



THE UNITED Summer 2026 BOWHUNTER



Official Publication of The United Bowhunters of Missouri



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Summer 2026

Calendar of Events

July

1st-31st: Hot with a 100% chance of ticks and chiggers.

August

Bear and elk seasons are opening up in North America.

September

15th: Missouri archery season opens!

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Full page inside cover	\$140.00	½ page	\$90.00
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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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.

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— On the Cover —

Kane Cashion bears down on his target at the 3-Person Skirmish!

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



WHAT A WONDERFUL 2026 RENDEZVOUS!

Hard work, flying pig, 3-person skirmish, Bill Brown's fish fry, Marshall Bowhunter's hospitality, Harry's bottle launcher, and the 1st Annual Missouri State Traditional Bowhunter Championship. It was truly a great time!!! Thank you

to Vice-President Joel Davis and the entire UBM Board for their hard work to make this a success. A special thanks also needs to be given to the creativity, organization, and efforts made by Wes McCain to make the competitive shoot amazing!

This is my last president's report, as I am concluding my time on the board later this month. I want to thank the entire UBM family for everything you have given to me, and I pray that I have given just as much back to each of you. Thank you for the incredibly generous gift of a Black Widow bow too. Please read my additional article.

So with this, I say "so long for now". I look forward to future Rendezvous and Festivals and hunts all over North America with you. May we continue to get close to our targets and shoot true! See you over the next ridge! ☺

Filled with love and gratitude to UBM,
William R. Brown

Vice President's Report

Joel Davis



THE 2026 UBM RENDEZVOUS and the inaugural Missouri State Traditional Bowhunter Championship were a great success.

Even with periods of rain throughout the weekend, we had an outstanding turnout, strong participation, and excellent overall support. Members, shooters, families, and guests showed up ready to enjoy the fellowship, the shooting, and the traditions that make the United Bowhunters of Missouri special. The weather may have been less than ideal at times, but it did not keep people away or dampen the spirit of the event.

The feedback since the weekend has been overwhelmingly positive. Many people shared how much they enjoyed the Rendezvous, the fellowship around camp, the course layout, and the addition of the Missouri State Traditional Bowhunter Championship. Several individuals commented that this

event is only going to grow from here, and some even stated they believe it is going to blow up next year with even more shooters and families in attendance. That kind of response says a great deal about the direction we are heading and the momentum we are building.

The Missouri State Traditional Bowhunter Championship added a new level of excitement to the weekend and was well received by competitors and spectators alike. It was encouraging to see strong participation across the classes and especially exciting to see youth shooters out on the range. Events like this continue to strengthen the future of traditional bowhunting in Missouri.

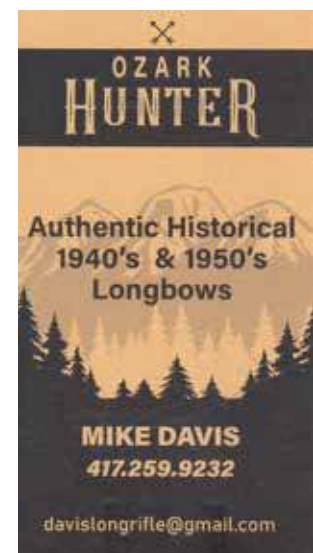
I also want to extend a special welcome to our newest UBM Board of Directors member, Robin Baker of Marshall Bowhunters. We are glad to have Robin join the board, and we look forward to his involvement, support, and ideas as we continue working to grow the UBM and preserve traditional bowhunting for the next generation.

On behalf of the UBM leadership, thank you to everyone who helped

make this year's event possible. Thank you to our members, volunteers, contributors, clubs, and supporters for your continued commitment to the United Bowhunters of Missouri. The 2026 Rendezvous proved once again that the strength of this organization is found in its people, its fellowship, and its dedication to tradition.

We have a lot to be proud of, and the excitement already surrounding next year's event gives us even more to look forward to in 2027. ☺

May the flight of your arrow lead you to success.



MANY OF YOU KNOW MY STORY, BUT I FIND IT WORTH RETELLING.

It is a story about family, the community of the United Bowhunters of Missouri, and how many of us have this shared experience together.

In the late 1980s, my Uncle Ron Surber was connected to the Harrisonville, Missouri group that started the United Bowhunters of Missouri. At the same time, my dad was harvesting deer after deer in multiple states with muzzleloader, compound bow, and rifle. Due to influences by my dad's best friend Scott, who started making his own bows, and my Uncle Ron's jump into traditional archery through UBM, traditional bowhunting was staring my dad and I in the face. In the early 1990s, my dad and I started going to UBM Festivals in Columbia and Jefferson City. As a 10 and 11 year old, I have images of "WOW!" as I saw traditional bows, pictures of bucks, bear rugs, etc. I remember being amazed at the stories I was hearing about hunting adventures.



I remember looking up at those legends that stood there at those Festivals.

I have now hunted with a traditional bow for 35 years (Fun Fact: I have never shot a compound bow). I was distracted from UBM events in my 20s and 30s with college, marriage, kids, career, and less hunting time than I wanted. In my late 30s and early 40s, I remembered back to the UBM. I wanted to interact with more hunters, especially traditional bow hunters. I wanted to go on more adventures with elk, moose, bear, etc., so I jumped back into UBM 7 to 8 years ago. I joined the Board of Directors 6 years ago. I served as the UBM vice-president for one year under the tutelage of President Ethan Grotheer, and I served as UBM president for four years. I won a Fred Bear award and a Bowhunter of the Year award. I interacted with nearly all aspects of UBM membership and leadership. I went on new hunting adventures for elk and bear. I made new lifelong friends.

Due to a variety of reasons, I decided to not run for another 3-year term on the UBM Board, therefore concluding my service as president of UBM in the summer of 2026. This was a tough decision because I love this club. I love serving this club, making sure the Rendezvous and Festival are as good as they can be. I have worked with a fantastic UBM Board of Directors, that by my final year of leadership, every single person on the board was involved and making great contributions to the success of our Rendezvous and Festival. I love these guys!



So, there I was leading my last club meeting before our potluck on Saturday, June 27, 2026 at our Rendezvous...we were about to adjourn the meeting and the Board of Directors and the entire club presented me with a very special gift: a Black Widow bow, plus a gift certificate to Black Widow Bows. Amazing! Wow! Fantastic! Unbelievable! Brenda Hudson, Darren Haverstick, Ryan Plummer, and the UBM board and club collected money and worked with Black Widow Bows to make me a gift of a lifetime. I have admired Black Widow Bows as a business, as a traditional bow, and as a supporter of UBM, but I never imagined owning one. Not only that, but Osage orange wood from the family farm (my mother's side) in Hickory County Missouri was incorporated into the bow. This is the farm where I shot my first deer with a traditional bow, a bow made of Osage orange from the same tree that was being included in this new Black Widow bow. This farm represents how I got started in hunting, the joys and frustrations of hunting, and the relationships with my dad and Uncle Ron. It is a special place for me that I miss dearly after it was sold 15 years ago in 2011.

As I was gifted this amazing bow at the 2026 Rendezvous, I was filled with gratitude and awe. What a gift! What an amazing organization! What a traditional bowhunting family we are all a part of!

I was honored to have my parents there when I received the bow. I sure wish my Uncle Ron could have been there too, but he passed away October 1, 2015. I think my Uncle Ron would be impressed with the hunter I have become, but more importantly, I think he would be proud of the UBM family that WE have become.

I am full of thanks, and I am full of gratitude! Thank you! ©



Looking Back

James Barker

STRUGGLED WITH WHAT TO CALL THIS STORY, BUT HERE GOES.

It was back in 2011, you can do the math on how long ago it was, I literally and figuratively bumped into a gentleman named Larry Bauman at Cabela's of whom most of you know of. After we both made apologies to each other for not paying attention to what we were looking at, we started up a conversation. Larry told me they didn't have much here he could use in the archery department since he uses traditional archery equipment. I mentioned that I also had a longbow but wasn't very good at it. He quickly invited me to come stump shooting with him and some other archers at a local conservation area, to which I agreed.



I remember thinking on my way home, Stump Shooting? Stump Shooting? WTH is that.

But next week I joined Larry and another gentleman named Joe Marshall at the conservation area. Larry apologized that it was only the two of them there that day. I soon learned that Stump Shooting was literally that, shooting at stumps (go figure) and was immediately impressed with Joe's shooting ability. Someone had left a soda can in the woods and Larry asked Joe if he thought he could hit the can. It was every bit of 25 yards away and Joe responded, very slowly almost emotionless, "Oh, I guess." He drew back, let an arrow fly, and rang the can. I immediately knew I was out of my league.

Over the years my shooting has improved, and I have met new people and friends through our group of Stump Shooters. Some come and go, we have lost a few to death, but



every week we still get together to shoot stumps, logs, soda cans and anything that looks good to shoot at.

I was introduced to the UBM and the fine people in that organization and have enjoyed it ever since. I have learned new skills, such as making my own bow strings and making them for others also. I also make my own arrows. I look forward to learning how to make my own fletching. I learned how to make fish arrows also (thanks Butch). I look forward to learning more.

I have enjoyed the outings such as the Rendezvous, the banquet, 3-D shoots, our group hunts and our yearly breakfast. All I can say is, I truly wish I had met this group of people years earlier than I did. ©

Ontario Black Bear Adventure:

Sometimes things are not always as they appear

Ryan Plummer

THIS SPRING, I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO RETURN to Ontario, Canada, for my second black bear hunt. My first Ontario bear hunt was two years ago, and while I was fortunate enough to harvest a bear on that trip, I quickly learned that seeing bears from the road and seeing them from a stand are two very different things.

One of the best parts of any hunting adventure is the people you share it with. This year's trip included four traditional bowhunters: myself, John White, and Ethan Grotheer, who had also been part of my first Ontario bear hunt two years earlier, along with fellow United Bowhunters of Missouri member Johnny Brantley, who made the trip from Tennessee to join us.

As with many hunting trips, the adventure began before we ever left home. The evening before departure, the group gathered at my house for some final shooting practice, good food, fellowship, and last-minute logistics. Bows were checked, gear was organized, and plenty of hunting stories were shared as excitement for the week ahead continued to build.

Just after daylight the next morning, we loaded up and headed north. Our first stop was at a campsite along the north shore of Lake Superior, where we spent the night before completing the final leg of the journey into bear camp.

The drive itself has become part of the tradition, giving us time to catch up with friends, share laughs, and build anticipation for the hunt ahead.

Just like my first trip, bears seemed to appear regularly while traveling to and from camp. This year, however, a late spring in Ontario appeared to have the bears moving a little slower than usual, and sightings were fewer than I remembered. Even so, I remained optimistic.

What was interesting is that the hunt unfolded almost exactly like my first Ontario adventure. Despite seeing bears around camp and along the roads, I never laid eyes on a bear from my stand until the fifth evening of the hunt.

Five evenings of sitting and watching the



Canadian wilderness can test a hunter's patience. Yet, that's part of what makes these hunts so rewarding. Every evening carried the possibility that a mature bear could emerge from the timber at any moment.

On the fifth evening, just like my hunt two years ago, it finally happened.

As daylight began to fade, I heard a twig snap and somehow knew without a doubt that this was a bear approaching. I repositioned myself in the stand and readied my bow. Then almost shadow-like, a bear appeared silently moving through the trees as it made its way toward my location. After stopping a few times and checking his surroundings for safety, the bear eventually closed the distance to just 15 yards. When the opportunity presented itself, I drew my Big Jim Thunderchild longbow and settled in for the shot. My setup consisted of Safari Tuff arrows tipped with a 250-grain Razor broadhead—a combination I





Later that night, Dusty, our outfitter, Ethan, John, and I returned to the location to see if we could find any sign or a trail. A light rain had moved into the area complicating the task.

had complete confidence in.

At that moment, autopilot took over, after hundreds of shots have prepared you for this exact situation, I released the string, the arrow struck, and immediately my emotions shifted from excitement to frustration.

From the stand, I was convinced I had made a poor shot. The impact looked far too forward, and I believed without question, based on what I thought I had seen, that I had failed to get sufficient penetration, likely impacting the front shoulder, and had wounded the bear. In fact, I was so certain I had made a bad shot that I began texting friends and fellow bowhunters, telling them exactly that. I was disappointed in myself and replayed the shot repeatedly in my mind as we all so often do.

After waiting some time, I climbed down to inspect the area. I had watched my arrow fall from the bear and expected to find it fully intact nearby. Instead, I found only half of the arrow with blood on the shaft. That discovery only caused confusion as it didn't match what my eyes had witnessed and the story I had made up in my mind.

Rather than push the situation, I backed out and gave the bear additional time.

Despite carefully searching, we could not find a single drop of blood. The rain wasn't heavy enough to significantly affect the track, but it certainly added another layer of uncertainty to the recovery.

Still, I had paid close attention to the direction the bear traveled after the shot.

I followed the trail I believed the bear had taken until I reached a road. Something didn't feel right. I wasn't convinced the bear had crossed the road, so I turned around and began retracing my steps. A short distance back, I discovered a smaller trail intersecting the one I had been following.

Trusting my instincts, I followed the smaller trail.

Moments later, I was surprised when I walked right up on my bear.

The shot I had spent hours criticizing turned out to be exactly the opposite of what I thought. While the impact was indeed forward, the broadhead had entered beneath the scapula and passed through the front portions of both lungs. It was a clean double-lung hit. The bear had traveled only about 60 yards before expiring, coming to rest roughly 15 yards from the road which made for one

of the easiest pack outs one could hope for.

The bear weighed 270 pounds and represented a tremendous trophy, but the greatest reward was the lesson it reinforced.

As bowhunters, we often replay every detail of a shot in our minds. We convince ourselves we know exactly what happened based on a split-second observation. Sometimes we're right. Sometimes we're wrong.

This hunt reminded me not to always believe what I think I saw.

Had I allowed my assumptions to dictate my actions, I might have approached the recovery differently. Instead, patience, careful tracking, and trusting the sign that was available led to a successful recovery.

Like any great hunting trip, the memories weren't limited to time spent in the stand. By the final day of camp, John and I had all filled our bear tags, giving us an opportunity to enjoy another aspect of the Ontario wilderness. We spent part of the day chasing Northern Pike along with Ethan on one of the area's many lakes. While I elected to serve as captain of our small V-bottom boat, John and Ethan



handled the fishing duties and quickly filled their limits. Watching them catch fish while enjoying one last day in camp was a fitting way to wrap up an already successful adventure.

Those moments around camp—the conversations, the friendships, and the shared experiences—are often what linger longest after the hunt is over. The bear may have been the reason for the trip, but the memories made with friends are what truly made it special.

Ontario once again delivered an unforgettable experience. The beautiful wilderness, the challenge of hunting black bears

with traditional equipment, and the lessons learned along the way are memories I'll carry for years to come.

One of the things I appreciate most about traditional bowhunting is that it constantly teaches humility. No matter how many years we spend hunting, the woods always seem to have another lesson waiting for us.



This bear certainly provided one I'll never forget. ©

Expanding Feather Knowledge

Larry Bauman

MOST FOLKS THAT ARE INVOLVED IN ARCHERY usually progress to building their own arrows. I am one of those that started building arrows with wood, then fiberglass, Micro-Flite, aluminum and recently carbon. The one thing that has remained common is feathers.

Originally, we bought domestic turkey feathers in various shapes, lengths and colors that were production die/stamp cut. Not being able to leave well enough alone, brother Jerry and I decided to field test various shapes relative to what noise they might make. I stood behind a “large” oak tree while he shot pass the tree. Ok, I know what you think, but it was safer than it sounds, plus we were young and invincible back then. And,

I could hear. Maybe not accurate or factual, but interesting. Some buzzed and others whistled. We narrowed it down to the parabolic shape being our choice.

Next came feather length. Those concerned with speed or lighter

poundages prefer shorter feathers since feathers do slow an arrow down while correcting the flight. Most bowhunters use between 4-inch and 5 ½-inch fletch. I am still waffling between 4-inch and 5-inch. If I were fletching with three feathers, 5-inch is my choice. I prefer four fletch arrows, not just because they go on the string either way, but they seem to correct the flight supporting my poor release. Simple math tells me that four 4-inch feathers is 16 inches of feathers and four 5-inch feathers is 20 inches of feathers. The 20 inches of feathers does make the arrow a bit slower, but it seems to support the upfront weight and broadhead, as well as a poor release. My motto; if you like it and it works, do it.

In the last couple years, I have gained interest in Missouri's natural wild turkey feathers. They amplify the traditional look, along with being stronger. They hold up well with impact and abrasive wear. This endeavor has expanded my challenge relative to fletching arrows. A fellow UBM member,

Dan Novotny, presented a great feather processing presentation at the 2026 UBM Festival. Dan and I often share experiences and exchange ideas. The first and most important challenge in processing natural turkey feathers is establishing a source for feathers. I have been fortunate that many of my successful turkey hunting friends give me wings. One family goes all out gathering feathers from everyone they know that





Splitting Feather Quills

hunts. Most cut the wings off at the joint and leave it to me to remove the feathers. Primary feathers are the strongest and make the best fletching. Secondary feathers will work, but not as well. Most birds average between 8 & 10 primary flight feathers on each wing (left & right). I prefer right wing and Dan prefers left wing. We have been trading.

Below is the process I normally follow. I am relatively new at this and remain open to ideas and suggestions.

Step 1: Cut and remove the primary feather from the wing. Separating lefts and rights.

Step 2: Split each feather, using a sharp knife splitting the crease of the quill. I split the thick or heavy end first and then turn the feather around and split the remaining half. Take it slow on a cutting board to avoid cutting the feather in half or cutting yourself.

Step 3: Grind the bottom and side surfaces of the split quill. This can be accomplished manually using a handheld clamp similar to a fletching clamp, on a sanding surface or belt sander. I have done both but haven't been able to produce consistent quality. The option I am using is a Great Northern Feather Grinder. This requires a drill press for a two-inch sanding drum and the two-position Great Northern grinding jig. Using the jig against the sanding drum,

you are able to grind the flat surface and the width of the quill.

Step 4: It's time to decide length and shape of the feather. I have been using 4-inch and 5-inch parabolic "Little Choppers". Some

still use scissors and others use a burner after the fletch is glued to the shaft. Had a burner, but the smell of feathers burning is an outdoor process and I often damaged the fletching of a finished arrow.

Step 5: Dying feathers is another learning experience. My granddaughters often help. It's not that difficult, just messy. An old dish pan works well. Start with a quart of steaming hot water, add one cup of white vinegar, add dye and stir. The vinegar is what makes the dye stick to the feathers. We've had success using Kool Aid or Rit fabricate dye. Both provide good results. The amount of dye and length of time the feathers are in the dye determine the darkness of the feather. These feathers

have natural black bars, or stripes, and darker colors will turn your fletching darker. Completely submerge each feather as you place it in the dye. Do not dump a group or handful into the dye. They tend to stick together and don't dye evenly. It's best to wear rubber gloves, especially when removing the feathers from the dye. Remove the feathers from the dye and lay them out individually on paper or cardboard to dry. If they aren't the color you wanted, return them to the dye and repeat the process.

I don't know if it's necessary, but after the feathers dry I drag the flat surface of each fletch over a sanding block to clean them before gluing to a shaft.

The Natural Barred Missouri Turkey feathers will increase your interest in building arrows. The size, length, shape and color are endless. It's not as difficult as you might think. ©



Full Length Primary Feathers for grinding



Dyed Parabolic Feathers

LIKE MANY OF MY GENERATION (oh, I can't believe I said that... but alas, it's true), I'm a firm believer in "why buy it if I can make it". That mindset, combined with the fact that I'm a hoarder of both tools and materials, and also that I spend a bit too much time on the internet, led me to believe that I needed a handy dandy squirrel skinning jig.

After a quick internet search, I came across a measured "drawing" of said appliance (shout out to Norm Abrahams, IYKYK). I also happened to have a few strips of thicker aluminum sheet left over from an old sign redo. After adjusting the size of the illustration on my scanner to fit my material (a lot easier than transferring measurements), I set about preparing to enter the rabbit hole.

My first task was to strip the paint and lettering from the aluminum strips. No small task, and honestly, this step took longer than the entire remainder of the project, but if squirrels are to be the distraction, it has to be shiny, right?

Once the surface was clean, I taped the template to the

aluminum. I used an auto punch to dimple the center of my holes, and digging through my arsenal of old, rusty drill bits, I made my initial holes. I connected the holes where applicable with a jigsaw equipped with a fine metal blade and carefully cleaned up the openings with files and a Dremel.

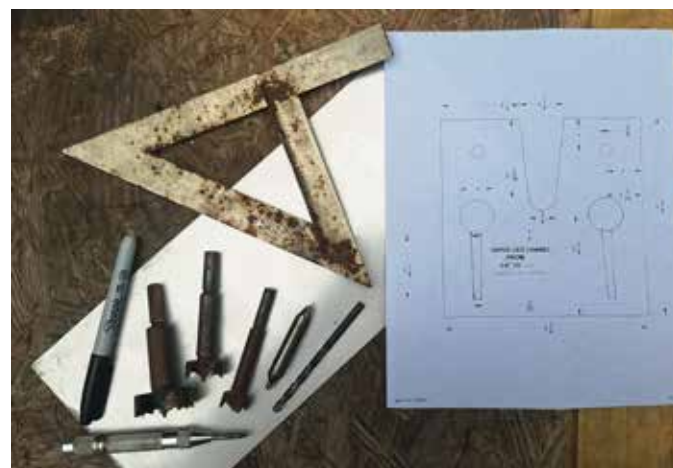
To make the bends, I clamped 2 short pieces of angle iron in a vice and carefully bent the aluminum by hand, roughly 45° as shown in the picture. A helpful hint is to make the deep bend at "A" on both ends first before bending the outer line "B".

Once the jig is tweaked to your satisfaction, screw it to something solid like a fence, side of a building or a board you can strap to a tree. I just happened to have some leftover stainless fasteners from the aforementioned sign project, but it doesn't have to be that fancy. With luck it's going to bloody soon enough!

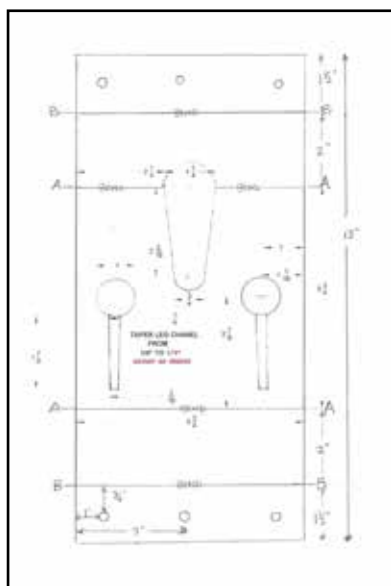
Or... you can just buy something similar off the internet for \$35...



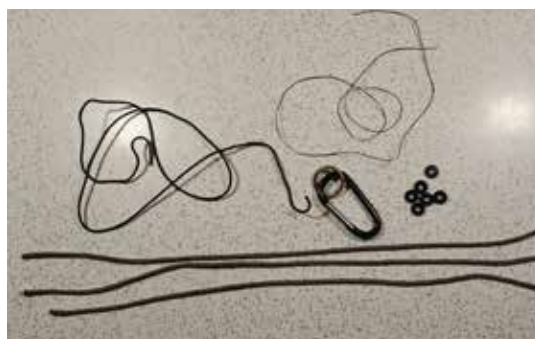
All I need now is a squirrel to hang from it.



Now I'm ready to start drilling and bending.



A plan "drawing" for the skinner.



All the things needed for my squirrel tote.

Another Useless Project, Part Deux

Like I mentioned earlier, I hoard scraps of things. Since I had just finished a totally useless but impressive squirrel skinning jig, I thought, let's complete the set of dust gatherers with a carrying tote for a nice mess of tree rats.

Wouldn't you know it, I had a short hank of paracord (60" to be exact) and an even shorter piece of the mini paracord. Rummaging in the "Man Drawer" I completed the ingredients list with a carabiner, key ring and a half dozen rubber sink washers. Yes, I have a well-stocked kitchen drawer.

I cut the long paracord into three pieces, 20" long, and fed them through the key ring so everything hung equally. I used the mini cord to wrap the cords up tight to the ring, pulling the loose end down through the wrapping. I then tied a single knot in the end of each of the six cord ends, melting the fray with a lighter. Then using a looped scrap of B-50, I pulled the cord through the washer as illustrated. Attach carabiner, and voila, another gadget to hang off my back quiver.

And if none of this makes sense, do a quick Googly search for "how to make a paracord squirrel carrier" videos on YouTube for a multitude of ideas. Or if you're really set on finding a nice, artsy one, throw \$20 at Etsy and hang it on the bow rack with the rest



Raw material for my Skinner.

of the museum pieces (if you make it, you will use it).

Now, if only I could find a squirrel... ©



The finished product!

➤➤➤ Archery Hall of Fame

Darren Haverstick

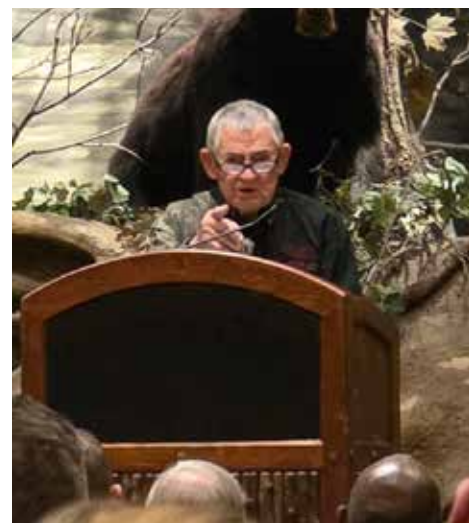
I BECAME INVOLVED WITH THE ARCHERY HALL OF FAME way back when I was UBM Vice-President the first time, around 1376 or so. Brian Peterson was president at the time, and we were both strongly encouraged by Dick Wood to attend the induction ceremony that year. For those of you not familiar with Mr. Wood, he was a larger-than-life figure and vocal advocate of all things archery and conservation related. For those of you who do know about Mr. Wood, you probably know that it was almost impossible to say "No" to the man, so Brian and I found ourselves all dressed up to attend our first-ever AHOF event. Dick had convinced us that since the Hall of Fame Museum

was in Springfield, MO close to our respective homes, it was only logical that representatives from a statewide archery organization should go to the shindig. And to show you how persuasive Dick could be, the ceremony happened to fall on the OPENING DAY of Missouri's archery season, and we skipped it to hobnob with archery greats instead.

That was a long time ago and I have not missed an induction ceremony since. Not only do I feel that UBM should always be represented at the event, but I have also made a lot of friends there over the years and attending gives me a chance to catch up with them. The traditional archery community always shows up en masse so a

UBM member would not feel out of place when their brothers from Compton Traditional Bowhunters and Professional Bowhunters Society are there as well.

The induction ceremony that



Ken Beck giving his acceptance speech.

took place this past May was really special because our very own Ken Beck, of Black Widow Bows, was one of the inductees. Ken brought that famous bow company back from the brink of extinction in the 1980's and helped turn it into the household name it is today. Well, households that shoot traditional bows, anyway. He was hoping for a good turnout from the UBM to witness his induction and I think we did him proud.

These ceremonies take place every two years and start with a meet-and-greet party on Friday evening and end with the formal induction on Saturday evening.



The UBM was well represented at the induction ceremony.

When I first started going to this, the party on Friday was held inside the museum itself. However, the attendance quickly grew out of that space, and the party is now at the University Plaza Hotel near downtown Springfield. When I went to this year's Friday night party, I met up with some other UBM members, and we grabbed a table so we could visit and eat. The food was served buffet style and Larry Hudson and I both thought it was odd that we had many different options to choose from, but the plates to put all these options on were way too small to fit these choices on. So you had to 1) fill multiple plates at once and try to balance them, or 2) make multiple trips through the line, or 3) starve yourself. #2 was not the ideal choice, but it certainly was the safest one. A live auction took place toward the end of the evening with the proceeds going to the organization and museum. I could tell by the first few items auctioned off that my pockets were definitely not deep enough to afford anything so I headed to the house. I later learned that a set of arrows sold



Me with Dick Wood's grandson, Bret Erwin.

for \$18,000! I sure hope that broadheads were included!

The Saturday ceremony always takes place at Bass Pro's White River Conference Center, and this one was the first one held since the passing of Dick Wood in 2025. When I walked into the room where it was taking place, I was pleasantly surprised to be greeted by a large photo of him sitting on an easel. The AHOF Powers That Be had created an award in his honor and it was going to be given out for the first time that evening. The Dick Wood Membership Award will go to an AHOF member who best supports the AHOF and promotes the organization. For a person who lived and breathed archery, I can't think of a more fitting legacy.

The UBM had two tables full of members, plus others scattered about, to see Ken Beck get his dues. Black Widow Bows also had a large crowd with most of them wearing matching red AHOF shirts with Ken's name on the back. Ken was walking around, taking it all in, with a smile on his face that probably didn't go away for a couple of weeks afterwards. I talked to BW co-owner, Toby Essick, a few days ago and he said there was talk of widening the office doorways so Ken could easily get his head through. Fortunately, Mr. Beck's condition



Tim Denial was the first recipient of the Dick Wood Membership Award.

was temporary, so the crisis and construction were avoided.

One of the many things I love about this ceremony is learning about what the inductees did that earned them a spot in the hall of fame. The ones who did it by

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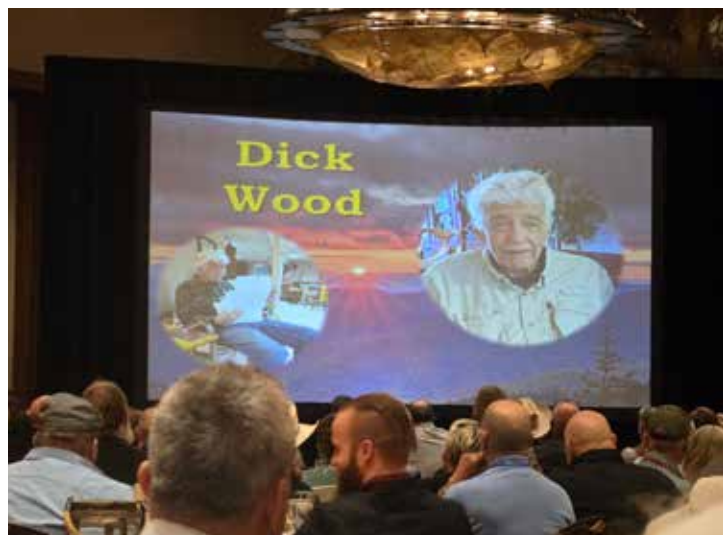
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The inductees this year standing before a crowd at the Friday night party.



Remembering AHOF members who had passed since the last gathering.

competing accomplished things that I, a mediocre archer at best, can only marvel at. Competing at the Olympic level on the world stage is awe inspiring! Then there are those who had a dream of building a better mousetrap, metaphorically speaking, and set out to make that dream a reality. Folks like Gail Martin, of Martin Archery, Bob Lee, of Bob Lee Archery, and our own Ken Beck. These people helped popularize our sport and, in some instances, revolutionized the equipment we use. I have nothing but the utmost respect for all of those who have earned their spot on the walls of the museum.

The first ever recipient of the Dick Wood Membership award went to Tim Denial, who has been a longtime supporter of the organization and is a leader in the Professional Bowhunters Society. I think Dick would have approved of this choice and I hoped that some of his family members were in attendance to see the award being given out. I thought his son, Darin, might be there since he often went to such things with Dick, but I failed to spot him in the big crowd. So imagine how happy I was when Dick's grandson, Bret Ervin, hunted me down during the intermission. I had heard many stories from his proud grandfather about Bret's hunting exploits, and we

shared a table at the last induction ceremony. Bret was there with his mother, Wendi, and I was elated to finally get to meet her. Uncle Darin couldn't be there, but he told his sister to make sure to look me up. I sure am glad they did!

Ken Beck accepted his award that night in typical Ken fashion, with some good stories and humility. It was the highlight of an already great evening, and I am already looking forward to the next one in 2028. Whether I personally know any of the future inductees, or not, you can bet that I will be in attendance! ☺



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St. Louis, MO

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Look at that concentration!



Everyone loves shooting at the bottles Harry launches.



The Friday night Fish Fry always draws a big crowd!



Steve Young shooting just moments before "Nickgate 2026" took place.



Mason Cashion was the winner of the MSTBC youth division.



This year's 3-Person Skirmish winners: Ethan Grotheer (L), Dennis Wilson (M), Beau Johnston (R).



Dennis Wilson (right) was the winner of the MSTBC longbow division and overall grand champion.



William R. Brown showing off his new bow with his parents.



Heading down to the course.



Joel Davis posing with other 3D targets.



The Novotny family with a great showing at the Rendezvous!



Harry Mauchenheimer with his questionable arrow point for the 3-Person Skirmish.

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,
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MEN'S RECURVE

CLASS WINNER: DON JAMES

Place	Name	12s	Total
1	Don James	4	192
2	Seth Trinklein	3	184
3	Joe Meyer	3	179
4	Galin Stutchev	2	176
5	Ian Farmer	1	172
6	Kenny Stratton	2	170
7	Kyle Hollrah	1	164
8	Marc Eaves	3	156
9	Scott Mersman	0	153
10	Calem Lipper	2	153
11	Rusty Hammond	1	146
12	Larry Hudson	4	141
13	Monty Gordon	1	139
14	Sean Myhre	1	136
15	Steve Young	2	136
16	Tom Dickerson	0	116
17	Craig Poppengate	0	109
18	Austin Legate	1	72
19	Hank Gowen	0	34

MEN'S LONGBOW

CLASS WINNER: DENNIS WILSON

Place	Name	12s	Total
1	Dennis Wilson	3	198
2	Johnny Brantley	3	185
3	Hunter Noe	1	183
4	Jason Burton	6	181
5	Jeremiah Hill	2	162
6	Mike Smallwood	4	159
7	Pete Eisentrager	3	159
8	Randy Brand	2	156
9	Mike Sprick	2	154
10	Beau Johnston	1	141
11	Jeff Vinson	1	137
12	Lonnie Bailey	3	136
13	Linley Lipper	1	131
14	Jim Thorpe	2	129
15	Brad Harriman	0	108
16	Bill Stewart	0	94
17	Daniel Cash	0	86
18	Don Vaughn	2	78
19	Tyler Westrich	0	68
20	Wesley Willis	0	66
21	Butch Boss	1	40
22	Zane Culwell	0	36
23	Kyle Roberts	0	34

WOMEN'S RECURVE

CLASS WINNER: JORDAN SMALLWOOD

Place	Name	12s	Total
1	Jordan Smallwood	1	44
2	Cahla Thorpe	0	8

WOMEN'S LONGBOW

CLASS WINNER: MEGHAN PARKER

Place	Name	12s	Total
1	Meghan Parker	1	128

YOUTH

CLASS WINNER: MASON CASHION

Place	Name	12s	Total
1	Mason Cashion	1	80
2	Gunner Glastetter	0	34
3	Jaxton Cashion	0	18
4	Kane Cashion	0	0

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL 2026 MSTBC COMPETITORS

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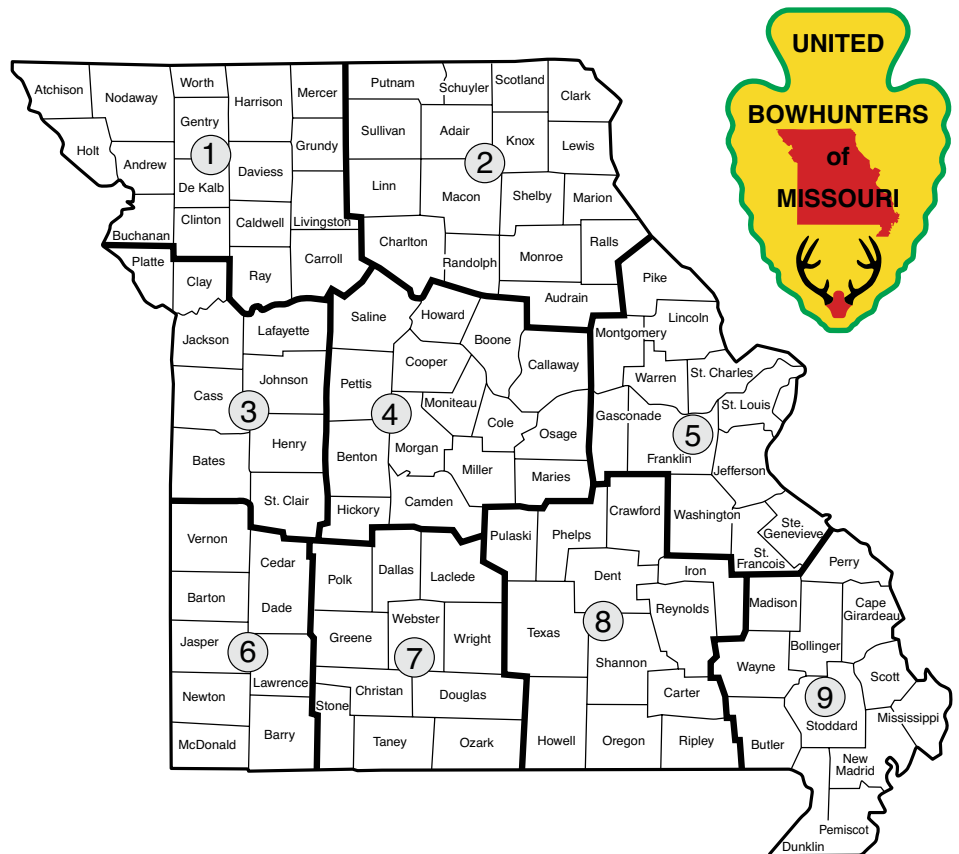
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