the tangled mountaintop. After the timeless act of skinning the buck we raised our glasses and made a toast.


"To a week in the big woods!"



ments then slowly walked out of sight, I made sure to mark where he stopped and where I lost sight of him.

I waited for 45 minutes before sneaking down the tree and recovering my arrow. The mile long walk felt more like one hundred miles as I made my way back to where Kevin would pick me up. Kevin knew immediately that something was up as I sauntered up to the truck. After sharing my story with him something happened that I will never forget. He looked me square in the eyes and said, "Don't worry, we will find him."

The night passed at a snail's pace. I was up well before dawn and had breakfast and a pot of strong coffee ready for us on the table. We drove to the property and waited for daylight. It was just Kevin and I for the recovery effort as family obligations had called the other guys home. The heavy frost sparkled like diamonds as the sun's rays peeked



*Take your bow and quiver
full of arrows, and go hunt
wild game for me.*

Genesis 27:3

In Memory Of My Father & Mother

By Ron Rothhaar

As many of you have heard, my father, Roger C. Rothhaar, passed away unexpectedly on January 16th. I have received many inquiries as to what happened.

Despite having received a full physical checkup and clean bill of health in September, around mid-October he started having some issues, mainly shortness of breath and trouble walking, along with swelling in his feet.

After much urging, he reluctantly went to the local hospital for testing. Over the next 2 months, the tests showed, he had a leaking heart valve and "minor" enlargement of the heart, "no big deal." They would take care of it "after deer season."

He passed away suddenly of heart failure, just a few days before his appointments to have the problems "fixed."

The funeral was quite impressive, flanked by his B&C 10 point, largest 9 point and full mount 16 point bucks. People came from all across the country, including, as we always joked, his "other two illegitimate boys," Tracy Templeton of Tennessee and Kelly Peterson of Wisconsin. Also the Amish boys of Iowa, who helped us on the farm, traveled to Ohio to pay their respects. He was buried with about 50 arrows, mostly signed by bowhunting friends, trail mix from longtime friend Gary Beasley, and Tom Smalley, of Coshocton, Ohio, brought his original PBS patch and we placed it in dad's hand. Dad had sponsored him for PBS in 1971.

Also, there was a sharing time during the funeral. People stood and told stories about him who had hunted with him, worked, or went to school with him, some had just spent time with him on the phone, something he loved to do, help anyone who called with questions about how to "kill a certain buck" - a sad celebration of his life.

He is buried in Brokensword, Ohio next to my mother, Jane, who died unexpectedly last July 31st. She is a BIG REASON

dad was successful in his hunting. Mother backed him 100% in all he did, and she spent a lot of time videoing the bucks on our farm for him. (I back my wife 100% in her hunting too!)

I have been at the Iowa farm 2 weeks now, with my wife Patty and brother Ryan, in the sad process of sorting through the



sessions, loose ends, and starting into all the legal issues, and preparing for the listing and eventual sale of the farm.

I have been reflecting how lucky I am to have spent 4-6 months a year, and the entirety of the last 14 deer seasons with dad, a time when my wife and I have been fortunate to have killed 28 mature trophy bucks, with him. Also having pig hunted with him 3-4 weeks, each of the last 6 years. Also

spent a lot of time with him on his most important "secret" for the hunting of mature bucks "work," planting food plots, farming, etc. And work we did. It was all good. I never realized HOW good it was, how fortunate, until now.

His last buck was a "cull" buck, an 8 pointer that nets 144". He was looking forward to the next 2 years, as we have some really big bucks coming of age. Also I will always remember that ear-to-ear grin he had when I pulled my buck up to his truck this year, a 170" and 9 point. And the look when Patty harvested "just another 12 point." He took more pride in the deer Ryan, Patty and I harvested than he did his own. In fact, a few days before his passing, he was in his office at 10:30 at night writing on his computer. I asked what he was doing, and with a spark in his eye that I hadn't seen since mother passed, he said "I'm starting my next book, on you kids and the farm."

On the last day of hunting, we were on the "doe reduction" mission. Dad texted me on the phone, "I got one." I texted back "Good." About 2 minutes later, he texted again "I got one." I texted back, "I know," he texted, "No, another one." I believe the tally was around 18 does for the season.

He enjoyed his bowhunting nearly to the end. An end that came too soon, too abruptly. We'll all get by, Ryan, Katia, Patty, and I. And I know we all go through this, but it does reset the mind, priorities, and make you realize who and what you had. And that you best make the best of the time you have on this Earth, for the time here is "but a blink of an eye."

Shoot straight, dad! Protect those 3 and 4 year olds. We'll be joining you shortly!

Roger is survived (direct family) by: son Ronald (Patricia) born 1961 and son Roger Ryan (Katia) born 1974.

Ronald is keeping possession of Roger's "Top 20" whitetails - "somehow" for others to enjoy: "somehow"

We thank you all for your cards, sympathies, prayers, all are appreciated!

Roger Rothhaar

February 2, 1938
- January 16, 2018



By Gene Wensel
Libertyville, Iowa

Roger was one of a kind. He truly lived a life worth living. He left a lasting impression on anyone who got to know him. His whitetail wisdom and skill of putting big bucks on the ground the right way was second to none.

I spoke with him for almost an hour

just a couple days before he passed.

We always laughed together. I was fortunate enough to participate on several bowhunting trips with Roger and his good friend Jim Emerson.

We hunted together in Quebec for caribou, where we missed the migration by a couple days. The highlight of the trip was when Jim found a beautiful long white stone spear point at one of the ancient caribou crossings. That caribou camp consisted of quite a roster, including Roger, Jim, myself, Paul and Karen Brunner, Doug Borland, and Paul Schafer. If I remember right, Schaf killed the only caribou.

Jim Emerson should have had his own

television show. He was one of the funniest guys I ever met and Roger brought the best out of him.

Many years ago, Roger and Jim came to the Bitterroot to hunt elk. I set them up in a good spot. They played cat and mouse with a couple good bulls for over a week. Ten days later, they came out of the mountains and all the way back into town with no headlights, driving down over Skalkaho Pass with Roger leaning out the window holding a piss poor flashlight trained on the narrow mountain road. While at my house, they both took showers. When they left, I had to pull a small bucket of body hair out of my shower drain. Many of those hairs were curly. And yes, I wore rubber gloves the entire time!

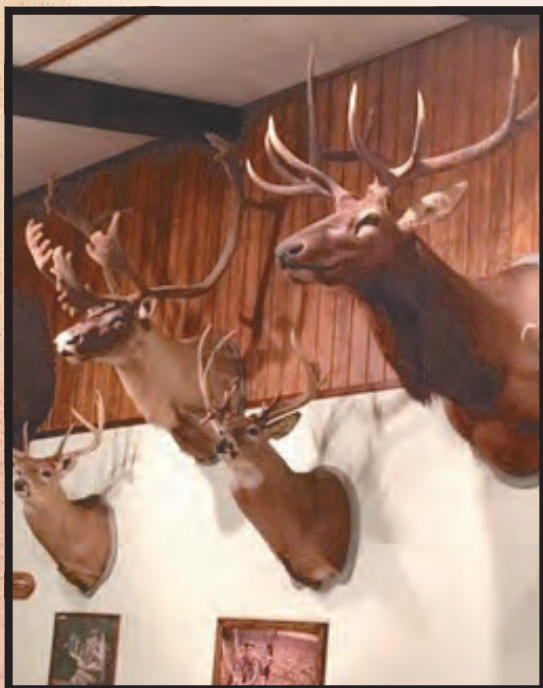
Roger told me he kept seeing the same cow elk four days in a row. I asked him how he could be so sure she was the same cow elk? He said, "Absolutely. I recognized her ass." Good eye!

Another time, I was with them in a van with Roger driving in Atlanta, GA traffic at night in a bad neighborhood. Jim kept yelling "GREEN LIGHT!!" Every time he did, Roger would slam on the brakes. Again and again, Jim would yell and Roger would hit the brakes. I thought I would wet my pants when those two got going at each other.

Another time I was driving through Great Falls, Montana at night with Roger when I got pulled over by a cop. When I handed the police my driver's license, I pointed out that today was my birthday, thinking he might cut me some slack. He continued writing the ticket. When the cop handed me the summons, he said, "Happy Birthday, Gene!" Roger didn't let that one slip through his fingers either.

Those were the days. So many of the greats have gathered around a campfire "upstairs." I miss them.

Quite A



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A SPECIAL ARROW

By John Stockman

The buck approached my natural ground blind as I had visualized many times he would. He was paralleling an overgrown fence line and if my hunch was correct, he would turn broadside at the fence corner which was 15 yards from my blind, where I sat concealed in my home made ghillie suit. I'm not a prophet predicting deer behavior, but I had just watched an estrous doe walk the same path the buck was walking and I was sure the buck would follow her alluring scent. He did and when he turned to the right, I relaxed my string fingers as his left front leg moved forward. My shot looked every bit as good as I had envisioned it. The buck kicked with both rear legs and lunged forward out of my sight. I heard him crash; then all was quiet. Even though I believed the buck was down for good, I didn't want to risk getting him up and creating an unnecessarily long tracking job. I decided to wait 30 minutes before pursuing him. While waiting, I thought about the arrow I had just shot and why it was meaningful to me.

My longtime friend and master arrowmaker, Jack Denbow, sent me a brief e-mail prior to bow season and asked me for my draw length and draw weight of the bow I intended to hunt with this season. I gave him the information and didn't ask questions. About a month later, I met Jack for lunch where he presented me with an absolutely gorgeous arrow he had made for me. It was a footed cedar shaft crowned, crested and fletched with my favorite color combination. He suggested that I hunt with it rather than my normal carbon arrows. (He frequently gives me grief for hunting with carbons). The arrows I make are functional but plain and are made from components I simply buy and assemble. Jack, on the other hand, believes that life is too short to shoot ugly arrows. His arrows are works of art. He is meticulous in every step of his arrowmaking process. He spares no effort to make his arrows both functional and attractive. For example, if he can't buy the shape, size and exact color of feathers he wants, he grinds, chops and dyes his own. If he can't buy an arrowmaking tool or piece of equipment he

wants, he makes his own.

I've been fortunate to know Jack for about 40 years. We met when we shot tournaments together.

Over that period he has made many wood arrows for me.

Several years ago PBS raffled arrows made by well known PBS arrowmakers. Jack generously agreed to make two dozen arrows for the raffle. I bought tickets and was pleased when President Kevin Bahr called me to tell me I was a raffle winner and to choose an arrowmaker. I naturally chose Jack who then made me a dozen beautiful arrows. Sadly, I destroyed most of them shooting with other PBS members at informal 3D shoots on a rocky Virginia mountain.

I have bought two of Jack's arrows at PBS banquets where he won first place

in the arrowmaking contests. The last one I bought was at the Portland biennial gathering. In the months prior to the Portland event, Jack showed me the arrow he planned to enter in the contest. It was a work in progress for weeks and Jack was not satisfied until it met his extremely critical evaluation. He would point out imperfections that I would never have noticed and then start all over on a new arrow. I was impressed with his creativity and determination to make a perfect arrow. I told him I intended to buy his arrow. He said our mutual friend, Bob Seltzer, also wanted the arrow. At the banquet, Bob and I were the final two bidders. Bob dropped out of the bidding at \$275. He later asked me how high I would have bid. I replied, "\$275." He said, "John I don't believe that. I know you." I just smiled, now owned another of Jack's winning arrows.

When I concluded that I was likely to get a shot at the approaching buck I discussed earlier, a jolt of adrenaline surged through my body and

I went into predator mode. My heartbeat and breathing accelerated and my vision became more acute. I focused intently on killing the deer in front of me. I struggled to control my emotions and physical actions in order to execute a lethal shot. After 62 years of bowhunting and many shots at game animals. I hope I will always experience that same excitement. If the day ever comes when I don't feel that exhilaration, I'll know it is time for me to stop hunting. I don't anticipate that happening anytime soon.

The blood trail was short and heavy. My Grizzly broadhead and Jack's arrow had performed well.

The arrow had passed completely through the buck due in part to the weight of the footed shaft and the heavy, cut on contact broadhead I used. I retired the arrow even though it was undamaged. It had served me well. (Jack will be pleased. He retires all his arrows that he has used successfully).

I said a prayer of thanks for the opportunity to hunt such a wondrous animal and to have ended its life quickly. Mother Nature would not have killed him as quickly or mercifully. I've taken bigger bucks but none meant more to me than this one killed with a "special" arrow.



BOWHUNTING

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA



By: John "Yohon" Deitterick

In the darkness of a still, warm and early morning, PBS regular member Randy Brookshier and I were laboring up a steep ridge just off the Appalachian Trail in southwest Virginia. Well, I should say I was laboring, Randy was waiting. When I got up to him he said, "Welcome to Colorado!", we both laughed and I asked him, "What the heck does a deer got to be all the way up this mountain for anyway?" It was a start to another great hunt. For a guy who lives at sea level and wears rubber boots to get through mud and water of various forms this was going to be something a bit different.

Randy and I have been getting together the last couple years doing what PBS guys do and that's have a great time bowhunting. This part of Virginia is a bowhunter's paradise compared to my area of Maryland. Besides the deer you have chances at fall turkeys, bears, coyotes, and bobcats, plus more squirrels than you can shake a full back quiver of arrows at! Randy's a life-long resident of the area and knows it really well. I am stunned at the sheer number of places the man has to hunt. Where I live it's all leases and what public ground there is gets way over hunted. I have limited places to go and yet I still drive myself crazy

thinking about wind directions, pressure etc. just picking out a stand to hunt each time. I'm afraid if I lived in Randy's area I'd need medication!

We don't have fox squirrels in the area I live and so seeing them was a new experience. One of the first mornings of a hunt one of those cool looking critters bounced along gobbling up on what was a bumper acorn crop. He moved in close and at the shot I learned a very valuable lesson, dang rocks flat out destroy a 2016. Now I know why Randy's basement is full of 5 gallon buckets of arrows! I certainly didn't bring enough arrows if I am going to be shooting at fox squirrels all the time. Where I'm from we don't break many arrows, we lose some disappearing into mud, these rock things ended up being a real inconvenience to my arrow

supply! Compared to the gray squirrels I hunt, these fox squirrels are a lot bigger and slower target, which the way I shoot is a good thing. I was in a great spot one morning waiting on a deer when a pair of fox squirrels got chasing each other down the ridge from me.

It was late morning and hadn't seen a deer in a while so I bailed out of the tree and went after them. I spent a half hour playing cat and mouse with them and never did get a shot, bigger and slower yes but certainly no push over. I still haven't arrowed one but I sure have messed up some arrows.

Of course our main targets are the deer and one of the reasons I enjoy these hunts is for me it's like stepping back in time. We were deer hunting like I did for so many years with my Dad. This group of bowhunters was as tickled for you if you killed a doe, a spike or a 10 pointer. I've personally lost



and seen friendships broken up over shooting the “wrong” deer. I’ve been in camps where you had to shoot a 4 ½ year old buck or better. Been on leases where it’s also been “don’t shoot this deer but shoot that deer” and yet other places where the deer has to be a certain number of inches and if it isn’t you pay a \$1000.00 fine. The big buck craze has changed hunting for sure. Now don’t get me wrong, I absolutely love the challenge of hunting mature deer but I also like eating them and I really, really like shooting them with feathered shafts so these hunts have no pressure on what you can and can’t shoot. With two buck tags, and a bunch of antlerless tags it was refreshing to grab my bow and get ready first rather than breaking out the binoculars to see if it was a “shooter.”

We had been hunting a few days in some rather warm weather when we got a little break with a gray overcast morning. Randy sent me to a place where an old barbed wire fence went through the woods and made a 90 degree, turn with a nice white oak 15 yards from that turn. The deer trail at that turn was pretty impressive. I set my Lone Wolf in that tree and spent the first half hour of light trying to coax at least one of a big flock of turkeys that flew down around me that morning. Once they moved off I spotted a doe and yearling feeding up out of the bottom heading my way. They were heading to the fence corner when 20 yards from me they bedded down! No bow shot at all but could have shot the doe in the head with a .22. They were close! It was warm and I could see the deer panting like my dog does on a hot day. I stood at attention, bow in hand for an hour and a half, afraid to sit down or move much at all because I was sure they would see me move, as it was that open between us. Now, being a serious bowhunter, wind and its effects have always intrigued me, I sat up there fascinated that they never winded me. Wind was blowing all over the place too but I am assuming that my high set in the tree and them being downhill a good bit was the reason because I figured at any moment the gig was up. I know here on my flat ground they wouldn’t have bedded that long without busting me. Randy was hunting just one ridge over and was going to ease my way at 9:30. I was hop-



ing him getting down and moving around would move the deer to me. It was getting close to that time when the doe stood, stretched and came right to me. I was more than ready when she went broadside at 15 yards. I drew the Snuffer back and hit right where I wanted with a loud crack. The arrow buried to the cresting. She went downhill, then started back up the other ridge toward Randy when I heard it crash around. I texted Randy that I think I got one. I got a text back, “You sure did! It fell right in front of me.” With that I had my 1st Virginia deer and my first deer with a Snuffer. Thank you Mr. Randy!

Most of my hunting is small blocks of timber; a 2000 acre block is huge for me. The deer I hunt pretty much know they are being hunted, lots of access to where they live and the pressure that goes with it. I found it fascinating that there were still places where a deer may have not seen a human in some of the areas we hunted, or in the very least minimal contact most of the year. The lonely quiet country we got into was a pleasure to be in. I was lost most of the time. Being green in some of these areas was a bit intimidating but knowing a deer could be here today and who knows where the next day made each sit an exercise in quiet anticipation, never knowing what might show up. I sat one evening with a wonderful view of the side of a mountain and wondered why there weren’t millions of deer in the area with all the ground they had to live in. When I’ve hunted Montana and Colorado I always got the same feeling with all

that country to hunt, like Fred Asbell said in one of his books, “The possibilities are endless,” it’s a good feeling.

Another thing that certainly adds to the cool factor for me is bears. I had only ever seen one in my life, and that was in Glacier National park with my wife and Uncle Barry in the late 80’s. I went on one guided spring bear hunt and didn’t care much for it and never saw a bear. I do have here in my stack of PBS magazine an issue from the early 80’s and on the cover is a great action shot of Dick Robertson shooting at a bear on a logging road in Montana. THAT is how I want to do it! Being on the ground with a bear and stickbow would be the ultimate for me.

We were hunting one morning during a bright full moon. After I got my Lone Wolf hung I was sitting there with my eyes shut drinking in the sounds of the early morning woods. The moon was shining through the trees and in a very bright spot 15 yards behind me I heard a noise close. I turned my head to see a very black blob moving right to me. I was instantly wide awake! The bear wasn’t very big but hey, it was a bear and for me a “first” of sorts. He proceeded to get 10 yards or so when I could hear him sniffing and then he froze. It was, for

me, an electric moment waiting to see what was next. He climbed up on a fallen log stretched his head my way and then turned and walked off. I was cussing the moon one minute and glad it was out to see this encounter. I sometimes wonder what it would have been like in the dark of a moonless morning. Since then I’ve seen 4 others hunting with Randy and fellow PBS’er Ed Clowser. This fall I had a small one in bow range one evening. He was around me for half an hour munching on acorns. Randy says when you see bears you usually don’t see deer so was glad this guy parked near me and I got to observe him for as long as I did. I drew my Hill back on him several times and counted coup.

It would be a heck of an accomplishment to arrow a Virginia brui on the ground.

That morning after I spotted my first bear I sat in that tree for several hours not seeing much when two does fed down the



mountain to me. One got quartering away at 18 yards and I shot a Snuffer right in the spot I was looking at. The deer took off down into a hollow. We took up the trail with a walk along type blood trail and in a bit we found the doe with the arrow still in her. After a rather messy field dressing chore, thanks to the damage of that Snuffer, I got looking around. "Dang Randy, how are WE going to get this deer outta here?" Randy laughs out loud, points straight up through some rocks and said, "YOU are gonna have to drag it up there." I made a mental note that there is a plus for living at sea level and commenced to dragging and grunting. All recoveries in this country are an adventure. Randy told me later that he went back into the area where I gutted the deer and bear scat was all over and there was a set of tracks that followed our drag marks all the way out of the area.



How cool is that?

There is a great group of traditional shooters in the area and one day I got to meet fellow PBS'er Frank "Junior" Whittaker, a great guy by all measures and like Randy a shooter of Howard Hill longbows. We met at Sherwood Archers, an outstanding archery range in the area and commenced to flingin' some arrows. Seems Junior had a Hill that fit my specs pretty good. I had only shot a handful of arrows out of a longbow before that day but after a dozen or so arrows through Junior's Hill, you couldn't pry that thing from me! We shot it indoors and it was a fine shooter, not this terrible hand shock I kept hearing about. It had a different feel than my metal riser takedown but nothing that was terrible, just different. However, when we stepped outside to shoot some distance the utter quietness of that bow at release had me smiling from ear to ear. I was hooked and I hon-

estly think these guys set me up! One of my favorite sayings I heard years ago was that a bow and arrow turns a wood lot into a wilderness because of the intimate distance we have to get to be an effective bowhunter. The Hill style longbows epitomize that. It's been a year of fun learning about these bows. The added challenge has been a real pleasure this fall and I got those two to thank for it...I think! We hunted this fall together with our Hills. I was really hoping to get a deer while hunting with Randy, kind of bringing it full circle. Although I had my chances, I didn't get a deer with my Hill till late October while hunting in Delaware. Hopefully it won't be my last.

Like most of you reading this, bowhunting is who we are, what we do and pretty much all we think about. I know a lot of guys that hunt with a bow but can count on one, maybe two hands guys I know personally that are what I'd consider true bowhunters. Guys who accept the challenge of getting bow and arrow close and are consistently successful at it, I admire them a lot. Randy's on that list and the fact I've been lucky enough to hunt with him, learn a bunch of new things and develop a great friendship with him and his family is the highlight of my membership in PBS and what this organization is all about. When we talk about "who's the PBS" Randy Brookshier epitomizes that. Thanks buddy!!



It was a dark and stormy night...

By Monty Browning

It was the kind of night that Northern Quebec in late August is fond of producing. The wind, unchecked by the treeless rolling hills, whipped the lake into three foot white-capped swells and pushed sheets of cold rain against the white canvas cook tent. Through the rain, the tent, backlit by the gas lantern, glowed like a pale yellow moon rising from a cold, desolate landscape.

Safe and warm inside, four Wisconsin hunters laughed and talked about the day's hunt. The older gentleman sat at the end of the table and carefully cleaned and oiled his rifle. His buddies sat at the table, their backs to the canvas that shielded them from the storm. My longbow was unstrung, but propped next to the door. Caribou had been known to blunder through the camp.

The hunters were filling their plates with creamy scalloped potatoes and green beans and butter-drenched corn as I sat the first platter of seared caribou steaks on the red and white checkered plastic covered table. It was the kind of meal that pushed back the cold and made you forget the miles and the drenching you got as the boat fought the swells and the rain.

The blue gas flame flickered with yellow-tipped fingers at the hot oil splatter as a new batch of caribou steaks sizzled in the pan. I had just turned to the clients to ask a question when the big man sitting between his buddies gave me a puzzled look. He raised his head, gave a deep, hearty laugh, then suddenly fell forward into his plate, stone, cold dead.

It's times like that when running a camp takes on a new degree of responsibility, not to mention stress. It is also no less amazing the little thoughts that flash through your mind.

I suppose my view of death appears more calloused than most. But in actu-

ality is more realistic, like the old timer whose rusted and battered old pickup died suddenly when the engine clunked dead with a broken crank shaft. Climbing out, he swung the door shut as he limped away with his bad knee and muttered only, "She's been a goodun!"

What's done is done.

My first reaction was to look at the dead client's buddies sitting on either side. They appeared confused, but not overly concerned. The one, in fact, never stopped chewing his mouthful of caribou steak. When I asked if the deceased had a history of heart problems, they knew of none. And all the while, the dead client's forehead was still buried in his corn and potatoes. My mind was processing bits of information at warp speed and while I was concerned that he had died, there wasn't much I could do until after the storm and radio contact was again possible with Scheferville, two hundred miles away. It was nearly freezing and once the storm cleared, it should turn colder. I would wrap him up in a tarp and prop him outside. He would keep until we could get a float plane in to haul him out.

Out of habit more than anything, I turned the steaks to sear the other side before they overcooked. Nothing is worse than overcooked wild game. And for some reason, death seems to always bring out the food. I never have figured out why everyone who attends a funeral feels compelled to bring a covered dish. Anyway, the one client was still chew-

ing, so I figured I could feed the survivors.

Up to this point, no one had touched the corpse or checked for vital signs, so turning the flames down, I stepped to the table. Grabbing the big man by both shoulders, I pushed him up and back against the tent wall. His chin was tucked to his chest and corn dotted his forehead. The buttery juice streamed down his cheeks like tears. There was no visible sign of life except his eyes were closed. His eyes were closed! Then, like some dead villain in a horror movie, he suddenly came to life, his head raised, and his eyes opened and focused. He leaned forward as if to see me better, then threw back his head and laughed out loud, the way he had before he had collapsed. Then he looked around at his table mates, then at me. "What?" he said, puzzled. "What's the matter?"

It took some time to convince him that he had had some type of a seizure and had collapsed. It was only after I pointed out the corn still stuck to his forehead that he conceded. He swore it had never happened before. It was soon forgotten.

The storm raged on and later, as the clients lay snug in the sleeping bags, I finished washing the last dish and filled the blue enameled pot for the morning coffee. "This changes everything," I muttered. "Breakfast will be bacon and eggs. Can't have one of my hunters out chasing caribou with a pancake stuck on his forehead!"

Camp Six Seared Caribou Steaks

- Caribou backstrap cut into three-quarter inch steaks or Sirloin cut from the top of the leading edge of the hindquarters.
- Garlic Salt • Black Pepper • Olive Oil

Cut steaks and season with garlic salt and pepper. Heat oil in campfire skillet over hot coals or gas flames until oil begins to smoke. Sear steaks on both sides (about two minutes per side). No well done, please.



Lion Adventures

By Dan Mathis

We moved from the east coast to Montana in 2012. Mountain lion has always been high on my list of animals to pursue. I drew a pursuit tag for the 2014 season for Region 1, where we live. It was a real eye opening experience.

We treed two cats the first time I went out, a big female with kittens that we left in the tree unmolested and a smaller female with a coyote trap on its right hind foot. She was in rough shape and we were in a rare spot that had cell service, so we called the region biologist and got authorization to bring it in as an act of mercy.

As I backed up the mountain to find a good shot angle, one of the houndsmen asked if I wouldn't rather use my handgun on it. I told them that I was confident that I could make the shot with my bow. The cat was slightly above me at 21 steps and facing to my right, slightly quartering away.

At the release I watched the arrow hit the cat exactly where I was looking. It bailed out of the tree and one of the dogs got loose and tore into it. The nearest dog handler

pulled out a pistol and fired four shots in rapid succession to protect the dog.

The cat lay immobile about 10 yards from the tree as we all stood over its lifeless body. I squatted down and inspected the arrow entry wound which was just below the mid line in the back third of the chest cavity on the right side. I rolled the cat over and saw where the arrow had exited high on the left shoulder.

I asked the shooter how many rounds he had fired and we all agreed it was four. I noted aloud that he was the best hand gun marksman I had ever seen. He thanked me and asked why I thought that. I pointed to the arrow wound and said all four of your rounds passed through my arrow hole. Everyone had a good laugh about that as I drug the cat the half mile down the mountain to the truck. I took that cat to the ranger station for turn in as confiscated game and got a new tag, but weather and health issues prevented me from getting another chance that season.

I drew another cat tag for the pursuit season for the 2017/2018 season. Region 1 has the highest lion population in Montana and the most tags. The chase season be-



2014



2014 - Treed but not shot



2018



2018

gins in December after the antlered seasons have ended and about the time our area generally starts getting good tracking snow. I went out five times during December and January with some local houndsmen, but couldn't connect.

The first week my houndsman friend, who also had a tag, killed a nice tom who appeared to be chasing a female in heat.

The day after we killed that tom another one replaced it, so we chased him in an attempt to fill my tag. We only had snow at elevation and the cat was smart or lucky enough to run out of the snow to lose the dogs.

On other outings we experienced old tracks, bad conditions and no tracks at all. I was beginning to lose hope as the weather began to warm up in late February, but March the fourth I got the call to try again.

We wound up snowmobiling up a narrow rocky south facing drainage that was holding a lot of whitetail deer and cut a fresh cat track. Based on track configuration and stride length the experts were confident it was a big female, so they turned the hounds out.

The dogs chased her nearly straight up the east side

of the drainage for over a half mile and 500 feet change in elevation where she treedand bailed as soon as we approached. She then ran straight back down the mountain and treed a second time within 100 yards of where we started the trail. Once again she bailed out of the tree and ran up the west side of the drainage about 100 yards and treed in a big Doug Fir where she seemed willing to hold for a shot.

I could use the slope to get up near her level but she was behind the trunk of the tree, so I had to take a quartering toward shot slightly above me at a 20 degree angle. When the arrow hit her she tumbled out of the tree, ran about 80 yards to the creek where she foundered in the current trying to cross and succumbed to the wound. The cedar arrow hit her low right behind the right shoulder and angled up and back through the chest cavity and exited high behind the last rib on her left side. I was shooting a POC arrow I made in my shop, Wensel Woodsman broadhead and a Robertson Fatalistik, 74 lbs at my draw length.

The ABC's

By Marc Fox

I've read quite a bit about big deer antlers and how to achieve them on various online forums. Since I don't have thick enough skin to endure the childish criticism there, I thought I



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would hide behind Gene Wensel to express my views.

While I don't believe PBS should involve itself with "bigger antler policies," I thought the membership might enjoy some of my personal thoughts on the subject. Certainly, I don't expect you to take my word or anyone else's as gospel. I'm at the point where I'm not very concerned with antlers anymore. In fact, I've only taken one buck in the last eleven seasons, preferring instead to concentrate on juicy does. But make no mistake, I'd love to fill a tag on the right buck. My dismal performance in harvesting antlered deer hardly qualifies me as an authority on bucks. My only qualifications are that I've been an avid deer hunter all my life, I've carefully observed successful farmers and I have an uncommon power often called common sense.

The ABCs of deer antlers are age, genetics and chow. I believe these are the only factors that influence antler growth. Nothing else.

Let's carefully analyze these factors in reverse order:

CHOW

"Chow," or nutritional feed, comes in many forms for wild deer. The Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) doesn't get much more specific than saying "several hundred plant species are eaten by deer." A study done in Mississippi stated deer eat four hundred types of plants. Others say a deer needs five pounds of food daily to thrive and two pounds per day to survive. Of course, food quality is an issue. Time of year, minerals or supplements in food and soil are also factors. Winter feeding seems helpful but may in fact be harmful, although I find it hard to believe an animal that eats over 400 plants would get plugged up by an ear of corn. That's a little hard to swallow (sorry...I couldn't resist).

One winter 20 years ago, I decided to

pre-
pare
for a fall
elk hunt by
feeding deer.

This involved packing 80 pound bags of corn uphill about a mile, twice a week. I was younger then! After three months, I didn't know if I actually helped any deer but I essentially killed three. One died of natural causes right at the food site, one was killed by predators, and one was poached by the landowner.

I recommend only cutting browse as winter feed. Planting food plots can certainly help, especially in a state with a high percentage of forest, but it requires land, expensive seed, fertilizer and possibly power equipment beyond the financial means of many of us, not to mention the time involved. Population and carrying capacity further complicate these food issues.

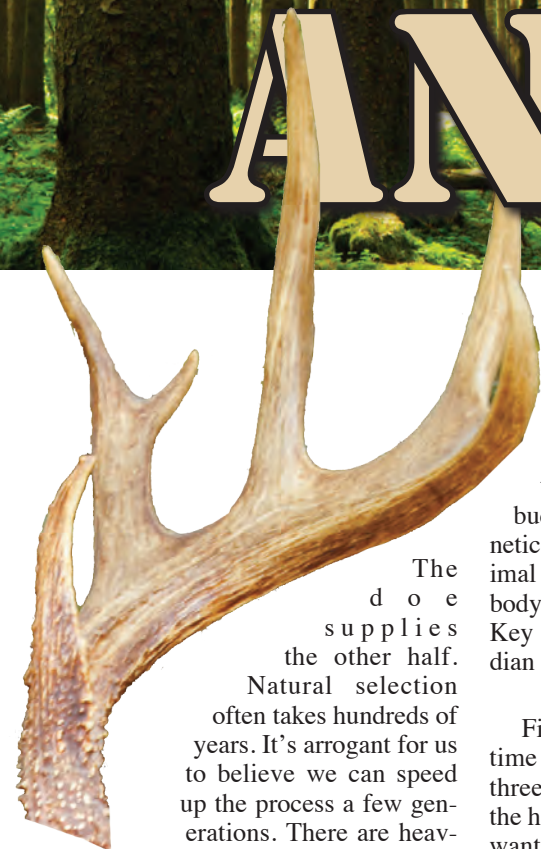
I attended a QDMA seminar once where a guy asked what was best to plant. The speaker replied, "Plant 150 grains right in the neck!"

GENETICS

Selective breeding of genetics is an issue almost beyond human control. I smile when I hear someone say they shot a management buck. That often means it was the only buck they managed to shoot! Also, let's not forget the buck is only half of the equation.



of DEER ANTLERS



The doe supplies the other half. Natural selection often takes hundreds of years. It's arrogant for us to believe we can speed up the process a few generations. There are heavily managed ranches in Texas that have been culling small or inferior bucks for over forty

years. If it actually worked, it seems they wouldn't need to cull today.

Where I live, many young bucks are annually killed thinking they are genetically inferior, when in fact they are simply not mature. Given time to ripen, they might turn into fine bucks. Bergmann's Rule factors into genetics too. It states the farther north an animal lives, the bigger it will be, at least in body size. Think about a 90 pound Florida Key deer compared to a 300 pound Canadian giant.

AGE

Finally, we have age. In my opinion, time is by far the most important of the three factors. It's the easiest to give, yet the hardest to get. The problem is everyone wants to go to heaven but nobody wants to die. We can all talk about passing up bucks, but after a month of hard hunting, 1 ½ year

old buck often starts to look pretty good. The next time you're tempted, ask yourself what if basketball great Michael Jordan had been killed in an auto accident at age ten? Or if I could somehow magically guarantee no bucks would be killed this coming season, would we see bigger bucks next year? Unlike genetics, age is something we can influence. Unlike food plots, age is free. The difference between 1 ½ and 3 ½ year old bucks is startling. They aren't fully mature until age 5 ½. If I ever see one, I'll let you know. I've also heard the argument, "if I don't shoot him, the next guy will." What if "the next guy" is a 15 year old hunting for his first deer?

Those are my thoughts on the ABCs. I'm sure they might stir or invite controversy, but I give you something to think about. In conclusion, enjoy, relax and shoot what makes you happy. Hell, boys...it's only deer huntin'!

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Regular Membership Candidate

We list the following names of members who have applied for regular membership in PBS and have been approved by the Council. These individuals have completed a lengthy application and are currently in their one-year probationary period. 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 Rob Burnham, 13320 Dove Tree Lane, Rockville VA 23146.

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:

Allen Clark – North Vernon, IN
 Gary Rieck – Waverly, IA
 Mark Caldwell – Ormsby, PA
 Stephen Chappell – Williamston, MI
 Tim Donnelly – Springfield, MO
 Mirko Rainer – Switzerland

Corned Venison

By Greg Szalewski

We eat way more venison in my house than any other meat so I am always on the lookout for new recipes and methods to make it. Also since virtually all of this venison is the result of one of my successful hunts I have an attachment to the animal and take pride in completing the entire process of bringing it to the table.

I have butchered each and every deer I have taken as well as all that my children have. It has been a constant learning experience and has evolved greatly over the years. As we lost interest in roasts (I am still looking for a good roast recipe) it got down to pretty much cleaning up the backstraps, cutting steaks from the larger sections of the hinds and everything else was ground for burgers, chili, spaghetti, casseroles, and other such recipes.

During the process of butchering you

come across nice pieces of meat not quite big enough for steaks or a roast such as those from the front shoulders and those two long pieces along the windpipe of a bigger buck. It always seemed a shame to run them through the grinder. I always felt that there should be a better use for those.

A half dozen or so years back Wisconsin Outdoor News ran a story on what to do with those pieces and it was exactly what I was looking for, corned venison.

I have enjoyed a boiled dinner here and there, a Rueben is one of my favorite sandwiches, so I gave it a try. Well, a Rueben made in one of my skillets is about as good as it gets and a slam dunk if you want to give someone a special treat.

It is easy to do, but you have to plan



ahead.

I use about six pounds of venison. You can use slabs of flank, most of a shoulder, and, of course, more select cuts of meat, too.

The pieces should be no more than two inches thick. Don't worry about trimming all of the silver or sinewy tissue. Between the brining and cooking much of that will disappear or can be flicked away with a fork.

The Ingredients



The Brine

- 2 quarts water
- ½ cup canning salt
- ½ cup Morton's Tenderquick or Haught's maple cure. *Find this at your grocery's canning supplies or by canning salts in the spice section.*
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 2 tablespoons pickling spice
- 4 bay leaves
- 8 whole black pepper corns
- Fresh garlic clove (crushed, lots)
- Mix ingredients and bring to a boil.
- Let mixture cool, then pour over the meat in a plastic Tupperware container, glass or ceramic bowl (don't use metal).
- Refrigerate it for 4 to 5 days. Once or twice a day turn the meat to circulate the brine.
- Remove meat and discard the brine. Rinse the meat or not if you like it saltier.
- Cook in a pressure cooker 45 minutes to an hour with 1 ½ cups water at 10 pounds of pressure.

Save the remaining liquid for use in making side dishes of cabbage, potatoes, onions, carrots, green beans, or whatever you like. The meat should break apart with a fork. If not completely done put it back under pressure for another 10 minutes or so. It's a pretty forgiving method of cooking. Serve it hot and freeze the leftover for later.

Oven Method

- I prefer pressure cooking, but you can use a regular oven.
- Preheat to 300 degrees.
- Place drained, brined meat in a roasting pan with a tight fitting lid. Add enough water to go 2/3 of the way up the meat. Cover and transfer pan to the oven and cook until very tender, about 3 hours.
- While cooking, add hot water as needed to keep meat moist.

Meat In Brine



Meat In Pressure Cooker



Ken Hoehn tagged this guy on public land in Iowa.



Our California rep, Brian Morris, with a recently shot hog.

Member

Photos



Taken by Preston Lay from Jennings, OK on November 23 in Oklahoma. Preston used a Black Widow recurve, carbon arrow tipped with a Zwickey No Mercy broadhead.



Nice buck taken by Ron Rothhaar.

"Those Were the Days!"

Submitted by John Vargo
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

"Boy the way Glen Miller played... Songs that made the hit parade... Guys like us, we had it made... Those were the days!" Those with graying and/or balding hair probably recognize the lyrics of the theme song to the 1970's sitcom "All in the Family." Being a member of this graying fraternity and no longer "The Kid" (unless surrounded by the likes of the Wensel twins in which case I still am "The Kid" by default), I often find myself reminiscing about the "old days"...days when "smoking a deer" meant lighting a charcoal fire and long before the time when bleached blonde hair and a boob job were prerequisites for co-hosting a hunting show on television.

Today when I reminisce and think of the "old days" I can't help but shake my head at all the dumb and stupid things I did as well as feel somewhat fortunate to not have killed myself while teaching myself all about bowhunting. Times were a lot different in the early 1970's. Resources to help you progress (both hunting equipment and knowledge) were pretty darn limited. In most cases you learned on your own or from a hunting buddy who most likely knew little more than you.

In many states, like Kentucky where I was growing up, deer populations were pretty low and just seeing one or two deer on a hunting trip was an accomplishment. It's hard to learn about hunting deer when you see very few and most of your hunting buddies aren't faring much better. Hunting deer was most often a real venture and not something you could do after work. Few people were fortunate enough to have deer herds close to home to hunt. Most hunting involved traveling hours to public game lands or military bases where decent deer herds existed. Such places were also known by other hunter-wannabees. If you saw more deer than fellow hunters, you were really, really doing good. Guys that were serious about actually shooting a deer traveled out of state to hunt places like Pennsylvania and Michigan. Each year I eagerly waited for my friend (and PBS mentor) Joe Fehribach to return from his week-long October hunting trip to central Pennsylvania so I could hear more of his stories of hunting in a place where people actually saw deer. With a hushed voice, he

quietly spoke of seeing herds of twenty or more deer feeding each evening in clover and alfalfa fields. Some of us looked uneasily back and forth at each other...trying to decide whether such a place really existed or if Joe was trying to pull a fast one on us. One year Joe brought back a fat 7 point buck from Pennsylvania that was most likely a 1.5 year old buck or 2.5 years at most. That deer easily won the big buck contest at our local archery club. I vowed that one day I would shoot a buck as magnificent as that one!

Today, many aspiring hunters entering the woods for the first time know far more about deer and deer hunting than we did after years of on-the-job training. There was little information about deer and deer hunting in the old days. "Bowhunting for Deer" by Dutch Wambold was about the only book that existed for archery hunters. Most of the hunting books were written by gun hunters that either hunted Texas ranches or hunted the big woods country of the northern states. "Bow and Arrow" magazine had a few stories on deer hunting but most of the stories involved hunting in California and the west coast. Anyone that had killed more than one deer with a bow and arrow was regarded as something of a hunting expert...a person to seek out for sage advice! Whether that deer was a buck, doe, or fawn was pretty inconsequential. Some years a forkhorn buck would win the local archery club's big buck contest!

In the early 1980's I remember the revolutionary new deer hunting book written by Maryland bowhunter Tom Fleming. Rattling for deer really worked in states other than Texas! Dave Samuel was sitting in the audience and quietly shook his head in agreement as Tom divulged his secrets to us Kentucky hunters at our yearly banquet. Apparently Dr. Dave had learned of such secrets as well!

In the old days, a lot of hunting was done from the ground, sitting in a hastily constructed ground blind or bumbling your way through the woods thinking you might actually sneak up on an unaware deer. Tree stands consisted of nailing up a bunch of old barn wood in a tree. Most chose to climb up trees and stand on tree branches. The Lord must love fools because a lot of us were tempting fate each time we climbed up. Of course no one had safety belts or climbing harnesses in those days.

An old

timer showed me how to climb up trees by carrying a twenty foot coil of hemp rope that you would throw over a stout low-hanging branch and you would then shimmy your way up...hoping not to lose your grip and fall on your back. Shooting a deer, if one were dumb enough to walk past, was not a realistic option as I usually was paralyzed in fear with a death grip on a tree branch to keep myself balanced so I would not fall out.

A few years into this hunting thing, the climbing treestand was born. The Baker climbing deer stand was nothing more than a wood and metal death trap. You hugged the tree and then tried to raise your feet a foot or two and repeated the process until you were simply too exhausted to try to get any higher off the ground. You could tell which of your hunting friends had one... they were the ones with scratch marks all along the insides of their forearms and arms. My Baker Slim Jim had a bungy-type cord to put your feet through in order to stay attached to the stand while climbing. Bungy-type cords have a tendency to slip from your feet when such feet are at a forty five degree angle...such as when your legs are raised for the next step up. There is no lonelier sound than listening to your Slim Jim going "ka-chunk, ka-chunk, ka-chunk" down a tree while you have a death-grip hug on same tree some 10 feet up and it is pitch black dark out there. One day I was dumb enough to climb a wood telephone pole because there were fresh deer tracks close by. This was one of the scariest experiences of my young life (to date). Each time I shifted my weight the stand would drop six inches. At dawn and dusk at heavily hunted public areas the most common sound was the "ka-chunk, ka-chunk" sound made by hunters going up and down their trees. There were rumors of bears living on public grounds all throughout the state. The rumors were based on finding claw marks on many trees. Those of us hunting these areas knew differently, the claw marks on the trees were from the finger nails of frantic bowhunters sliding down trees after their climber slipped off their feet!

Land Between the Lakes in Western Kentucky became my weekend playground during the four years that I attended nearby Murray State University. I knew nothing

of seed ticks until I came back to my dorm room after scouting one early September day and then proceeded to scratch and itch my lower legs for the next six months. Each leg soon resembled a large bloody scab with socks on the end. My first shot at a live deer came one Saturday in October while sitting in a ground blind on the edge of a cleared power line. A fat doe crossed uphill some 50 yards or so away. My first arrow fell 10 yards short. I recalibrated and sent a second arrow her way, only 5 yards shy this time. I stopped shooting at this point figuring that the deer was a "little" outside my effective shooting distance. I became the "guide" for my friends at Iroquois Bowhunters Club in hometown Louisville. On weekends they would drive nearly four hours to hunt the public lands that I had scouted in advance. I helped the Pottinger brothers kill their first deer, placing each in blinds I had scouted and prepared in advance. Talk about the blind leading the blind!

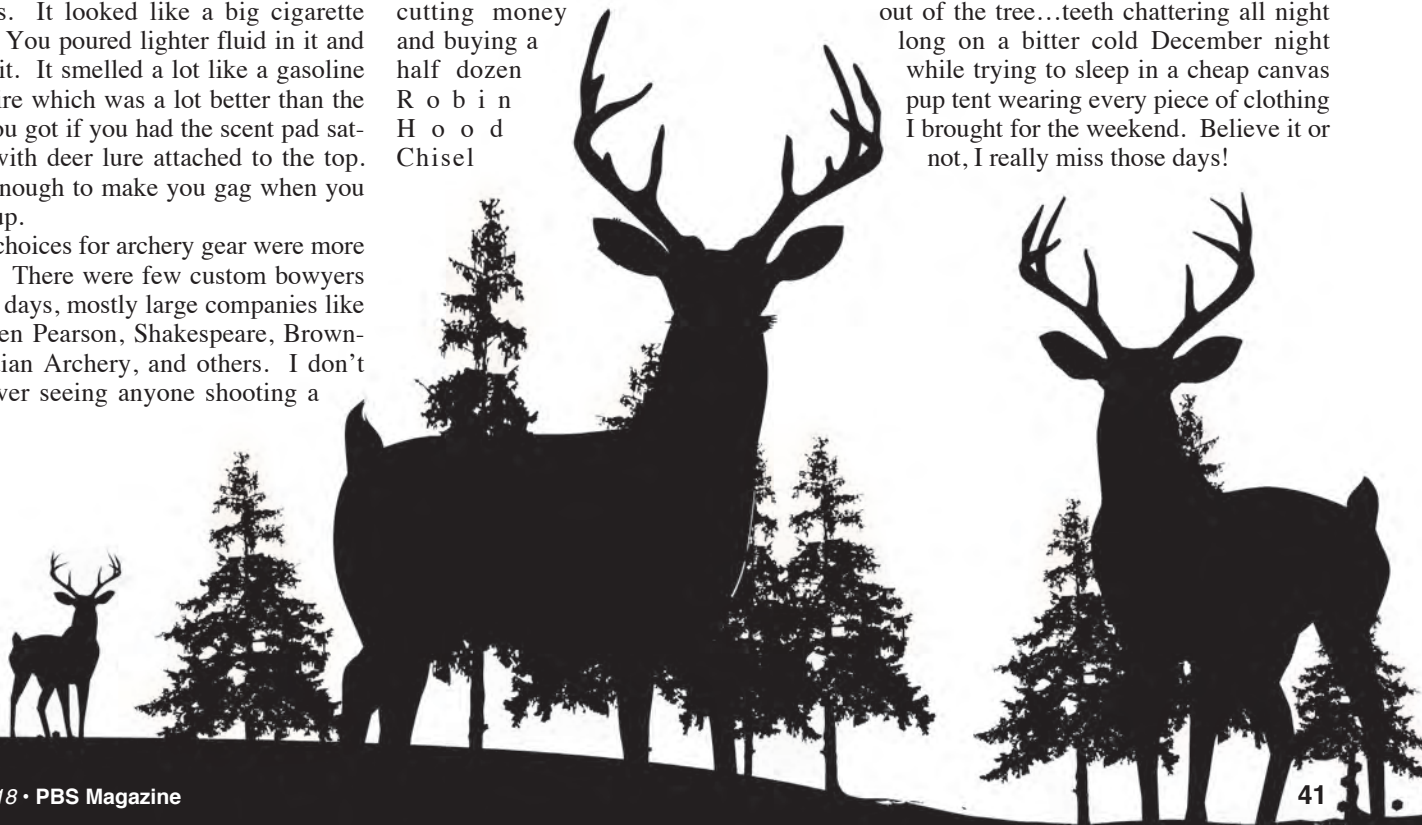
Any hunt during cold weather was a survival expedition. Nearly all the hunting clothes in those days were 100% cotton. Gloves and boots weren't much better. As far as camo patterns go...you had two choices...either Vietnam or WWII. And of course they only came in 100% cotton. Most of us tried the battery powered socks at one time or another in an attempt to keep from having toes amputated due to severe frostbite. They either did not warm up at all or your toes felt like there was a blow torch on them. There was no in-between. I remember buying one of the Jon-E hand warmers. It looked like a big cigarette lighter. You poured lighter fluid in it and then lit it. It smelled a lot like a gasoline rig on fire which was a lot better than the smell you got if you had the scent pad saturated with deer lure attached to the top. It was enough to make you gag when you fired it up.

Our choices for archery gear were more limited. There were few custom bowyers in those days, mostly large companies like Bear, Ben Pearson, Shakespeare, Browning, Indian Archery, and others. I don't recall ever seeing anyone shooting a

longbow. Recurves were considered vastly superior in that day by all the archers and bowhunters that I knew. The compound bow was just beginning to make an appearance with Allen and Jennings being the only companies manufacturing them. I remember when I finally gave in to the temptation and purchased an Allen Black Hunter. What a mechanical beauty it was...sleek hexagonal solid fiberglass limbs, wooden handle, a recurve-style arrow rest, and it was adjustable in draw weight from 40-50 pounds and had a 20% let-off. Myself and one other archer were the only ones in our local archery club that had compound bows at that time. Those few who did shoot compounds back then shot them with fingers and many did not use sight pins. Who would have guessed back then that within a few short years the compound would completely take over the bow market. Aluminum was the arrow shafting of choice with wood and fiberglass running a close second. Compressed cedar (Forge-wood) was a somewhat popular choice for many bowhunters. Microflight fiberglass shafts enjoyed popularity. Bear marketed their own brand of fiberglass shafting. I shot all three types of shafting. A lot depended on whether I had saved enough of my grass cutting money to buy some aluminum shafts. My quiver was a mismatch of just about every arrow shaft that was on the market. The Bear Razorhead was by far the most popular broadhead. Zwickeys and Ben Pearson Deadheads were frequently seen on the end of hunting arrows as well. I remember taking a pocket full of my grass cutting money and buying a half dozen
R o b i n
H o o d
Chisel

broadheads. They had four fixed blades with a chiseled point. Nice looking heads but unfortunately nearly impossible to sharpen (at least for me!). Since I couldn't figure out how to sharpen them properly, I ended up cutting razors blades in half and gluing them on the blades. I had read about doing this in Bow and Arrow Magazine so it seemed like a good idea at the time.

Today times are very different. You can learn a lot about deer and deer hunting as well as shooting a bow and arrow without ever stepping a foot outside. I have the latest and greatest hunting clothes, gear, and accessories. I see more deer in a typical day while hunting my property in Iowa than I might have seen in an entire season when I first started out over forty years ago. It took me five years to kill my first deer and another six years before I took my second. They say that true enjoyment and satisfaction comes from the journey itself...not in actually reaching the destination. While I still enjoy my days afield and am now a fairly successful hunter, it just somehow does not compare to the days when I was first experiencing and learning to be a deer hunter. Shooting a deer, any deer, was a quest and adventure. Expectations were not very high in those days but hopes and dreams were. Occasional tastes, or near-tastes, of success only whetted the appetite to be more-persistent and try even harder. The things I was willing to do back then in my quest to shoot a deer...standing on a wet tree limb, soaked to the skin wearing wet World War II camo cotton clothes, hoping a deer would walk by before I fell out of the tree...teeth chattering all night long on a bitter cold December night while trying to sleep in a cheap canvas pup tent wearing every piece of clothing I brought for the weekend. Believe it or not, I really miss those days!



THE “PROFESSIONAL” BOWHUNTER

The Archers' Magazine
February 1964

Since publication in a recent issue of T-A-M/NB of information concerning the formation of the Professional Bowhunters Society, we have had some comments regarding the use of the word “professional” in this title. Almost every archer this old bowhunter has discussed the subject with brings up the question as to why the word is used.

When we asked Donald Thompson, one of the founders of the PBS, the same question, he answered thusly; “The dictionary defines the word professional as follows: Professional of or pertaining to a profession; as professional ethics. Characteristic of or conforming to the standards of a profession; as, distinctly professional work. Engaging for a livelihood or gain in an activity pursues, usually or often, *for noncommercial satisfaction by amateurs*; as, a professional, as contrasted by amateur performers; as a professional race. Following a line of conduct as though it were a profession; hence, assumed; as a professional patriot. One who engages in anything professionally; a professional worker; opposed to amateur. Professionalism—conduct, aims, qualities, etc. characteristic of a profession.”

Then Don adds these pertinent comments: “Just ask yourself this, who can help the bowhunter most? The qualified professional bowhunter appearing before interested groups or the target archer who hunts once a year? Who can explain the bowhunting program best? Who can formulate bowhunting policies best?

In other

sports it is assumed that the expert is the one to listen to for proper information. In archery it has been the opposite because the public has never known the difference. With the PBS the public will readily conceive the difference...Bowhunting as contrasted to target archery has never reached its proper perspective...”

With this explanation, the title to the new association takes on a new and more plausible meaning. It is also true that the bowhunting element in archery has, for the most part, had very little to say about the sport, and often not even much to say about its own phase, that of BOW HUNTING!

Motivation of — The Professional Bowhunters Society

The “motivation” of the PBS has been ably expressed by its first president, Bill E. Hinton, of Hartwood, Va., in these following paragraphs:

The creation of the Professional Bowhunters Society is the result of experiences, lessons learned the hard way, struggle, thinking, deliberation, and decisions.

The reasoning that precluded the creation of the PBS was somewhat as follows:

Among those who shoot the bow and arrow, there are three basic groups: (1) the target shooter, (2) the bowhunter, and (3) those who mix the first two. The differences in the target archer and the bowhunter are many. The ambitions of each group are different. The bowhunter wants to hunt wild game, and practice-shooting is part of his preparation to hunt. Unlike the target archer whose ambition is fulfilled at the archery range, the bowhunter's ambition is not fulfilled at the practice range but in the actual hunt.

In target archery, competition leads to organization. Organization happens naturally in games of competition. Without it, there would



be confusion. The target archer needs organization, it is a must, and he has it as he rightly should. The nature of that organization is the personal business of each target archer.

Bowhunting is of such nature that organization often fails, or does not happen. Competition is not between persons. The lone hunter waiting on a game trail deep in the forest presents an atmosphere that somewhat negates the need of organization. He may attain his ambition without it! And so, organizations have failed for the bowhunter on the national level.

It is true that a mixture of these ambitions is found in some individuals. However, this mixture in an organization appears to be detrimental to promotion of better bowhunting and probably confusing to the target archer. This mixture is another reason for failure in national organizations.

Many bowhunters will never join any organization. At the same time, they are part of bowhunting. Bowhunting is what each bowhunter makes it. Herein lies a need; bowhunting needs to be elevated. It can be done by an organization and individuals. That organization must be a service organization acting as a helping friend to all bowhunters, especially to beginners and non-members. That organization must have high standards and pursue purposes that will reach the goal of "upgrading the bowhunter and bowhunting." The Professional Bowhunters Society tries to be such an organization.

In order to be that organization, worthy purposes are stated clearly in our constitution as follows:

It is the purpose of the Professional Bowhunters Society to be an organization whose membership consists of persons...who view:

- a. That by reason of choice, bowhunting is their primary archery interest, and that their ultimate aim and interest is the taking of wild game by bow and arrow of suitable weights, in a humane and sportsmanlike manner.
- b. To share with others their experience, knowledge, and shooting skills.

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- b. To share with others their experience, knowledge, and shooting skills.
- c. To be a conscientious bowhunter, promoting bowhunting by working to elevate its standards and the standards of those who practice the art of bowhunting.
- d. To provide training for others in safety, shooting skill and hunting techniques.
- e. To practice the wise use of our resources and the conservative

e. To practice conservation of natural resources, the conservation of our wild game and the

These purposes outline a program of activity that is demanding in many ways. They demand a membership of qualified persons to promote such a program. Therefore, deliberations were rather endless before decisions were concluded on the minimum requirements for membership.

Again, unlike the target archer who needs to be a member of an organization to participate in the game, the bowhunter does not really need to be a member to pursue his game. However, he does need someone to serve him and represent him. These two things justify the existence of the PBS—to serve the bowhunters' needs and to represent him in the most noble manner.

While the requirements for membership do make the membership exclusive, it is not intended to exclude any person from our friendship. We fail if we do that. "Include" is the word. The intent is to include—requirements were set to assure a qualified membership of professional-type bowhunters with experience, knowledge and success. The minimum requirements for membership are as follows:

- Completion of a membership application form and approval of same by the Executive Council.
- Membership fee of \$5.00.
- Attained the age of 21 years.
- Three years of bowhunting experience.
- Agreement with the purposes and standards of the society.
- Have good moral character.
- Hunt regularly in all phases of archery and bowhunting a bow having a minimum weight of 50 pounds at the bowhunter's natural draw, and arrows with a minimum 16 grains.

- Two big game of one or more species and nine small game of three or more species, or
- Four big game of two or more species, or
- Eighteen small game of six or more species (Game classified according to accepted Game Department regulations).

These minimum requirements do not set a definite line, and some will find themselves near the edge. Many will more than satisfy all of the requirements but in some cases, bow weight may be a little under, age, experience etc. Membership has no cost, and withheld, but friendship was not. The way our constitution reads.

I personally believe these technical requirements are not enough. The question of money needs to be answered. To ask, "What can PBS do for me?" is the wrong motive. Rather, let every member and prospective member ask, "What can I do for bowhunting?" I want men who will work to elevate the sport! That should be a requirement for membership in PBS.

A brief history and progress should be given at this point. The was officially organized Sept. 8,

(Continued on Page 28)

(Continued on page 27)

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- d. To provide training for others in safety, shooting-skill and hunting techniques.
- e. To practice the wise use of our natural resources, the conservation of our wild game and the preservation of the natural habitat thereof.

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~ cont. on page 44



Ben Pearson, Inc.
Elects New President

GERRY E. POWELL has been named president of BEN PEARSON, INC. by its board of directors. His election to this position fills the vacancy left upon the death of Carl B. Haun, who has served the company as president since its inception in 1938. Serving with Mr. Powell are J. T. Haun, vice president; Ben Pearson, secretary-treasurer; and

Two new members were elected to the board of directors. They are Wayne Stone, president of the Simmons First National Bank, of Pine Bluff, and John H. Means, head of the J. H. Means Lumber Co., of Pine Bluff.

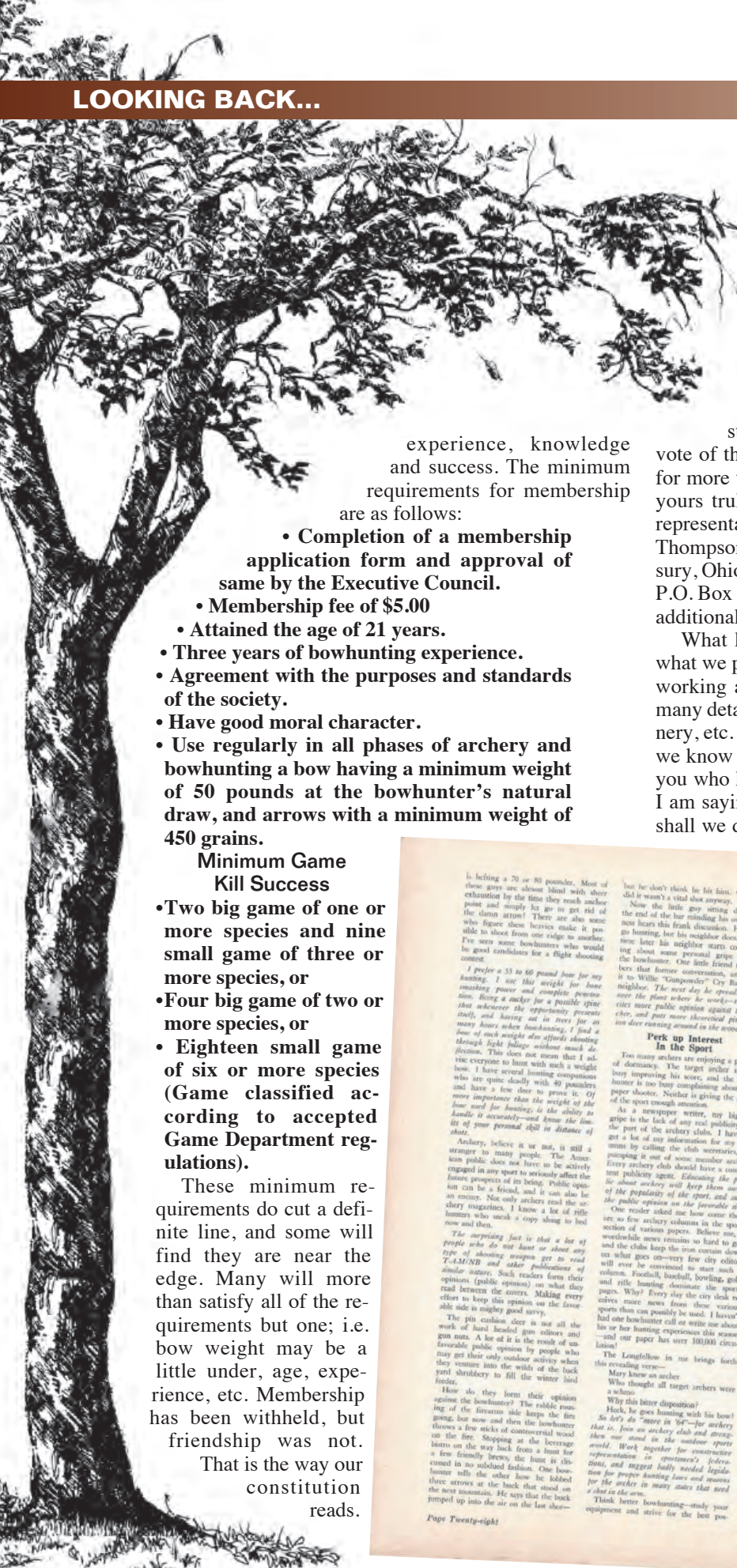
Mr. Haun for 26 years in various capacities. In his former position as assistant general manager, which he had held more than 20 years, he shared the responsibilities of the management of Ben P. Powell Insurance Agency in Pine Bluff.

Since 1938, Ben Pearson, Inc. has grown from a small archery factory with fewer than a dozen employees to an industry leader with a world-wide market employing around 700 people. It is the world's largest manufacturer of archery equipment.

largest manufacturer of archery equipment, and a leader in the manufacture of mechanical cotton pickers. Its products are distributed in 26 foreign countries. The company holds a major interest in the Tupelo Spindle Co., Columbus, Miss., and a subsidiary is Pearson Co., Mercedes, Texas. The company also maintains a large parts

Mr. Powell and his wife Margie and their three sons, Edwin, Ronnie and Robert Raye, live at No. 8 Longview in Pine Bluff, Ark.

THE ARCHERS' MAG.



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- Agreement with the purposes and standards of the society.
- Have good moral character.
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Minimum Game Kill Success

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A brief history and progress report should be given at this point. The society was officially organized September 8, 1963, in Charleston, W. Va., and has been incorporated under the laws of that state. It is democratic. The officers will be elected by vote of the membership and no elected officer can hold office for more than one consecutive term. The officers are president: yours truly; vice-president, Bob Swinehart, of Emmaus, Pa.; representatives: Marvin Almon, of Louisville, Ky.; Donald L. Thompson, of Charleston, W. Va.; and Tom Shupeinis, of Masury, Ohio, and the secretary-treasurer Mrs. Martinia Thompson, P.O. Box 6188, Charleston, W. Va. (If you desire membership or additional information, please write to the secretary-treasurer).

What has the society been doing? I could talk more about what we plan to do, but let's be realistic. The officers have been working and are at work. A new organization must deal with many details of handling membership, banking, emblems, stationery, etc. We are taking care of these things as professionally as we know how. We want to get down to the real work. Those of you who have had experience of this nature know exactly what I am saying. We do not ask, "What shall we do?" but, "Which shall we do first?" We are making definite plans to involve our whole membership in the activity of the society's purpose. The secret of success is work. We are working. I am well pleased with the number and quality of members that have been accepted and that so many states are already represented.

There is much to be said from this office and there will be other times to speak. Let us hear from you.

The Archer's Magazine and National Bowhunter welcome the Professional Bowhunters Society as another and as an important new association in the over-all organization of archery. The PBS is interested in your comments and T-A-M/NB is happy to offer its pages for communication from and to the Society.

Avail yourself of your opportunity, through T-A-M/NB, to be an "interested party" of the progress of this and all organizations of...all archery for all archers, everywhere.

Madison Gathering



Contest Winners



Jerry Pierce Bowyers Contest
1st place Professional: Blacktail Bows
Norm Johnson and Alan Pope



Jerry Pierce Bowyers Contest
1st place Amateur: Ken Hoehn



Best Knife Contest
1st place Best Overall Hunting Knife:
Monte Dunaway



Photo Contest
1st place Scenic /Wildlife: Patrick Cebuhar



Photo Contest
1st place Hero Shot: Greg Szalewski



Photo Contest
1st place Trail Cam: Gene Wensel

Congratulations to our Outstanding Achievement award recipients for 2018!



The Glenn St. Charles award went to Jim and Holly Akenson. This award recognizes the outstanding contributions to the sport of bowhunting. Jim and Holly's resume and body of work over many decades is beyond impressive. They have accumulated years of field study work on wolves and bears, along with youth mentoring. Jim devoted 10 years of PBS Council that include 2 presidential terms. He is the current hunt director for the Oregon Hunters Association.

Holly sits on the State of Oregon Game Commission appointed by our governor. She has been a no vote to the crossbow movement in Oregon. They both are volun-

teers for search and rescue in NE Oregon. The list goes on as I have only scratched the surface. The PBS is very fortunate to have them as dedicated members.

The Tom Shupienis award recipient went to Kevin Bahr. The award recognizes a "giving commitment" to the PBS. Kevin devoted 7 years of his life to PBS Council and is a past president. Kevin and his wife Karen have attended every gathering for at least the past 25 years. Odd year gatherings, youth hunts, regional hunts, donations for the gatherings. He has been one of our proofreaders for many years. He is simply the best I have ever seen at editing. He generously gives and asks nothing in return. He represents the very heart and soul of the PBS.



A Heartfelt Thank You



I was recently honored, at the Madison PBS Gathering, to receive the Tom Shupienis Award for service to our PBS. To say I was stunned is a vast understatement. I still can't imagine that our Council felt that I deserved such an honor. There are so many people that do a lot for our organization! I am humbled to have even been considered for this recognition. Thank you! I would be neglectful if I didn't give due credit to my mentor and one of my many PBS "heroes", Jack Smith. Jack set an example to me many years ago of dedication to our organization, always working behind the scenes not just for years, but literally for decades!

My collection of mounted animals will attest to the fact that I'm not a world famous bowhunter, although we don't usually go hungry around here. For me to be honored in such a way means that people really do appreciate the work that it takes to keep our PBS going, even by just a regular person. The PBS has been such a big part

of my life, even my whole family's life. I've been able to experience many great adventures with my fellow PBS members over the years. We've met so many great people and made many life-long friends along the journey. That in itself makes it all worth it. I am indeed a rich man in that regard. So again, thank you for honoring me in such a way. It is truly humbling and appreciated.

Kevin Bahr



See what's happening at
www.professionalbowhunters.org

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- Discussion Forums • Online Store
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- Gathering Information • Membership Dues Payment
- PBS History
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- Decal (*qualified*) \$3.00 ppd.
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Order on the website or send all orders to:

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

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Magazine Layout and Design by

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