



THE UNITED Fall 2025 BOWHUNTER

Official Publication of The United Bowhunters of Missouri



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Fall 2025

Calendar of Events

October

1st-31st: Missouri fall turkey season
10th-12th: Missouri early firearms antlerless deer season
18th-31st: Missouri black bear season

November

1st-2nd: Missouri early youth deer firearms season
16th-25th: Missouri general deer firearms season
26th-30th: Missouri CWD deer firearms season
28th-30th: Missouri late youth deer firearms season

December

6th-14th: Missouri late antlerless deer firearms season
10th: UBM Board virtual meeting
27th: Missouri alternative methods deer season opens

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Check out - www.unitedbowhunters.com

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Full page inside cover	\$140.00	½ page	\$90.00
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⅔ page (back cover)	\$125.00	¼ page	\$50.00
⅓ page	\$110.00	Less than ¼ page	\$30.00

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:

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— On the Cover —

A yellow hickory signals bow
season is here!

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



GREETINGS UBMERS!

I am writing my president's report at the end of August because I am about to leave for Colorado!

When hunting season starts, I like to be "razor sharp broadhead" focused on hunting as much as possible. I am looking forward to carrying my traditional bow through the mountains of Colorado with an elk and bear tag in my pack. Can you sense the Colorado air right now?

I am also looking forward to the next few months of chasing

whitetails in at least 3 Midwestern states. I definitely need some tree stand therapy. What do you have planned for the next few months? I look forward to reading your stories in future UBM newsletters and personally hearing about your adventures in February at our Festival in Springfield, Missouri.

Speaking of our Festival in February..... Mark your calendars for February 6-8 at the Oasis Hotel and Convention Center in Springfield, Missouri. Cody Greenwood is going to be our keynote speaker Saturday night at our Banquet (don't forget our auction following the banquet). Cody will also be doing a seminar Friday night (February 6). In

addition to Cody, we will also have diverse seminars, a silent auction, official scorers, and more vendors than last year. The price of the Festival will go up slightly, due to food costs alone, but \$60 for the entire weekend is the best deal I know. It will be great to be together to share our joys, our disappointments, and just check in with each other.

Finally, the UBM Board had its annual August board meeting in Warsaw. We have a terrific team, and we are working to improve the club now and into the future. I am very proud of this group of people.

Get outside, have fun, and learn something new. ☺

William R. Brown

UBM Board Meeting Minutes

Ryan Plummer

THE UNITED BOWHUNTERS OF MISSOURI

Board of Directors met at Joel and Cole Davis' cabin in Warsaw, MO on August 10, 2025.

Board Elections & Officers

Three open board seats were filled by returning members Darren Haverstick, Kevin Pinckney, and Ronald Crouch, each serving through 2028. For the coming year, William R. Brown will continue as President, Joel Davis as Vice President, Ryan Plummer as Secretary, and Darren Haverstick as Treasurer.

Treasurer's Report

The organization remains financially stable. Our largest ongoing expense continues to be producing and mailing The United Bowhunter newsletter, which has seen a 33% postage increase in the last 18 months.

Newsletter & Communication

The board approved adding two full-page ads in each issue to promote the UBM Festival and Rendezvous. We will also be publishing a regularly updated list of Missouri shoots and archery events for our members' reference.

Website Redesign

We approved moving forward with a full website update through Under the Sun Web Solutions. The redesigned site will be on WordPress for easier updates and will include online payment for memberships, festival registration, and more.

Club Direction

The board discussed the possibility of formally declaring UBM a Traditional Archery Club while still welcoming archers of all equipment types at our events. There will be further research regarding the ability to make this declaration as well as member interest. A survey will be created to gather additional information and member feedback.

Festival & Rendezvous

Festival – The 38th Annual UBM Festival will be held Feb. 6-8, 2026 at the Oasis Hotel in Springfield, MO. Cody Greenwood will be our keynote speaker, and seminars, auctions, and awards are all in the works.

Rendezvous – Set for June 25-28, 2026. Plans are underway to promote it as the State 3D Championship to attract new participants.

Other Notes

Plans are forming for a 2026 bowfishing event, more podcast episodes, and recognition for key event volunteers.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming events and thank all members for their continued support of UBM's mission to promote fair-chase ethics and traditional bowhunting in Missouri.



HELLO FELLOW UNITED BOWHUNTERS OF MISSOURI MEMBERS,

My name is Joel Davis, and I am honored to serve as your Vice President. At our recent UBM Board meeting, we had some exciting discussions, and I'd like to share a few updates with you.

First off, give a warm welcome to our new board member, Ron Crouch - an incredible addition to our team bringing lots of valuable insight and as set of skills.

38th Annual UBM Festival – February 6–8, 2026 The Festival will be here before you know it! We're currently reaching out for vendor participation. If you know someone who would make a great addition as a new vendor—or if you would like to be a vendor yourself—please contact me at jcdavis28@hotmail.com or by phone at 816-522-4260.

UBM Rendezvous “Missouri State Traditional Hunter Championship” (MSTHC) New this year, the UBM board is developing the first annual Missouri State Traditional Hunter Championship. This event will debut during part of the day at our June UBM Rendezvous in Marshall, MO. The Championship will feature challenging, real-life hunting scenarios with 3-D targets, along with some fun new shooting stations. Of course, our signature events—the

“Skirmish” and “Harry’s Bottle Shoot”—will also return. We welcome your ideas for unique challenges, so please share your suggestions with me!

UBM Bowfishing Shootout – Truman Lake Looking ahead, we're in preliminary talks to host a UBM Bowfishing Shootout at Truman Lake in Warsaw, MO. If you have boats and bowfishing gear, or just an interest in joining, let me know—we'd love to make this a fun weekend on the water.

Prescribed Burn Workshop (Non-UBM Event) On a personal note, I will be hosting a hands-on Prescribed Burn Workshop in February. This workshop will involve burning 17 acres of glade and 25–30 acres of restored woodland at my property on Truman Lake in Warsaw, MO. It's a chance to learn safe burning practices and see firsthand how fire restores ecosystems and supports wildlife. Overnight accommodations will be available, and the date will depend on weather conditions.

A Challenge to Our Members As we move toward the 2026 Festival and Rendezvous, I challenge each of you to bring along a friend or family member—especially the younger generation. Let's show them the rewards of the stick bow and pass on the traditions that have given us so many cherished memories in the field. This is our heritage, and together we can keep it alive.

©

Talk Soon, Joel Davis Vice President, United Bowhunters of Missouri

STAY UP TO DATE ON UBM INFORMATION! -MEMBERS-

To make sure you can stay abreast of club news, please send us your updated contact information, INCLUDING AN EMAIL ADDRESS.

LISTEN TO THE UBM PODCAST!

Listen to your friends and fellow hunters everywhere podcasts can be found, and learn more about the sport and hear some fun stories along the way.

We are always looking for new material so please contact us if you have some ideas!

Ethan Grotheer (stickbow17@yahoo.com)



Scan this QR code to listen!

I HAD HEARD THE NAME 'HOWARD HILL' MANY TIMES over the years in reference to the bowhunters of old, but I knew very little about him. One day, while searching the internet, I stumbled over the Warner Bros. short film called "Cavalcade of Archery" with Howard Hill (the video can be found on YouTube). While watching Mr. Hill perform some quite incredible shots I could not help but think that he was more of a trick shooter than a bowhunter. That is where I was quite wrong. Brief research reveals his bowhunting resume as being perhaps one of the greatest to have ever stepped foot into the woods. Howard successfully harvested everything from small game to multiple elephants with his longbow and wood arrows and was also a very successful target archer in his early years. Having to know more, I found a copy of the John Shulz film "Hitting em' Like Howard Hill" and was introduced to how methodical and efficient the Hill style truly is. John Shulz, being the best representation of his mentor, Mr. Hill, demonstrates the accuracy that can be developed by using the 'swing draw' method of shooting. I used to watch people shoot

in similar fashion while calling it 'snap shooting' and it always seemed so sloppy to me and far from consistent. However, that was before watching John's film. Mr. Shulz goes to great lengths to show that it is not a jerky, snappy, or inconsistent when done properly, but a very fluid and effective method of shooting the bow and arrow.

The Hill Style Longbow

The most iconic piece in the Hill style method of shooting is the bow that Howard developed and utilized, which some now call the ASL (American Semi-Longbow). Howard, on top of being an incredible shot and hunter, was an excellent bowyer and the originator of Howard Hill Archery,

still in operation today. His design consists of a short riser section and long, straight limbs that are narrow and made of two or more bamboo laminations in the core.

Continued on next page



Ethan demonstrates the 3 steps of the swing draw.

Continued from previous page

These bows are very reliable and very simple, but make no mistake, Howard made them to shoot the way he did. Due to the limbs being so narrow they make up for it by being much thicker than most other limb designs, and because of the thickness they are also very stable and smooth drawing. However, the reason many become frustrated with these simply bows, myself included for a time, is because they do not work well for modern shooting styles. Most shooters today are conditioned to shoot with a longer hold at full draw, which is the better option for most traditional bows, but not for the Hill style longbow. Due to the thinner limbs found on a recurve or R/D longbow design, the shooter can get by with imperfect form at full draw because the limbs will twist a little from side to side and conform to the archer, not so with the ASL. The thick limbs are made

to come straight back and return straight forward with essentially no ability to twist. What often happens is the archer that has imperfect form is now holding the string with a kink at full draw because the limbs are rigid, this results in poor arrow flight. As I mentioned before, they are designed for a swing draw or variation of the fluid shooting style. Although they can be tricky at first to get the hang of and how to grip them properly, their simplicity makes them pure joy when you become proficient with them.

The Swing Draw

The single most attractive thing about Howard Hill's system is the swing draw, or fluid shot. In his video, John Shulz talks about how Howard taught them to shoot while counting the steps from the bow hanging at your side, to full draw and arrow on its way. The basic description of the swing draw is that the bow is treated the same as a bird hunter handles his trusted double barrel shotgun. You see a target, bring the bow up while drawing simultaneously, come straight back to a solid anchor and release as soon as the anchor is contacted. After the shot goes off, everything stays rigid. The bow arm stays up and the release hand stays at the anchor point till after the arrow



A well constructed quiver allows one to bend over without losing arrows.



The quiver slides under the arm when going through heavy brush.

has hit its mark. In my practice of this style, I have found it helpful to spend a lot of time shooting at a blank target and focusing on drawing smoothly back to anchor and releasing immediately. Just like the wing shooter with their shotgun, this style is meant to be very smooth and fluid, nothing snappy or sloppy about it. Being it is a more instinctive style of shooting it will take some time for one to get accurate, but Howard developed something he used to aid in shooting accuracy called 'split vision'. This method consists of seeing your arrow in your peripheral vision and using it to line up the left and right of your shot, the rest comes from you taking time to learn the flight of the arrow to the point you can literally envision the arrow in flight. At any distance you know what your arrow is going to do. This method works well with the swing draw because as the bow arm brings the weapon

into the line of sight and you begin the fluid draw back to anchor, you are focusing on the spot and establishing the proper sight picture through the whole process until you hit anchor and release the shaft. After some practice, one will be astonished at how accurate Howards shot sequence is for the bowhunter, just like I was. Although I do not suggest swinging the bow arm up when animals are at close range, the principal applies; pick your spot, draw back smooth and release at anchor. All done in a fluid, natural motion.

The Back Quiver

The Hill back quiver is as much a part of the whole system as the bow and the swing draw. This is due to the fact it is not designed the same way as any other back quiver. The Hill style quiver is a wide mouth quiver, 10"-12" wide at the opening. One may think this would make the

arrows loud in the quiver or easy lose, not so. The wide mouth allows the arrows to all lay on top of each other to keep them quiet and allow the archer to draw them sideways rather than over the head. Faster for reloading and more discreet when hunting. The leather must be thin enough that it conforms to the shape of the archer's back, trapping arrow, but thick enough to remain somewhat rigid. The strap is made with the suede out so that the finish face of the leather is against the archer, allowing you to rotate the quiver under the shoulder while slipping through brush. Like the rest of the Hill style, the use of the quiver is meant to be fluid. To retrieve an arrow, the bow arm elbow comes back and bumps the quiver upward as the string hand goes back for an arrow, grabbing the arrow always by the nock, drawing sideways to reduce

overhead movement, bringing the arrow to the string and begin the shot sequence. As you by now see, all pieces of the Howard Hill gear have a specific purpose, and they all contribute to the fluidity of the shot process.

Final Thought

I could talk about arm guards, shooting gloves, and more in-depth aspects of Howard's shooting form, but I will leave you with only this; make it your own. Yes, there are still gentlemen that are Hill style purist and represent Hill and Shulz shooting to a 'T' but that is them and how they hunt, it may not be you. There are aspects of the Hill style that can be utilized by any traditional bowhunter with any kind of bow. The beauty is in the simplicity and fluid motion that makes it bad medicine for all wild game, and certainly those that want to shoot aerial targets. ©



Rams on the Ridge

Thomas Bohl

GREETINGS, FELLOW ARCHERS, BOW HUNTERS, AND BOWYERS!

I have recently returned from Rams on the Ridge located near Long Prairie, Minnesota. This was my second hunt to Rams on the Ridge with my traditional bow which was built under the guidance of Tony Pike at Ancient Wisdom Survival School located at Nevada, Missouri. The bow is made from Osage Orange and pulls 40 pounds at 28 inches.

At Rams on the Ridge, I had taken a Catalina goat with my bow between ten and fifteen yards using the spot and stalk method. Cover was a mixture of pastureland with scattered trees and the weather conditions were slightly overcast with temperatures in the 60s with mild dampness and humidity.

As a bow hunter, I enjoy both hunting in the wilds as well as exotic ranches, which give the opportunity to hone skills as a bow hunter along with being able to pursue something different.

For questions, comments, and feedback, please email me at thomasmbohl@gmail.com. ©



WELL, I THINK THE TITLE SAYS IT ALL.

Our bunch of stump shooters went to a 3-D shoot put on by the Laborer's Union of MO. The place is in High Hill, Missouri. The union local chapter does an excellent job of putting on this shoot each year. This shoot consists of 40 Rinehart targets all set up at reasonable distances, but still made challenging by the use of the terrain with tree stands and blinds included. Water stations were provided throughout the course and this was appreciated very much due to the extremely hot weather. There are some hills on the course you have to manage, but they are not goat trails.

Lunch and drinks are provided after the shoot, consisting of hot dogs, hamburgers and chips. Bass Pro gift cards are given to the top three shooters in each division, and all this is included in the \$15 fee. For the price of admission, it's well worth it! However, you do have to be a member of the union or a guest. Despite our group not shooting our best, two of us managed to bring home 2nd and 3rd place gift cards. A good time was had by all even with the hot weather.

We all elected to turn down the chance at the steel buck target. I'm not sure there's much difference between a steel buck target and a cedar stump. They both will break arrows and laugh at you while you do it. I highly recommend you do this shoot if you have the chance. It's a shoot our stump bunch looks forward to each year. It's a good warmup for the upcoming Missouri hunting season. With this I'll close and wish all UMB members good luck this hunting season. ©



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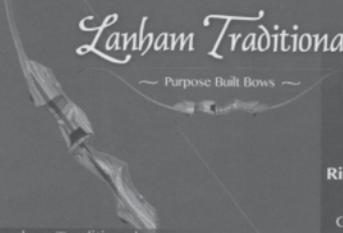
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THE LONG DRIVE ACROSS THE WYOMING DESERT SEEMED longer than previous years. The weather was clear and warm just as I suspected it would be in early September. It had been a few years since I had been here, but I was looking forward to my antelope hunt with longtime friend, Steve Gorr. It had been way too long since I got to share a hunting camp with Steve, and we were both getting older by the minute.

But first I had to fulfill my obligations to my buddy, Rodney York. He had drawn a coveted elk tag in a prime area of the Bighorn mountains in Montana and was expecting me to video at least some of his hunt before meeting up with Steve for my antelope hunt by the middle of the month.

Steve and I were to meet up in Casper and then scout and check water holes for a couple of days before our actual hunt would begin. Almost immediately we discovered that many changes had occurred to the hunting area since we were here last. Energy generating wind turbines were dotting the hillsides in places where only sage brush and



Show the animal the respect it deserves.

desert flora had previously been. Mining roads with “Keep Out” and “Danger” signs were popping up with regularity. But it was the lack of mature buck pronghorn that had us the most worried.

But, no matter, we were here, and we were hunting, and we would give it our best shot. We looked at a couple of windmill sites since

both Steve and I have successfully hunted antelope by hanging a tree stand on one of these. Steve chose a water hole for his pop-up ground blind in an area he had known and hunted successfully for years. I chose a water hole that showed recent activity about five miles away from Steve’s spot. We would share camp and stories each night after the days hunt.

We got in our blinds well before light each morning and would stay until after dark. At my spot the mule deer would come to water at first light and water for about ten minutes or so. The antelope would hang out on the hillsides and watch the deer as if using them to test the safety of the watering site. Then the antelope would slowly work their way to the water as the deer wandered off.

I had numerous antelope does come to the water first and the bucks in the area were never far



My hunting blind and harvest.

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behind. The rut was in full swing and the bucks would chase the does all around the water hole sometimes for several minutes before actually getting a drink themselves. The bucks would lower their heads towards the water then snap them back up and look around. They would do this move approximately two or three times before committing to actually drink. The commitment drink was obvious as the buck would loudly suck water for approximately eight to ten seconds.

The first few days both Steve and I had numerous young pronghorn coming in on a regular basis but not any of the mature bucks we were hoping to get a chance at. The long hot days went by slowly as we hung on the hope that a good buck would make an appearance. I entertained myself by filming most of the wildlife that came to my spot. It seemed there was a constant parade of wildlife, but the big pronghorn bucks never showed up.

Each night our stories were sadly the same. Lots of younger bucks and other critters but no big pronghorn. We began scouting other areas hoping for a change of luck but the bigger pronghorn were just not in our hunting area. The night before our last day Steve told me that I needed to shoot the first decent buck that offered me a good shot, otherwise it was highly likely that antelope would not be on the menu at my house. I tend to listen to Steve's advice.

The next morning, I was in my blind well before light waiting for the dawning of my last day here. As the sky began to lighten I could hear the sound of hooves touching rocks. I peeked out the side window and could see several mule deer making their way towards the water on my left. They watered the same



The water hole I hunted over.

as they had done in days past then slowly began to filter back up the hill to the south. A few moments later I again heard the sound of hooves on rock but obviously coming from a running animal.

The running antelope doe came within twenty yards of the front of my blind at a speed that took me by surprise. She slammed on the brakes and looked back over her shoulder then took off again. She proceeded to do this run, stop, look, run, routine for about a full minute without me actually laying eyes on what she was running from. Then suddenly the cause of her alarm walked up to the water. He wasn't the big mature pronghorn buck that I was hoping for, but he was big enough and Steve's advice was echoing in my mind.

The buck looked over his shoulder as if looking for the object of his earlier affection and then slowly made his way to the water's edge approximately twenty yards in front of my blind. I had already moved from a sitting to a standing position and had my bow up and ready to draw if the opportunity looked good. The buck faked a

couple of drinking attempts and then committed to the water with that familiar sucking sound. His left front leg was forward, opening up the spot I was focused on and the arrow was on its way.

The buck reacted to the sound of the bow by jumping forward and dropping but the arrow still caught the vitals, though slightly back from the pocket. I watched him streak across the shallow water to the opposite side and up the bank. He trotted about thirty yards from the water and stopped. Seconds later he laid down and I knew it was over. Even though he wasn't moving and his head was completely down I gave him another forty minutes before exiting the blind.

As I usually do, I slowly walked towards the downed animal. I always try to show complete respect for any animal I harvest and, as always, I prayed and thanked the Lord for all that I had enjoyed on this hunt. All of our hunts are special whether or not they end with a trophy, a non-trophy, or no harvest at all, and we should always be thankful. ☺

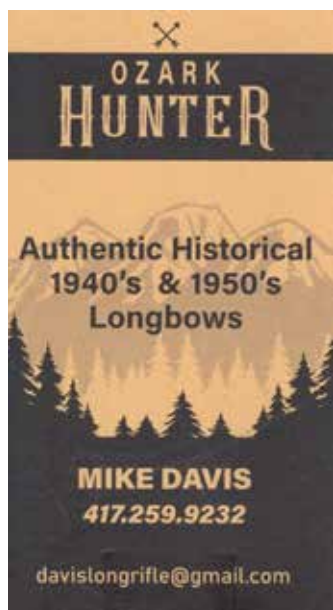
IF YOU'RE LIKE ME, most of the equipment you use is customized to your taste. Here is an example--I took Omnivores great tab and added an antler burr, smoothing off the side that lays against my finger. I think it's pretty cool. Took all of 15 minutes in my shop. ©



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Schedules and Adjustments during Bow Season

Larry Bauman

OUR 2025 MISSOURI BOW SEASON HAS ARRIVED. Most of my gear is ready and crammed into my backpack. It's so organized and necessary when I load it, but when I start digging things out, I often wonder who did this and what happened since I loaded it? This continues to be an annual event and another story that's been addressed many times without resolution. The number one concern this year is scheduling or fitting everything in during the bow season.

Having lost my primary hunting area due to ownership changes, I am currently scrambling to develop a new hunting plan. This has caused last minute scouting of familiar and unfamiliar areas. Hopefully, trail cameras will help, but they take patience and time which I am short of. Hunting properties are a major concern for most hunters.

I will continue to hunt at home and on some of my neighbors' adjoining properties. The Gang put in for a managed hunt at Busch Wildlife. With six (6) preference points we are finally successful. There are over 6,000 acres with plenty of opportunity. The area remains open for normal activities during these hunts, prompting safety concerns. The deer have a head

start knowing the area and the associated activities. We need to identify the restricted areas as well as maintenance roads and hiking trails to avoid interference. There is a two-deer limit, one buck and any successes are not included in our statewide limitations. In other words, if you are a good hunter, you could take three bucks in a year. I purchased my deer and turkey tags, along with landowner and managed hunt tags, totaling 14 tags. You would think I would use some of them.

Another opportunity is with a group that brother, Jerry, and I have camped and hunted with on MDC properties. They plan their hunt for late October and I am invited. I'm going to try to fit this in because you don't want to pass on camping with friends and sharing a campfire.

Continued on next page



Eva's arrows feathers shafts paint & cresting



Devin's arrows - working on splicing



Devin - Audrey - Tessa - Kayleigh - Eva

Continued from previous page

Like everyone, we have family events during bow season. It's especially difficult scheduling activities with five grandkids. I have one performing in musicals in Indiana, another working at Disney's EPCOT in Florida while continuing her college online, a beautician in O'Fallon, one in high school, and one in middle school. We are actively involved and

attend their activities. Two came to the house and built arrows during their summer break. They didn't want to forget how to perform the task, which I support. They work the complete process, including processing turkey feathers. I get to hang out with them, and it only costs me a couple dozen arrows.

The most important event during bow season is our reservation in Hermann, MO on October 15th

for our 59th wedding anniversary. Gladys continues to remind me that bowhunting wasn't as important 59 years ago.

My toughest adjustments related to bow hunting and archery are age, strength and overall health. I've been dealing with shoulder problems for a number of years, creating bad habits. I changed shooting styles, methods, bows and reduced poundage. These adjustments were tried in order to continue shooting. The adjustments are not working so it's time to address the actual problems with the shoulder. I am receiving shots in September and have targeted January 2026 for replacement surgery. It's not something anyone wants to do, but if you plan to continue, it must be done.

As you can see, there is a lot going on during bow season and I will do my best to fit it all in. Good luck to everyone & be safe! I look forward to reading your success stories. ©



AS RYAN PLUMMER, WILLIAM BROWN, AND I LOCKED UP THE TRUCK AND HEADED OUT through the woods for opening morning of archery elk season, the air was charged with electricity even though it will be a full moon for the whole hunt. As we each parted ways in the dark, we said to each other, we'll see you tonight and we'll meet at the corner of this meadow and journey back to the truck together in the dark this evening. I picked my way along an old path that I had taken for many seasons now and eased my way down the side of the mountain until I came to a series of wallows that I enjoy sitting next to. At that moment, you could not have told me that I would not see anything that day. During the 2024 season I saw a lot of elk on the first day.

Full of anticipation, the woods were very quiet but woke up around me as sunrise broke. It was



The author with his wallow bull.

as if the squirrels were greeting me with appreciation for all the apple cores that I've left for them over the years. A mule deer buck and doe

worked their way around the edge of the meadow as grouse adjusted their position from one spruce to another. Hour upon hour added up to a 13-hour day as the evening came to a close.

The next day was much the same, although a front had

come over and was giving a steady account of rain that moved through in waves. At some point, I pulled a book out of my pack and would return it to the Ziplock bag from which it came as the rain would come in.

The woods remained quiet for the second day, and no sign or sound of elk was to be found. The ghosts of the elk that I had around me last year still haunted me. I looked left and back and last year's bull still stood raking his antlers on the baby spruce tree which now stood stale and untouched. I recalled the young bull that worked his way up the mountain to me last season so full of life and vigor playing in all the wallows like a Labrador pup. He would be sparring with a make-believe bull one minute and rubbing his antlers on a bush the next. I can still look down through the woods and see 50 cows and calves cutting the corner of the meadow and the giant bull



Ryan, Ethan, John, and William on camera. The work begins!

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

that followed them up ten minutes behind them. However, today there would be no elk seen as Day Two came to a close.

On Day Three it began all over again. Twenty-six hours had passed in the stand and still no indication that elk were in the area, but they must be. Eventually, there always is. I have now finished my first novel and am ready to begin a second. Lunch time has come and gone; it's getting nigh onto 2:00 when I hear a large limb snap. Elk! I yanked my readers from my face, placed my book on my pack and reached for my bow.

Soon, down through the woods, I begin seeing tiny glimpses of the bright yellow side of an elk. Slowly, he moved up the little spring that gurgled down the mountain side. I could see a bush shaking as he raked it up and down. He moves in a little closer and now I can see that it is a bull that is possibly legal. He



Tim White with his cow elk.

approaches the first wallow, walks over into the middle of it, sits down, eases over onto his left side, and just lays there. He then comes back upright, and he eases over onto his right side. I'm still not positive he's legal. The bull now moves to the second wallow and does the very same thing. He literally put his whole face under that yucky water! At this wallow, I can get a good view of his antlers, and I know that he meets the legal criteria. However, the muck from the wallow has now covered him from head to toe. The beautiful bright yellow of his sides is now black. I've never killed a bull fresh out of a wallow. I had to actually ask myself, "Do I want to stick this animal after what he has just did to himself?"

Having now hunted 34 hours without seeing or hearing an elk, I decided I would. He's still in the second wallow when I come to full draw. Realizing that there is no shot, I let down. He jumped up on his feet and he hopped out of the wallow as though hopping onto a stage. Immediately he hopped from facing south to facing the opposite direction and it was at that point my arrow left the bow and found its mark behind the shoulder of this bull. He ran about ten yards down the spring in the direction he came from where he expired. It's not until the arrow left the bow that I realize I know this bull. He is the four-month-old Labrador



My last trip out!

from last year. There was something about the way he hopped up and shook his back legs off one at a time, and then with a nimble jump, hopped up on the side and then swapped directions with another hop that gave him away. Suddenly, I realize that I just killed him after he grew another year. Had I known it was him, I probably could not have released my arrow. The four-month-old pup is a year older now and he's mine. I'm grateful and appreciative to the Lord for him. I reached out by satellite to the guys and one by one they filtered down to help me work him up and get him off the mountain. Ethan Grotheer and I work the knives while Ryan held a hoof or swapped out with a knife during the deboning process. William would keep the game bags coming and hold them open as we fed the bags with boneless pure protein. I learned that a nasty wallow bull

is definitely challenging work!

This is my 21st consecutive archery elk season in southern Colorado and always in the same units. Never in my camp have we killed more than one elk. It is a low-density unit after all. But this year it was going to be a first. A couple days later my little brother, Tim White, killed a large cow. The work began all over again, breaking it down and hauling it out. I could not ask for the assembly of a better group of guys in which to take on the endeavor. The season is not over yet; there are still three



Grocery run and lunch with Tim, William, Ryan, John, and Ethan.

bows in the woods and there are still three days to go. Could it be possible to haul out yet another? If anyone could get it done, the three remaining hunters in the woods are the ones to do it. We will just have to wait and see. ©

Happy hunting!

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Shriners Hand Camp 2025

THE SHRINERS HELP THEIR ANNUAL HAND CAMP

Tin Potosi, MO on September 6th and the UBM was there, once again, to help out with the archery part of things. Thanks to all the member volunteers who help make this camp a success! ©



Oh My!

James Barker

I MUST FIRST SAY THIS COMES WITH A HEALTH DISCLAIMER.

Viewing these pictures may raise your blood pressure. I know this encounter raised mine!

I'd like to tell you that this was preseason scouting, but I'd be lying. But I did think about doing just that. Sad to say I was only walking the dog with my wife, Joan. It was a beautiful, unusually cool morning, great for getting out to our local park. When all of a sudden, I see a very large buck. Well, by the time I got my phone out, ready to take a picture, the buck lies down. Now there is no chance for a picture, all I can see are the tips of his antlers. He was big, shedding his velvet, and only twenty yards away.

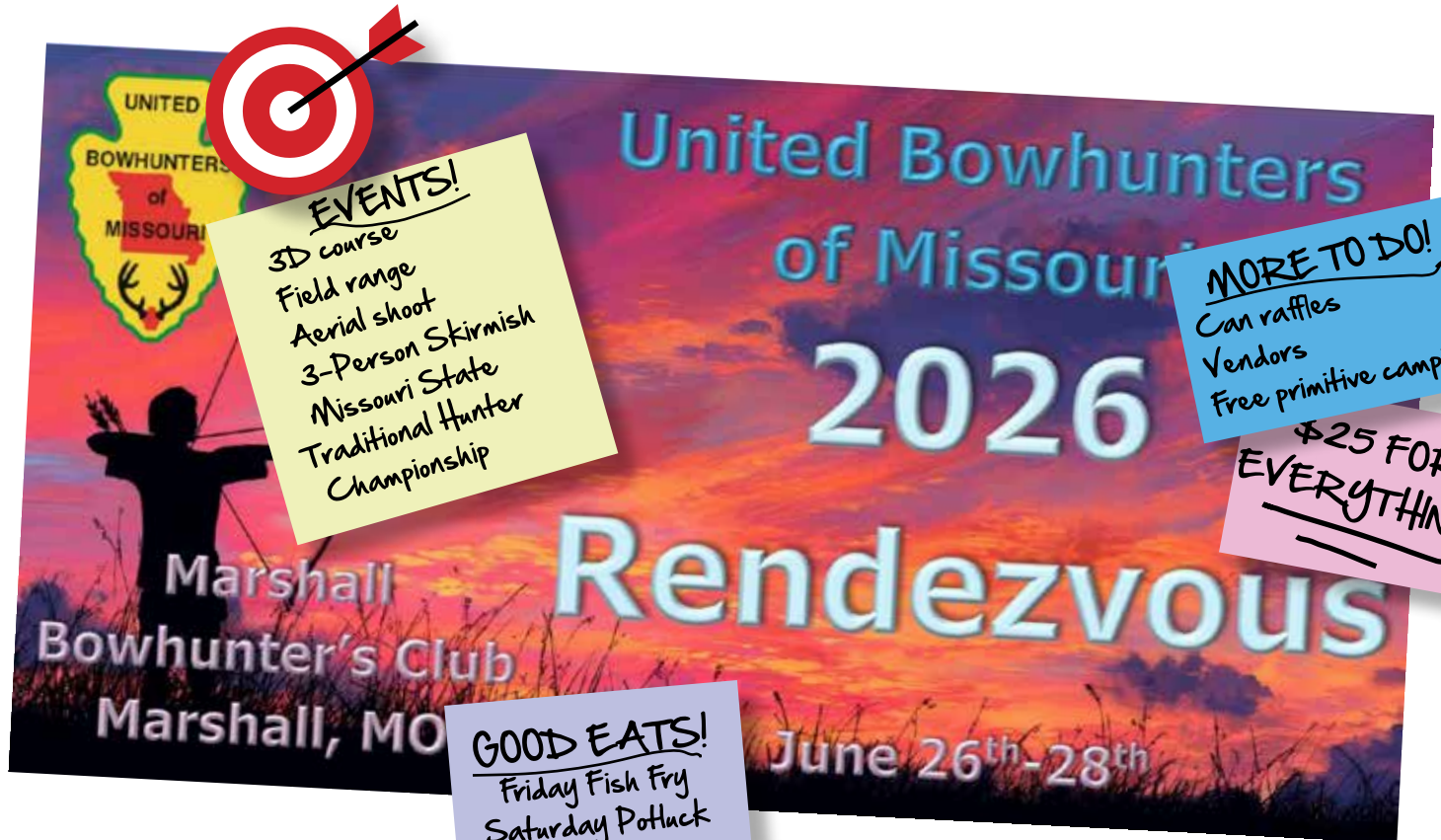
Then out of the corner of my eye, I catch movement. OH MY!! There's another buck, just as big as the first, only fifteen yards away. Picture time!

It's not every day you get to see two great animals like these within seconds that are close to one another. Now comes the real kick in the a--, the Missouri Department of Conservation offers managed hunts for this park. Well, it's too late to apply this year, but I will definitely be doing so next year! Sometimes lessons are learned the hard way.

I hope everyone has a great season and I get to see everyone next year at our annual banquet in Springfield. ©



UPCOMING UBM EVENTS!



United Bowhunters of Missouri 2026 Rendezvous

June 26th-28th

Marshall Bowhunter's Club
Marshall, MO

EVENTS!

- 3D course
- Field range
- Aerial shoot
- 3-Person Skirmish
- Missouri State
- Traditional Hunter Championship

MORE TO DO!

- Can raffles
- Vendors
- Free primitive camping

\$25 FOR EVERYTHING!



United Bowhunter of Missouri 2026 Festival

February 6th-8th

Oasis Hotel & Convention Center
Springfield, MO

KEYNOTE SPEAKER!

Cody Greenwood
from The Trad Lab

SEMINARS!

- Bow tuning
- Making turkey feather fletching
- Saddle hunting
- Making arrow shafts
- Habitat management

EVENTS, CONTESTS, AND ACTIVITIES!

- Silent Auction
- Live Auction
- Goodie Auction
- Vendors Banquet
- Awards
- Photo Contest
- Best Arrow Contest

\$60 FOR EVERYTHING!

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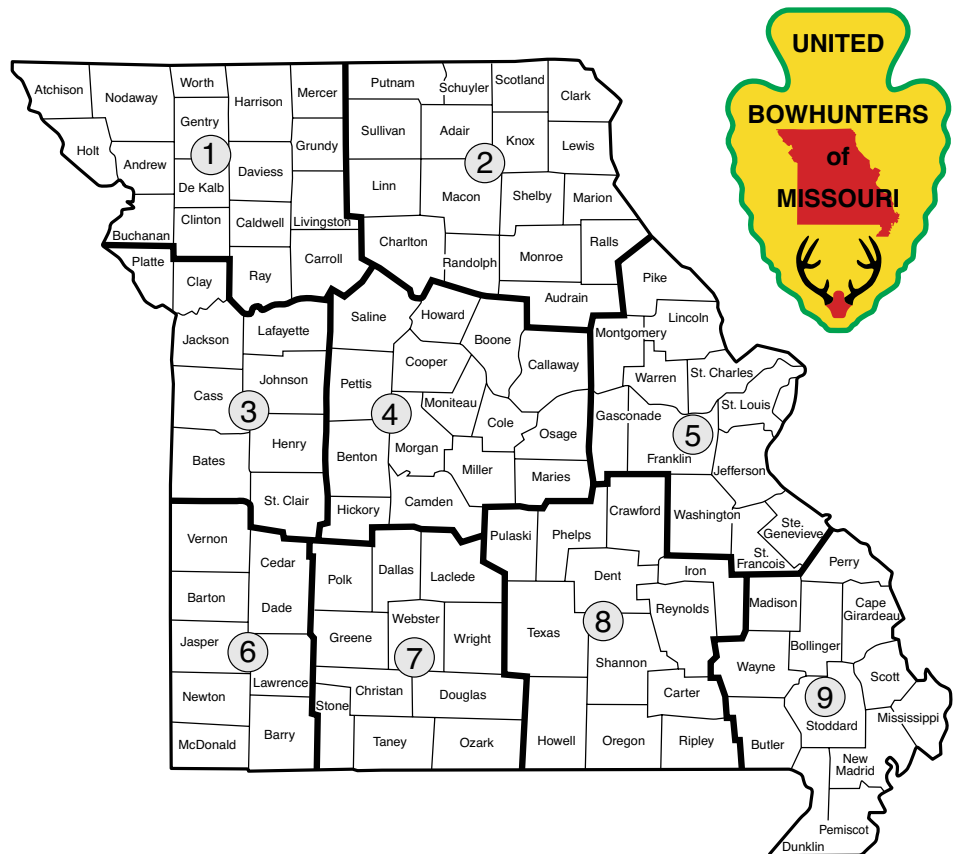
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