



THE UNITED Fall 2024 **BOWHUNTER**

Official Publication of The United Bowhunters of Missouri



Calendar of Events

October

1st: Missouri rabbit season opens
 1st-31st: Missouri fall turkey season
 11th-13th: Missouri early firearms antlerless deer season

November

2nd-3rd: Missouri early youth deer firearms season
 16th-26th: Missouri firearms deer season
 27th: Start of Missouri CWD deer firearms season
 29th: Start of late Missouri youth deer firearms season

December

1st: End of Missouri CWD deer firearms season
 1st: End of late Missouri youth deer firearms season
 7th-15th: Missouri late antlerless deer firearms season
 28th: Start of Missouri alternative methods deer firearms season

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Full page	\$130.00	⅓ page	\$70.00
⅔ page (back cover)	\$125.00	¼ page	\$50.00
⅓ page	\$110.00	Less than ¼ page	\$30.00

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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
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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 —

Nothing quite like the
 splendor of fall colors!

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



AS YOU ARE READING THESE WORDS, I AM PROBABLY BACK from a Colorado public land elk traditional bow hunt. This is my second year to do this particular hunt, and as I write this, I leave tomorrow. I couldn't be more excited to be in the Rocky Mountains

and have the opportunity to be broadside of an elk at 10 yards. The adrenaline rush is worth it. The effort is worth it. The experience is worth it. I hope you too, are on an adventure, or dreaming of an upcoming adventure in the outdoors. I look forward to hearing about your adventure at our annual Festival in Springfield in February.

Speaking of the Festival....We will once again be at the Oasis Hotel and Convention Center in Springfield, Missouri. February 7-9, 2025 are the dates, and it is never too early to get your hotel room reserved. Your UBM Board of Directors are already making plans to make this a great Festival. Vendors, banquet, silent auction, Black Widow bow raffle, seminars, and a live auction are just a few things that happen at this event. If there is one thing I would suggest to you and your hunting friends, come for

the whole weekend. Enjoy the variety of activities and the connections. Specifically, stay for the banquet, speaker, awards presentations, Black Widow bow raffle drawing, and live auction on Saturday night. It is ALWAYS a great time, plus the auction is another way to support UBM. Let's max out our tables at this year's banquet on the Saturday evening of the Festival!

Finally, I briefly mentioned the UBM Board, but I want to speak about them again. We have a great UBM board! These individuals enjoy interacting with one another and preparing the Rendezvous in June, the Festival in February, and coming up with some new ideas too. We are truly blessed with these folks. I hope you are as proud of UBM as I am. Thank you for being a part of this organization! Have fun hunting, and I look forward to seeing you in February! ■



The UBM Board of Directors at their annual meeting in August (left to right): Joel Davis, Cole Davis, Arthur Kanneman, Wes McCain, Ryan Plummer, William R. Brown, Darren Haverstick

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WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO WIN AN AWARD AT THE UBM FESTIVAL?

Have you ever wondered if you or your buddy may be deserving of one of the awards we present? Many times I have heard that the same people always win, but I can assure you that all nominations are considered equally for each award. Sometimes we only have one or two nominated for a certain award, but you can help us out by nominating someone if you think they are worthy.

To make the selection process more transparent, below are general criteria for the awards that are handed out.

Member of the Year:

This award is reserved for those who have displayed a long term dedication to UBM and bowhunting.

Youth Bowhunter:

A bowhunter is considered a “youth” if they are younger than 16 years old and have used the bow and arrow to pursue and possibly legally take some type of game. Taking of game is not a requirement but it does carry weight in the decision. It could be a rabbit, squirrel, fish, frog, deer, turkey, or anything.

Fred Bear Award:

This award is for an outstanding animal which was taken during the year. The type of hunt and hunt difficulty may have some weight, but mostly it is the animal that receives this award.

Jerry Pierce Award:

This award is presented to a supporter of UBM in honor of the late Jerry Pierce. The person may be a vendor or other who donates to UBM and helps with our fundraising efforts to continue our mission of promoting bowhunting. Most have been there for several years faithfully donating to UBM.

Conservation Agent of the Year:

These nominations usually come from within the Missouri Department of Conservation but can come from any member who knows of an agent who has worked to defend our Missouri resources. Archery related cases do weigh in on this award but other cases are also considered.

Bowhunter of the Year:

This award is voted on by the last three recipients of it. However, nominations can be made by any member. Below are the categories considered for this honor and the maximum amount of points awarded for each category.

- **Equipment Standards (10 points):** Using hunting equipment that is consistent with the UBM standards.
- **Bowhunter Education (10 points):** To receive these points, the nominee must have completed a certified bowhunter education course.
- **Bowhunting Instructor (10 points):** Eligibility for this category requires that the nominee be a current bowhunter instructor.
- **Membership (10 points):** The nominee must have endorsed two new members that meet UBM standards. This information is recorded on a person’s application for UBM membership and kept by the membership committee.
- **Leadership (10 points):** Nominees are judged on their volunteer work on UBM programs, committee service, etc.
- **In-State Large Game (10 points):** Points are awarded for taking at least one large game animal in Missouri. Large game can be; deer, turkey, coyote, fox, or bobcat.
- **Out-Of-State Large Game (10 points):** Points are awarded for taking at least one large game animal somewhere other than Missouri.
- **Bow Fishing (5 points):** Awarding of these points is based on the fish taken and turned in by the person who nominated the nominee.
- **Small Game (5 points):** Awarding these points is based on evidence presented by the person nominating the nominee.
- **Hunting Dedication (10 points):** In this category, a narrative must accompany the nomination. This is an open-ended category. Possible items in the narrative would be time spent hunting and scouting, habitat development, educating newcomers, and personalization of hunting gear.
- **Newsletter Participation (10 points):** To be considered for these points, the nominee must have submitted a photo or story or both to the newsletter.

This information provides you with some guidelines as to who may be receiving or worthy of receiving one of these awards. Please help us recognize those who are working for UBM and bowhunting by nominating them for an award. ■

THE DAWN OF THAT MOMENTOUS DAY WAS imbued with a sense of emotional duality—excitement blended with apprehension. As I stood on the top of the Ozark mountain top looking at the brink of great risk with Eastern Red Cedars littering across the canvas of the forest floor, an endeavor that promised not only personal growth but also the revitalization of an ecosystem, I felt a deep connection to the land I had stewarded for several years. The years of managing a glade overshadowed by invasive Eastern Red Cedar trees were about to culminate in a fire that would restore the landscape to its original, sun-kissed glory, allowing new life to emerge and flourish on the rock island stamped amongst the large vast standing old timber.



The raging cedar tree fire from the ground.

My imagination painted vivid images of a thriving tropical rainforest in desert-like conditions, teeming with vibrant life; birds soaring above, their melodious songs creating a soothing symphony amidst the backdrop of the Ozark rolling hills. I envisioned turkey poultts foraging for seeds and insects, contributing to the

burgeoning population, while whitetail deer grazed peacefully on the tender foliage of forbs and legumes, basking in the warm sun on the south-facing slopes.

The glade burn and forest stand improvement program was in motion March 16th, 2024, a concerted effort aimed at incinerating the fallen Eastern

Red Cedar trees, which had been systematically removed using chainsaws a year prior. The collaborative labor embodied by my friends, my son, Cole Davis, and me was significant. Cole and I dedicated several weekends before the burn preparing burn lines, which we meticulously carved out to be between twelve to sixteen feet wide. Utilizing Stihl backpack blowers, weed eaters, and small chainsaws, we cleared the areas



A smoke covered sky, showcasing the lake.

of dry leaves, fallen branches, snag trees and excess grass to establish effective firebreaks.

As the day of the burn approached, I rallied a group of skilled fire fighters, men who had battled flames in varying terrains—from Wyoming and Montana to Arizona. Their expertise in executing controlled burns and extinguishing unintentional wildfires was invaluable.

Additionally, my friend Arthur Kanneman, a board member of UBM, joined us not only to assist but to learn how to implement similar prescribed burns on his property in the future.

Once the flames were ignited, my initial surge of adrenaline gave way to a profound sense of calm. The controlled inferno, with its towering flames rising over sixty feet, was managed with surprising ease across the thirty-nine acres we targeted. Our team's efforts to break



The day after the burn looked like snow covering the ground.

the glade away from adjacent forest areas proved crucial; rather than merely fixating on the flames, half of our crew-maintained vigilance over regions laden with potential fuel, preventing unintended fire spread. Two of our members tirelessly scouted the perimeter on

A pivotal tool in our operation was a drone, which provided a bird's-eye view of the burn area. Initially intended for documentation, the drone became an instrumental asset in monitoring fire behavior, helping to identify

any potential fire jumps. However, the drone was tough to control at times with the swirling tornado-like winds from the fire. I told myself this kind of fire will only happen once in my lifetime, so I resolved to push the drone to its limits with the fire. The decision was a gamble, but I aimed to capture astonishing video footage, fully aware the drone could succumb to melt along with the cedar trees from the heat.

As the landowner, I embraced the weight of responsibility for both the fire and its outcomes.

Lighting the initial blaze signified not only my commitment to this project but also my understanding of the complexities involved in planning a controlled burn. Critical considerations included wind direction, wind speed, humidity levels, terrain slopes, and the integrity of established burn lines. I ensured that local fire departments



Aerial shot of the Island in the Sun (glade).

and nearby residents were informed ahead of time, while also removing snag trees that could act as chimney chases and blowing fuel away from crucial trees such as white oaks and walnuts, which play a vital role in the ecosystem.

The glade at its previous state, once dominated by a monoculture of Eastern Red Cedars, has undergone a remarkable transformation into a thriving polyculture of diverse flora and fauna. This change, which my son, Cole, affectionately describes as the creation of a lush tropical rainforest in the Ozarks, is the result of considerable effort and dedication. Our recent visit to the glade a few weeks ago revealed an astonishing explosion of growth, showcasing an array of wildflowers and native grasses that have flourished in this revitalized ecosystem.

As I observed Cole energetically exploring the area, attempting to identify the various species of wildflowers, I was filled with a sense of pride and joy. His enthusiasm for nature was palpable as he immersed himself in the beauty surrounding him. Meanwhile, I took the opportunity to scout the perimeter of the glade on my quad runner, making my way to the top of a rocky knob where a majestic white oak tree stood—a potential site for a tree stand. From this vantage point, I was treated to a breathtaking view of the expansive glade. In a serendipitous moment,



The rebirth of the glade, three weeks after the burn.

Cole inadvertently pushed two magnificent bucks in velvet directly toward me. Unfortunately, he missed this encounter, as he was too engrossed in examining the vibrant flowers at his feet.

This moment prompted me to reflect on the significance of our efforts in transforming the glade. The joy I felt in witnessing Cole's excitement and curiosity about the diverse plant life was profound. Furthermore, the presence of the bucks, documented through my trail camera and now witnessed firsthand, underscored the success of our project. Had we left the invasive Eastern Red Cedars untouched, the glade would have remained a barren landscape, devoid of wildlife. The bucks, along with other species, would have continued to traverse the vast timberlands of the Ozarks without the sanctuary that our work has created. The additional bonus the burn has set back the darn pesky ticks from using me as a host to hitch rides.

The glade is still in its early stages of recovery, revealing its rocky formations and a once-deprived seed bank that has finally begun to

germinate after nearly a century. This resurgence of biodiversity has attracted a variety of insect pollinators, as well as fascinating creatures such as lizards, tarantulas, and scorpions. The transformation of the glade has not only revitalized the plant life but has also fostered a thriving ecosystem that supports a multitude of species.

As the hunting season approaches, I am eager to explore the edges of the glade from a tree stand to better understand the dynamics of the whitetail deer, turkeys, and predators inhabiting this area. I anticipate the thrill of observing these animals in real time and, perhaps, the opportunity to take aim at one of the impressive bucks I have been tracking. The glade has become a testament to the power of restoration and the importance of biodiversity, providing both a sanctuary for wildlife and a source of joy and discovery for my son and me together to further enrich our relationship. Through our efforts, we have not only transformed a landscape but have also nurtured a deeper appreciation for the intricate web of life that thrives within it. ■

WHEN I WAS ONLY CHILD, my grandfather gifted me the very thing that altered my life forever when he gifted me my very first bow. The string was so frayed and there were chips from the paint but that didn't matter. For the first time I was able to nock a real arrow and watch it fly across the yard. When I think back to those days, I realize it's a miracle that I stuck with it and grew it into a passion that it has. My father tried his best to help me where he could, but he worked and my siblings and I were homeschooled, leaving copious amounts of time to daydream and make plans for the old man's return home. However, he often arrived home late from the office with an exhausted mind and body, so I did much of my shooting alone. Later in life I gained one of my very best friends to this day who was also entirely ate up with archery. Although we were separated in age by several years, that didn't matter much in the name of bows and arrows. We spent hours at a time talking on the land line phone and hanging out in person to shoot from time to time. For me to say I did not have people that helped me along the way would obviously be a farce. However, I never had a true mentor in the world of archery. You know? That older and wiser individual that either has the answers or they will find them come hell or high water. I believe that any one of us can be the mentor someone needs, and I have some ideas on how to be an effective shepherd for an up-and-comer.

Salesmanship

Have you ever gone to look at a new car and the salesman says, "I don't know... figure it out." or

"I'm sure you won't like this car so you might as well move along."? Absolutely not! They are going to do their best to represent their dealership in the best light, answer all your questions and hopefully give you a memorable customer experience. You may be wondering how this pertains to archery. Let me explain. If you love archery and would love to see more people get into it, it makes sense to not only talk about your passion with other people but represent it in an ethical way that may coax someone into giving archery a chance. When they do, they will be calling the person that made an impression on them by being a knowledgeable ambassador and be asking them for help. You never know what bad experience others may have had or having still that is causing them to lose interest in the bow. If all it takes is uplifting words of encouragement to keep them shooting than we must always be willing to provide that to others

Make Yourself Available

As I discussed earlier, I did not have an archery mentor that was readily available to me for help and questions. I certainly knew of people, but they were total strangers to me. When I think of a mentor in traditional archery, I think of an old timer that lived up the road from me. When I first started getting serious several years ago, he was one of only two people that I knew who were trad guys in the area. My dad knew him, so I called him up one day asking for some advice. Not even halfway through our first conversation he invited me to come over to his house as soon as I wanted, and he would give me a lesson. This was Ken's way as I would come to find

out. After that first lesson he told me I was welcome anytime and if I needed a place to shoot, come to his house whether he was home or not. Ken made himself available to me and that will stick with me forever. The day I harvested my first deer with a traditional bow he got a phone call, and because he was not in the best health to hunt, I gave him the meat as a thank you. Ken went to be with our Lord a few months later. You may not be the wisest or have all the answers, but if you are willing to open your life up to someone needing help, that alone will have lasting impact.

Patience is Everything

Most folks taking on a new endeavor have the same common denominator; they know little to nothing about it from the start. In contrast, individuals that have been doing said endeavor for many years may have forgotten more than that person will care to know. The greatest difficulty in mentorship is learning how to bridge the knowledge gap with grace and understanding. As a young fella coming up in construction, I was always eager and a go-getter, still am. However, the one surefire way to quench my desire to learn and work harder was to be rude and impatient with me when I asked questions. When mentoring a new aspiring archer, they will have many questions, and many may be common sense to us. You must constantly remind yourself of the fact that you once were unexperienced and knew nothing. Everyone must start somewhere, and it is our job as the teacher to figure out where they are and meet them at that level. One thing that has encouraged me to be an uplifting mentor while teaching

archery, parenting and in ministry is the Fruits of the Spirit found in the book of Galatians: Love, joy peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. I truly do believe if one follows these principals, you will develop a much stronger bond between yourself and your pupil.

Have Fun


Lastly, never lose sight of the fact that archery is meant to be fun. If it was not for the joy

found in drawing a bow to anchor and watching arrows fly, would any of us be doing it today? The beautiful thing about archery and bowhunting alike is that one has the freedom to take it as far as they care to go. If the person you are teaching is trying to be a proficient bowhunter or shoot tournaments, that calls for more serious training and disciplined routines. How to teach that particular shooter is a topic for another time. But for

the brand-new shooter that is just looking to have fun...MAKE IT FUN! Upon learning the basics needed to hit what you are shooting at, grab some flu-flu arrows and shoot at flying targets or shoot a tennis ball around the yard. It is ultimately up to that individual how far down the rabbit whole they choose to go. It is up to us to help them along their journey however we can. ■

Hand Camp

Dan Novotny



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ONCE AGAIN, A FEW OF OUR UBM MEMBERS WENT TO the YMCA camp in Potosi, MO to help teach some archery to the kids at the Shriner's Camp. Once known as Hand Camp, it has changed names this year to Shrinability Camp. UBM members have been doing this for quite a number of years. This year we were headed up by Mike Callahan with Harry Mauchenheimer, Harry's granddaughter, Hannah, and Dan Novotny helping. It is a long day, tiring, but quite rewarding, to watch the kids in action and to see the things they overcome. ■

THANK YOU!



ShrineABILITY 2024

Lauren
Thank you for all the...
-Sarah...

Kadence
Thank you for everything
We appreciate all that you have done to make ShrineABILITY Camp 2024 special!

Morgan Bradner
Michelle Finkle
Lydia
Adalyn
Brynn Mandy
Cara & Jeffries
Siers Taylor
Remi
Natalie Fowler
Cassie Gosina
Harper
Thank You!!
-Ana Fischer

Iran
Elijah
Carlie
Jack
Ryan Lindsey Wood
Gracie

Michelle
Sven
-Sven-

HAVE YOU EVER HAD THAT FEELING OF WALKING INTO an area and felt you were the first to discover it? That the natural beauty takes your breath away and you want to share it with others? As bowhunters, our connection with the outdoors goes beyond the thrill of the hunt. It extends to a profound respect for nature, and with this respect comes the responsibility of making sure those natural areas remain there to share. So that others can feel like they are the first to discover it. This is why practicing Leave No Trace (LNT) outdoor ethics is so important.

LNT is a set of outdoor ethics and principles aimed at promoting responsible and sustainable outdoor recreation. The Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics, a non-profit organization, developed these principles to minimize the impact of human activities on the environment and preserve the natural beauty of outdoor spaces. The core idea behind Leave No Trace is to enjoy the outdoors while leaving as little evidence of human presence as possible. By working with the public and those managing public lands, Leave No Trace focuses on educating people - instead of costly restoration programs or access restrictions - as the most effective and least resource-intensive solution to land protection.

LNT principles are not just for hikers and campers; they are equally crucial for bowhunters who venture into the wilderness in pursuit of their passion.

Leave No Trace Seven Principals for Bowhunters:

(© Leave No Trace: www.LNT.org)



Plan and Prepare:

- Before you embark on a bowhunting expedition, familiarize yourself with the area's regulations and guidelines. Talk to local land managers.
- Plan your route, check for any seasonal restrictions, and obtain the necessary permits. Obey bag and possession limits.
- Prepare for extreme weather, hazards, emergencies. Always carry extra food, clothing, first aid kit and whistle.
- Get permission to hunt on private land.
- Use a map and compass instead of rock cairns, flagging or marking paint.

Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces:

- Stick to established trails to minimize your impact on the environment. Straying off designated paths can lead to soil erosion, damage to vegetation, and disruption to wildlife habitats.
- Protect riparian areas by camping at least 200 feet from lakes and streams.

- Good campsites are found not made.
- Keep campsites small. Focus activities in areas without vegetation.
- Disperse use to prevent the creation of campsites and trails.

Dispose of Waste Properly:

- Pack it in, pack it out! This includes trash, leftover food, spent arrowheads, broadheads, and any other equipment.
- Gut piles are unsightly and attract bears. Drag piles away from trails, water sources and highly visited areas.
- Deposit solid human waste in catholes dug 6 to 8 inches deep at least 200 feet from water, camp, and trails. Pack out toilet paper. This avoids toilet paper blooms!
- To wash yourself or dishes, carry water 200 feet away from streams or lakes. Scatter strained dishwater and pack out food scraps.
- Be meticulous about removing every trace of your presence, leaving the wilderness as pristine as you found it.

Leave what you Found:

- Preserve the past, examine but do not touch cultural or historic structures and artifacts.
- Do not use rocks, signs, trees or non-game animals for target practice.
- Avoid introducing or transporting non-native species and seeds. Clean your boots when going to a new area.
- Use manufactured blinds rather than constructing them out of tree branches or other native vegetation. Do not build structures or furniture, or dig trenches.

Minimize Campfire Impacts:

- Build fires only in established fire rings. A fire kills the soil ecology up to three feet deep.
- Keep trash out of fires.
- Keep fires small. Only use sticks that are “down, dinky, and dead.”

Make sure you burn them entirely instead of creating charcoal.

Respect Wildlife:

- Show respect by only taking clean, killing shots, then retrieving and properly handling your game.
- Never feed animals. Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviors, and exposes them to predators.
- Protect wildlife and your food by storing rations and trash securely.
- Hunt only in-season animals.
- Be considerate of others
- Respect other visitors
- Be aware of your field of fire. Do not shoot near developed areas, campsites or roads.
- Be courteous. Yield to other users on the trail.
- Step to the downhill side of the trail when encountering pack stock.

Educate and Advocate:

As bowhunters, we play a crucial role in promoting outdoor ethics. Share your knowledge with fellow enthusiasts, emphasizing the importance of Leave No Trace principles. Encourage responsible practices and lead by example in your hunting community. By embracing Leave No Trace ethics, bowhunters can deepen their connection to nature and contribute to the conservation of the landscapes they cherish. Let's ensure that our pursuit of game leaves behind no trace but a legacy of responsible and respectful bowhunting.

Happy hunting and leave only footprints! ■

Gwen Best, Leave No Trace Master Educator

For more Leave No Trace information, visit LNT.org.

Is Summer Over?

Larry Bauman

THE GANG'S SUMMER STUMP SEASON HAS COME TO AN END as we transition to the 2024 archery deer season. We did attend several 3-D shoots this year. There is one remaining shoot before opening day. The host is a construction group, attracting mostly local compound shooters with side-by-side vehicles used on the range, like golf carts. The last couple years we were the novelty being traditionalist that walk the range. A great deal of interest was shown regarding our equipment and we were often asked, “Do you really hunt with that?” After comments like, “I’ve been wanting to try that someday”, it is apparent they won’t be giving up their support systems any time soon.

We have been tolerating the heat while accumulating more than our fair share of chiggers, ticks

and other woodsy insects. Those dry, stretched unsuspecting cobwebs, housing a gazillion seed ticks are a joy. Join the insects with temperatures in the 90's, I envision myself in a tree stand with a paste stick of Deep Woods Off along with a Thermacell watching my wind indicator. Each year I reintroduce myself to the early season hunting. When will we have cool, crisp mornings with seasonal breezes throughout the day?



The gang at a 3-d shoot

According to the calendar, summer is not over until 9/22/24. I will be whining, but I will be out there.

The Old Timers of the Gang, Joe Marshall and myself, have been scouting and hanging stands with special attention to wind direction. That's right, I called us Old Timers. I asked Google, "What is a kind way to describe elderly?" Mature, senior, experienced, veteran or seasoned to name a few. I also learned things like, Old Fashioned is a drink, Antique is furniture, Vintage relates to wine, Retro to dress/outfits, etc. We are often told that we no longer belong in tree stands and that is most likely true. However, we still enjoy the advantages of tree stand hunting and we do use proper safety equipment. Lineman belts when setting up or hanging and full body harnesses with a hunter safety line when hunting. Some stands get rehung in the same trees with adjustments from lessons learned last season, while others are placed in a different location. These adjustments are an annual event when we take time to discuss

entry and exit routes related to the stands. Even with all the years we have hunted together, we continue to share the same stories and relive experiences from previous years as if this was our first time hunting together.

Abandoned vehicles, or in this case, outdated farm equipment parked and left to rust on a ridge in the middle of the woods sparks my interest. You have to wonder who brought it there. Why and how long ago? Is this where it stopped? If scrapped, wouldn't it be worth



Joe Marshall hanging tree stands

something? This had to happen before the trees grew around it. Just another untold story.

With opening day closing in, it's time to shoot broadheads and



Joe Marshall shooting broadheads



A good group (sometimes)

determine if adjustments are required. This also helps me get used to seeing a broadhead in my target window. Earl Hoyt and I talked many times about shooting instinctive or using the arrow as point of aim. I shoot instinctive with both eyes open. Earl was convinced that instinctive shooters see the arrow even if they do not use it for sighting. He once told me that if he taped a card on my sight window so I couldn't see the arrow, I wouldn't be able to hit anything. We didn't get to carry out that experiment. But to his credit, that might be why I notice the broadhead in my sight window.

When I'm satisfied the arrow flight is good, I take a couple shots at the 3-D deer. As I might have mentioned in previous writings, shooting at a spot on a target is much different than shooting at an animal without a spot. With the 3-D, like an animal, you are required to pick a spot. We too often shoot at the entire animal rather than picking a specific spot or area.

Immersing myself in the outdoors with bow in hand provides purpose and satisfaction. I am thankful for the abundant wildlife and hunting opportunities we have in Missouri. As we head to



Forgotten single row corn picker

our hunting areas, we should do so with respect and responsibly. I wish everyone a safe and successful season. Remember, "Share The Harvest". ■

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AS RYAN PLUMMER AND I HEADED INTO COLORADO FOR THE 2024 COLORADO archery elk season, I had given no thought whatsoever as to what I would shoot. The tag was an either sex tag and I enjoy the venison either way.

The last bull I harvested was in the 2022 archery season of which I was blessed with a beautiful 6x6. Actually, that was the last bull I had seen with a bow in my hands. The 2023 season was very tough to get on anything. The air quality was poor with forest fires in the area.

This being my 20th consecutive archery elk hunt, you might think that I have killed a lot which just isn't so, although I have assisted others with animals on numerous occasions along with a few of my own.

As we arrived to the closest town to our destination, we supported the local community by stocking up on supplies. We got settled into camp and grabbed a hot meal in town and prepared for the next day which was opening day on September 2nd.

As evening approached, Ryan and I grabbed field glasses and joined my brother, Tim White, of Arkansas, and my cousin, Mathew Sukraw, from Utah, for some viewing from a high point down into a deep gulch. Standing there, it wasn't long before we began one at a time to spot cows and an occasional bull spread through the great expanse. As we went to sleep that night, nothing could have prepared me for the decisions I would have to make the next two days.

Early to rise, we made our way to our familiar haunts that have lived in our minds every day for the last year. Personally I spent the first two days on a set of unique wallows that get attention on most years. So Day One, right out of the gate, not 30 minutes after getting comfortable, a pair of small bulls make their way into the edge of the wallows. Excellent specimens for those of us that have 8-foot ceilings in our homes.

On most any of the past seasons, there would have been no question for me to shoot or not. But as they diddled around me, one began to hook a bush and I was ready with bow in hand.

The approach they made to me was from behind so the brush that I was nestled behind was of no use. I was out in the wide open from behind. This is where you trust your camo! Sitting in my chair, bow in hand,



Mathew Sukraw with his nice cow elk.

with slight pressure on my string, they stand there doing what elk do, not 10 yards from me and I realize that I'm not going to shoot these bulls.

Thus I coined them "Pocket Bulls" - legal to shoot but so small you could put them in your pocket! Not quite, but you get the gist.

I have just come to realize, with no earlier contemplation, that I was going to hold out for a more mature animal. How many times would I have been so grateful to have taken either of these two beautiful animals? It's a good idea to think about such things before you enter into this possible situation. I'm still unsure if some of my reluctance wasn't due to the fact that I just love to hunt too much to end an experience that I spent 12 months looking forward to in the first 30 minutes of the hunt.

As the day continued, a few cows came in and one of them came all alone and was very interested in checking out the small bull's hooked bush. I was again caught in the open, being exposed from the rear of the blind. I must trust my camo that stood tall and did not disappoint! I like the Oviz pattern by Browning, but there is a lot of beautiful camo to choose from.

So Day One comes to a close with four opportunities and no shots fired. By now William Brown has joined us back at camp and all of us are excited about what opportunities lie ahead over the next 10 days.

On Day Two, I'm back in my little makeshift blind that consists of a mess of old sticks, one small evergreen with a low branch that offers some breakup, and some assorted greenery. Not one hour into the hunt, elk begin to file through in single file numbering as many as 50 cows and calves. Until then, I had not been near so many. They passed down through the meadow approximately 50 yards through the woods from my position. Minutes ticked by and one last elk filed through on their tail and he was a large herd bull.

This is when experience should have kicked in! I was rather lethargic, or maybe complacent in my thinking. You could say I was not on my game! I should have left the comfort of my blind and closed the distance down to 20 yards from 50. Then when the bull came in behind the cows I'd have had him dead to rights.

Well, it's noon now and Ryan and I had agreed to meet to eat lunch and discuss our hunts. This location is in the woods half way between where we are set up for the day. I gave a bobwhite whistle and Ryan gave a return whistle so we proceed to sit and enjoy PBJ sandwiches and apples. As we sit there, I say to Ryan



Ryan and I processing meat.

that it would be a great story to experience killing an elk while enjoying lunch together. Lo and behold, those words no sooner leave my lips when here comes another pocket bull filing by. At a glance I knew it was not for me and I said instantly, "Ryan, he's yours. Go get him!" because Ryan had not yet killed his first elk. Now, here again, I did not know that I would do that. Ryan made an unsuccessful stalk, but oh what fun!

This brings us to the last half of the 2nd day of this hunt. We are back in our positions ready for anything when at 3:30 in the afternoon I awake from a little siesta. Not knowing what woke me, I grabbed my bow off the hook and got ready.

This little bull comes working his way up the series of wallows and immediately I notice he had been rolling in a location out of sight from me because he was covered to the bottom jaw in mud! Thinking I might kill this bull, I do not get video of what I'm about to witness. He is frolicking like a four-month old Labrador puppy! He is prancing in circles in every little puddle. He goes one direction and then the other, only to jump out of the water and make a false charge on a pretend bull and begin ghost sparring with his nonexistent partner. Then he was back to whirling in circles in the closest wallow. Back out, he runs to a bush, violently hooks it, then back in the water he



Beautiful sunrise

goes. Eventually he pauses, giving me an open shot to the vitals for which I found myself unable to shoot. Though legal, barely, it was as though I was wearing restraints. Any other year, any one of these bulls would have been welcome to come home to Arkansas with me but Day Two closes with the sound of grouse rising into the tops of the spruce trees and mixed Quaking aspens. My quiver is still full and tomorrow is another day!

Ryan and I reach the truck that night to learn that Mathew had a nice, fat, mature cow down and we were to meet the guys and go pack this animal out of the woods. This took the five of us until the early morning hours to complete.

I can't help but wonder what God is thinking as He looks down upon me? Pocket bull or no bull? ■

(To be continued!)



Home sweet home



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Ethan Grotheer (stickbow17@yahoo.com)



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Venison Enchilladas

by Joan Barker

This is one of my husband, James', favorite recipes!

Ingredients

- 1 lb venison roast (pick your favorite)
- Beef broth
- 1 pkg taco seasoning
- 1 large onion, cut up and grilled or sautéed
- 1 green pepper, cut up and grilled or sautéed
- 1 15 oz. can diced tomatoes
- 1 15 oz. can tomato sauce
- Chili powder
- Sour cream
- Tortillas (wheat or corn)
- Jalapeno peppers
- Black olives
- Shredded cheese (your choice)



Directions

- Place the venison roast and taco seasoning in either a pressure cooker or slow cooker. Add enough beef broth to cover the meat.
- Cook until the meat is tender. In a pressure cooker, about 1 ½ hours. In a slow cooker, 6-7 hours.
- Remove the meat and shred. You can discard the juice or save it for another dish like chili.
- Prepare the onion and green pepper and mix with the meat.
- Fill tortillas with the meat mixture and place, seam side down, into a greased baking dish. You can either add the diced tomatoes to the meat mixture or spread them on top of the enchilladas.
- In a small bowl, mix the tomato sauce, chili powder, and a big dollop of sour cream. Pour the sauce over the enchilladas.
- Liberally add the cheese over the enchilladas and then add the black olives and sliced jalapenos if you want.
- Bake at 350 degrees until the cheese is melted and bubbling. ■

Venison Lasagna

by Darren Haverstick

Ingredients

- 2 lbs ground venison (or venison sausage)
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 pkg fresh basil, chopped
- 4-5 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 cups ricotta cheese
- 2 cups shredded parmesan cheese
- 3 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
- 2 24 oz. jars spaghetti sauce
- 2 16 oz. pkg lasagna noodles

Directions

- Season the ground venison to taste and brown in a large skillet along with the onion, basil, and garlic. Since venison doesn't have any fat, I usually use either half ground venison/half venison breakfast sausage or all venison breakfast sausage.
- Drain off excess liquid and set aside. NOTE: To my way of thinking, you can't use too much basil. If you can afford it, use more. Same thing goes for the garlic!
- Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. In a large bowl, mix the ricotta, 2 cups of the mozzarella, and 1 cup of the parmesan. Stir in both jars of sauce and then stir in the meat mixture.
- You will end up using 1 ½ boxes of the lasagna noodles. I use the oven-ready ones because it's easier, but if you choose to use the regular kind, cook the noodles beforehand.
- In a large baking pan, start layering the noodles and filling. The first layer should be noodles and the last layer should be filling. When I make this, I get three layers of each.
- Cover the pan with foil and place in the oven. If you are using regular noodles, cook for 20 minutes. If you are using oven-ready noodles, cook for 45 minutes.
- Remove from the oven, take off the foil, and add the remaining cheese to the top.
- Bake uncovered for an additional 15 minutes. ■



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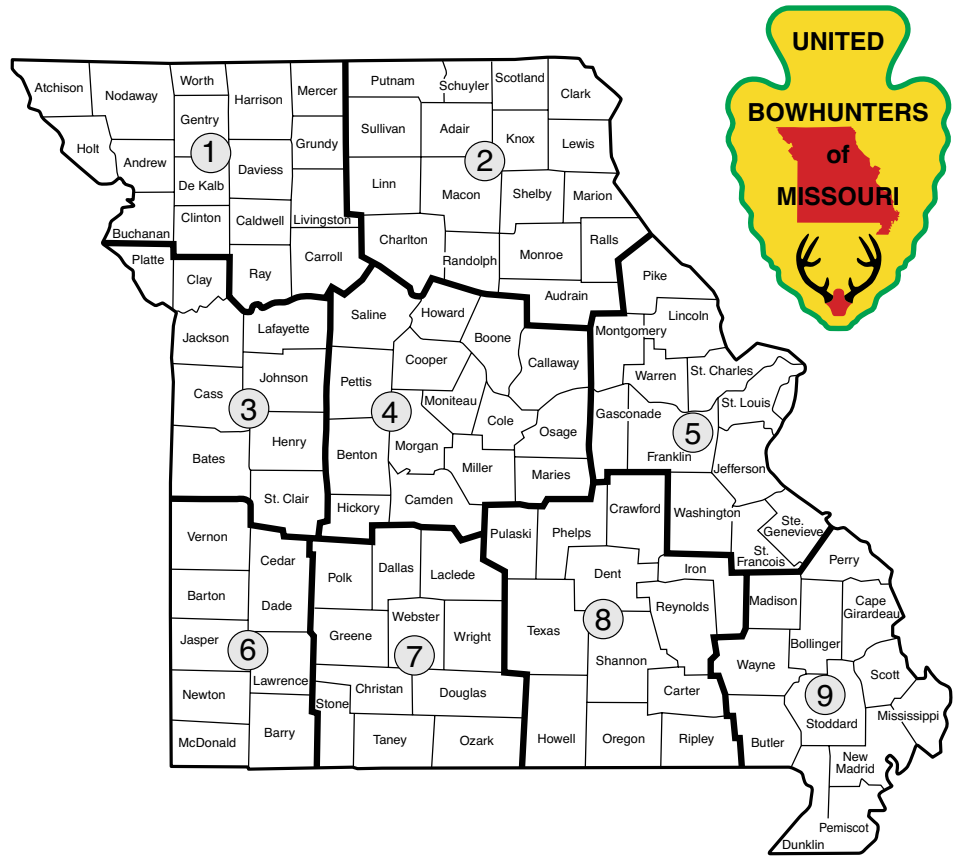
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