



# THE UNITED Fall 2020 BOWHUNTER



Official Publication of The United Bowhunters of Missouri



# Calendar of Events

## October

1<sup>st</sup>: MO rabbit season opens  
 1<sup>st</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>: MO fall turkey season  
 31<sup>st</sup>: Start of 1<sup>st</sup> MO youth firearms deer season

## November

1<sup>st</sup>: End of MO youth firearms deer season  
 14<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>: MO regular firearms deer season  
 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>: MO second youth firearms deer season

## December

4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>: MO firearms antlerless deer season  
 26<sup>th</sup>: Start of MO alternative methods deer season

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### Submission Guidelines

Newsletter submissions must be done using a word processing program like Microsoft Word and must be submitted in an electronic format. Typed and handwritten hard copies will no longer be accepted. All effort will be made to use any submission sent but preference will be given to submissions that have photos accompanying them.

Submit all photos and stories to: Darren Haverstick, Editor  
*The United Bowhunter*, 10276 N FR 183 Fair Grove, MO 65648  
 or you can email: [Dchaverstick@gmail.com](mailto:Dchaverstick@gmail.com) Cell phone: (417) 693-5304

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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.

The editors reserve the right to edit or reject any material and the right to crop any submitted photographs.

Send articles and photos for submissions consideration, question and comments to:

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— On the Cover —

Jamie Donnelly with his fine buck antelope.

deadlines for submitting copy and pictures to The United Bowhunter  
**Mar. 10th, June 10th, Sept. 10th, Dec. 10th**

HELLO ALL,  
As of this writing, I'm currently overlooking my entire inventory of hunting gear as I prepare to embark on my annual trip to Wyoming to chase speedgoats. This year I'll just be looking to take a doe for the freezer, but I'll also be taking two companions who possess buck tags and have never chased pronghorn before, so it's sure to be an exciting trip!

By the time I return home, our season will have begun, so I hope that many of you have your bows tuned and broadheads extra sharp. I look forward to hearing about our fellow members' achievements this fall in the woods. Speaking of which, PLEEEAASE share your story with the newsletter. You don't

need to be a Don Thomas or Mike Mitten to qualify for writing a nice piece for our newsletter, we just want to hear your story in your words, and I'd be willing to bet so would the rest of the membership. So, let's start filling up these pages again.

In club news:

We have a fairly concrete plan for this coming Festival in February 2021, provided that the virus doesn't shut us down. I feel like this is going to be a great year to reunite with each other after an odd 2020 and catch up on hunting stories, and, hopefully, pick up some new gear.

Also, we welcomed three new board members with this year's election: William Brown, Cody Cass, and Dr. Nick Gray. I'm incredibly optimistic about

the future of the UBM and I'm looking forward to what these next few years will bring for us all.

Lastly, I'd like to send out a tremendous thank you to Jim Pyles for all that he has done for the UBM, both as a member for all of these years and for serving as our president for the last few. Jim did an incredible job of working around obstacles on our behalf, while also dealing with a few of his own, all the while keeping the club functioning like a well-oiled machine. We all owe him our gratitude, and I'm personally thankful for both his leadership and friendship. What a guy!

Here's to hoping for a better end to the year and a lot of tags and experiences fulfilled for us all! Shoot straight, everyone. ■

## The UBM Apparel Store

The UBM, in cooperation with Queensboro.com, now has its own online store selling quality clothing branded with the club's logo. There are hundreds of items to choose from and the UBM makes a modest 5% profit from each sale. Visit often because there are new sales taking place each week!

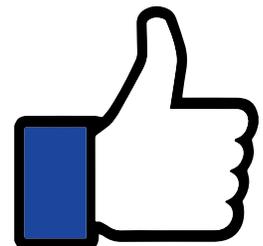


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**THE AUGUST 8TH UBM BOARD AND GENERAL MEETING**

The Treasurer reported a balance of \$26,525.73 in the club checking account. Old business was the need for articles for the newsletter. If you have a good hunting story, write it down and send it in. The board would

like to thank Jim Pyles, Beau Johnston, and Don Orrell for serving on the board. The board welcomes William Brown, Dr. Gray and Cody Cass as new members. 84 ballots were returned for this election. The president took nominations for president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. The new UBM President is Ethan Grotheer, Vice-President is William Brown, Secretary is Bob Burns and Treasurer is John Banderman. Justin Glastetter, Joel Davis and Lyle Shaulis were not in attendance.

New business is the upcoming Festival the weekend of February 11-13, 2021 at the Oasis Hotel in Springfield, MO. We are continuing to make plans for the Festival, but we will wait to see what the Oasis tells us when the Festival gets closer. We discussed giving a Lifetime Achievement Award and speakers for the Festival. If you have any suggestions or ideas get in contact with Bob Burns. Table favors were also discussed. Kristine Banderman will get prices on coffee cups/soup mugs, notepads, belt buckles and bolo ties. If you have nominees for any awards you need to get in touch with Ethan Grotheer. John Banderman made a motion to pay Darren Haverstick \$200.00 for each newsletter. Bob Burns seconded. All voted in favor. It was also discussed to have copies or a PDF file of the constitution available for members. Copies will be available at the Festival.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am. ■  
Respectfully submitted by Bob Burn

**Share the Harvest- More Important This Year Than Ever**

**I T HAS BEEN A CRAZY YEAR** so far. All we need is a Zombie Apocalypse and an Alien Invasion to round out the collection of bad news. The current pandemic has touched all our lives in one way or another and not in a positive way. While a lot of us are able to escape the madness for a bit with a bow in our hands, others are too mired down in just trying to get by to think about extracurricular activities.

Recent events have caused food insecurity to touch a lot of folks who never thought they would be in such a position. Food pantries across the state have already seen a marked increase in people needing their services and we haven't even reached the peak winter months. That is where you, the mighty hunter, can help out. When you are out there thinning



your local whitetail population, please consider donating a deer or six to the Share the Harvest program. The Conservation Federation of Missouri is covering the first \$75 of the processing costs you incur for donating a whole deer and there are many local organizations that will pick up the rest of the tab. All you have to do is call a participating meat processor, or the CFM office, to get the details. And if you don't want to donate a whole deer, just tell the processor a poundage you



**SHARE THE HARVEST**

are willing to part with to help the cause. No donation is too small, and all are certainly appreciated!

Where I grew up, towards the headwaters of the Current River, one of the primary industries is tourism. Those people are used to having a lean winter, but this year has been especially tough on

them since winter started around the first of April. Fortunately, I know that any deer I donate to a local locker plant will stay right in that area and maybe even help out a friend that I didn't know needed the help. We Missourians are a proud bunch and asking for assistance goes against our nature. However, the need is there, especially now, even if it goes unspoken.

With the governor's recent signature on HB 1711, the Share the Harvest program has been expanded to include shelf-stable

venison for distribution. This is a huge deal because it gives the food pantries the ability to plan ahead, months in advance, on how best to dole out that particular item. Our plan is to manufacture 2-packs of venison snack sticks and have those sent out to pantries across the state. We hope to incorporate these sticks into the after-school backpack programs to give children access to another source of protein. There are still several logistical hurdles to overcome before this happens but the STH committee is working

hard to make this a reality.

Share the Harvest is a program that is nothing but a win for everyone involved. Please consider participating in something that makes such a difference in people's lives. 2020 has been rough on a lot of folks but you can help ease their suffering by donating now.

Have a safe, fun, and hopefully productive season! ■

Darren Haverstick  
Chairperson – CFM Share the Harvest Committee

## ➤➤➤ To Kill a Bison

Dick Wood ➤

**T**HE FOLLOWING SHORT ARTICLE WAS WRITTEN BY my friend Dennis Dunn, arguably the most accomplished BAREBOW hunter on the planet! I first met Dennis well over 15 years ago when he held the World

Record Grizzly Bear Record.

At the 50 Year Pope and Young Anniversary in Rochester, Dennis was still advocating for P & Y to accept species taken with a lighted-nock, will full knowledge that a one-inch larger Griz had

been taken, that would move his bear to 2nd place. Dennis Dunn is indeed at the top of the class, as a "Class-Act"! I cherish his friendship and admire his qualities and talents. I am in awe of his accomplishments and

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treasure his highly acclaimed book “BAREBOW”.

Of special interest to me, was that vicariously, I shared this successful but arduous bison hunt with Dennis. We could only communicate by text messaging with his Garmin InReach satellite device as the famous Kaibab Plateau is remarkably remote. We multiple messaged nearly every day and I could almost observe the Kaibab chipmunks learning to take pecans from his fingers inside the 7x7 blind. I take a little pride in sharing that one message I sent on the day before his kill... read AS FOLLOWS: “I feel a story book ending in the offing! YOU are about to Jack A. Lantern on a PUMPKINHEAD!”

Read this synopsis and ask yourself if this 80-year-old young man is not a man among men!

Dennis wrote in late August:

I just returned last week from Arizona after one of the most remarkable hunting adventures of my life, and I thought I'd share it with you.

You are probably aware that, over the past dozen years or so, virtually all of the House Rock bison herd have migrated up onto the Kaibab Plateau and into the northern half of the Grand Canyon National Park — where, of course, they can't be hunted. Because the herd has grown to over 1200, by Park Service estimates, both AZG&F and the Service encourage hunting for them from blinds over salt — situated in

close proximity to the northern Park boundary. The various salt locations are stretched out over about 25 miles on an East/West axis, more or less parallel to the boundary. They are all maintained by a phenomenal outfitter named Russ Jacoby, of Flagstaff, AZ.

For 66 days, total — in unbroken stints of 35 and then 31 days— I spent the summer of 2020 self-quarantining in a Double Bull blind, in an upright chair, for 12 hours a day. My goal was to harvest with my recurve and a wood arrow a true “Pumpkinhead.” I wasn't sure my 80-year-old spine was going to survive the endurance marathon, but somehow it managed.

The bison are hunted virtually year-round, and almost all the



bison killed are taken from blinds now; thus the animals are very afraid of being outside the Park. “Spot & Stalk” is impossible because they get shot at all the time, and most of their visits to the salts are nocturnal. Occasionally, however, they give in to their craving for salt, make a mistake, and sneak across the boundary during daylight hours — especially when it is very hot, or during the dark-of-the-moon periods. That is what provides the patient hunter an occasional opportunity. AZG&F advertises the hunt in their Regs as one of the toughest hunts in the State — and definitely not for everyone.

During my 66-day “sit,” I passed up several lesser Pope & Young bulls, holding out for one of

Boone & Crockett quality. The one I ended up harvesting on August 11th (three days before my tag was to expire) grossed green 115 1/8th, B & C, so it is not quite going to make that record book, but it will score high up in the P & Y records. The harvest of this trophy bull now puts me within one, single species-“upgrade” of the first-ever, BAREBOW, all Pope-&-Young Super Slam. Tom Hoffman, Jack Frost, Walt Palmer, Randy Liljenquist, and Edwin DeYoung have all recorded all 29 species in the P & Y Records, but no one has ever done it without yardage sight-pins attached to their bows for aiming. Being now in my ninth decade of life, I realize I’m in a race with Father Time. Next year — with God’s blessing — I hope to harvest a

trophy-quality Alaska Barren Ground Caribou, to complete my quest. It will be my eighth hunt for that species.

The bull pictured below weighed nearly 2000 pounds (in the estimate of Russ Jacoby). With God’s guiding hand, my Suzanne St. Charles’ fir arrow (800 grains and tipped with a 225-grain Tuffhead broadhead) transfixed both lungs and completely severed the pulmonary artery in between them. As a result, the bull suffered instant, massive, internal bleeding and died within seconds — traveling only 18 yards.

Providential assistance? You bet! I’ll accept it anytime it’s offered. ■

## Wyoming!

Tim Donnelly

**AUGUST 13, 2020 FOUND US ON INTERSTATE 90 THROUGH** South Dakota, heading west. We had two days of traveling to get to our destination in the great state of Wyoming. We were after my wife’s favorite animal to hunt; the “speed goat” of the western prairie, the American Pronghorn! It had been ten years since we had hunted antelope. For many years it had been pretty much a given that we would hunt pronghorn in Wyoming but other hunts and life activities had kind of got in the way and years passed. My son, Jamie would be accompanying Cheryl and myself on the adventure. This trip really originated in February of 2017 in St. Louis, Missouri during the Panel Measuring of



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Jamie and Tim with Jamie’s fine antelope.

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the Pope & Young Club Convention. I was fortunate enough to be asked onto the Panel for that Convention and my roommate was fellow measurer Stan Zirbel. As all hunters do, our conversations turned to our past adventures and we soon discovered that we both loved Wyoming and hunting “speed goats”. Stan told me of his honey hole, and gave me the name and number of the rancher, and as they say the rest is history. We would be hunting in Campbell County, Wyoming. If any of you are familiar with Wyoming you know that Campbell is one of the most densely populated counties when it comes

to pronghorn numbers. I had brought Jamie to Wyoming for his high school graduation gift in the year 2000. He was fortunate enough to kill a Pope & Young antelope then. This would be his second trip for antelope and he would be hunting with his Black Widow recurve.

Cheryl and I have both taken several of the prairie speedsters over the years but as I said before we had been on an antelope hiatus, so to speak, for the last ten years. Needless to say, we were all excited to be back in Wyoming and hunting new property.



Aim small – miss small!

We pulled our 23-foot Airstream camper into the ranch about 3 o'clock in the afternoon on the 14th of August. The next day would be opening morning. We met the ranch owner and his family. As with many properties out here they are big and have been in the families for generations! This ranch was no exception. We will call the rancher “Marty”, since that is his name, and his family story was spellbinding as most western sagas are. The ranch was “homesteaded” by his great grandfather and six other brothers/relatives. According

to Marty, each homesteader was awarded half a section, 320 acres, and had to show an improvement to the property within a set amount of time. The family started with three and a half sections or 1,280 acres, if my math is correct. So, by hand and horse, they started clearing sage brush and rocks to make “hay fields”. The hay fields that Marty has today are some of the very same ones that his ancestors cleared 150 years ago! Is that not amazing to think about? As time went by Marty’s great grandfather bought out the other brothers/relatives. Meanwhile, his grandfather and father both bought

more property when they could until currently the ranch consists of about 15,000 acres! Truly the stuff western novels are made of. I could sit and listen to stories like this for hours. Marty took us out and showed us the water holes where we could set up our blinds. He gave us multiple options and told us we could hunt anywhere we wanted. I learned many years ago to not “guide the guide”. He lives with these animals every day and knows their habits and habitats. We set up two blinds on the hole that he suggested.

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The next morning found Cheryl and me in one blind and Jamie in the other. Our blinds were no more than 25 yards apart, set on the shallow end of a rather large water hole. The banks were steep on the remaining sides of the hole. Our end was flat and grassy as the water just faded out into the prairie. Antelope don't like steep banks. The tracks showed all of the traffic was at our end of the water hole where they could see better and had a quicker avenue of retreat. We hadn't been in the blind ten minutes, I mean the eastern sky was still pink, when I looked out and saw a buck antelope, on a steady walk, headed right to the water. I told Cheryl it was on! I'm not sure if she even had her release on her wrist yet. The buck slowed momentarily to look at Jamie's blind, swung out around it and circled right in front out our blind. Cheryl's breath was short and choppy. Mister Adrenaline was on the scene! It had been ten years since she had drawn back on a "Prairie Ghost" we were barely settled in the blind and her opportunity was about to happen. His head went down to the water, he was committed.

No jerking back up to try and catch us. He had drunk at this water hole many times and was comfortable. I whispered "26 yards" to Cheryl. Her bow came back and she settled in on the unsuspecting speedster. I heard the thump of the Hoyt compound and saw the flash of the arrow as it went under, yes under the buck! He left without hesitation! I looked at my wife with a blank expression and asked, "What

happened"? Twenty-five yards is one of her favorite shots. Astonished, she looked at me and said, "I held my twenty low". In the excitement of the moment instead of holding her twenty pin high she had placed it low on the buck's chest.... Buck fever had just claimed his latest victim!

Day two found us in the same blinds and at mid-morning we had another buck antelope at the water. This one came to the blind Cheryl and I were in and stared straight into it from about 12 yards.

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He was very antsy. But after a few minutes he settled down and came to water. He did the head bob a few times but eventually settled in, broadside to us and only 21 yards away. I was just sure this buck was going to get a free ride back to Missouri. Again Cheryl's Hoyt thumped and also whacked rather loudly. The arrow flashed low and back on this buck going just in front of his hind legs. Another clean miss! We both sat there and tried to figure out what had happened. It took a few minutes and then I found it. She was shooting through the camo mesh of the blind and her arrow had nicked the



Not your average lap dog.

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fiberglass rod that holds the sides of the blind in place. Many of you have hunted out of Double Bull blinds before so you know what I'm talking about. She was almost in tears when I pointed this out to her. Although we never saw any on this trip we felt sure that she had been snake bit somewhere along the way!

About an hour later we were rewarded when Jamie got his shot. If memory serves me correctly [and it doesn't always anymore] three bucks came into water. They were rather cautious and came in and out multiple times. Jamie had to close windows on the blind and open others because of the buck's nervousness. He was patient enough to pull it off even though the bucks were within 30 yards or less the whole time. He was somewhat twisted in the blind as he made the 14-yard shot and hit the buck farther back than desired. The antelope went a short distance and lay down. Jamie was able to get out of the blind and within 30 minutes had another arrow in the buck. He never made it out of his bed. Cheryl and I had front row seats to the entire show. I was very proud of my son's expertise and determination to end the bucks suffering. He had his second pronghorn antelope and first with traditional equipment!

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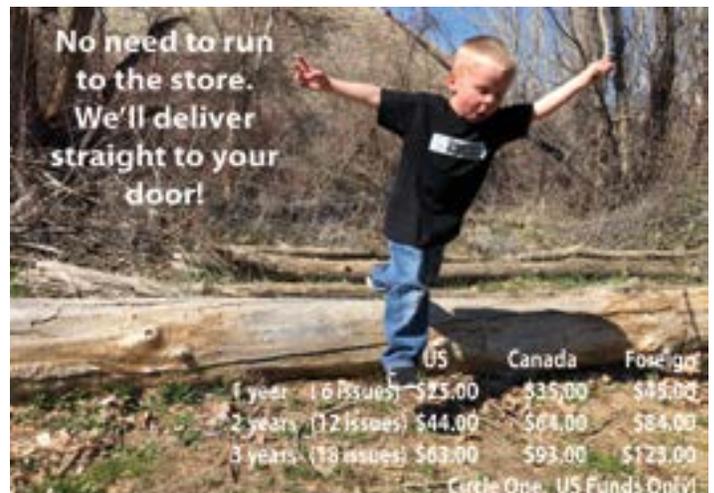
As for my part in this adventure, well I'd rather not talk about it. That wouldn't be right though so here we go. I missed one buck totally, over his back. I'd like to say he jumped the string on me, but I really think I just

shot high. Then on the fourth day of the hunt I did what none of us want to do. I hit a buck high across the back and did not recover him. Marty, Jamie, and I all looked and drove the pasture that we were hunting in. We never found hide nor hair of him. The "pasture" that we were hunting was just 4,000 acres. Marty and I both felt the wound was not fatal. My arrow was so high that I was sure I did not penetrate the body cavity. Flesh wound or not, it is still a bitter pill to swallow. I was able to have success though as we were setting the blind up on a different waterhole one day. I shot a muskrat that was in Marty's pond. The retrieval of said muskrat and arrow was an adventure in itself [see photo]. How can a person hit a small muskrat yet miss a full-grown buck antelope?

You think it has anything to do with concentration? Naw, probably not! Our Wyoming hunt came to a close. We were only one for three but we all had a good time, met new friends, saw new country and shared family time. I hope that all of you reading this will have an adventure this fall with your families as well.

Side note: If

you look at the attached photos you will see an example of just how different life in Wyoming can be compared to our world here. Marty's wife, Darcy, is holding one of the two Coyote pups that they rescued on April 7th of this year. They were hunting coyotes and the dogs found a den. The dogs killed most of the pups but they were able to save two of them. They feel the pups were one or two days old. Darcy fed them milk with an eye dropper. It was 14 days till their eyes opened. At the time of this hunt they were just over 4 months old. This one pictured is the tamest. It doesn't try to get away and lets Darcy carry it around. The other one is not quite so tame. They're not sure what they will end up doing with them but how do you like that for a pet? ■



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**IT'S BEEN A LONG WAIT.....**

September through November of last year was an amazing time in the woods with recurve in hand. I was able to deer hunt many days in Iowa, and here in our home state of Missouri too. December 2019 came, and work got busy, so there was little time available in the woods for hunting. Yes, I did get back out into the woods for a few days in January, but January is just different from the prime time of November and the multitude of hours sitting motionless in a tree.

**It's been a long wait.....**

Once mid-January hits, it is time to reflect on the last season. So many memories! What went well? What did not go well? My mind is



Had pretty good luck finding some nice sheds.



Still second guessing letting this one walk.

thankful, yet frustrated with missed opportunities. I did take the time to organize videos and pictures from my year into a YouTube video, but this only seemed to remind me of the missed opportunities instead of relishing the spectacular moments.

**It's been a long wait.....**

Late January, February, and March afforded me an opportunity to do some deer scouting and antler shed hunting in Missouri, Arkansas, Iowa, Nebraska, and Indiana. I hiked over 69 miles in those five states, wandering around public lands, looking for places to try to get ten yards away from

the elusive white-tailed deer. Some of the places I wandered had great family history, while others were brand new to me. I felt so lucky to find nine sheds during these wanderings. The sheds are beautiful, ranging from a spike to six points on one side. It is intoxicating for me to find any sized shed antler, and I find myself staring at them and picking them up EVERY SINGLE day. They remind me of adventure, the circle of life, and the beauty of this earth. So many memories...

**It's been a long wait.....**

COVID-19. It's been a particularly strange year. A difficult year in so many ways, and yet I keep holding out that deer



Decided to let this one grow some.



A late season warrior.

season will not be affected. Please just let me go into the woods with my simple stick and string. Surely, my precious deer season won't be different too. The pandemic has intersected with going out west to hunt for my first time. I've talked about going out west. I've read magazine articles and listened to podcasts about hunting out west. This was the year I was going to hunt over-the-counter in Colorado or western Nebraska. Is COVID-19 going to mess this up too? No more talking. No more worrying. Just go do it. Western Nebraska here I come. Looking forward to the

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opportunity to harvest a mule deer or whitetail with my recurve. This new adventure awaits.

**It's been a long wait.....**

Now, it's the beginning of September. It has been a long wait. The hot and humid summer months are about gone, the first freeze is just around the corner.

Dreams of close encounters with bucks and does are almost in reach. The spring and summer runs, the hikes, the canoe and kayak floats, the bike rides, and the rucks are behind me now. It is GO time. It is time to walk into the fields and forests with a simple stick and string. It is time to be a part of the natural cycle from

before sunrise to after sundown. It's time to make memories. It's time to work hard. It's been a long wait, but anticipation is part of the fun. Good hunting to each of you. The wait is over. May the adventure be all that you dream it to be. ■

**Have fun, hunt safe, keep learning, and be ethical!**

## ➤➤➤ Bowhunter Quarantine 2020

Larry Bauman ➤

**WOULD YOU HAVE EVER THOUGHT THAT** bowhunters would have difficulty with social and physical distancing? Most look forward to spending time in seclusion or isolation. As we imagine our hunts, we see ourselves meandering through the outdoors, separated from all social activities and crowds. This is also the standard our families have become familiar with.

However, many of us have had difficulty in adjusting to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

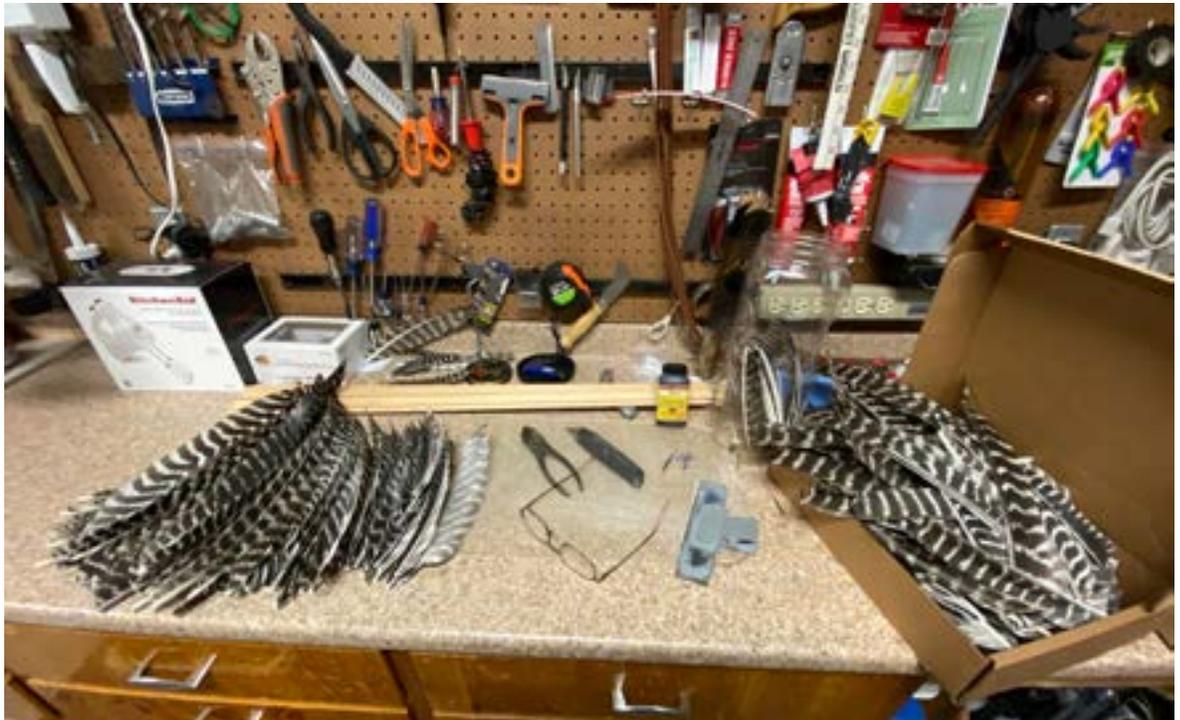
Understanding the seriousness of COVID-19 and how it is spread is obvious. Many organizations, including UBM had to make difficult decisions, cancelling significant activities. It was difficult to accept not having a 2020 Rendezvous. The Rendezvous has become one of UBM's foremost

family activities. It was a tough decision, but the right thing to do. Hopefully, we will resume the Rendezvous in 2021. My Gang will be looking forward to it.

MDC cancelled the Family Outdoor Skills Camp for Deaf & Hard of Hearing Children. Many of our UBM members look forward to spending the weekend introducing archery to the young folks and their families. Groups and families are shuttled by vans to scheduled activities and it would not be

possible to maintain social distancing. The cancellation was the proper decision. But again, disappointing.

DASA (Disabled Athletics Sports Assoc.) cancelled their 2020 Camp at Babler State Park. UBM has supported this camp for the last several years. Disabled athletes deal with many difficult restrictions and health issues, plus the logistics and handling of special equipment is challenging. The one-on-one support staff doubles the number



I finally had time to grind all these turkey feathers!

of those attending. As expected, the 2020 camp was cancelled. I am sure the athletes, their families and the association's staff were saddened. This is a weeklong activity that is a major happening for most.

MOJAM cancelled their 2020 bow building event. Not all of our long time bow builders (bowyers) who regularly attend agreed with the decision. Many take vacations and include families in camping and outdoor activities. Like all cancellations, it is difficult to give up meaningful annual events. Groups are now planning get togethers to build bows privately. Sharing experience and learning from others is important to those trying to expand or improve know how and knowledge. Building sessions provide a huge advantage to the beginners who are in search of a hands-on introduction to the craft.



Time to change the batteries.



Swept the coon poop out and it's now ready to go!

Many local and major 3D Shoots have been cancelled. Our annual Buffalo Tongue Shoot was also cancelled. A few of us diehard Sunday Morning Buffalo Tongue Stump Shooters, continue to meet and shoot since it is easy to remain six feet apart when rambling through the woods looking for arrows. If we have a group of arrows in the same stump or log, one person pulls all arrows. This is a small group that abstains from cuddling or hugging. No hand shaking or high fives either.

On a positive note, it has been a good season for moving stands, scouting, trail cameras and developing new strategy for old areas. Reviewing old maps and pictures reminding us of all the good times we've enjoyed. Had more time to practice shooting, fine-tuning bows,

*Continued on next page*



The results of a little social distance shooting.  
Continued from previous page

grinding turkey feathers, building or repairing arrows. Plus, helping others with their equipment. I am worn out just remembering everything.

Yes, this has been a year of change. Not all change is bad. We have been forced to slow down. Spend more time at home with family. Everyone's IT (Information Technology) skills have improved by working from home or attending school online. I don't see that we will return to things as they were, but

we will find a happy center line and move on. When we are again able to congregate at Festivals or Rendezvous, I am sure we will appreciate it more and look forward to seeing each other.

Don't let the quarantine ruin your season. There is plenty of room in the woods and it's easy to maintain social distancing. My mask is in the truck and I wear it when necessary or when required. Don't take chances. Stay safe. Good Luck this 2020 season and don't forget - Share the Harvest! ■

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**SOME LIKE THEM BIG AND SOME LIKE THEM SMALL.** I like mine somewhere in the middle. I'm talking about limb tips. When it comes to choosing a bow, or building one, there are a few things to consider. The limb tip size, length, and width make a huge difference on how the bow will perform.

**1** A wide limb tip causes a slower limb speed which results in a slower arrow speed. This wider tip can also cause a little more hand shock. Another problem is that you might not get the string properly centered in the string grooves, which causes the limb to pull to one side and twist the limb. However, a bow with a wider limb tip is a little easier to string.

**2** A narrow short tip can speed up the limbs which speeds up the arrow. The less weight you have on the limb tip the better the bow will perform. The downside is getting the limb tips too small which will make the bow harder to string and can also cause tip failure. I have fixed several bows throughout the years where the tip had broken off. The only thing you can do is cut the other tip off and start new. When choosing a bow, the size of the limb tip is one of the things to consider.

**3** Another factor is how deep the string groove is in the face of the tip. If the string fits deep in the tip it could cause the tip to break. It can also make the bow a little harder to unstring. When the string is shallow in the groove,

it's a little easier to slide the string off. On the front of the bow, the side you see when you hold the bow out in front of you, the string groove on a recurve should not be filed through the glass. I know that Bear Bows has filed the string groove through the glass for years. The problem is if the string rubs through the bow's paint finish the bare wood could and will absorb moisture. This can cause the bow to delaminate or the limb to split. When building a new bow, I think it's a good idea to run a little super glue all around the edge of the limb tip and in the string grooves. I also double up on the clear finish on the tips because the tips get the most abuse. If you hunt and walk in tall grass and carry the bow down at your side, the limb tips rub in the grass. If the grass

is wet the string will hold water around the tip and grooves. When I build someone a bow, I will use Chapstick on the bow's tips and grooves. I also rub the loops with the Chapstick. This will ensure that the string slides into the grooves properly. When the bow is drawn back, the string will pull dead center of the limb.

I hope this advice is helpful when choosing your next bow. It at least gives you something to think about. ■

Thanks,  
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Thanks,  
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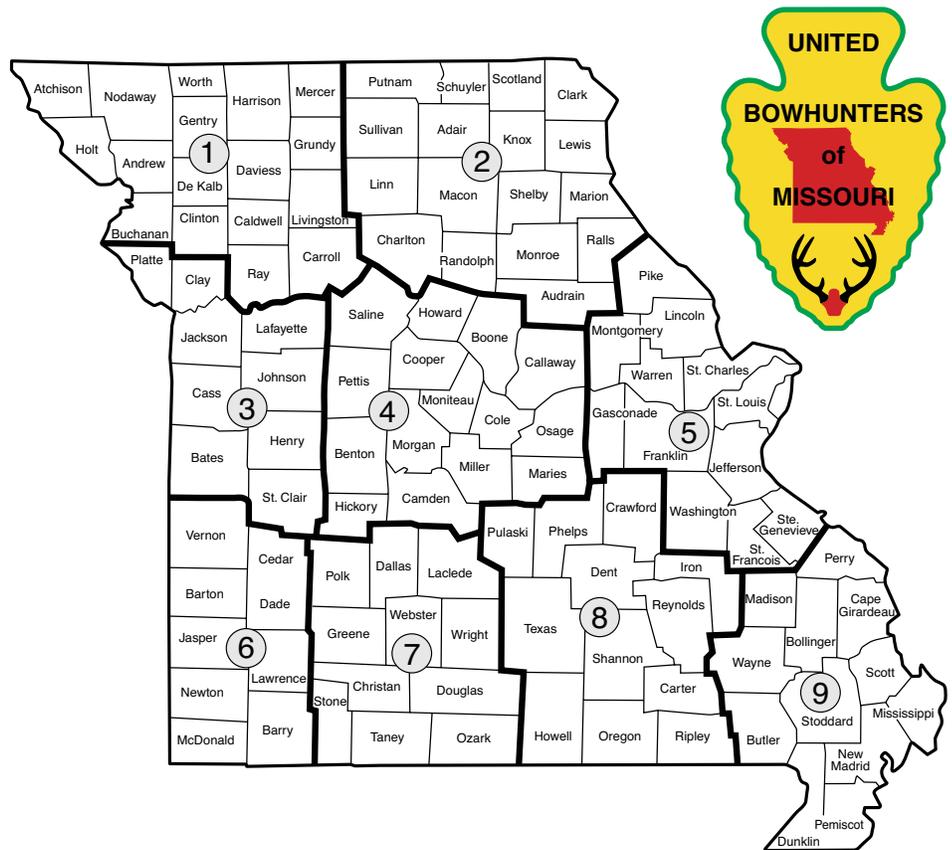
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