



THE UNITED Fall 2022 BOWHUNTER



Official Publication of The United Bowhunters of Missouri



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Fall 2022

Calendar of Events

October

1st-31st: Missouri fall turkey season

1st: Missouri rabbit season opens

29th-30th: Missouri youth firearms deer season

November

12th-22nd: Missouri general firearms deer season

25th-27th: Second Missouri youth firearms deer season

December

3rd-11th: Missouri firearms antlerless deer season

24th: Missouri alternative methods deer season opens

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Discount for commitment of 4 issues. No advertising will be accepted that promotes anti hunting or animal rights issues or anything derogatory to archery or bowhunting. The editor reserves final right of approval for inclusion in publication. Prepayment is required.

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
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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:

The United Bowhunter
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— On the Cover —

Brian Peterson's unique view
of the 3-Person Skirmish

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



IT IS SEPTEMBER!

I hope everyone is excited for a fall of new experiences and recalling past memories. The temperatures will be changing drastically in the weeks to come, and the tree leaves will change

soon enough.

I have to tell you how humbled and excited I am to be UBM's president. I am so excited to continue to meet and get to know each of you in the UBM organization. I am thrilled to be a part of an organization that values a family atmosphere and fair-chase, ethical hunting. 2022 has been fantastic for UBM. We enjoyed another tremendous February Festival in Springfield and had a great time joining together in Marshall for our annual Rendezvous in June. I am still on a high from our annual board meeting a couple weeks ago when the UBM board joined together for good food, hunting conversations, and UBM planning. We have great leadership on the board! Thank you to all the board members that desire to keep UBM growing and improving!

One update that needs to be shared is that our ballot this Spring included Darren Haverstick, Bob Burns,

and Nathan Woleslagle. Due to health concerns, Nathan Woleslagle requested to have his name removed from serving on the UBM board after the ballots were already mailed. Kevin Pinckney was then chosen to replace Nathan on the board. Prayers for Nathan and thank you to Kevin for filling this void.

I will close with sharing a bit about my family. My wife Sara and I have been married for over 20 years. We met at the University of Missouri-Columbia while I was earning a degree in Fisheries/Wildlife, and Sara was earning a degree in Forestry. Sara is an amazing spouse, volunteering in our community, and taking care of our family in many ways. Sara is also very supportive to my hunting lifestyle and deer hunting addiction in the Fall. We have two daughters, Nora (17) and Hana (14). Our oldest daughter Nora has special needs and takes a lot of work and effort to care for her basic needs. Our youngest daughter Hana is a 9th grader who loves school and band. I hope you get to meet them at February's UBM event, and I hope to meet your family there too!

Get outside, have fun, and learn something new. ■
William R. Brown

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the mail
you actually
want!**

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BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Arrow of Light

It's shaft is **STRAIGHT & NARROW**; the path you should follow.

It's tip points the **WAY**; the way to success in all you do.

It's pointing to the **RIGHT**; a symbol that nothing should be left undone.

The **SEVEN RAYS**; the symbol of the sun, one for each day of the week.

1. Wisdom	4. Justice	7. Love
2. Courage	5. Faith	
3. Self-control	6. Hope	

THE UBM BOARD MET AT Smith's Restaurant in Collins, MO on Friday, August 26th. Those in attendance were William Brown, Joel Davis, Darren Haverstick, Ryan Plummer, Bob Burns, Dr. Nick Gray, Kevin Pinckney, and Ethan Grotheer.

- Welcome/Motion to begin meeting
- The meeting was called to order by William Brown at 4:30 PM

B. Reading of last year's minutes-- Ryan Plummer

C. New Officers as of July 15, 2022 (when is the officer/board member transition during a normal year?)

President: William R. Brown (Camdenton)
 Vice-President: Joel Davis (Grain Valley)
 Secretary: Ryan Plummer (Higginsville)
 Treasurer: Darren Haverstick (Fair Grove)
 Director: Kevin Pinckney (Pittsburgh) replaces Nathan Woleslagle
 Director: Wes McCain (Neosho)
 Director: Bob Burns (Lee Summit)
 Director: Nick Gray (Sedalia)
 Director: Cody Cass (St. Louis)

D. Financial Report

Darren Haverstick is our new treasurer

Expenses/Income for 2022 Festival and 2022 Rendezvous

- 2022 Festival
- We have a great turn out at the Festival, the festival had an income of \$18,298.00 with an expense of \$9,753.55. Netting a total of \$8,544.45



- 2022 Rendezvous
- The Rendezvous had an income of \$1,964.00 and an expense of \$1,591.00. Netting a total of \$373.00
- The UBM currently has two bank accounts.
- Primary Bank account total: \$22,967.49
- Secondary Bank account (used for paypay transactions) total: \$556.54
- The bank accounts were updated so that Darren as the treasurer and William as the board president are the only two legal signers.
- Darren also drew up documentation to act as a guide for future treasurers.

What other transactions have occurred in 2022? – No other transactions

E. The United Bowhunter publication (newsletter)

Need to fix Ryan Plummer's term date from 20242 to 2024
 Submission dates include

March 10, June 10, September 10, December 10

We would like to encourage members to submit more articles. The newsletter contains directions on how to submit.

F. Yearly Ideas--Ryan Plummer

At February Festival (February 10-12, 2023), get names of people to be on the board.

By March 10th, biographies in the newsletter

April/May, vote by postcard

Last weekend in June at the Rendezvous (June 23-25, 2023), announce new board members

Annual Board Meeting – Will be the first week of August moving forward.

Discussed updating UBM bi-laws, William to review process for this.

G. T-Shirts/Clothing

UBM did not do t-shirts for this year's Rendezvous

Would like to have shirts that say "for over 35 years" by the Festival 2023

I believe Kristine Banderman and Brenda Hudson said we need to order fleece jackets too. They like the “for over 35 years” idea for t-shirts.

Darren will order T-Shirts, will work with William for design. Darren will also order fleece hoodies using the current design.

H. Festival in Springfield, Missouri February 10-12, 2023

Roman Moody is the new Banquet Manager

Our 4 large boards were located at the hotel a couple weeks ago.

- After the upcoming festival, the 4 boards will be taken to Kevin’s shop to be cut down so that they can fit in the UBM trailer

UBM has contracts through 2024 with Oasis Hotel and Convention Center

Coffee and water appreciated on Saturday morning in 2022

Shrimp was a big hit right before the auction in 2022

Friday Night possibility

- BASIC outdoor first aid (make it real....bad water, snake bite, cut, etc.) – presented by Ryan Plummer
- Discussed also having a round table after the presentation

Saturday Seminars and Workshops

- MDC – Turkey Discussion – William/Joel to contact MDC to arrange speaker
- Ryan Gill – to discuss primitive skills (I didn’t capture who was going to contact Ryan)
- Game Care by Ethan Grotheer

Saturday Speaker possibilities

Bryce Olson – Bob Burns to contact about being the keynote for this year.

South Cox (Bob Burns will contact for next year.

Other ideas? – none discussed at this time.

Saturday Banquet

Christine Banderman wants to do the table favors: can cozies and notepads.

Award Nominations

Bowhunter of the Year
Member of the Year (Brenda Hudson, Larry Hudson, Tom Dickerson, Mike Callahan, etc.)
Award winner gifts
Knife?, plaque?, gift card?
Main Speaker gift
Knife?
Silent Auction-Barb Helidick, Joel Davis

H (continued). Festival in Springfield, Missouri February 10-12, 2023

Live Auction-Barb Helidick, Joel Davis, Mike Clark? – William to contact to verify will be providing services this year.

Photo Contest-Ryan Plummer
Arrow Contact – Ryan Plummer
Registration-Brenda Hudson and Christine Banderman

Vendors-\$100 fee or donate something

Thank you board for people to leave notes – we will do post it notes this year

In Memory board as a tribute - No

Shed Antler contest - No

I. Rendezvous in Marshall, Missouri June 23-25, 2023 – Need to confirm dates with Marshall Bowhunters

\$500 for Thursday afternoon through Sunday noon

Showers available at the city pool nearby

Concessions available through the Marshall Bow Hunters

Requested that we give a detailed map and address of location

Post a schedule in advance

Friday Evening string making - Yes

Fish fry - Yes

Saturday 3:00 pm Three person skirmish

5:30 pm Can Drawing/Club Meeting (thank past board members and welcome new members, Thank Robin and the Marshall Bow Hunters, Open Discussion, adjournment)

6:00 pm Catered Meal (70 people X \$10.00) by Robin Baker, plus

our potluck items

Need to get clay pigeons

Harry brings a bottle launcher –

This will be a scheduled event for Saturday morning

3-D targets, plus a target range

Suggestion: \$20 per adult, \$5 per kids and youth

J. Conservation Federation of Missouri Affiliate Summit on September 8 & 9 (Jefferson City)--
Darren Haverstick

- The UMB is an affiliate member
- We pay a \$300 fee each year
- The UBM will pay for a member to attend if there is interest.

K. City Garden Montessori school in St. Louis

Nicholas Diener is requesting funds to start a new archery program

- Ryan Plummer made a motion to donate \$500 to the program, Bob Burns second the motion, all members were in favor.
- We will request pictures and an article for the newsletter

Continued on next page

L. Educational opportunity at Mizzou--Darren Haverstick

Dr. Grayson and artifacts

- Looking at the first week in June 2023
- Darren to coordinate
- Will be open to any UBM member. Finalized date and time to come later

M. Managed hunt together on our webpage--Kevin Pinckney

- Discussed doing a UBM managed hunt(s)
- Would need to be groups of no more than 6
- Kevin will be the contact/group leader, if there are more than 6 members who would like to participate, Ryan will be back up group leader.
- More information to come

N. Podcast?--Ethan Grotheer

- There is interest in doing this
- Ethan to look into start up process and cost

O. Hand Camp, Deaf Camp

- Deaf camp is currently off the table
- John Banderman is the contact if anyone is interested in Hand camp

P. Donation of kid's bows--

William R. Brown

- The UBM received a donation of 10-15 children's bows. They have been placed in the trailer.

Q. Update our by-laws?

UBM is not following them.

- The by-laws are outdated
- They need to be updated
- They have been written as such they are difficult to change
- William will research what is needed to update

R. Trailer update--William R. Brown

- Trailer is currently at William's house
- William and Ryan each have a set of trailer keys

S. Current Insurance

Company=Sadler Insurance
(William and Darren are the contacts)

- Will be open to changing insurance companies if we are able to find a better deal

T. Share the Harvest donation

- We do not need to make a cash donation this year
- Please donate deer that are not going to be kept for personal use
- Has to go to an approved processor
- CFM pays \$75 for every whole deer donated

U. Facebook/Instagram updates

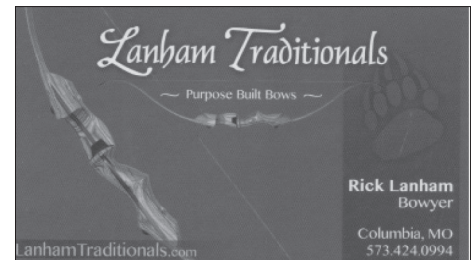
- There is currently a Facebook page and a group, will look at consolidating to one
- We need to link the Instagram and Facebook accounts
- Cole will connect with Darren to link the accounts

V. Any other questions or comments or ideas?

- Kevin
- Discussed holding a personal shoot at his house open to UBM members – look for information in the newsletter

W. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn by Bob Burns at 6:42pm, all were in favor. ■



BY THE TIME YOU READ THIS, Missouri's archery season will have been open for a couple weeks or so and, hopefully, you have already been out doing what we love to do. If you're like me, you already know that THIS season is the one where you are finally going to use all those tags you have in your pocket. But before you go spend money on an extra chest freezer, please consider donating some of your bounty to the Share the Harvest program.

While the immediate horror of the pandemic is behind us, the financial aftermath certainly is not. The historic price increases on everything are hitting all of us and folks who have never experienced food scarcity before are suddenly faced with hard choices. Missourians are a proud bunch so you may not be aware that your neighbor's kids are having to skip some meals in order to keep a roof over their heads. That's why the Share the Harvest program is so important. Getting fresh, lean protein into the mouths of those who need it is a hard task for the food banks to accomplish. Hunters, meat processors, and many other volunteers ease that burden by supporting STH.

STH reached a milestone last season with it being the 30th year since the program was started and it is estimated that nearly five million pounds of meat has been handed out since 1992. Hunters donated a little over 5,000 whole deer last year which equated

into almost a quarter of a million pounds of free-range protein. While hunters do provide all the raw materials, I think it is the processors who are the unsung heroes in this saga. Many of them are taking a serious pay cut to help support something that they really believe in.

It was also the second year for CFM Snack Stick program which is a boon to the food pantries around the state because it supplies them with shelf-stable meat that can be more easily stored and distributed. The deer used for this program come out of the quotas set for the after-season MDC culling program in CWD zones. Generous landowners donated the deer and Stonies Sausage Shop turned them into 2300 pounds of human chew treats. We were able to increase the packaged goods output by 11% from the year before and hope to keep this trend going in the future.

I am a long-range planner by nature, so I've already mapped out where the closest STH approved

processor is from where I will be hunting at various times. While you may not go to that degree of preparation for the season upon us, please make donating to Share the Harvest as one of your goals. CFM will, once again, cover \$75 of the processing cost and there are many local organizations that will cover anything remaining. Participating meat processors are listed in the 2022-2023 MDC Deer Hunting pamphlet, can be found online at <https://mdc.mo.gov/hunting-trapping/species/deer/share-harvest>, or you can call either MDC or CFM to find a processor in your area. Hunger doesn't take a holiday and your donations help more than you can possibly know. Also try to recruit a few of your buddies to donate. There's nothing like a little competition among friends to make the season just that much better!

I've probably borrowed your eyes long enough now so I will let you go. Besides, Jake, my bloodhound, is giving me the Big Red Paw, which means that his wants and needs are being neglected. We are fortunate to have plenty of deer in our state and plenty of opportunities to bring them to the house for supper. While you are out there thinning the herd, please consider donating one or six to the cause. The good you'll do is definitely worth all the effort. I hope you all have a safe and productive season! ■

Darren Haverstick
CFM Share the Harvest
Chairperson



SHARE THE HARVEST

EASING INTO THE ROCKER YET AGAIN, I SEE THE two, very comfortable fawns lying and nibbling on clover in my back yard. Mama must be nearby, but she is out of view watching. Reclining and dining, the twins are but twenty-five yards from me. I dream of the coming season, my longbow, the time in the leafy cathedral.

The light is slowly dimming, and the cicada are still singing their lonely lullaby. Thirty-five or forty hummingbirds are hovering, no, attacking the feeders. The “dominators” diving and strafing the more passive who only wish to feed. Frantic flight is the order of the evening.

Suddenly I realize the spotted fawns are no longer present having quietly vanishing. The hummers are thinning out, nesting for the night in the nearby oaks.

Cicadas begin to quiet as the “peepers” awaken. During the brief interlude the arguing chorus ebbs and flows. Soon the cicadas drift off to sleep and the sounds of the night are covered by peepers who are interrupted by hoot owls who call across the woods to each other. Sunset is not a visible bright show of sun and clouds. Gentle darkness descends with just a hint of pink probing through the woods. The chorus and cacophony of the evening quiets

These woods are not mine, nor my house, nor the eleven acres. I am but a steward, a caretaker who has been entrusted with much beauty and comfort by my



Maker. His blessings here have been flowing in this place for fifteen years. His patient, longsuffering care for me has existed for nearly 75 years.

As the darkness deepens fireflies dance along the edges of the tree line. Swerving, swaying above the grass. An owl calls across the darkness, answered by his distant brothers.

What is that in the darkening shadows? Two does edging down the tree line at the edge of my yard. Alongside are the two spotted fawns which also fade into the dark woods.

Wrapped in deepening darkness, my soul is once again refreshed. ■

➤➤➤ **Member Photos** ➤



I caught these two gray foxes climbing a tree on one of my game cameras. I have been feeding a family of gray foxes on a daily basis now for about three years. When I saw this picture my first thought was that I had made a mistake and fed them cat food instead of dog food.
David Harpster



This photo was sent to me by life member, Larry Hesterly. He stuck this dandy buck out in South Dakota. When he contacted me, Larry was in Wyoming trying to get another one. I knew those things liked to run, but I didn't think they ran that far!

OPERATION GAME THIEF (OGT) is a telephone hotline information (1-800-392-1111) and monetary reward program that allows citizens to anonymously report illegal hunting, fishing, trapping, and other Missouri Wildlife Code violations. If the information proves to be valid and leads to a citation or arrest, the reporting party may request a cash reward. OGT is a partnership with the Missouri Department of Conservation, and an independent 4-person Board of Directors that is governed by their established by-Laws.

History

OGT was officially established as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization with the Missouri Secretary of State in 1983. Start-up funding came from numerous private and public sources. Since then, private funds are still welcomed and accepted, but the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) has committed to assuring an annual revenue source to cover rewards and education.

Since 2010, the OGT Hotline has received more than 6,000 tips resulting in more than 7,900 citations or arrests from OGT reports not requesting rewards and another 1900+ citations from individuals requesting reward consideration for various poaching violations. Of the callers, 525 individuals requested reward consideration, for which more than \$97,000 was paid out.

"OGT has been a very effective program for citizens to report abuses of their fish, forest, and wildlife resources," says Protection Branch Chief Randy Doman. "Our conservation agents are spread

thin across the state, and they rely heavily on public cooperation to help bring those poachers and wildlife traffickers to justice."

OGT is "A Program That Works" exactly as it was conceived. Citizens are provided with an information conduit to get suspected violation information to MDC agents related to illegal taking or trafficking in wildlife.

In 2020, there were revisions to the OGT Reward Guidelines, which expanded the reward amount and made these decisions less arbitrary. The new guidelines establish specific criteria for a range of rewards based on species and specific circumstances.

In 2021, House Bill #369 was passed, which states that any person who recklessly or knowingly releases any swine to live in a wild or feral state may be sentenced to pay a fine of up to \$2,000. Additionally, any person who takes or kills a feral swine on public or private land without the consent of the landowner or with the use of artificial light or thermal imagery is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor. Since this bill has passed the legislature, Operation Game Thief has expanded its information and rewards program scope to include violations relating to Feral Swine within this law.



What exactly is Poaching

For OGT purposes, a person is poaching when they violate the Wildlife Code of Missouri including such cases as:

- Pursuing wildlife to hunts, trap, or fish in violation of the Wildlife Code
- Selling venison, deer sausage, fish or small game.
- Collecting wild animals to sell
- Collecting native seeds on lands of the Conservation Commission

How it Works

Conservation Agent Caleb Sevy describes how the program works as follows: Operation Game Thief uses a phone hotline, allowing people to report wildlife violations in real-time. As soon as a wildlife violation is witnessed, they can call the hotline 24 hours a day - 7 days a week. The hotline goes to a dispatch center where the violations report (OGT report) is created, and the reporting party determines whether they would like to request reward money.

The dispatch center contacts the local agents assigned to the county where the violation occurred. Once the agent receives the report, they will initiate an investigation based on the information in the report. Depending on the accuracy and detail of the information, investigations can be solved within a few hours, but it often takes an extended period to complete a thorough investigation. Accuracy and detail of the OGT report, as well as the results of the investigation contribute to reward money that's distributed.

The range of the reward options allows for assessment ranging from

Continued on next page

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a "shots heard" type of report to more specific information such as name, vehicle description, license plate, specific location, etc.

There are 2 categories of assessment

Category 1 violations involve specific game species such as elk & bear (\$500-1,000), deer, turkey, and game fish (\$200-500). In exceptional circumstances, the Board may reward much more.

Category 2 violations are tied to MDC's violation assessment of the crime(s) based on their License Revocation Scoring. The more severe and wide-ranging the violation(s), the greater the reward (\$100-500).

The Future of Operation Game Thief

Jim Kent, Operation Game Thief Chairman says, "The OGT Board looks forward to implementing a number of new and renewed

information efforts that will increase the public's awareness of Operation Game Thief, how it works, and how citizens can become involved. We plan to continue the innovative practices of the past and institute some new information initiatives."

Poaching is stealing from all citizens – Save the number in your phone today – 1-800-392-1111 - You can help stop poaching! ■

▶▶▶ That First Sit James Barker

OPENING MORNING TO MOST DEER HUNTERS I KNOW

Is as exciting as Christmas
But it's not about figgy pudding
or presents wrapped with a bow
It's all about that first sit
With hopes of big-racked Bucks
or fat ole Doe's

All the preparations and all the
practice has been done
It's all come down to that first sit
It's cold and dark but you don't
care while you wait for sun
The woods come alive while you
wait
Watching and hoping for the
"one"

As the morning slips by without a
chance
My hopes are still high
As you wait for at least a glance
Because it's all part of that first sit
But at least there's a squirrel on
every branch

It does not bother you one bit
That the morning has gone
Nor does it break your will or wit
Because you know you will be
back next year
For that first sit ■

▶▶▶ Coming Soon!

Larry Bauman

WE ARE HAPPY TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT a Boy Scout Troop Archery Weekend. Our granddaughter's All Girl Boy Scout Troop, will camp on our property this fall while earning their Archery Merit Badges.

My daughter's family is a true scouting family. She is a Scout Leader. Her husband and son are Eagle Scouts and her daughter is a Boy Scout working her way through the scouting programs.

How could you not jump at the chance to be involved with family and the Archery Scouting Program? We are jointly planning and preparing for this happening. I am imagining tents, hammocks, canopies, cook stoves and a campfire as I look out my window. We will be teaching according to the Boy Scout Archery Merit Badge requirements. We will follow up with a complete story along with pictures in our next UBM Newsletter. ■





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THEY WERE!

Mama turkey and her brood along the edge of the woods.

She leads the line with her head held high while the nine chicks mimic her like tiny soldiers. Suddenly the chicks break ranks and scatter from an unseen threat.

No males in sight.

Though I have seen males in the courting ritual in years past, it seems long ago. Two proud strutting roosters showing off. Stiff legged struts, twisting, turning while spreading their wide fan of colored display. If I could speak turkey I would hear, "Look at me! Am I not something beautiful? What a gorgeous display of color I have! Ima something special."

Then there are "my" hummingbirds. Aggressive little birds. It is a good thing they are not the size of eagles; we would be in danger. They hover over the feeder, circling, diving, darting. I have seen them strafe their buddies and tiny feathers fly. We cut back to three large feeders this year, each holding 48 ounces. The humming horde

empties them every other day, as the 45-50 birds have shared all summer.

Until this week when there was a shift of power.

#1 feeder has a "dominator" who now claims the whole feeder. He sits on the top and chases everything away that dares to fly within 30 inches.

#2 feeder also now has a "dominator". He claims the whole feeder and does the same as #1, except he sits one of the flowers.

#3 feeder serviced the entire remaining population until I let it go dry.

Then the horde descended on #2 forcing him to share. When #2 went dry, #1 has held onto power for the day. He tirelessly chased off all comers but had to frequently feed to keep his energies up. When I moved #1 feeder into the #3 position, #1 tried to guard it but was ran off by the horde.

I refilled two of the feeders.. the horde claimed one, the dominators were squabbling over the second feeder. Suddenly the horde decided that all would have to share the two feeders. One dominator acquiesced,

the second sat on a nearby branch and pouted, occasionally trying to reassert control, but to no avail. Today they all are sharing; at least for a while.

It is so much like us humans.. We are always trying to bring order, to control our surroundings and the people around us.

Like the rooster turkeys we show off, draw attention to ourselves, try and outdo those around us. Much of the time we are self-absorbed and self-centered enough to hurt those around us.

Like hummingbirds we claim things as our own, we guard and defend what we consider to be ours. Eventually we must admit that we really are not in control as much as we would like. We "strut or stuff", only to be "shown up" by another. We really are not all we think we are. We dominate, defend, desire more; yet in the end we end up with nothing.

Maybe we who have the larger brain, and supposedly more intellect, should step back and take the lessons of nature to heart.



Off Season Archery

Larry Bauman

DO YOU RECALL YOUR ARCHERY RELATED EVENTS during the off season (since last deer season)? I often reflect or relive these activities while sitting in my tree stand. You wonder what happened to those events that no longer exist or if they will resurface.

Early in February, the UBM Festival is top on my list. Regrouping after a long absence due to hunting seasons, travels, and holidays. Everyone is anxious to share their experiences,

while looking through the auction donations for bargains. Thank goodness for our UBM vendors bringing a large variety of traditional supplies so we can repair and replace lost and damaged equipment. A big Thank You to the Board for arranging the banquet and guest speakers. Even with a large crowd and a tightly scheduled day, everyone finds time for each other.



Harry - Launching Bottles

Continued on next page

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March is the annual breakfast at Cracker Barrel kicking off the weekly Stump Season with the Buffalo Tongue Bowhunters. There's a big group at breakfast but a smaller group on the range. This is a small and fun-loving group that have no mercy for yours or their arrows. That might be the reason the group doesn't grow. After shooting with us the first time, they don't come back. Huh?

April brings turkey season for those healthy, strong, walking folks with enough patience to outwit Mr. Tom. You'll notice this description does not fit an old guy that is worn out and the morning hunt is nearly over by the time he is in position?

The last weekend in June is always reserved for the UBM Rendezvous at Marshall. The weather cooperated - "no rain". What a great facility and host club! A challenging, but realistic 3D range coupled with a convenient static range. As always, the skirmish is a highlight as is the potluck dinner. Robin's smoked pork, chicken and beans joined with the many side



Derek & Paul cheering Darren on to be the 1st to break the clay bird

dishes to create a giant buffet. If you were quick enough, you got some of Brian Peterson's homemade ice cream. Yum! The can raffle is almost like playing the slots, never knowing who will get what. Darren Haverstick's PVC target took center stage as a single raffle item. My son, Derek, hooped it up when he won as did our friend, Paul, knowing they would haul it back and forth to each other's house. The two harassed Darren for pictures and shooting the first arrow. Three of Larry's Gang; Andy, Derek and Paul joined UBM.

Dan Novotny invited a few local UBM members to his home for a get together/shoot in July. He has a dandy home sight, high on a hill, plus an ideal static range of various life size 3D targets. It was a great afternoon with everyone sharing stories of yesterdays' hunts and events. Fried squirrel was the main course or "Entree", provided by Dan and fried by John Banderman. This was the largest platter of squirrels I have ever seen. Enjoyed it! Made me remember Grandma frying squirrel when my three brothers and I kept her freezer stocked with squirrel and rabbit. We would take her frog legs, but they wouldn't make it to the freezer.

In August, we break out the trail cameras, establish food plots, hang stands and start checking the flight of the broadheads. The countdown to September 15th is on! You have so many hunting plans that you realistically can't fit them all in, but you move on like you'll make it happen this year.



Dan's Squirrel Feast



Two Liter soda bottles taking flight



3 Man Skirmish at the 2022 UBM Rendezvous



I am thankful that I am still able to get out there. Yes, things have changed over time. Lighter bow, smaller backpack, tree stands not nearly as high, closer to the truck and not going out in the middle of the night. Safety items like a harness, sliding lifeline, and cell phone are much more important than scents, calls, and horns. Good luck to everyone. Enjoy the season but do it safely. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the February 2023 UBM Festival. ■

➤➤➤ FIRE ON THE GROUND!!

Tom Dickerson ➤

THIS IS THE WARNING GIVEN AS I DROP THE match to ignite the mixture of gasoline and diesel fuel just put on the pile of leaves and dry grass. This event is finally taking place after deciding to conduct a prescribed burn on a couple of different pieces of property on our farm. This form of land management is NOT to be taken lightly or conducted by the faint of heart!!

The first step of the process is to make sure that you attend one of the classes on prescribed fire. There are several agencies offering training and assistance with how to safely conduct a prescribed burn in our state. The Missouri Department of Conservation, Missouri Prescribed Fire Council, Quail and Pheasants Forever, National Wild Turkey Federation all offer this and there are currently five different Prescribed Burn Associations across the State. Several agencies have seen the benefits of using fire to control and promote habitat, which also benefits several different species of wildlife. After all, isn't that what we are all working for?



Pre-burn

I strongly recommend that you attend the class and help with at least one burn before you tackle one yourself! Personally, I sat through the MDC classes three different times and helped some members of our local Wildlife Association conduct several burns on their property before I finally conducted one on our property. I was still very anxious the first time I struck the match. I have now completed several units on our place, and I have helped on several hundred acres more. These units vary in size from less than an acre to several acres and their topography will determine how a burn on a unit can safely be conducted.

When you attend a class, you will meet someone that will be able to help you get things going. In any case, you will need to write up a Burn Plan. Your local MDC Private Land Resource agent or class instructor will be a good resource. An MDC forester is also a good choice for help with your plan. I encourage you to contact one of these people to find out more.



Post-burn

Continued on next page

There are several things that will need to be completed before you even consider putting fire on the ground, and I can also tell you that it will save you some work and can greatly improve your habitat!! I have helped with burns on CRP areas, native grass fields, warm season grasses, old overgrown fields, glades, woodlands, etc. During the classes you will learn some of the many benefits and the best time to conduct a burn to achieve your goals along with the best practices to safely reach these results.

I mentioned Prescribed Burn Associations earlier, this is a relatively new thing and a great way to share needed equipment and resources. Our association has a trailer that stores drip torches, fire rakes, fire flappers, backpack blowers, sprayers that can be strapped on a four-wheeler or slid into the back of a UTV, a chainsaw, several two-way radios, plus some other equipment. Being a member allows you access to some possibly needed equipment without every member having to go out and buy it for occasional use. Another great benefit is the sharing of manpower!! You help your neighbor, and they will help you when you burn. Some of our members have also helped cut in and blow out the fire lines and later conducted the burn after a member suffered a heart attack. Sometimes you have a small window of opportunity to complete a burn due to



Burning off an old field

weather conditions.

Some people that come to help on burn day may feel like they didn't do anything to help you when you burn but let me tell you that just having extra people around on burn day is a big help with peace of mind! A good day burning should be spent leaning on your fire rake IF you have properly prepared fire lines and a good burn plan is followed. In the event of a possible spot fire or escaped fire from your burn unit, the extra people around to help contain or isolate any such event could help relieve some stress. Most likely the extra eyes will help prevent it from happening.

If you are interested in using fire to help with some of your land management practices, feel free to contact me or some of the resources mentioned. The MPFC website will show you all the current Prescribed Burn Associations in the State. MDC is also a great resource.



You can find more information about the Missouri Prescribed Fire Council at their website, moprescribedfire.org



Woods burn

>>> 2022 UBM Rendezvous

top:

Derek and Paul were the lucky winners of Darren's PVC contraption.

bottom left:

Brian Peterson suffers for his ice cream.

bottom right:

The Skirmish in full swing!





This year's winning Skirmish team: Beau Johnston, Ryan Plummer, and Rayce Johnston.

These clay birds, and many others, gave their lives in service to the club.





top left:

Kevin Pinckney bearing down on a piece of unsuspecting foam.

top right:

John Banderman showing Kevin how it's done.

bottom:

A collection of liars is known as a "congress".



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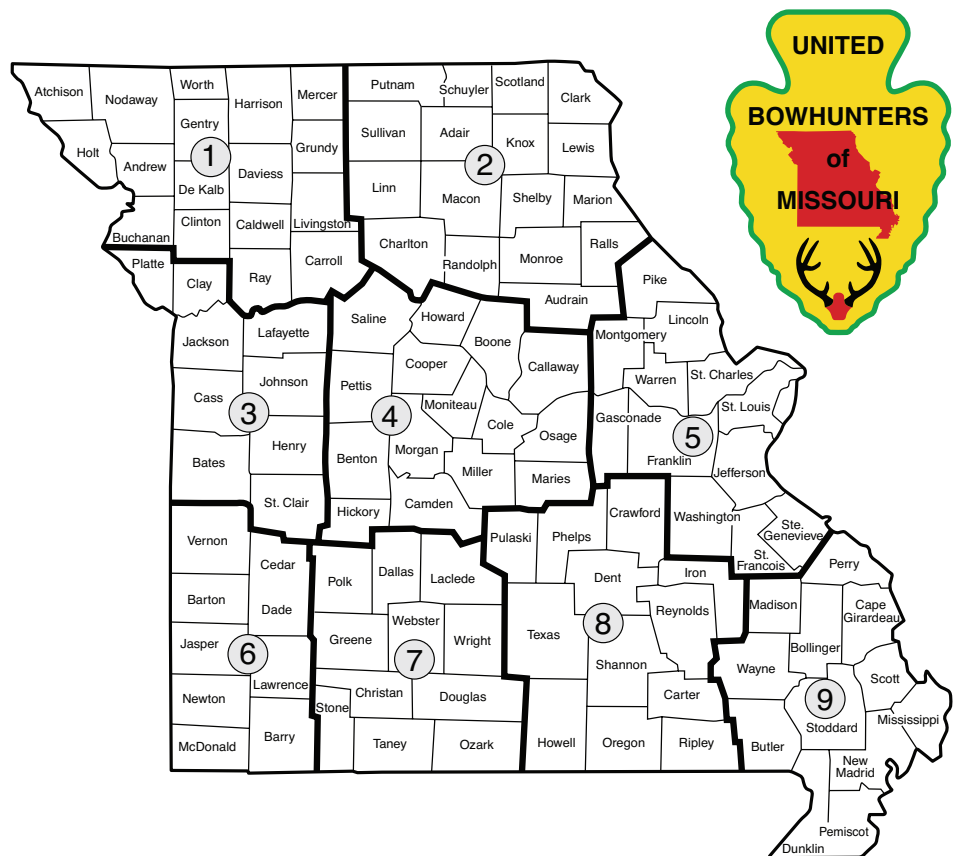
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