



THE UNITED Spring 2024 BOWHUNTER



Official Publication of The United Bowhunters of Missouri



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Spring 2024

Calendar of Events

April

6th-7th: Missouri youth turkey season
8th-16th: Kansas archery turkey season
15th: Missouri spring turkey season opens
17th: Kansas spring turkey season opens

May

5th: Missouri spring turkey season ends
27th: Missouri squirrel season opens
31st: Kansas spring turkey season ends

June

13th-16th: Compton Traditional Bowhunters Rendezvous, Berrien Springs, MI
27th-30th: United Bowhunters of Missouri Rendezvous, Marshall Bowhunters Club, Marshall, MO
30th: Missouri frog season opens

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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 —
We're all hoping she has a
tom in tow.

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



THE UBM FEBRUARY FESTIVAL WAS FANTASTIC!

Brian Burkhart was entertaining.

Our seminars were varied and informational. Our vendors increased, both in product and number. I cannot thank everyone enough for their time, efforts, and expertise. We have a wonderful organization!

If you attended this year's Festival in Springfield, Missouri, then you know exactly what I am talking about. It was great to meet new people and to connect with old friends. If you have never attended the Festival, please put it on your annual calendar. You will not be disappointed with the learnings, the products, and the people.

If you interacted with me at the Festival, you would have already

heard this, but we have an amazing Board of Directors. Every single one of our Board of Directors played a part in the success of our Festival. How great is this?!? I am proud to serve alongside the entire board. I am proud of the positive changes we have made and the changes that we are planning on making to continue to promote this wonderful organization and the importance of ethical and challenging bowhunting.

On a personal note, my wife and two teenagers attended the Festival for the first time. Again, I am proud of UBM because of the welcoming environment that has been created over time. They had a great time and appreciated meeting you.

Finally, the weather is warming up, and it is already March. It is time for us to put winter behind us and start preparing for hunting

opportunities (exercise, diet, hunting access, studying maps, etc.). I am so excited for my 2nd Colorado elk hunt this September, but my season is going start even earlier with a Canadian black bear hunt in May. If you are like me, it is really time to get serious about physical and mental preparations. Get outside and do it! ■

William R. Brown

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The Arduous yet Rewarding Journey of Glade Restoration and Woodland Project

Joel Davis

GLADES, OZARK WHITETAIL MOUNTAIN BUCKS, AND TURKEYS -

what do they all have in common? All three are very challenging and rewarding in the same breath.

Glades, Ozark whitetail mountain bucks, and turkeys share a common thread deeply woven into the fabric of the Ozark Mountains. Once abundant open spaces, the glades of the Ozark Mountains now find themselves overwhelmed by the encroachment of Eastern red cedar trees, a consequence of centuries of fire suppression and evolving human perspectives. The restoration of these glades in the Ozark Mountain hills is not merely a noble endeavor; it is a critical undertaking with the potential to significantly benefit the local ecosystem, particularly in terms of bolstering the populations of whitetail deer and turkey.

Historically, the rocky, open expanses of glades have played a pivotal role in providing habitat for these iconic wildlife species. However, a multitude of factors such as land development, the proliferation of invasive species, and the suppression of fires have led to the degradation of these vital habitats. Consequently, the populations of whitetail deer and turkey have suffered, necessitating urgent action to restore these crucial ecosystems.

The restoration of glades in the Ozark Mountain hills holds immense promise for the conservation and management of whitetail deer and turkey. These glades offer essential forage and cover for these species, and the restoration of these habitats can ensure that



they have the resources necessary for their thriving existence. Moreover, glades play a pivotal role in maintaining biodiversity in the region, supporting a diverse array of plant and animal species. By restoring these habitats, we can safeguard the overall health and resilience of the local ecosystem.

A century ago, glades were exquisite open islands within woodlands located on west and south facing slopes, boasting wild grasses, native wildflowers, and legumes. These areas were home to a diverse array of reptiles, such as the Eastern collared lizard, tarantulas, scorpions, Eastern Milksnake, and native flowers that promoted a plethora of pollinators and native birds, including road runners. However, the encroachment of cedar trees has transformed these once vibrant ecosystems into biological deserts, shading out sun-loving species and depriving wildlife of essential habitats.

The removal of invasive species such as Eastern red cedar trees is another crucial facet of glade restoration. Invasive plants



have the potential to outcompete native species, thereby diminishing the quality of habitat for whitetail deer and turkey. By eradicating these invasive species and fostering the growth of native plants, we can create a more diverse and productive habitat for these species, thereby positively impacting the overall health of the ecosystem.

Undertaking a glade restoration and woodland project is no small feat. It involves meticulous planning, coordination with conservation departments, and sheer dedication to bring about a transformative change in the natural landscape. My recent endeavor in this realm, which required extensive paperwork and collaboration with the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, aimed at securing funding through the Equip program, stands as a testament to the challenges and triumphs inherent in such an undertaking. The NRCS Representative was shocked that I wanted to take on a glade restoration project on my property and stated most landowners have no clue the benefit of the glades by promoting hunting and conservation.

The initial stages of the glade restoration project were undeniably daunting. The sheer scale of the task at hand, involving the removal of thousands of large cedar trees spanning across 13 acres, alongside woodland cutting covering 18 acres, demanded unwavering commitment and perseverance. To navigate through this Herculean effort, I sought



external motivation, enlisting the support of resilient individuals, including the aid of a stout 240-pound linebacker and a resourceful farmer from the Camdenton MDC Foresters Department. Their presence not only provided physical assistance but also served as a source of inspiration, propelling me forward in the face of adversity.

The use of chainsaws was the main weapon to eradicate the invasive cedar species, we also used the hack and herbicide squirt method, and girdling of large undesirable trees.

The days spent in the thick of the project were characterized by relentless toil and unwavering focus. My team and I dedicated ourselves to the arduous task, spending 7-8 hours daily engaged in the laborious process of cedar tree removal. The only respite we

allowed ourselves was for refueling equipment and ensuring the smooth operation of our tools. The physical and mental strain of the endeavor became palpable, with moments necessitating brief respites, where I found myself lying on the ground, gazing at the sky, seeking solace from the exhaustion threatening to overwhelm my being. Each day's culmination, marked by the felling of hundreds of cedar trees, evoked a profound sense of gratitude as I reverently kissed the ground, acknowledging the profound journey and the preservation of life throughout its course. It was amazing what I learned from the foresters through their lens, the respect, and friendships gained through the adventure.



In addition to removing invasive cedars by chainsaw, another fundamental aspect of glade restoration involves reintroducing fire as a natural ecological process. Historically, fire has played a pivotal role in shaping the vegetation and structure of glade habitats, and the suppression of fire has contributed to their degradation. By implementing controlled burns in restored glades, we can foster the growth of native grasses and forbs, crucial food sources for whitetail deer and turkey. Additionally, these restored glades offer valuable cover and nesting sites for these species, thereby supporting healthy and sustainable populations.

The act of setting fire to fallen cedar trees for the purpose of promoting soil regeneration and seed bed growth has been a common practice for many years. This spring, I will be undertaking this task with the aim of promoting 80-100 years of deprivation, which will return all the nutrients and minerals back to the soil. This, in turn, will encourage the seed bed that has been lying dormant for so many years to explode with fire, rain, and sunlight.

To ensure that the cedars do not grow back, I will need to maintain a 2-3 year burning rotation. While some may view this as a destructive act, it is actually a necessary step in promoting the growth and health of the surrounding ecosystem.

By burning the skeletons of the cedar trees, we are returning vital nutrients to the soil, which will help to promote the growth of new plants and trees. This act also helps to prevent the buildup of dead and decaying plant matter, which can be a breeding ground for pests and diseases.

Furthermore, the restoration of glades can also provide invaluable recreational opportunities for hunters and wildlife enthusiasts. By promoting healthy populations of whitetail deer and turkey, we can ensure that these species are available for sustainable hunting and viewing opportunities. This can have economic benefits for local communities, as well as providing important cultural and recreational value for residents and visitors alike.

The aftermath of the cedar tree removal revealed an unexpected transformation of the landscape. The once dominated cedar stand now is littered across the ground unveiling a panoramic view of the lake, offering a 360-degree vantage point atop the hill's crest, enabling the observation of approaching storms from miles away. The newfound openness ushered in an influx of sunlight, permeating the forest floor for the first time in nearly a century. This ecological shift not only revitalized the environment but also provided a haven for wildlife, with the cedar-laden ground emerging as a sanctuary for whitetail does and turkeys. The proliferation of wildlife was captured through the lens of cellular cameras strategically positioned along the trails, offering a glimpse into the thriving ecosystem that has taken root in the wake of the restoration efforts. The recent opening up of an area has provided turkeys with the ability to surf from one white oak tree to the next, increasing their roosting and brooding potential. Similarly, the whitetails now have numerous opportunities for bedding. This development has significantly enhanced the habitat for these species, allowing for increased activity and population growth.

The expansion of the area has undoubtedly had a positive impact on the local wildlife.

However, the absence of bucks on the trails during the summer months gave way to a remarkable transition as the season progressed. With the shedding of velvet from their antlers, the bucks began traversing the trails with increasing frequency, signaling a resurgence in their activity. This shift culminated in a moment of triumph as the newly erected stand provided the perfect vantage point, leading to the successful harvest of two nice Ozark bucks at close range within two days by my son, Cole Davis, and me. Not only did I harvest a nice buck, but I saw 14 turkey walk right under my stand that fine day. The symbiotic relationship between the reinvigorated environment and the flourishing wildlife underscored the profound impact of the restoration project, reaffirming the interconnectedness of nature and the fruits of dedicated labor.

In conclusion, the glade restoration and woodland project stands as a testament to the transformative power of human endeavor in the realm of conservation and ecological stewardship. The journey, fraught with challenges and moments of exhaustion, ultimately yielded a landscape teeming with life and vitality. It serves as a poignant reminder of the profound rewards awaiting those who dare to embark on the arduous yet profoundly fulfilling path of environmental reclamation and preservation.

I will be seeking pyros this March 2024 who like fire and will be willing to help with the prescribe burn.■

FEATHERS-N-WOOD DONATED A BOX OF YOUTH ARROWS TO UBM.

Andy Barnett, the owner of Feathers-n-Wood, said they were not matched and some required points or a bit of TLC. Larry Bauman volunteered to perform whatever is required to fix them up and will deliver them to UBM at the Rendezvous. The arrows will be put to good use as UBM supports various youth groups. We all know, you can never have too many arrows. Our thanks go out to Andy and Sheryl. ■



Thank You!

Kristine Banderman

BEING MEMBER OF THE YEAR IS AN HONOR AND TO SAY that I was surprised would be an understatement. I would like to say THANK YOU to everyone, especially my husband, John Banderman. This group of people is like family. ■

Kristine Banderman



Hot Meat Dip Recipe

Joan Barker

For those of you lucky enough to get a deer this year,

I have a great dip you can make either as a meal or dip for a party. If you weren't lucky, you can replace the venison with ground beef or ground sausage (hot or mild)



Ingredients

- 1 lb ground venison
- 8 oz cream cheese
- ½ package of Taco seasoning (whole package if you want it super spicy)
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese (more if you really want it cheesy)
- 1 10 oz can Rotel diced tomatoes (or any canned tomato with chilis included)
- Tortilla chips for dipping.

Directions

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In large skillet, brown the meat and then add taco seasoning. Drain off grease and place in either a quiche dish or pie pan. Set aside.
- Add canned tomatoes and cream cheese to the skillet. Cook for 5-10 minutes or until cream cheese is melted. Add the meat back and cook for another 3-5 minutes.
- Pour mixture into quiche/pie pan. Cover the top with cheese. Bake for 5-10 minutes or until cheese is melted. Serve immediately. Enjoy.

We make this every New Years Eve for our celebration for the end of one year and beginning of the new year. It's one of our favorites. My husband, James Barker, a member of UMB, requests this every year. Hope you enjoy it too! ■

THIS STORY WAS WRITTEN IN FALL OF 1988 FOR THE UBM NEWSLETTER.

So to give you a blast from the past here is Chris's story word for word.

The closer we got to our destination the harder it rained. Ron said that it was always this way during Turkey season and if the temperature dropped we might get a good tracking snow. But, nothing Ron could say was going to dampen my spirits. This was my hunting trip out of my own "back yard" and I was really looking forward to hunting Nebraska turkey. This would be my first opportunity to bowhunt Spring turkey without any gun hunters to contend with and all day to hunt!

We arrived at noon and although it was still raining, nothing was going to stop us from going after those gobblers. We spent the afternoon talking to landowners and scouting several areas.

In the first afternoon of my hunt, I learned the hard way one of the most important lessons of hunting in the rain. Always put toilet tissue in a plastic bag! You can imagine my surprise when I went to get the roll out of my pack and found the most disgusting wad of wet paper I had ever seen. Ron has never let me forget that lesson. It continued to rain the entire second day of the hunt. The turkeys were everywhere

but would not respond to a call. The third day, the rain stopped for

a while and the birds began to get vocal. This gave me an opportunity to locate a deaf, dumb, and blind turkey. Ten minutes after I arrowed my turkey, it began raining again and continued the rest of the day. I told Ron that if it would quit raining again, I thought he would have a good chance to get a bird in the area I had hunted. While scouting that afternoon, we found several M-16 casings lying around the area. I also noticed another object on the ground; which I picked up. Wiping off the dirt, I saw the lettering "ANTI-PERSONAL MINE." Uh-oh!! "PRACTICE MODEL" whew! I showed it to Ron and he remarked that that must be the way they hunt during gun season here in Nebraska. I reminded him that if that were so, I would like to be gone before the season opened.

The next morning, the rain had slacked off...somewhat. So, Ron and I set up in the area we had been in the day before. We called in several gobblers, but Ron just couldn't get his tag on one. We were taking a break, planning future strategy, when I heard a noise in the bushes. As I looked up, a camo-clad figure had the biggest gun pointed at us that I had ever seen. At the nod of his head, five or six others, all with M16's came out of the bushes. Not knowing quite what to do, I simply raised my hands and offered to surrender.

Staring at us for a moment, they turned and moved on through the trees. Ron and I just looked at each other, wondering why they hadn't told us gun season was getting an early start. Our attention was soon focused on a burst of automatic weapons fire and smoke filtering up through the tree tops a short distance away. We decided that it might be a good idea to start in the direction of our truck. As we worked our way back to the vehicle, we had to hide several times to avoid being spotted by groups of heavily armed men moving through the woods. Arriving back at the truck, we were met by the landowner and an Army officer. We were informed that we were hunting in the middle of a National Guard war-games zone. The commanding officer assured us that all his men were using blanks and requested that we not arrow any of his men. Well, needless to say, but the turkeys had vacated this area. The next day we headed home without any further luck. The five hour ride home wasn't too dull.

Ron and I had a few chuckles thinking out loud occasionally that the war games could have been interesting if we had just brought enough flu-flu's with rubber blunts. Taking a gobbler was exciting, but I do believe that hunting turkeys with the Nebraska National Guard was an experience that I will not likely forget! ■



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ITHINK IT WAS AROUND 2016 when I first had the opportunity to try gluing up my own laminate glass longbow. My friend, Lyle Shaulis, (who is a legitimate bowyer) and I had learned the process from Don Orrel and Mike Pyeatt. Lyle took to it quickly while I struggled. I understood the math and process, it just seemed like every bow I put together either landed underweight or failed entirely.

There was a period when the epoxies available to bowyers were having recalls and issues and I can attribute a few of my failures to that, but my last straw was in 2018 when I finally put a bow together that both hit weight and fit me like a glove.

I was on an antelope hunt with two of my best friends and had decided to commit to my longbow. It was on the second day of the hunt when we were loading a friend's buck into the truck that I noticed that, once again, another longbow I built had delaminated. Despite having shot it quite a bit,

it was evident that the glue had not fully cured in the bamboo cores. I did later learn that my curing process was also not entirely by the book so I can't blame it all on any brand.

So, for the last few years I've enjoyed hunting with bows that were built by Lyle or used custom bows that I purchased on classified forums. But in 2022, I got the itch again and decided to glue another one up. I decided to keep it simple and used a solid granadillo riser and tiger myrtle veneer and dressed it with light riser overlays of phenolic with antler tips.

I decided to take my time with the process and this time I finally had a functional bow that survived initial shaping and limb profiling. It was nearly perfect until I neglected to pay attention as someone came into my shop as I was sanding the limb profiles to completion, and I ended up making a few deep grooves in a limb. I stepped away from it for almost a year but got the gumption to try and salvage it in the spring of 2022. By the time I got the bow tillered back from that fiasco,



it came out pulling 44# at my 27" draw. I was hoping for 50# but this bow could hunt still.

In fact, I shot that bow better than any bow I've ever owned. I was able to tune a 500-spine carbon shaft with a 200-grain tip to achieve a little over a good old Fred Bear Standard of 10ish grains per pound of draw with that bow. I had cut the shelf in at a daring level of past center, but the point of aim and tuning fit me like a glove!

I ended up having a lapse that fall in my mental shooting game and ended up not taking anything with that bow in 2022, although I did take a deer late in the year with another one of Lyle's bows.

So, with another year to think about what I really wanted out of my deer season, I took back to shooting it all of this past summer. I felt confident that, if I could get a reasonable opportunity, I should be able to capitalize on it.

On my very first hunt on September 16th, I figured out quickly that the area I chose to hunt that evening had been ruined by the development of a nearby house, so I opted to leave the stand early



that night and “glass” public land down the road from that location. As I was driving out at last light from there, I noticed a couple of bucks emerge out of a pocket of woods that I had seen this pattern take place before at the start of early bow season for several years. In the low light I could tell that at least one of them was what I would deem a “shooter”. Let’s be real here though, I was looking to take any deer with my longbow this year.

On September 18th I clocked out of work in Springfield at 4:30 pm. It was quite warm that evening, but my bow (unstrung of course) and climbing stand were in the car so I decided to book it back home and try that spot.

It wasn’t until 5:45 pm that evening that I found myself standing in that location and looking for a tree to climb. I finally settled on a tree that seemed to give the best cover considering that the area had been burned off this past spring. Unfortunately, I discovered a weird flat spot on the trunk when I was only about 7 feet high that made climbing any higher not worth the fight, so I opted to simply

hunt from 7 feet off the ground right there given how late in the evening it was.

I never saw a thing until right before last light when I noticed two deer were working their way towards me. Before long I realized that they weren’t just working towards my general area, they were walking seemingly straight at me to my tree! When the lead deer, which I had noticed was a buck, stopped at about 20 yards and looked my way, two thoughts occurred: I was certain that they were going to spot me, and, that buck had pretty tall G2s.

Alas, he didn’t spot me and continued right towards me. I was very slowly trying to put pressure on the bowstring and track him with my bow and it wasn’t until he was about 4-5 yards away that he turned broadside to me.

If I’ve ever actually shot truly instinctive, that was the moment. I made certain to burn a hole in his “pocket” where I wanted my arrow to go and quickly completed my draw cycle and shot. I believe the buck caught my movement in his peripherals and decided to

wheel back towards me and away in that instant, so my broadside shot turned into a hard quartering to shot. My arrow essentially went right where I intended it to go, but the angle was not ideal. I also heard the very distinct sound of a paunch being pierced and air escaping it, so my initial thoughts were fairly pessimistic.

In a matter of seconds, I watched the buck and my arrow race about 120 yards west of me and over a small hill in the landscape. I waited about 15 minutes, climbed down, and headed straight for my car.

I called my good friend, Dustin, and told him what had happened and he offered to go look with me at around 10 pm. The temps were going to be in the 90s the next day and I had to leave for work at around 5:30 am, so I needed to find this deer that evening if I could.

We ended up finding a surprising amount of deep red blood and eventually my arrow with a lot of clumps of blood right where I lost sight of the buck, but the blood just flat disappeared after that. We looked until a little after 1 am, but the reality was that it was time to stop, given what we had to work with and our jobs.

That next day was quite miserable, but I was able to get out of work an hour early that afternoon so I jetted straight home and grabbed another friend, Tyler, and also Lyle to help me grid search the area in the light.

The bittersweet part of it all was that we’d only been there roughly 5 minutes when Tyler whistled. That buck was laying there stone dead not 30 yards from where we’d last found sign. I’d walked by that little brushed in spot countless times the evening before in the dark.

The evidence indicated that he had died on the run and after



examining the shot I discovered that the inertia from his spin had caused my arrow to both angle back and to throw downward after glancing literally down the side of a rib. My arrow had sliced through one lung, the liver, and exited right down through the center of the paunch. It wasn't ideal, but it had cleanly taken the deer and that deer was likely expired before I ever climbed down the evening before.

As you can imagine I was quite torn about the whole situation since both the meat and the cape to that deer were a total loss.

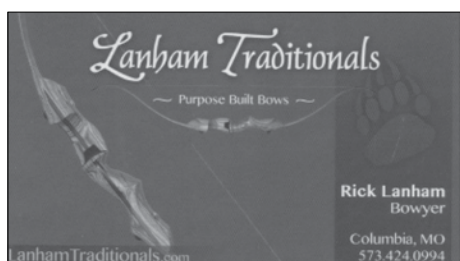
The buck carried 11 and 11 1/2" g2s as a simple 8 point and I believe he was only 2 years old, but we taped him at between 120 and 122. Not a monster by any means, but a deer I was very proud to put my archery tag on.

It didn't end the way I hoped, but I had finally accomplished my personal goal of taking a deer with a longbow I built myself and I must admit that it's the

most accomplished I've ever felt concerning any deer hunt.

I'll add briefly that as of this writing, I was able to arrow a sow javelina with that same bow just last week in Texas. The shot was textbook and the javelina was down within seconds of the shot. I suspect Ryan Plummer, Beau Johnston, and I will have an article to summarize that whole hunt in the next issue.

Anyhow, I just wanted to encourage anyone interested that the feeling that comes from taking game with gear that you built yourself really is worth the cost in time and patience, so go out there and "roll your own"! ■



BARRY WENSEL INTERVIEWS PAUL SCHAFER FOR BOWHUNTER MAGAZINE (CIRCA 1985)

If you have been into traditional archery for any period of time, you are likely familiar with the name Paul Schafer. Paul was a famed athlete from Montana that became a very accomplished bowhunter and bowyer later in life. He harvested many record book animals with his handmade tackle including several world records. Brief research will reveal stories such as his 40-mile pronghorn and exploits in Africa. The article you are about to read is one of only a small handful of articles with his words, as he was a very humble man that never talked about himself and his accomplishments. He passed away after a skiing accident in 1993. Barry Wensel (a name most of you know) and Paul were dear friends and this interview by Barry was published in 1985 in Bowhunter Magazine. I recovered this article and personally received Barry's blessing to share it with you, the United Bowhunters of Missouri member. Set back and enjoy the wisdom of perhaps the best bowhunter of all time.

Ethan Page

Barry: Paul, most of the bowhunters in Montana know and respect your accomplishments. You were recognized as Montana's bowhunter of the year in 1984, but on a national bases, if the name Paul Schafer was mentioned, very few people would associate you as

probably one of the most successful bowhunters around today. Why is that?

Paul: Well probably because I haven't chosen to let everyone know my accomplishments. Bowhunting has been very self-rewarding and personal to me.

Success can mean a lot of different things to different people. To some it's the number of kills under your belt. To me it's hunting hard, waiting for the right shot, making a good clean on a trophy of your own standards not your friends or anyone else's.

Barry: I know that you are a humble man and tend not to brag about your bowhunting accomplishments. Just for the readers sake and to substantiate your credibility as an experienced woodsman, would you care to expound on some of the trophies that you have taken in the last few years?

Paul: As my mother used to say “Hunt, hunt, hunt... that’s all you ever want to do.” Anyway, in the last 14 years of hard bowhunting, I have taken 34 P&Y trophies. 10 of my trophies would rank in the top 20 of P&Y records and 6 rank in the top 10. I have hunted one-on-one and taken a variety of big game including whitetail deer, mule deer, black bear, elk, moose, grizzly, mountain goat, pronghorn antelope, cougar, caribou, dall sheep, stone sheep and bighorn sheep.

Barry: Like myself, you are an instinctive shooter. What would you say would be the two most important factors to become a good instinctive shot?

Paul: Without hesitation I would say confidence and concentration are the two most important factors. To develop these skills, I would say that it would have to be broken into three groups: mental, physical and equipment.

Barry: So, let’s talk about equipment. It is common knowledge that you are a custom bowyer by profession. Tell us why you prefer shooting a recurve bow.

Paul: The reason I picked up and stayed with the recurve was not because it is the thing to do now days. Nor was it the aesthetic value or the beauty and grace of a recurve. It was because I found it to be a superior weapon in the field. I had a lot more advantages than disadvantages in a hunting situation

with a recurve. It is simple with little to go wrong. It allowed me to get off a fast shot when game was close before they could react. By this I mean ‘snap shoot’. It was clean and simple allowing me to use all my God given senses. Incidentally, this is the same reason I put down the rifle. If I wanted to stay with sights and triggers, I might as had stayed with my rifle.

Barry: So, I take it that you have shot a bow most of your life?

Paul: I have had a bow since I can remember as a kid on the farm, but it wasn’t until after college that I picked up my recurve and became serious. I had done some hunting and a lot of shooting, but I still didn’t truly know how to properly set up my bow or how important **SHARP BROADHEADS** were. I was very lucky. I was introduced to Pat Wolf, a very experienced bowhunter from Indiana. He took the time to help me get my first real good hunting equipment, showed me how to set it up and sharpen my broadheads. I never knew back then that the rest of my life would be devoted to the betterment of bowhunting.

Barry: I would imagine over the years of working in your custom bow shop in Kalispel, MT that you have had the chance to talk and work with numerous people on their shooting ability and styles. Are there any points that you could elaborate on that seem to separate the really good bow shots from the mediocre?

Paul: I have found over the years that a solid bow arm is the single most important factor. By this I mean, bow arm extension or follow-through. In other words, it’s not dropping your bow arm till the arrow strikes the target. A floating bow arm can be caused by several things including: a bad

release or not locking your bow arm solid. I think that if a person really concentrates on a solid bow arm/follow-through that this will help their consistency more than anything.

Barry: Most successful bowhunters stress the importance of having confidence in their equipment. Can you elaborate on this a little?

Paul: I can’t stress enough how much I practice at short and medium range. I kept analyzing my shooting after every day. I tried different things all the time and whatever seemed to work best for me I would develop confidence in it because it did. For arrows, I tried both three and four fletch, even went as far as trying six fletch. I tried straight, helical, slight and as much helical as I could possibly get both right and left wing. My main concern was to get as accurate as humanly possible. I found out the best combination for me at first was four fletch 5” feathers shooting off the shelf. I chose four fletch so that I could nock an arrow and not break my concentration on the object I wanted to shoot. Later, I changed to 5” pro-fletch vanes and an elevated rest. There were many reasons for doing so. The end result was a four fletch, left helical 5”, set at 75/100 degrees grouped the best in wind and other conditions for me. I also found that mounting my broadheads vertically helped me. I prefer the Zwickery Black Diamond Eskimo four-blade. I tried a lot of other broadheads even going up to the Delta. But after lots of testing I came back to the Eskimo. The bigger ones seemed to deflect a lot more when they hit a little brush. Plus, once in a while a gust of wind would catch my arrow and cause it to wind plane. I found that I could shoot this broadhead even

better than filed points. This was the whole point, to **KNOW YOUR EQUIPMENT** so well that it would build your shooting confidence.

Barry: What about your arrows?

Paul: As for the type of shaft, I stayed with aluminum. With a recurve you have a sudden surge of energy on the start, and I found that they would have the most consistent strength per inch so that they would flex the same amount with uniformity which made me shoot better.

Barry: You say that you also prefer the elevated arrow rest?

Paul: Yes. I found that it gave me a lot better sight picture of what I was shooting at. I anchor close to my eye for instinctive shooting and when I elevated my bow arm for say, a thirty-yard shot, my bow arm covered up the object that I wanted to see. Example: it was similar to trying to shoot at something at long range with an open sighted rifle. The front sight covered my target. It made me want to try drop my bow arm to watch the arrow fly. The elevated rest eliminated these problems.

Barry: You also switched from feathers to vanes. Can you elaborate on that some?

Paul: After my first trip north to British Columbia in constantly wet weather, the noise factor of feathers in flight as well as the noise factor when dry feathers brushed against brush, plus the all-around durability of plastic made me switch. I found that I had to cut my bow closer to center shot and radius my sight window to get good arrow flight. But now in fact I can shoot vanes better than feathers.

Barry: You seem to have a reason for everything that you do, not because it's what your hero or everyone else does.

Paul: Yes. It's the sum total of several minor factors that gives you confidence in your equipment. You have to check your nock point, check your brace height, check your arrow rest and check your arrows. Make sure everything is in order because they all play a big factor in your shooting. After you know that your equipment is in order, it helps your confidence level because you know that it is the best combination for you. It makes sense because you will shoot better when you are confident in your equipment.

Barry: Over the years it seems most of the better game shots that I have met are extremely confident in their shooting. In fact, they are borderline cocky they can hit what they shoot at.

Paul: You have to be. You have to develop good, consistent practice habits. You have to maintain good form. By that I mean good bow arm extension, a solid anchor point and a good clean release. You have to concentrate not just do a lot of shooting. You have to learn to shoot with purpose and with meaning. You have to study your arrow flight. I use bright fletching's and dip my arrows so that I am able to look at my target and be able to subconsciously visualize the trajectory of the arrow in my mind. Picture the arrow in your mind like a tracer bullet to help visualize the flight path to your target.

Barry: I know you tend to practice at longer ranges than most of us do. Is there any theory on this?

Paul: Practicing at long range helps give me the time to visualize and learn the arrows flight. Plus, anything I do wrong is magnified. It really helps me concentrate on form and builds my confidence level. Then when I move into where I will and should be when shooting at

game, I feel so close that I can't miss and when you feel that confident you don't miss. If there is one secret to my consistently successful game shooting, that is it.

Barry: How else do you practice?

Paul: I also cut out and shoot at silhouette of whatever I will be hunting. My philosophy on shooting silhouettes even goes so far as putting real horns on. This is to get used to anything that may distract my concentration off the rib area. I also stand the silhouette ten yards away from the backstop. This will help a shooter learn depth perception for judging distances. But the key is concentration. It will help start what I describe as learning "tunnel vision." It's like looking through a pipe, everything else is blocked out. All you see is exactly where you want to place your arrow. By doing this your mind naturally centers in the middle of this tunnel. There isn't a spot or bullseye on the animals, so you have to train your mind to do this. I find myself visualizing over and over the animal I'm hunting so that I am ready. It's mental preparation. I even find myself thinking about an elk or deer or whatever walking along, blocking out everything but the ribs and lunge area. I do this all the time while actually hunting, even while at home mowing the lawn during the summer.

Barry: You seem to stress a lot on mental preparation. Do you feel strongly on this?

Paul: Yes. Very strongly. I study other animals that walk by. I concentrate on their rib areas thinking of different angles of the shot. I look for the best place to shoot. Create a mental picture in your mind, go over it and over it, prepare yourself for the shot of a lifetime. Develop that positive

attitude. In my opinion, mental preparation is one of the three most important factors in developing good instinctive shooting techniques.

Barry: We already talked equipment and the mental aspect of instinctive shooting. What is the third important factor?

Paul: Physical conditioning. One can never be too strong. There are different complexes of muscles used in shooting a bow than most of us use in everyday work. Therefore we all have to develop ourselves in this area. Basically, we are talking about the upper body, shoulders, back, arms and fingers. All the articles that I have read forget about **THE FINGERS**. They play as important of a part as any of the above but none of them should be overlooked.

By strength I'm not talking about big muscles, but tonicity. What you want is to create a muscle that has a lot of endurance. The way to do this is with a lot of repetition. Chin ups, handstands, pushups (both wide spread hands and closer to the chest), fingertip pushups and squeezing a racket ball. Isometrics are also very good. I draw the bow in three stages. Draw one third of full draw and hold for ten seconds. Then two thirds for ten seconds. Then full draw for ten seconds, etc. This will help you develop your draw to minimize the amount of movement needed to get to full draw, while minimizing the amount of sweep arm motion and easing the push pull motions. But learning your equipment, developing your physical strength and mental

conditioning, you're on your way to becoming a skilled instinctive predatory hunter.

Conclusion by Barry: While talking to Paul Schafer you realize that bowhunting is not just a pastime or a hobby, it is a way of life. He has accepted the challenge. Not just to take a trophy animal, but out outsmart him in his own back yard at very close range with equipment that is not only hand made, but a literal extension of his senses and beliefs. He has succeeded beyond the beliefs of even some of the experts. Recently, Gene Wensel made this statement; "I think that Paul Schafer is undoubtedly one of the greatest bowhunters to walk the face of the earth." I agree. ■

2023/2024 Deer Season is History

Larry Bauman

MISSOURI'S ARCHERY DEER SEASON CLOSED January 15, 2024. The Buffalo Tongue Bowhunters gathered January 28, 2024, for the annual breakfast and get together at the local Cracker Barrel. Everyone was happy to see each other, knowing this was storytelling time. We learned this from Show and Tell. Reliving hunts, events, and experiences. Sharing pictures (on cell phones) should be easy, but it isn't. Dave Schneider brought two beautiful selfbows for everyone to admire. Dave is a master craftsman and is a strong supporter of MOJAM. Chris Rackley announced that he was working a deal for one of Dave's bows. Somehow that's not surprising. I am sure we'll see him shooting one this season. The waitress had to wade in between storytelling and photo sharing to take orders. One person handling a large crowd with individual orders, only getting help with the delivery of food which interrupted the chatter. She deserves an award. She also remembered us from last year. Wonder why?

I attended the UBM Festival in February and made donations for both auctions. I also participated in the photo and arrow contests. Delivered a few "old" photos to a couple of seniors. Paid my annual dues

and bought a few UBM items. Picked up orders from vendors and still found time to visit.

James Barker and I left for the Festival early Friday to allow time to visit Springfield Leather Company and various other stops prior to checking in at the Oasis. It also provides us time to visit with others that arrive early. Brenda Hudson and Kristine Banderman were already set up at registration. They would later receive well deserved center stage recognition at the Saturday night Banquet. Kristine, "UBM Member of the Year"



and Brenda, “UBM Bowhunter of the Year”. Congratulations ladies! Your enduring support to UBM is appreciated.

Thanks to all the vendors for their participation and the extra work required to support the Festival. Providing hands-on products is a real plus. Your patience and expertise are recognized. I did buy a few things, but James out did me by buying a bow.

The Festival/Weekend went entirely too fast. There is so much going on. When you get involved in the silent auctions, visiting with vendors and longtime friends, trying to make the scheduled seminars, working in lunch, plus discussing previous and future hunts or shoots, you are sure to miss something.

The Festival was great. Thanks to the UBM Board for their work and preparation. Negotiating with the Hotel, special rates, the banquet room, equipment, administrative requirements, tickets, dinner table assignments etc. Contacting and making arrangements for the keynote banquet speaker (Bryan Burkhardt), plus scheduling the seminars. The list goes on and on. It doesn't just happen. We are blessed to have those who are willing to take on these tasks for the benefit of the entire organization. We Thank You!

The weekly stump season started the week after the UBM Festival. Normal starting time is 8:00 am on Sunday mornings. There is usually one person hook sliding in at 7:59 am. This year sliding in was easy. It snowed, but all arrows were recovered. That was an accomplishment! Weekly shooting continues for those who can make it until mid-September (the start of MO archery deer season). Be sure to bring what I call your “fighter arrows”. They do get roughed up a bit. ■



Stump Season begins - Chris Rackley



“Star Wars” Dave Schneider



James getting to know his new bow

2024 UBM Festival Photo Contest Winners

ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FESTIVAL each year is seeing all the pictures our members submit in the photo contest. They run the gamut of everything related to bowhunting, with a heavy leaning towards everyone's favorite forest companion, the squirrel. Here are this year's winners. ■



Outdoor Theory – Bob Burns



Bowhunter with Game – Bob Burns



Wildlife – Wes McCain



Bowhunting Related – Dale Sader



Trailcam – Bill Brown



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Ethan Grotheer (stickbow17@yahoo.com)



Scan this QR code
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Fred Bear Award – Black bear taken by Dennis Harper



MDC Agent of the Year – Andrew Barnes (Lawrence County)



Bowhunter of the Year – Brenda Hudson



Best Arrow – Bill Stewart







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A detailed map is forthcoming.

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Join UBM or renew your membership.

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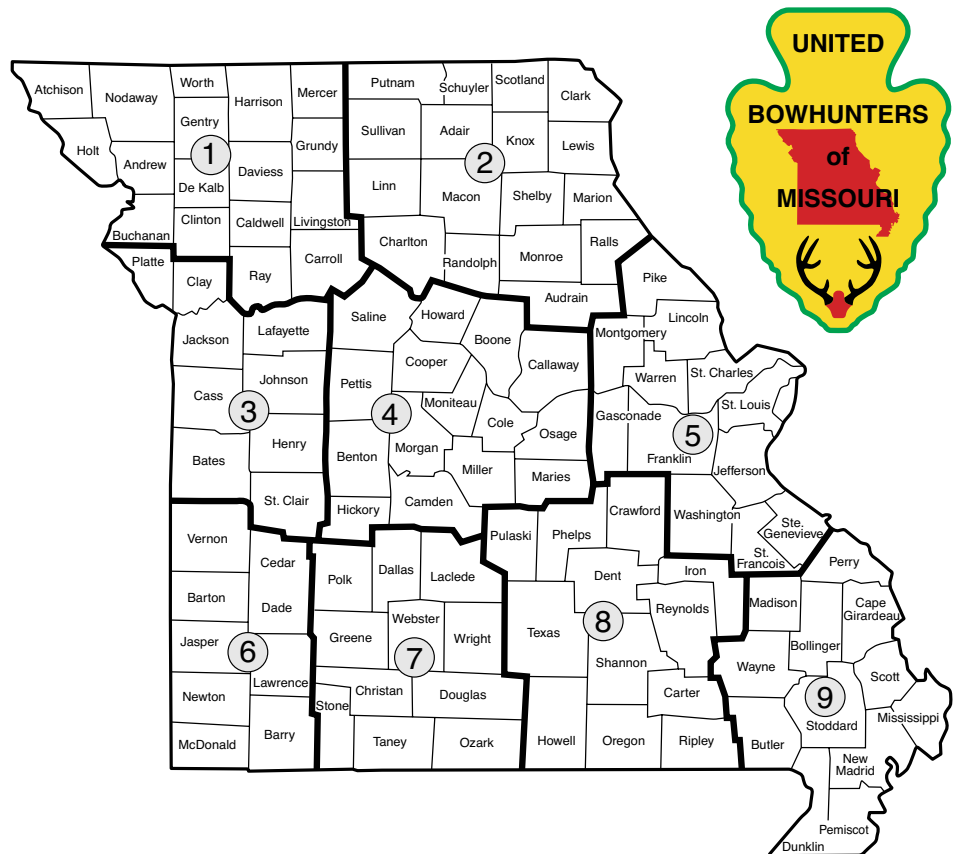
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