



THE UNITED

BOWHUNTER

Fall 2018



Official Publication of The United Bowhunters of Missouri



Calendar of Events

October

- 1st - Missouri rabbit season opens
- 1st-31st- Missouri fall turkey season
- 27th-28th- Missouri early deer firearms youth season

November

- 10th-20th- Missouri deer firearms season
- 23rd-25th- Missouri late deer firearms season

December

- 22nd-Opening of Missouri alternative methods season

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It is the purpose of The United Bowhunters of Missouri to support and upgrade the sport of bowhunting and foster a spirit of sportsmanship.

The United Bowhunter is published quarterly by The United Bowhunters of Missouri for the membership. This publication is a public forum available to the members to voice their ideas, concerns and to share their experiences.

Written materials, photos and artwork for publication are welcome. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope with the materials you would like returned. The editors can assume no responsibility for any submitted materials.

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— On the Cover —
 Member Harry Mauchenheimer helps out a young lady with her bow at Deaf Camp.

deadlines for submitting copy and pictures to The United Bowhunter
Feb. 15th, May 3rd, Sept. 15th, Dec. 10th



LISTEN!! IF YOU PAY ATTENTION, you can hear the sound of arrows being flung all over the state.

At this writing, it is only 20 days and a wake up until our Missouri archery season opens. These last few days have had fall like temperatures, highs in the low to mid 70s and low 60s at night. It was a blessing. I know several of our membership are traveling for early hunts in Colorado, Texas, Wyoming, and Maine just to name a few. We wish you all good luck and bring home stories if nothing else.

Our July membership meeting went well. There have been some changes in your board. First, Brian Peterson is no longer on the board and his job as treasurer now belongs to John Banderman. And

since John cannot hold two spots on the board we want to thank Bob Burns for stepping up and taking over the position of secretary. There was also some discussion about the newsletter. We are going to try and help out Darren by getting more material in for him to print. Each board member is taking on an assignment each month to write a article. This DOES NOT mean we do not need your stories and articles. This is your newsletter and only you can keep the rest of us informed about what is going on in our club.

As far as I have heard, Deaf Camp went off without a hitch and it has secured enough funding to last a few years if all goes as planned. I hope that someone who was there will have a story to share with the rest of us. The Hand Camp is coming up soon and, as always, it

promises to be a good time. If you have never volunteered for either of these you really need to. You will not be disappointed.

Thanks all and be safe this upcoming season. We want hunting stories not hospital adventures. ■



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AS MOST OF YOU KNOW, I have just returned from a bear hunt at Squapan Mountain Outfitters in Maine. Tony donates a hunt to the UBM every year and this year I was lucky enough to go on it. But this is not about that, although we really need to support Tony and go on hunts other than the donated ones or go along on the donated hunt as an extra hunter. His prices are really reasonable for what you get. Great food, lodging, active baits and anything else you can think of to make your hunt more enjoyable. But, I digress. What this is about is us as hunters and our chosen equipment.

In the first two weeks of season at Squapan, they had 19 traditional

hunters. In the first week, they had three bears killed, five wounded, and five missed shots. In the second week, he had one wounded. None of the wounded bears were recovered. This is not good!! This gives the anti-hunters the fuel they need to preach against us. We as hunters need to make sure our equipment is properly tuned.

Our arrows need to go where they are supposed to. Just because you shoot 3D all summer and your field points are hitting correctly does not mean your broadheads will. You need to start as early as spring and tune your arrows with your broadheads because they do fly differently!! Work on them until you are getting groups you feel con-

fidant will ethically kill that animal. The old saying that you should be able to put them all in a 9-inch pie plate at 20 yards is okay but we can probably do better. The next thing we need is practice. Practice how you hunt. Practice from tree stands and ground blinds. Practice while wearing the clothing you hunt in. Practice awkward positions. Anything you can think of to make it easier to make that perfect shot, practice it.

This little rant is my opinion, but I hope others share it. I hope you all see the need for this and try to take it into consideration. There are no "good enoughs" in ethical hunting. ■

Arrow Building Contest at the 2019 Festival

John Banderman

WE ARE TRYING SOMETHING new for the 2019 festival. We have a lot of talented members among us so bring in the best arrow (just one) you can make. We will be set up by the registration table to receive them. The only rule is that you can't build arrows professionally. It doesn't matter if it is wood, aluminum, or carbon. Just make it as eye catching as possible. No broadheads please, just field points. We will have the guest speaker pick the winner. So as not to mess up a set, you will get your arrow back. Looking forward to seeing all your unique ideas. If you have any questions just call me, John Banderman, 314-402-0206. ■

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THE UBM BOARD MEETING WAS called to order at 11:30 am on July 7th at the Oasis Hotel and Convention Center in Springfield, MO. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and the board welcomed new member, Justin Glastetter, and welcomed back Joel Davis and Lyle Shaulis, who were re-elected. Justin will take the position of long-time board member Brian Peterson. Jim Pyles remains President, and Ethan Grotheer stays as Vice-President. The new Secretary is Bob Burns and Treasurer is John Banderman. Darren Haverstick will stay on as Web Guru and Public Relations.

Old Business:

- The UBM trailer will be stored at board member Don Orrell's house. If it is needed for a function, get in contact with a board member.
- Open board meetings have not happened for a while. At the Rendezvous next year, we will have a question and answer session either Friday evening or Saturday. The

Rendezvous will be the weekend of June 28th-30th. It was agreed that we will do the pot luck dinner and mudbugs again next year. Thank you to all that brought food. It was all delicious.

- The Rendezvous next year will have the can raffles, skirmish, long distance shooting, and hopefully the soda bottle shoot. We can always use donations for the can raffles. We are always in need of volunteers for the Rendezvous with selling T-shirts, can raffles, etc. See a board member if you want to help.
- We also need to restock our Flu Flu arrows due to them being in the trailer that was stolen. If you can donate some Flu Flus, bring them to the Rendezvous or see a board member.

New Business:

- Deaf camp is Aug 10 - 12. Hand camp will be September 22nd. Outdoor Days in Kansas City will

be sometime in September.

- The CFM Affiliate Summit will be at Lake of the Ozarks, September 13th and 14th.
- A nomination was made to give our newsletter graphic designer a raise and it passed unanimously.
- The board agreed on writing more articles for the newsletter. If you would like to write an article or two or three let a board member know. You can also send your article to Darren at dchaverstick@gmail.com.
- The festival will be the weekend of February 8th-10th at the Oasis Hotel in Springfield. We have a contract with this facility until 2020. This year's guest speaker will be Fred Eichler. Seminars are being finalized as well as food and vendors. We will be having an arrow contest at the festival this year.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25pm. ■

Respectfully submitted, Bob Burns



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Thought we'd try a new regular contribution to the newsletter... Some "Seasonal" favorites!

"Missouri Burgoo"

Traditionally a 3-Meat Sunday stew, made with a venison, small game, and fowl. Feel free to substitute with what is in your woods or freezer at the time.

Ingredients:

- 1-Squirrel or Rabbit, quartered
- =2-Pounds Venison, cut into 1" cubes
- 2-Wild Turkey thighs, deboned and cut into 1" cubes (Quai, Crow, Pheasant... think outside the box)
- Salt & Pepper, Flour to coat
- Vegetable oil to brown
- 1-Green Pepper, diced
- 1-Onion, diced
- 2-Carrots, chopped
- 1-Stalk Celery, diced
- 3-Cloves Garlic, minced
- 1-14oz Can Diced Tomatoes
- 2-Cups each Chicken and Beef Stock. Adjust amount accordingly if you prefer a thicker stew or a more liquid soup.
- 1 or 2 Potato(s), cubed
- 1-14oz Can Whole Kernel Corn, drained (fresh or frozen preferred)
- 1-14oz Can Black-eyed Peas, drained
- 3 Tablespoons Worcestershire Sauce
- Salt, Pepper to taste.

Instructions:

- Heat oil in cast iron Dutch oven. Flour meat pieces and brown in small batches over medium-high heat (do not crowd). Set meat aside
- Add green pepper, onion, carrots and celery to pot, cook until browned, adding more oil if necessary. Add garlic, cook for one minute. Return the meat to the pot and deglaze the fond with the canned tomatoes and broth. Season with salt & pepper and bring to a simmer. Reduce heat and cover. Simmer gently on stovetop or braise in 250° oven for 2 hours.

--Optional--



- Debone small game meat and return to pot at this point if desired.
- Peel and cube potato(s) and add to pot, simmering until tender. Add Worcestershire sauce to taste.
- Add corn and black-eyed peas, mix well and cook for an additional 10 minutes. Serve with cornbread and your favorite bottle of hot sauce on the side.

Buttermilk Cornbread

Moist and tender, a perfect side for soups and stews.

Ingredients:

- 1-Stick Unsalted Butter, melted
- ½ Cup Sugar
- ¼ Cup Honey
- 2-Eggs, room temperature
- 1-Cup Buttermilk, room temperature
- 1-Cup All Purpose Flour
- 1-Cup Cornmeal
- ½ Teaspoon Salt
- ½ Teaspoon Baking Soda

Instructions:

- Preheat oven to 375°. Lightly grease an 8X8 baking pan.
- Combine melted butter, sugar, and honey in a large bowl. Whisk in the eggs one at a time, beating until the mixture is smooth. Add the buttermilk and mix thoroughly
- In a separate bowl, add the flour, cornmeal, salt and baking soda; whisk to combine. Add the dry ingredients gradually to the wet, stirring gently with a spatula until only a few lumps remain. Pour into pan, allowing to sit for 3 minutes before placing in oven.
- Bake for 20-25 minutes or until the top is golden brown and a tester comes out clean. Allow to cool for 5-10 minutes before cutting. Serve warm with butter and honey, jam, or molasses.

Easy Blackberry Cobbler

Warm and sweet finish to a meal, delicious with ice cream.

Ingredients:

- 6-Tablespoons Unsalted Butter
- ¾ Cup Flour
- ¾ Cup Sugar
- 1-Teaspoon Baking Powder
- ¼-Teaspoon Salt
- ¾ Cup Milk
- 2-Cups Berries (unsweetened)
- 1-Tablespoon Lemon Juice.
- 1-Tablespoon Turbinado (or coarse) Sugar for topping

Instructions:

- Preheat oven to 350°. Place butter in 9” round pie pan and set in oven to melt.
- Whisk flour, sugar, baking powder and salt in small bowl. Add milk and lemon juice and mix until smooth.
- Remove pan with melted butter from oven, pour batter into pan without stirring it into the butter. Arrange fruit over batter.
- Sprinkle Turbinado sugar over top. Bake until batter browns, approximately 40 minutes. Serve warm with vanilla ice cream.

I HAVE BEEN VERY FORTUNATE OVER THE YEARS to accomplish a feat most folks would agree is not that easily done--- harvest a spring tom turkey with traditional equipment utilizing natural cover—i.e. no popup blind. That is not to say I have not successfully used a blind, I have a barn full of ‘em, and probably need to get a couple more!

To relate the story of this spring’s (2018) success, I have to begin on Oct. 25th, 2017. That was a fateful day for me. I’m not sure how I survived the 15 foot fall from a homemade hang-on tree stand with only an extremely sore left shoulder and a big knot on my right thigh. Suffice it to say, the good Lord was looking out for me. After bouncing off a limb I was inverted, head-first toward the ground. I remember closing my eyes thinking there is no way out of this—I know I hit the ground in less than a second but I can still vividly recall the minutes it all took, crazy how your mind works sometimes!! After jumping up and quickly accessing my injuries and thanking Him for not taking me, I saw my cherished Choctaw recurve lying unstrung at the base of the tree—was this an omen—will I ever be able to shoot it again? The next couple of weeks were spent in denial. I thought I could man-up and get over this but shoulder surgery and everything that goes with it consumed the rest of the winter—a very long winter indeed. I won’t bore you with all the PAINFULL details. I felt like a girl crying to anyone that would listen and fortunately, for me, the UBM family did listen. Someone started a “group conversation” text that included Brian Peterson, Darren Haverstick, John Banderman plus 5 more. Dan Novotny had BOTH

knees replaced and Mike McDonald had his right ankle fused, (injured 12 years ago from a tree stand fall) our collective surgeries happened within days of each other so we had a lot to talk about. We cried to each other when our spouses got tired of hearing. After Mike related about a hole being drilled into his foot starting in his heel going into the ankle and then a steel rod getting hammered in place I decided my shoulder didn’t hurt bad at all! Our neighbor, Keith Hague, (yep, another UBMer) cut



and delivered truckloads of wood for the fireplace. John & Kristine Banderman came by; John went through years of physical therapy after an automobile incident, his preaching about sticking with the therapy and going slowly at shooting a bow helped keep me in line.

I did listen and by mid-March I could kinda shoot a 30# kid’s bow. Turkey season was looming, plus I had an Alaska bear hunt scheduled for late May so, against my

surgeon’s wishes, I continued to shoot the light bow. Mike Anderson (another UBMer from Clarksville, MO.) had loaned me a beautiful, smooth as silk, 44# tulipwood Black Widow recurve, try as I might, by opening week of turkey season I was still not comfortable shooting it so I broke out the old 870 Remington Wingmaster 20 gauge and had a blast (no pun intended) harvesting my first bird.

Progress with my shooting happened slowly at first but things started coming together. The 44# Widow was feeling pretty good so late in the second week of season I decided to give the pop-up a try. My thinking was that if I could get a tom at 10 yards, I could make the shot and the best chance for getting that close would be out of a blind. The weather had finally changed to more spring-like conditions; the birds were gobbling well early every morning and seemed to be getting active again later. I know a guy would be just as well off waiting until 9:00 to start hunting, get plenty of sleep, drinking coffee and not be so pissed off when the birds fly out the wrong way. Problem is I can’t stand not being there at fly-down, listening to those thunderous gobbles so close, getting him all riled up to the point of cutting off your seductive “come to me and we can party” yelps, heck I’m getting excited just writing this! But then the despair kicks in as those gobbles turn to silence or the gobbles get fainter as he moves away-- dang I called too much or dang I should have called more (the list of reasons they don’t come is endless) and then the courtship gets carried out somewhere in the next county. My first few mornings’ vigil went exactly that way, I was hearing and

seeing birds but my new can't-miss super-doooper diaphragm turkey call just wouldn't bring 'em in. I was getting sick of sitting in the fabric dungeon and convinced myself that tomorrow I would "run & bow" but as fate would have it, that evening just before dark I was sitting on the back patio and watched three toms march right off the neighbor's place headed straight to one of my pop-ups just below "the knob". I had sat up the blind just for this scenario; I was doomed again!

Sure enough, the next morning (Friday 5/4) under the cover of darkness I stealthily covered the 300 yards down the hill and across the creek, got the decoy out, got situated in the blind, and waited patiently for the first turkey talk. I started hearing what sounded like a young bird gobbling 200 yards to the east. I had done a few quiet tree yelps and he was answering each one! I waited until shooting light and did a fly-down cackle accompanied by some wild cutting and putting—the answering gobble was instantaneous and extremely close. Peeking out a turned down corner window of the blind, I could see the answering bird 25 yards up the hill. I swear the six-inch white oak limb he was roosted on was bending under his weight, his beard looked like a mop, and I thought for a second I could see fire in his eyes. Immediately I knew I was hosed! This mega-tom just watched me (probably for the umpteenth time) crawl into the blind. All was quiet for the next 15 minutes with the only answers to my calling coming from the original tom way to the east. The ground shook as the closer bird finally pitched straight down from his perch and his only acknowledgment to my pleading calls was a disdainful look over his shoulder. I am sure he was thinking

"what a dumb ass" as he marched off to parts unknown!

I felt pretty good as I exited the blind knowing that the only witness to my disgraceful attempt was my faithful tracking dog Kasey; she knows how this hunting with a bow works and keeps quiet about my failures. We headed west across the gravel road to a hide I had built a couple days before. Probably less than 20 minutes into my calling, a tom answered from the north with each gobble getting closer. He ended up at 15 yards but gave me no clear shot and he never spotted us—ok that was fun! Kasey and I wandered around, setting up in



a couple more spots for the next few hours but nothing showed up. However, the "witching hour" was approaching. My opinion is that the very best time to call in a tom, especially later in the season, is from 9:00 until close. The hens are going to their nests leaving the toms to wander around searching for company. I ended up on the same ridge the bird had come in on earlier and I had another hide 100 yards north on the edge of my pasture with a roadbed leading into the timber toward my previ-

ous hide. I sat out the decoy just off the trail and crawled into the shade behind a cedar tree; Kasey knew what was up and hid under a limb. I was sitting on my little Nifty Seat with the Widow leaning on a branch to my right. I had only called one time; probably sat there less than 10 minutes when looking to my left a gobbler was standing in the roadbed 20 yards away with nothing but air between us (I think it was the same tom from earlier). I thought no way I can move on this bird without getting spotted but I figured I can't do anything without the bow in my hand so as slowly as I could, I reached across to pick up the bow and moved into a shooting position. Unbelievably, he didn't catch me until I was at half draw but his mistake was he started turning straight away from me. This gave me as perfect an angle as you can get on a turkey. Too much of my concentration during my practice sessions had gone toward my shoulder and I had big concerns of thinking about the shoulder instead of the shot—I must have gone on auto pilot because the arrow was perfect, don't remember thinking about anything except where the arrow needed to go. I took off after him immediately but Kasey was a bit faster. The recovery was quick but I ended up with no tail feathers to display! The big snuffer broad-head took out mobility of one leg on entry and a wing on exit with all the goodies in between!

I have to thank the brotherhood of UBM, once again, for all the uplifting conversations. You all helped me man up and get through a bad time. As of this writing, I am up to shooting Rick Lanham's 50-pound bow he made for Brenda—Colorado mule deer better look out! ■

I RECEIVED A CALL FROM MY BROTHER, Denny, asking if my grandson, Devin, and I would help teach archery at a disabled children's camp. Some of the usual volunteers were not available this year and he is aware we have related experience supporting the annual Deaf Camp. We were available and agreed to help out.

The camp is held at Babblers State Park and named, "Camp We Can-Du". The host, or sponsor, of the camp is Disabled Athlete Sports Association (DASA). This is an annual week-long event with many repeat children, counselors, and trainers. Kelly Behlmann, (DASA Director) said they had 80 campers this year. It is well organized and staffed, which made our job easy. The Archery Coordinator (Don Cressler), brought the equipment; Genesis bows, carbon arrows, foam targets and bags of balloons. The only thing missing was a balloon pump. Good thing some young folks were willing to blow up the balloons!

The children arrived in groups with the assistance of other chil-





dren and counselors. Most required support equipment such as crutches, walkers, scooters, wheel chairs, etc. Some have more than one disability. Despite their disabilities, they were excited about having an opportunity to shoot a bow. Each camper wore a winning smile, plus projected a positive attitude while patiently waiting their turn to shoot. I was impressed with how friendly and polite everyone was. It is obvious that the DASA organization is family oriented.

Some could hold the bow and draw it while others required help, either holding or drawing. Determining if they were right or left handed and what assistance they need was the normal conversation. The large foam targets (sitting on easels) were covered with balloons. When someone popped a balloon, everyone cheered and gave the shooter a high five. They were happy to just watch the arrow fly. You know that feeling? When I asked one little girl if she shot before, she replied, “yes, last year and I popped a balloon”. On her last arrow, she popped a balloon and you could see her face light up. That smile of satisfaction was worth my being there. ■

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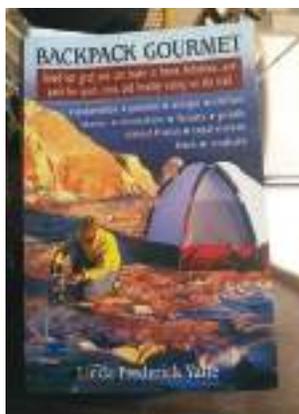
YOU MIGHT HAVE MISSED the debut of Harry Mauchenheimer's Bottle Launcher at the UBM Rendezvous. It wasn't advertised and took a while to set up in the same area as the long-distance shoot. Harry finished building it the Tuesday before the Rendezvous and didn't have time to notify everyone to bring flu-flu's. Even with a limited number of flu-flu's, the Launcher became a quick success.

The Launcher holds twelve two-liter soda bottles fitted on PVC pipe. The bottles are propelled by an air compressor. Each bottle is independently triggered

using wash machine solenoids. Harry stood next to the shooters with a remote trigger system. The bottles shoot approximately 30 feet in the air at different angles depending on the position of the PVC. Since this was the Launcher's first appearance, Harry was collecting ideas to improve and enhance it. He is also pondering shooting rules or guidelines, knowing all competition requires consistent management. I am sure we will see a "new and improved" model, plus ground rules at our next Rendezvous.

Shooters seemed to gain excitement while trying to hit the flying targets, or was that frustration? The bottles finished the debut without holes or dents, proving wing shooting with a traditional bow is more difficult than some think. What an ingenious idea! Our UBM members continue to provide novel and fun activities related to archery that can be enjoyed at our gatherings. Thanks to Harry and all those who take the time to work for the benefit of all our members. This is what keeps UBM a success..... ■





YEARS AGO, I went on an elk hunt in Colorado and, like most people, bought some commercially

made dehydrated meals. Although they tasted decent, the portions weren't large enough and they were full of sodium and preservatives.

After that trip, I started to explore other options for meals. The first place that I looked was within the backpacking community as most things that used in backcountry hunting originate with backpackers. It was there that a friend of mine stumbled across a book called "Backpack Gourmet" by Linda Friedrich Yaffe. The gist of the book is that you can make and dehydrate most meals that you already make for dinner. The book contains recipes for making your own dehydrated meals including stews, pastas, chili, soups, lasagnas, breakfasts, snacks.....the list goes on and on. Most of the meal recipes yield four large servings that are high in protein and complex carbs. I use the recipes as a base that I add or subtract ingredients to adjust to my liking such as adding ground turkey to some of the meatless stews or cutting out some of the spices that I don't like.

A couple of things that I have learned is to dice any vegetables very small. Also, when browning/adding ground meat, chop it up

in the pan into small chunks. Both of these tips will aid in the rehydration process.

Step 1



Make the meal (and restrain yourself from eating it). The food may look more Like a soup than a stew. This is normal the dehydrator will take care of it.

Step 2



Spread the prepared meal on parchment paper ined trays in a quality dehydrator. If you do not have one do the same as me and 'borrow' one from a friend (Joel Davis).

Step 3



Once the meal is fully dry, empty the trays into a large bowl and crush the contents into smaller pieces with your hands. Use a scale to divide the meals into four equal portions, (usually between 4-5 ounces per serving).

Step 4



Hydrate the meal. I have found that when I get back to camp I will add a meal to my titanium pot and add cold water and let it sit and hydrate for a few minutes before heating. Over the course of a hunt this saves quite a bit of fuel. Enjoy it. ■

HELLO AGAIN UBM READERS! I hope that the last few months have been full of productive hunting prep, hunting, and any other things you spent your time doing.

First things first, I want to address the elephant in the room and clear the air so that the rest of this newsletter, and the relationship I have with this organization, can continue without stepping on egg shells.

Also, a big thank you to the Board for the raise! Both Bank of America and I thank you for their upcoming payment.

I received a letter a month or so ago about my column and some complaints about it. It boiled down to some members don't care much for what I talk about in this section of the newsletter (tattoos, hair, social events I plan to attend, etc.) as they don't have anything to do with hunting or the outdoors.

First off, thanks for reading a column that is really just glorified filler. I am well aware that I don't hunt, fish, or leave the house for things that aren't work, errands, or the occasional social venture.

I took this column over from my predecessor, Harold Kinder. He seldom talked about hunting and used the space, instead, to talk about his grandkids, his lady friends, and golf. No one said anything about his column, or my version, until the last issue came out; which led me to believe that there was more to these complaints than me being off-topic.

In my last column, I said I was volunteering at my local PRIDE event, and was excited to be around like-minded folk. It was only after I said this that people came out of the woodwork to make their opinions known.

I'm not an idiot, and I know that

the world isn't one drum circle about peace and love. However, I did expect that a passing mention of an event celebrating the LGBTQIA (yeah, there's more letters than the first four) community would be glossed over and tolerated by average civil society.

I guess I was wrong in that assumption and I, along with those close to me, were not pleased. Again, not expecting Woodstock levels of love, but it still hurt. FUN FACT: I almost didn't put that part in because I thought this might happen, but I figured that people who read this are mature enough to tolerate it.

FUN GAME: Replace LGBT+ event with building homes in Honduras for sick orphans or a Young Republicans Convention and see if you feel the same way about the original version.

I'm now done lecturing you about how all people deserve to be treated with respect, but clearly a select few here need a reminder. I thought the Bible said something eerily similar to that as well.

For those wondering how volunteering went, it was miserable. It was 100 degrees, muggy, and I emptied trashcans for the last hour of my shift. I was sweaty, smelly, and gross and glad the day was over.

The rest of it was more or less pleasant, temperatures aside. I met some new people and ran into some friends. I also gave one of my tattoo artists a whole lot of free advertising, so hooray!

I'm not volunteering again, my body isn't meant for the heat, but it was a worthwhile experience. I'm better as a civilian participant.

As stated earlier, this column is a holdover from the previous layout and I use it to fill space in these

newsletters. If you don't like my content, write something to take its place. I'm sure you hunted recently, so write about it! Tell us how you killed that 10-point buck, or about the turkey that you spent 3 days luring in. Heck, write about shooting squirrels from your living room through the crack on the screen door. It's probably more interesting than my ramblings.

Secondly, I've heard several of you like this column, so I'll keep writing it, if space permits. In that case, just skip this section if you don't care for it and read the rest of the newsletter. It keeps the blood pressure down.

That's it for this installment, or in this case, the soap box sermon.

For those wondering about hair/tattoos, etc., I will have three new tattoos by the time you see me at the Festival and my hair is a dark magenta. To see these developments and more, follow me on Instagram, @booradleymoment, or add me on Facebook. ■

Elise

Editor's note:

Elise did not ask for this job as graphic designer. I asked her if she would do it and she agreed because she knows how much this organization means to me. She is doing us a favor; not the other way around. And while she doesn't hunt, or shoot a bow, or do any other activity associated with this club, she still supports it in various ways like making and donating items to our auctions every year. How many of you can say that? I think it's sad that some of you find fault with her, not because of the quality of work she does, but because she looks and thinks differently than you do and is not ashamed to show it. I think the club deserves better than that from its members.

AS ALWAYS, the annual pilgrimage to the Outdoor Skills Camp for Hearing Impaired Children held at the H Roe Bartle Boy Scout Ranch near Osceola, MO was a good time for all those involved. I know that this year will stick out especially in my memory for a couple of reasons. One, I spent most of the first day of camp with MDC photographer, Noppadol Paothong, as we collaborated on an article I'm writing about the camp for the *Missouri Conservationist* magazine. The second reason is that this may very likely be the last year for the camp.

The primary financial backer for the program has decided not to donate anymore so the camp is hurting for money. It will be a shame to see such an uplifting program end after 17 years of enriching the lives of everyone who participated in the camp, be it camper or counselor. However, some things cannot be avoided. Various organizations, like the UBM, have pledged money to help keep the camp financially solvent but a recent email from the camp director, Tisha Holden, may have been the harbinger of death. She had just received notification

from the Boy Scouts that they were going to substantially raise the fees that they charge the camp to use their facilities. We shall see how events unfold in the coming months.

Despite the gloom of closure hanging over all of our heads, the camping families seemed to really enjoy all the activities and I know the UBM volunteers were their usual chipper selves. I want to thank all of them for donating their time and resources to this wonderful event. I sure hope we get to do it again next year! ■







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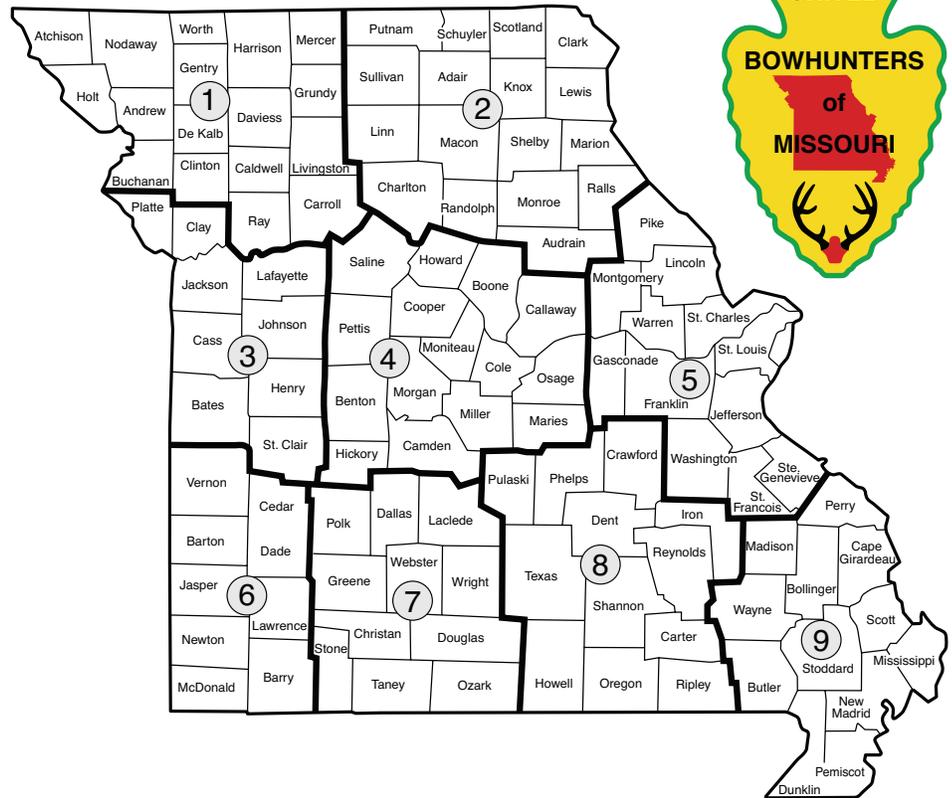
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