A Walk in the Woods

Fall 2023

Compton Traditional Bowhunters

THE NATIONAL TRADITIONAL BOWHUNTING ORGANIZATION

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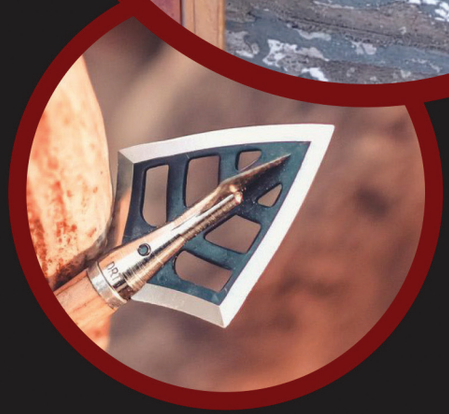

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Editor's Remarks

Well, the 2023 Rendezvous is over. It was a grand affair and, unfortunately, probably my last Rendezvous as my time on the Board has come to an end. However, I feel that CTB is an excellent organization with the right priorities, so I'm keeping my hand in it by remaining in my current position as Editor of this magazine.

By "right priorities," I'm talking about the Youth Program and encouraging women to get into the sport. (This issue includes a couple of articles to that end). I didn't count, but I'm guessing we had around 120-150 kids shooting. It was kind of like herding cats, but Youth Director Scott Hargrove and his volunteers did a great job. It was fun to watch! I'm incredibly proud of this organization for taking the lead to get the kids involved. The next generation of traditional bowhunters is in good hands.

Speaking of youth, I'm sure you noticed the photo of the smiling young lady with her first deer on the cover. Ten-year-old Nora Miller got excellent penetration with her 26#@24" St. Joe River longbow and 425gr arrows tipped with Magnus two-blade heads. And she shot it from the ground at seven yards! I love seeing youth success stories. Nora's story appears in this issue.

The Michigan Traditional Bowhunters have also stepped up to help our youth with their "Lost Bow Campaign." Tracey Balowski's heart-warming article tells us all about it. It's a fantastic story of generosity to our youth. I'm always amazed at how one person can start a movement that quickly picks up steam to spread happiness and encouragement to others. Because of them, and others, our family continues to grow - as it should.

At this year's Rendezvous, we commemorated the late G. Fred Asbell with a 21-Arrow Salute. Bryan Burkhardt covers more information concerning the arrows in his President's Remarks column. The photo below is of the 21 archers who participated in the tribute. It was both an honor and privilege to be one of the archers shooting an arrow in honor of Fred.

—Jerry Gowins

Standing, left to right: Dave Roose (officiating), Ron Rothhaar (taps), Bryan Burkhardt, Monty Browning, Craig Schoneberg, Dale Karch, Jerry Gowins, Sam Barrett, Bret Cagle, Tim Hutcheson, Richard Dewey, Randy Neuman, Mike Harris, Dennis Harper, Kerri Doyle, Dave Jarvis
Kneeling left to right: Phil Belchar, Andy Ponce, Jim Kinsey, Vince Smith, Larry Hudson, Roger Norris, Chis Jasmine

A Walk in the Woods is the official publication of the Compton Traditional Bowhunters Ltd. Editorial content does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Editor or Compton Traditional Bowhunters Ltd. This newsletter is published quarterly and distributed by Premier Print Group in Champaign, Illinois.

All submissions shall be in electronic form only.

The Editor reserves the right to reject any and all materials and/or photography received for publication and to make changes in said material as necessary. No advertising will be accepted that promotes antihunting or animals rights issues, contains non-traditional bows and equipment, or anything derogatory to archery, bowhunting, or anything else the Editor deems unfit for publication. Articles and photographs are accepted from members only.

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Deadlines for Submissions:

Winter — October 1
Spring — January 1
Summer — April 1
Fall — July 1

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Sam Barrett (Advertising Manager)

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ON THE COVER...

Nora Miller - first deer

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Submission Requirements

A Walk in the Woods is the official publication of Compton Traditional Bowhunters Ltd. Editorial content does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Editor or Compton Traditional Bowhunters Ltd. It is published quarterly for the enjoyment of Compton members and distributed by Premiere Print Group of Champaign, Illinois. The articles, photography, and other content are provided solely by the membership of the organization. *A Walk in the Woods* celebrates the challenge of venturing afield with recurve, longbow, and selfbow. Compton welcomes content from novice hunters to seasoned outdoorsmen. Stories that feature the use of compound bows and related technology will not be considered for publication.

Articles and photography will be reviewed only on speculation. When written material or photographic images are selected for the magazine, the editorial department will contact the author or photographer and acknowledge approval.

Although Compton manages and maintains its own sophisticated record-keeping and measuring system, written material should dwell on the overall experience of being immersed in the natural world rather than on trophies or scores. Displaying respect for all wildlife and habitat is a critical component to all successful submissions.

Photography

Photographic images shall accompany written articles or be submitted as stand-alone photo essays. Images shot with a DSLR camera or equivalent are preferable. Cell phone pictures may be considered, though only if the camera is set for the largest file size. Low resolution or out of focus photos will not be considered for publication. Submitted image files shall be in JPEG, TIFF, or PNG format.

Good photo support greatly increases the chance of material being accepted. Written submissions should not feature just one "hero" shot but a good selection of 6-12 (or more) photographs of habitat, scenery, camp life, and wildlife. Images taken both horizontally and vertically will add interest and variety to submissions. ***Short captions shall be included for each photo at the end of the written text.*** A shared file name and number that correlates the photo to the caption for ease of identification is required.

Photos that contain excessive blood or gore, exposed animal tongues, protruding arrows, game animals in truck beds, on the back of ATVs, hanging on a gambrel, or posed disrespectfully will not be accepted for publication.

Photographic material should not be sent embedded into any document, but instead sent as individual emailed attachments, two images per email. All images shall be the uncropped and unworked (no Photoshop) original files. Only high-quality images in the **vertical** format will be accepted for cover photo consideration. The top 1/2 to 1/3 of the image must be clean to accommodate the magazine header required for the cover. Review past covers of *A Walk in the Woods* for reference.

It is my preference that you send the original, uncropped and unworked (no Photoshop) image file for cover consideration.

Written Material

All submissions should be sent as an attachment via email to the *A Walk in the Woods* Editor. The material should be typed in MS Word or a similar electronic format. ***Submissions that are handwritten, typed in all caps, or one for which no electronic format is available will not be accepted.*** Typical submissions are between 1,500-3,000 words and typed in 12-point Times New Roman font. ***No double spacing anywhere in the document.*** That includes between paragraphs and after periods. Material that exceeds 3,000 words will be published at the discretion of the editorial staff. At the close of each submission, on the same document, a brief author bio and equipment selection is strongly suggested.

Articles and/or photographic images that have been previously published and simultaneous submission to other publications will not be accepted.

The Editor reserves the right to reject any and all materials and/or photography received for publication and make changes in said material at his discretion. The Editor may alter, revise, or rewrite any portion of any submission for grammar, clarity, or the general overall flow of the article.

Please email all submissions to Jerry Gowins at Editor@comptontraditionalbowhunters.com.

Jerry Gowins, Editor

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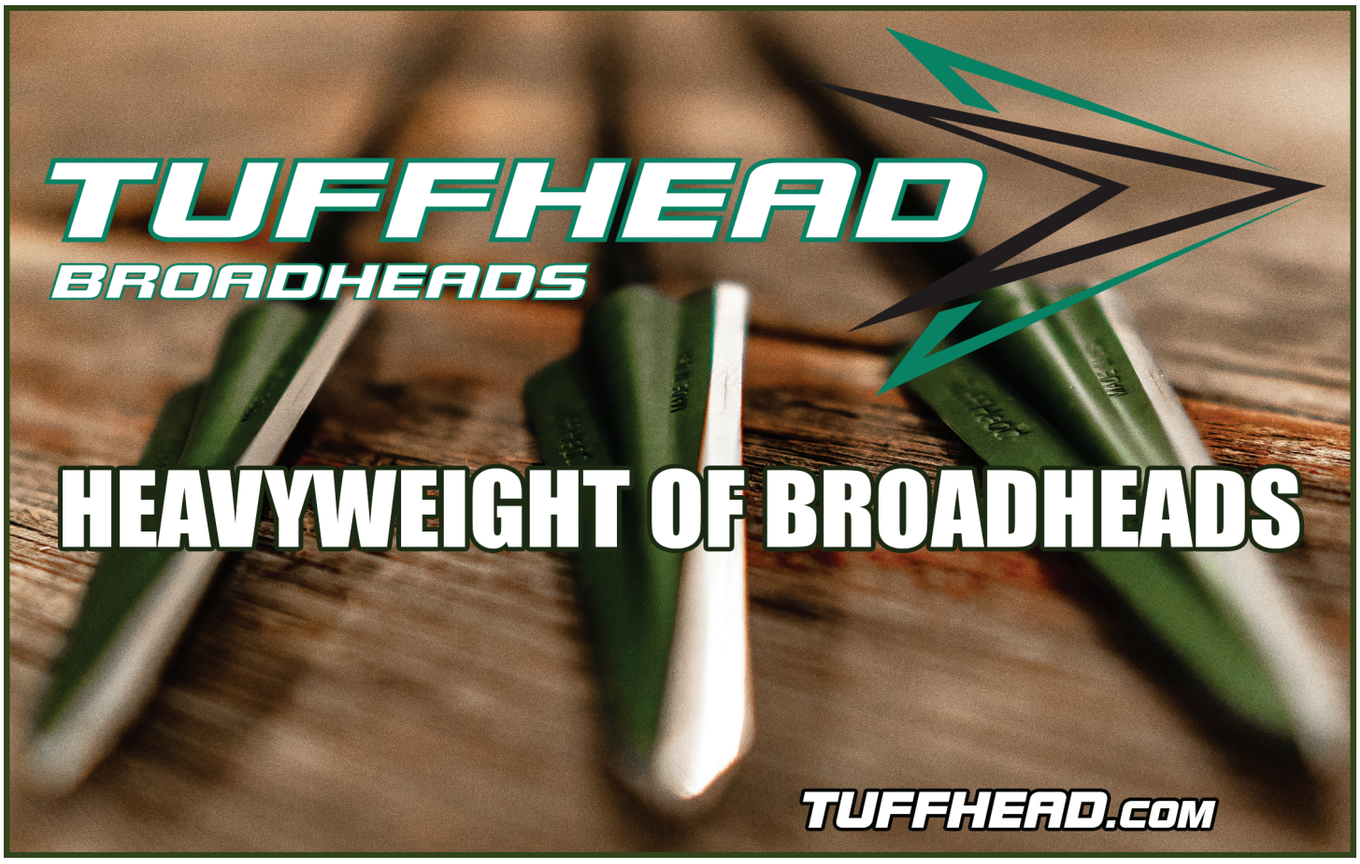
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President's Remarks

Hopefully, you were able to join us at the Rendezvous this past June. It was wonderful having the Compton family back together again, and we were once again blessed with wonderful weather. The campground was packed, and you could hear plenty of laughter and bowhunting stories told around the campfires.

The Rendezvous kicked off Thursday evening with a campfire social where the musical talents of Doug Clayton and Brian Halstead entertained us. That was followed by our second annual "Movie Night" with captivating films from South Cox and Mike Mitten. Throughout the weekend, we were fortunate to have several fantastic seminars. Allen Clark provided an informative seminar on how he goes about finding and pursuing DIY bowhunting opportunities. Gene Hopkins and John Kabisa educated us on the history of archery, highlighting pioneering bowhunting greats such as Will "Chief" Compton, Saxton Pope, Art Young, Fred Bear, Ishi, and the Thompson Brothers. South Cox shared his insights, experiences, and tactics for getting close to backcountry mule deer. Randy Cooling entertained us with many stories of his most stressful and hair-raising bowhunting adventures. Brian Koelzer shared several of his incredible adventures spotting & stalking mule deer in the high desert of Wyoming. Rod Jenkins wrapped up the seminars with an informative presentation on the basics and more technical aspects of shooting.

I want to thank all our seminar speakers for sharing their knowledge, adventures, and perspectives. Special thanks to Gene Hopkins and John Kabisa for again putting on a fabulous "History of Archery" display. Attendees enjoyed the free spaghetti dinner on Friday evening, and thanks to Ron and Patty Rothhaar for providing excellent dinner music. After the membership meeting and auction, Brian Koelzer entertained us with several exciting stories about his spot and stalk bowhunting adventures across North America. Saturday evening, South Cox treated us to a behind-the-scenes view of several of his bowhunting adventures, and he shared many of his successes, mistakes, and lessons learned in the backcountry.

Saturday morning started with a touching 21-arrow salute for the late G. Fred Asbell. Tom Jenkins supplied the 21 special whistling arrows made by Ron LaClair and previously shot in 21-arrow salutes for Fred Bear, Floyd Eccleston, Frank Scott, and Ron LaClair. Dave Roose did an excellent job of officiating, and Ron Rothhaar concluded the special tribute by playing Taps on a native flute. It was nice to have Teresa Asbell at the 21-arrow salute, and she presented the shooters with a special memento in memory of Fred.

This year, the lady's skillet toss, water bag shoot, and bow skirmish competitions were big hits again. Congratulations again go out to Bethany Miller for her third consecutive win in the lady's skillet toss competition. Congratulations to Todd Potts for winning the water bag shoot, and congratulations to Austin Terrazas, John Hoff, and Chris Terrazas for winning the bow skirmish. Congratulations to Kurt Magoteaux for winning the New Member Bow from Kalamazoo Bow Works, and to Dennis Jackson for once again winning the Membership Drive Bow from Wild Horse Creek Bows. Dennis generously donated the bow back to Compton for a successful card raffle. Alicia Nylin was the lucky winner of the Women's Membership Drive Package from St. Joe River Bows, Rush Creek Originals, Selway Archery and Lost Nation Archery. Congratulations to David Grant from Virginia for being the fortunate winner of the amazing Dream Raffle. This was an extremely successful Dream Raffle, and I want to thank Homer Ocean Charters, KUIU, Great Northern Quivers, Addictive Archery, Wengerd Archery, Kifaru International, and 3Rivers Archery for their generous donations.

The Friday and Saturday night auctions were a tremendous success, and I want to thank Vince Smith for doing a fantastic job of auctioneering. Sunday morning started with a church service held by the Christian Bowhunters of America. Folks hit the ranges one last time as vendors and campers began packing up and heading out. The Compton board put everything back in the storage container in preparation for next year. It takes a lot of planning and volunteers to pull off the Rendezvous, so special thanks to all the volunteers, vendors, Compton Board, and Berrien County Sportsman's Club for making the Rendezvous such a success. Finally, we're excited to announce that we've finalized the details for the 2023/2024 general membership drive and women's membership drive. Please see the flyers in this magazine for more information. Special thanks to Shrew Bows, Big Jim's Bow Company, St. Joe River Bows, KUIU, Selway Archery and Lost Nation Archery for making this possible. May your arrows fly true this hunting season, and please submit your stories and photos for publication in our magazine *"A Walk in the Woods."*

—Bryan Burkhardt

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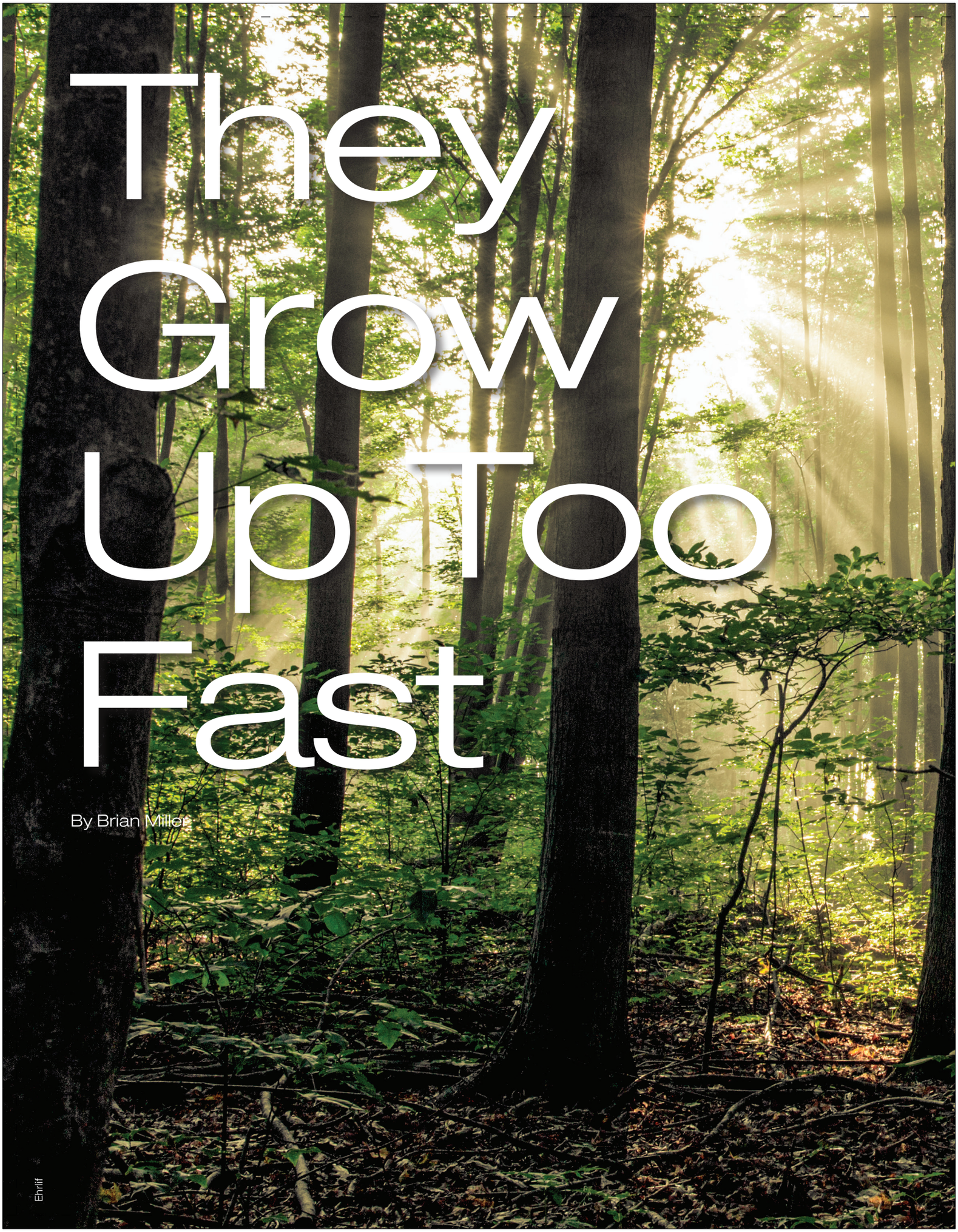
They Grow Up Too Fast

By Brian Miller



Ehrlif

They grow up too fast.

When it happened, I wasn't prepared. I'm still in a bit of shock; even now, a few months later, I'm not sure when the scope of what my ten-year-old daughter managed to accomplish will hit.

It seems like she got her first longbow only yesterday, but it's already been seven years. At three years old, from the first time she shot her first arrow, all she wanted to do was go bowhunting, breaking down in tears, not understanding her limits at such a young age.

"So, I'll be the first to get one with a bow."

That was her common reply, as I confirmed with her regularly if she'd like to take to the woods with other available weapons, not wanting her to feel left out when seeing all her friends at school shooting deer and other quarry. She simply didn't care about what others were doing. She was willing to wait until a longbow was capable in her hands.

The accuracy has always been there. A regular at the Compton Traditional Rendezvous, Nora loved participating in the kid's event every year, shooting at the dynamic, reactive targets, particularly enjoying the dollar bill course, where a dollar hit was a dollar earned. She'd earn a few, then use those to purchase tickets for the aerial targets, where she'd shoot into the early hours of the morning, enjoying the hall pass from an early bedtime. The years passed, one by one. A few thousand shots every year, continually honing her skill. Her commitment to her established principles never wavering.

In Fall 2022, Nora found herself getting a few opportunities to hunt. One weekend from a tree with no sightings, and then the following weekend, she was able to experience the thrill of having a deer in close, eating moss off the base of the tree she was perched in. The deer was unaware we were just feet above her until Nora tried to draw her bow. Sometimes the best way to learn is to experience failure—simple things like being quiet, no jerky movements, and how to blend into the background. Learn what doesn't work, then adapt those changes next time.

The next time was the following afternoon. It was a slow day at work, so I took some leave and headed home. Upon my arrival, Nora immediately asked if she could go hunting again, but she didn't want to sit in a stand; she wanted to sit on the ground. So later that afternoon, we found a recent oak blow-down that was just too inviting. Lots of foliage for cover shrouded the perfect-sized opening for two tripod stools with plenty of shooting windows. I don't think a better ground blind could have been constructed, and this tree was perfect.

The wind was steady out of the west, so with that information, Nora was taught to focus west, into the direction of the wind. She removed an arrow from her quiver, placed it on her string, and practiced drawing

out several openings to check for any contact with her bow and branches. I mean, sometimes it's good to learn from your mistakes; sometimes it's better to learn from other people's mistakes.

Honestly, I don't know what was going on this early November afternoon, but the deer were moving. In the first hour alone, we had deer traveling through within 75 yards of our location in all directions with no real rhyme or reason. No chasing, no rut activity, just general browsing and travel through the scrub oaks, including a small yearling Nora noticed about 100 yards out through the brush, walking directly at our location. As the deer moved in within 20 yards, its instincts kicked in, and it knew something wasn't right. But rather than alarm, the deer displayed more curiosity than anything. Coming closer to inspect the downfall tree, the deer seemed to be looking right through us, just yards away behind some thick cover. Just when it appeared the deer was going to continue on presenting no shooting lane, it turned a complete 180 and began walking around in front of us into the perfect shooting lane. As the deer's head went behind a small aspen, Nora drew her bow...

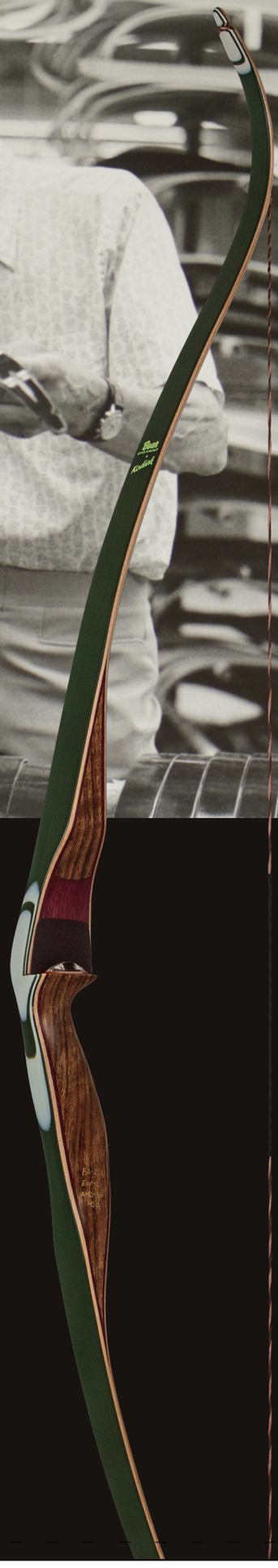
Nora experienced a bit of a growth spurt in 2022, adding a few inches to her draw length, thus an extra 5-6 lbs of draw weight with her same bow. Seemingly overnight, her arrows got to the target with much more authority. Authority that I, as her parent, deemed efficient enough for hunting at close ranges. I recall how ecstatic she was when I told her that I thought she was ready to hunt deer this year.

…The deer paused behind that aspen for a few seconds as Nora continued to hold at full draw, the full draw weight of her longbow on her fingers. The deer took one step, and that one step was enough for the vitals to clear the tree. Before its foot touched the ground, Nora had already released her arrow, and it only had to cover seven yards to its intended target. Her arrows were tipped with a classic 2-blade broadhead, sharpened to a needle point, leaning more towards penetration in the ribs than a bone-crushing profile. Playing the odds the best we could, her equipment had to be perfect. Perfect, it was.

The deer never reacted until the arrow made contact, right in the pocket behind the shoulder and above the elbow. The arrow appeared to achieve the goal it was designed for as the deer ran off and bedded down, just in sight. Nora, my ten-year-old daughter, had just put her first arrow into her first deer, from the ground, at 7 yards, with a longbow. That sentence, said out loud, still shocks me.

Watching my first daughter cut out the notches to validate her first Michigan deer license was a sight to behold. Not so much the actual shooting of the deer, but the process of getting to that point. The discipline, commitment, and exemplary patience; principles that many adults still struggle with.

As a very proud father, all I can say is if Nora can bring the lessons of traditional bowhunting into how she lives other aspects of her life, the world needs to watch out.



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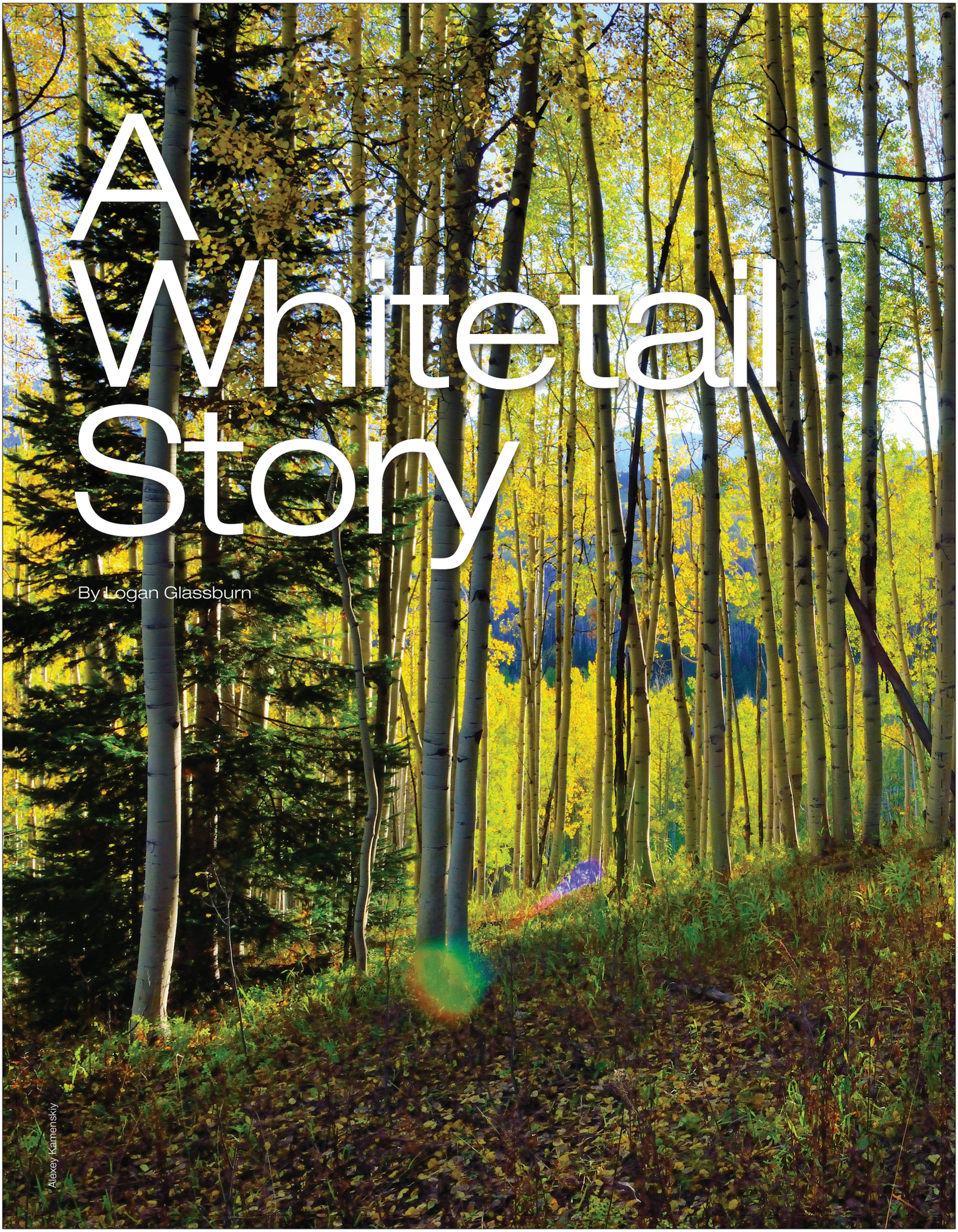
A Whitetail Story

By Logan Glassburn



Alexey Kamenskiy

As I write this, my deer season starts in less than a month. I've slowly been preparing for opening day since the season ended in February. That's one thing I really enjoy about hunting whitetails; the preparation in the off-season keeps me busy. From shooting my bow year-round, scouting new or old properties, sharpening broadheads, running trail cameras, and glassing fields in the late summer, it's really the only "hobby" I have. I'm hunting Kentucky, my home state of Ohio, and Kansas this year. If I'm lucky, I'll shoot a few deer this season, rewarding myself for all my work in the off-season.

There are so many ways to hunt whitetail deer; tree stand, ground blind, spot and stalk, stillhunting, or just sitting up against a tree. There are also many different ways to get deer in front of you; pinch-points, saddles, scrapes, food plots, bait piles, natural browse, staging areas, etc. Everyone has their preferred way of going about it. I like to run and gun with a lightweight treestand and climbing sticks or tree saddle setup. I've been doing this for probably the last 14 to 15 years. Luckily the treestands and sticks have been getting smaller and lighter. I went from about 35 pounds on my back to about 15 pounds now. That is easier for me to get in further if needed and more comfortable. The run-and-gun hunting style fits me better; I tend not to over-hunt spots and can play the wind easier if I can bounce around. I've tried other methods in the past with good luck, but I've found what works best for me.

Learning how to adapt and hunting over fresh sign is what will help you kill more deer. The first big buck I killed with a bow is a great example. We were bowfishing one night in November because it was so warm that week. That was before we started running a generator for out-lights, so it was very quiet trolling around back in coves. We were headed back into a cove at about 11 pm, and it was hot and quiet that night. We could hear fish jumping out of the water and even mice running around on the bank of the lake. As we were trolling along, we could hear footsteps in the leaves on the other side of the cove. We decided to troll over to investigate since it was November. What our lights showed us had us way more excited than shooting slimy carp! Thirty yards off the bank was a very big mainframe 8-point with long brow tines, split g2, and a kicker off his other g2. He was an older mature buck with a huge neck and shoulders. He likely was one of the dominant bucks in the area based on his body size alone. As we trolled over and got him in our lights, he stopped and stared at the bright lights, unaware of what was happening. Instead of running off and spooking, he just stood there for a few moments, then acted like we weren't even there and continued walking away from us without a care in the world. That buck was definitely cruising for does and was the only thing on his mind.

As the buck disappeared into the darkness, we couldn't help but feel excited! The buck was on public hunting property, and that's all we needed to get the motors turning and start planning a trip into this piece of public land. My buddy nor I had hunted this area before; it was time to jump on Google Earth and start looking at maps. My friend who owned the boat went in a few days later to hunt the area first. On that first trip into the area, he saw several deer, including a few nice bucks but nothing he wanted to shoot. With the first sit being action-packed for him, I was even more excited to get in there for my first sit. Finally, it was time to get in there the following weekend. My friend and I were going to do an all-day sit. I had done my homework on Google Earth and felt confident in where I wanted to sit that morning. We boated in, and he dropped me off. As he trolled away to a different area, I looked at my map and started heading in. With my stand on my back, bow in hand, and lunch in my pack, I was prepared for an all-day sit. I had picked a spot on the map that looked like a transition from hardwoods to thicker vegetation. I had a good area to see decently far through the timber.

Never being in the place before made me slow down in the early morning darkness. Looking at my map as I walked in, I got to the area I wanted to be. Looking around with my headlamp, I found the tree I wanted to climb. Once set up and comfortable, I waited for shooting light. Not knowing what my surroundings looked like, the anticipation was high. Not knowing if I would even have any shooting lanes was one concern. I was happy with my stand placement as darkness turned to legal shooting light. I could see a few deer trails well within bow range and was roughly 35 yards from the thicker transition I thought I could see on the map.

Not long after shooting light, I could see three does 125 yards away feeding on acorns. Soon after getting eyes on them, they acted as if they were about to head my way! Out of nowhere, a nice 9-point showed up behind the does. He approached them, sniffing around to see if one was in heat. Not sniffing out what he hoped for, he decided to grab a few acorns for a morning snack. As he was feeding, the does walked to my tree. As they browsed around well within bow range, I kept my eyes on the buck, hoping he would follow the does over. Instead, he stayed just inside the thicker timber and skirted just out of bow range. As I watched him fade in the timber away from me, I took a mental note of where he had headed. Once out of sight, I focused on one of the does underneath me. With my bow already in my hand, I shuffled my feet on my platform to turn and get a shot. I drew back and made a perfect heart shot at 12 yards. She made it only 40 yards from the tree and crashed! I waited till everything settled down before I climbed down. Once I got a tag on her and dragged her down to the water's edge and in the shade, I returned and took my treestand down.

I got everything packed back up and started a midday scouting session. I headed back to where I watched the 9-point disappear. Once there, I found a couple of big rubs, intersecting trails, and a couple of small pinch points. I found a tree I liked and climbed up. Once settled in, it was 12:30. After eating my lunch, I settled in for the rest of the day. At 4:30, I saw another deer, and it just happened to be a huge 10-point that was probably in the mid-150s! I ended up getting a shot at him but hit a tree instead. He had no idea what happened but never offered me another shot. He just walked out of my life with me hanging my head in my hands, wondering how I missed such a great buck. Feeling like I just got punched in the gut, I was ready to leave. Only having 30 minutes of shooting light left, I started packing up, knowing I probably missed my only shot at a big buck. As I was packing, I could hear a few deer running around in the distance. I got my grunt tube out and grunted a few times, hoping to get them in front of me. A few minutes passed without hearing anything, so I started packing again. The crunching of leaves rang out again. I grunted a few more times and waited.

Suddenly I saw a white rack appear. I got my bino's on him and was shocked when I saw a split g2. It was the buck we saw while bowfishing! He marched in with a swagger, trying to find the buck he heard grunting. As he walked into the shooting lane, I grunted to stop him. Not hearing me, he continued walking. Holding my 60lb recurve at full-draw, I grunted again but louder. He heard me this time and stopped. As the arrow left my bow, it appeared in slow motion floating towards his side. I heard the arrow hit him and watched it disappear, then reappear behind him. The buck took only two bounds and bedded instantly. Knowing I hit him mid-body I assumed it was a liver shot. I waited till complete darkness to leave my tree, and I left everything in the tree except my bow. I snuck out as quietly as possible, heading the opposite direction the buck had bedded.

Once back to the water's edge, I waited for my friend to pick me up with the boat. He trolled over and helped me load my doe a short time later. Not seeing a treestand, he knew something was up. Excitedly, I told him what happened and said we needed to wait till morning to go in after the buck. He agreed, and we loaded the boat up and headed our separate ways, then met up the next morning.

The following morning couldn't come fast enough as I

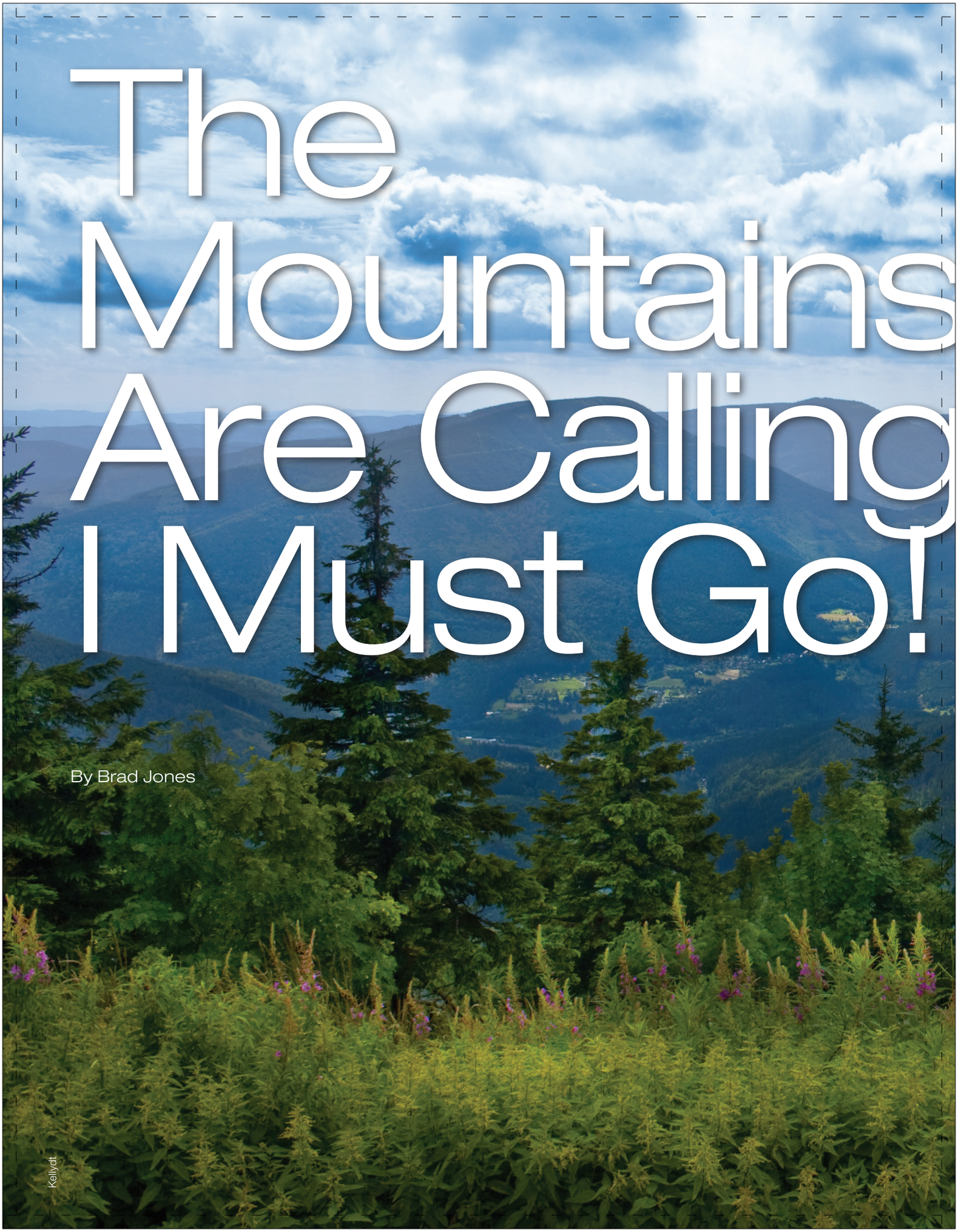
barely slept and talked to several friends on the phone about what happened. I picked my dad up and headed to the boat ramp to meet my friend. Once in the woods, I eased my way to my arrow sticking out of the ground. Once there, I followed blood for a short distance to the bed I had watched him in the night before. He wasn't in it. Without panicking, I worked my way to a little thick spot and hoped he was dead 20 yards from his first bed. As I eased into the small spot, I saw the big hind quarter of my buck lying there dead! After high-fives and hugs between my dad and friend, pictures, and a couple of phone calls, we cleaned him up, pulled my stand from the tree, and drug him down to the boat. That is one day I'll never forget, and a day of lessons learned.

What I took away from that hunt was to be aggressive, trust your gut, and adapt to what's happening around you. Big mature bucks get old because they are smart and use everything they can to their advantage. If you watch one mature buck move through a particular area, there's a good chance another one will do the same thing. Sure, you might catch a big buck doing something stupid occasionally, but that's usually because he's either really hungry or in love. I've been fortunate enough to kill a few big deer. Hopefully, I'll be able to learn from my mistakes and continue to have luck in the future.

I'm Logan Glassburn. I've been married for 12 years, and we have two kids. I work full-time in an archery shop as a bow tech and enjoy all things archery! I'm 33 and have been bowhunting since I could pull 40 pounds back.

The Mountains Are Calling I Must Go!

By Brad Jones



Kellydt

I heard the call loud and clear on that late September afternoon as my truck blasted over pavement aimed for higher country. Elk season was getting ever closer to ending, and I wasn't ready to throw in the towel just yet. Like many 'round these parts, I obsess over elk. They consume me year-round, and the thought of not leaving it all on the field was not something I would let happen. Like most elk seasons, this one had had its share of excitement. I'd spent the entire first half of the month helping an old friend chase elk in the high country. He'd drawn a good tag, and we hit it as hard as he was able to at his age. Although we had several close calls, he had yet to get a shot. With other friends showing up to assist, it was time for me to head out and try to get myself a bull.

Unlike my old buddy, I had not drawn a coveted tag. So, it was the general season for me! I actually enjoy that, as many of my favorite elk haunts are huntable with a general tag. I had a good part of the second half of the month off work to give it hell and a great group of family and friends that had the same luck that I had in the license draws. During summer scouting, my brother Levi and I found an area that looked great. Everyone in our little group agreed to hit that area hard, so we met and went to work. My dad, brother, and a couple

of buddies had chosen one such spot and set up base camp. Over the next week and a half, we were treated to amazing vistas, great weather, great camaraderie, and enough bugling bulls to keep us going. I blew an opportunity to shoot a monster bull by not being ready. Go me. In the end, the elk won, with no shots fired. All of my elk camp members had to get back to work and regular life, so we left the mountain with tags in our pockets.

The mountains are calling

Having a handful of days off before the end of elk season, I just couldn't give up. I planned to try a different area that I know and enjoy hunting. It's a wilderness area, and I'd be doing the solo backpack thing, which I enjoy. This led me to the drive I mentioned at the story's beginning. I was going to give it everything I had for a few more days in an effort to fill a freezer.

It's always a surreal feeling to carry camp on your back and head into the high country. It's a hard and unforgiving place. A place where we all learn a bit about who we are.

They've been here

Sometimes these lessons are epic, other times very, very frustrating. I pondered all of this as I hiked. I didn't see or hear any elk during my climb as I headed into a familiar basin. I knew where I would set up camp for at least the first night. It's a spot on a small ridge that affords good glassing opportunities and water nearby. With only a few days to hunt, I liked the idea of putting optics to work as well as my ears. As I quickly set up my camp, I suddenly realized exactly how late it was getting.

Have you ever had one of those days where everything you're trying to do takes longer than ya hope? Yep, this was one of those. I finally sat down behind my optics with less than an hour of light left. It was definitely not what I'd hoped for, but shortly after I started looking, I made out a small herd of elk above treeline on an adjacent mountain. A big 6-point was pestering a small handful of cows. That made me ecstatic! Here I was late in the season, with a great bull located, and there seemed to be nobody around; a rare treat in a general tag area. As daylight faded, I cooked up a Mountain House dinner and began dreaming and scheming about the next morning. Sleep couldn't come fast enough!

Around three a.m. I awoke to a thundering bugle not far from my tent. The herd I'd spotted the night before was a mile away, so I knew this was a different bull, but dang, he sounded big! I quickly decided to try to follow this bull at least somewhat in the dark and see if I could be close by daybreak, but while quietly getting dressed, he threw out a second bugle. That bugle came from directly downwind of my little camp, and it sounded like he was within 50 yards. I figured the jig was up before I even got out of the tent, and I didn't hear another peep out of that bull. So close, and yet so far….

Between the bull that almost walked into camp and the big guy on the mountain, it seemed like it took forever to get light out. I decided to go back to "Plan A;" attempt to spot the 6-point and his harem on the mountain at first light and set out after them. While I often prefer to move in the dark, I wasn't confident that this bull would remain right where I had watched him the previous evening, so I hoped for a visual before I started hiking. Some oatmeal and a hot cup of coffee always hits the spot on mornings like these, and as daylight broke, I was once again behind the glass and listening for bugles to key me in. Glassing at that distance was hard as my optics struggled to suck in enough light for my eyes to sort things out, but I did manage to hear a bugle. However, this bugle was MUCH closer than the bull I was trying to spot above treeline. It was on the same small ridge where I was camped. It didn't sound nearly as menacing as the bull that tried to invade my camp in the night, and it was in the opposite direction from which he fled, so I knew it was a different bull, so I moved his way in short order.

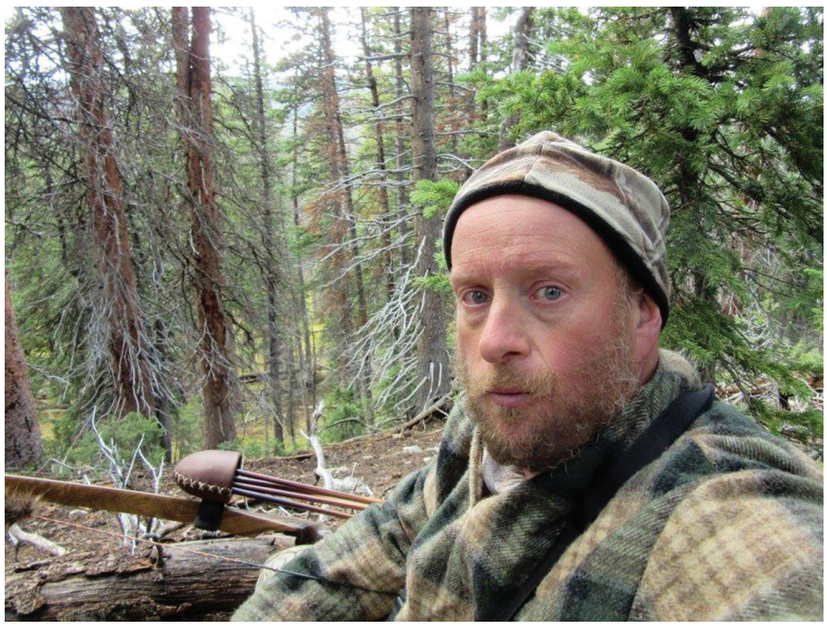
I eased up the ridge for a couple hundred yards but wasn't sure where the bull was or where he was heading. I threw out a couple of cow calls and immediately got a response. I was still a good way from the bull, but the wind and cover were in my favor, so I could keep moving relatively easily. I thought I had a pretty good idea of where he was, but either he was slowly moving away from me while I snuck, or I was off in my estimate. Thinking my next stop was where I needed to be, I threw out a couple of soft cow calls, and after a few seconds, he answered. He was still a couple hundred yards out, and his bugle was fairly soft. The kind you would expect from a bull that wanted company but didn't necessarily want the world to know he had it. I suppose that matters to some trophy hunters, but it sure as heck doesn't to me!

I slipped up a ways to a giant boulder on the ridge top. It was kind of out in the open, but there was a nice shelf on the downhill side of it that would lead a called-in bull on a circle to get my wind. For some reason, I was sure that if I called

Taking a breather

softly again, using the boulder as a shield and pointing my mouth the other way to sound farther off, the bull would attempt to circle and give me a shot on that shelf.

I threw out a couple of subtle cow calls and listened for a response to confirm my plan, but I had actually gotten way closer to the bull than I'd realized. Instead of hearing a bugle, I heard footsteps. He wasn't coming; he was here! Antlers coming through the trees showed a small 6x5 rack as the bull walked straight at me, avoiding the shelf altogether. He actually approached the boulder on the opposite side from where I'd guessed he would come, walked up, and stopped at about 8 yards. I knew he would spot me quickly as he had a wide-open look at me, so I tried to draw my longbow slowly. That bit of movement spooked the bull, and he started to trot away so I threw out a quick cow call hoping to get lucky.



That I just blew it feeling

I got lucky.

The bull stopped broadside at a step over 20 yards, and his brief hesitation was all I needed to fire a well-aimed arrow. The heart-shot bull took off into thicker cover, but I heard him crash in what sounded like less than 70 yards. After a difficult elk season, my freezer would be full for winter.

Sweet success

Although this hunt happened a few years back, I still think about it all the time. I've been lucky to take some bigger bulls over the years, but this particular elk is my most prized. That was my first general tag, wilderness, solo backpacking bull, and to call him in and make a heart shot with a longbow is still my single favorite moment of my bowhunting career. Sometimes, it's just your day!

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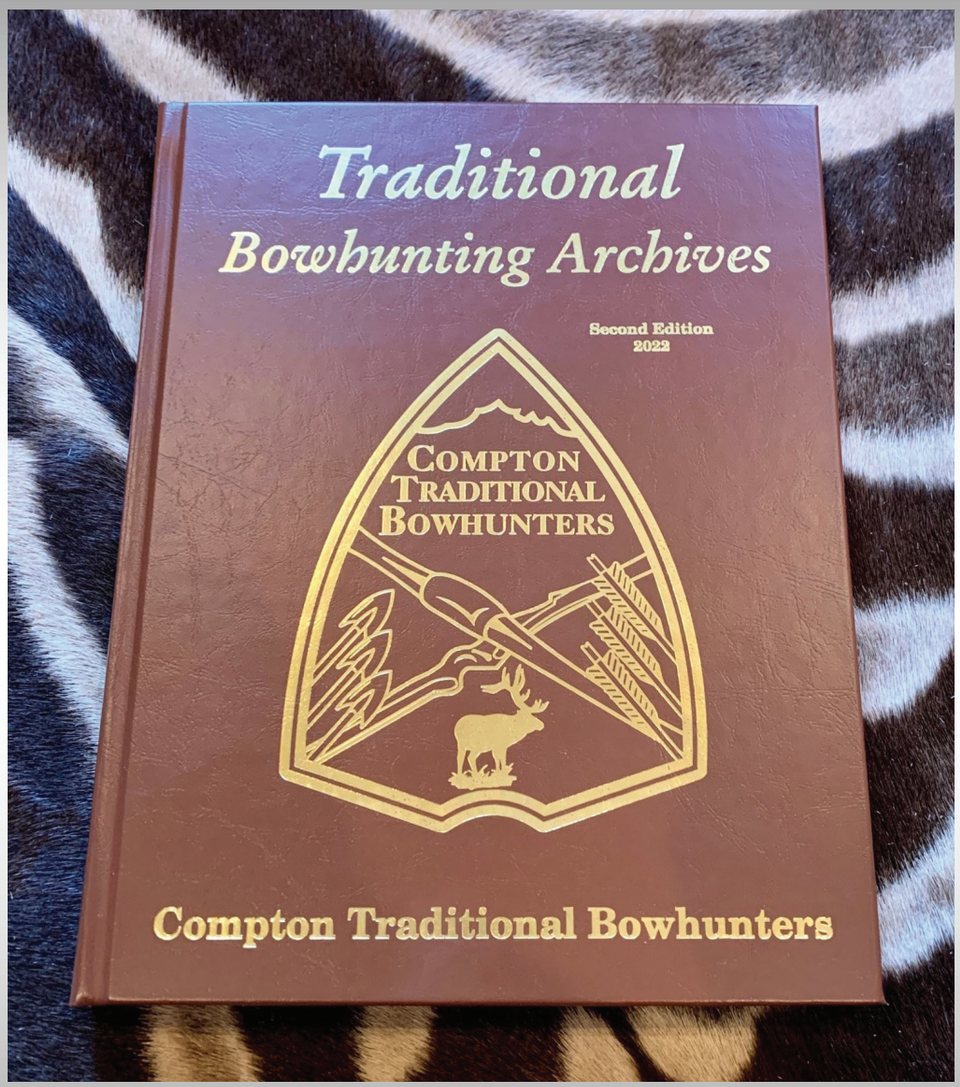

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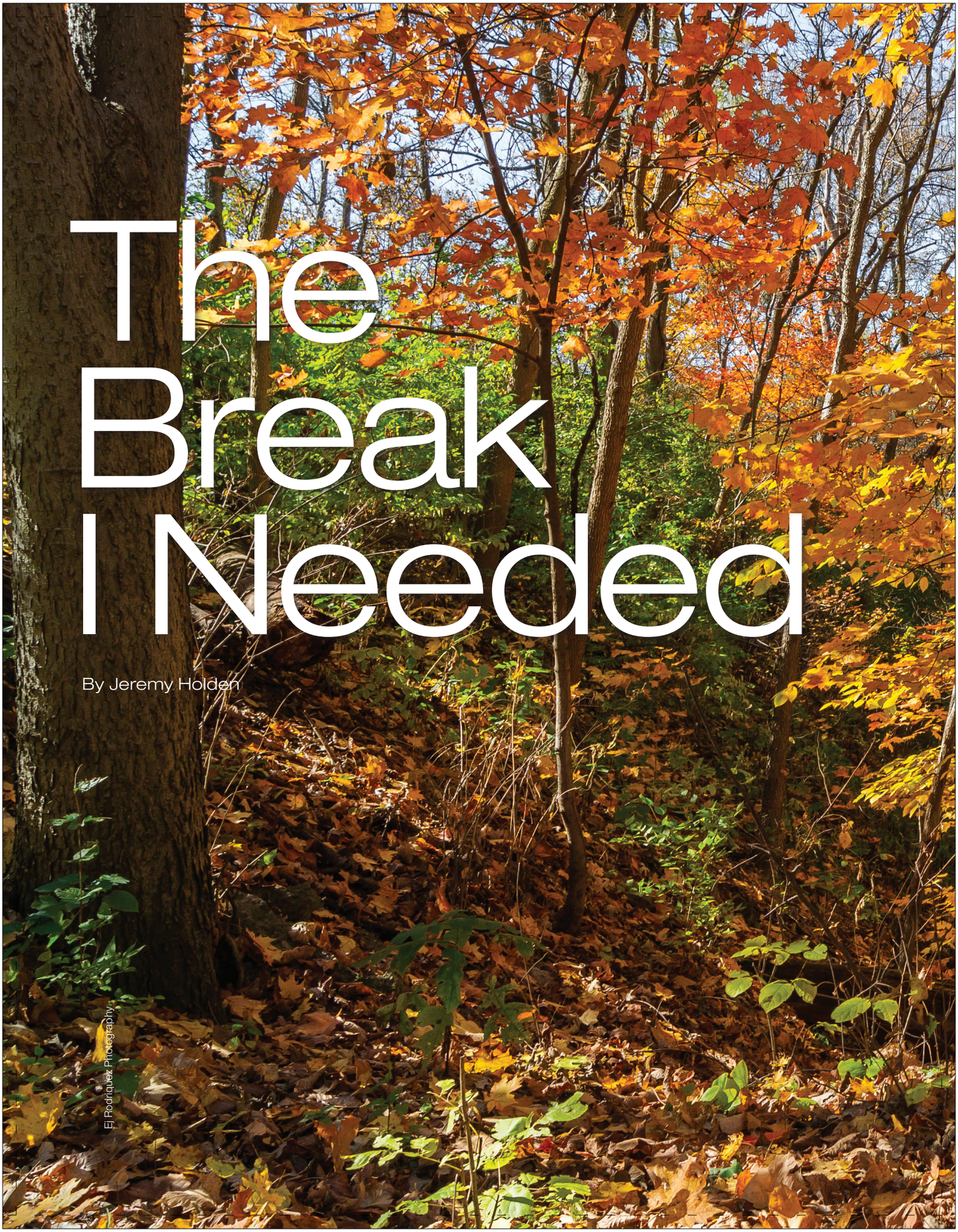
The Break I Needed

By Jeremy Holden



Ej Rodriquez Photography

One September day last year, I decided I would get my hair cut. Even though I had a flannel hanging on the kitchen table chair, I decided to go upstairs and grab a different flannel to wear. Looking back, I believe it was some divine intervention. As I returned downstairs while trying to button my shirt simultaneously, I began a very ungraceful descent down the stairs. I slipped down the stairs and headed right for a bookcase at the bottom adorned with several pictures on top. My arms were flailing and grasping at anything to stop my inevitable collision.

I grabbed the railing with my left hand and slammed my right hand down the stairs in great desperation. I didn't have to look to know something was wrong. The sudden pressure and very audible "pop" were confirmations that something was wrong. A quick glance confirmed what I already knew. I had either dislocated or broken the ring finger on my right hand. I had a brief moment of "I can fix this" as I looked at my knuckle and fingertip bending in a direction I'd never seen it go before. I must be getting wiser as I age because I thought better and made my way to the freezer for ice. Fortunately, my wife and daughter were home. They helped me with my shoes, and off to the immediate care we went. A few hours later, I returned home with a pretty impressive X-ray, splinted finger, and an order to follow up with an orthopedic.

The next day my finger was in a cast after it was confirmed that I had dislocated the first knuckle, broken the second, and possibly had ligament damage. I was told I would not be working for a few weeks. To be honest, I wasn't slightly disappointed. I had been having a difficult year at work and had been keeping myself going focusing on the upcoming fall hunting season. Over the years, I have accrued several months of sick time, so losing money wasn't a concern either. My biggest fear was whether I could still grip my "new" used Black Widow. I had bought a used Black Widow and recently got it back from having them refinish it. It was beautiful, and I had been shooting it almost every day for the last few months in preparation. A good friend had helped me obtain a great arrow tune and setup. I was dialed in and couldn't wait for October.

I went to work with the doctor's note that stated I wouldn't be at work for the next few weeks. Honestly, it was hard for me to contain my smile. I tried to appear sullen and disappointed, and I think they bought it! As soon as I got home, I grabbed my bow, strung it, and drew it back. As a left-handed shooter, pulling the string wasn't the issue. I was more worried I wouldn't be able to grip the bow. To my surprise, there wasn't any pain, and I was able to handle the bow just fine. In fact, I think it taught me to lightly grip the bow and let it sit in the hand like it's supposed to. That was more of a blessing than I realized!

I have another dear friend from work who retired a few years back. He has a beautiful little piece of woods in northwestern Wisconsin with a new cabin. He's always looking for a reason to make a trip, and when I shared my news with him about my inability to work, he suggested we take a trip to the cabin and rehab my finger. I think that's just what the doctor ordered. A few weeks later, the cast was off, and all I had was a 5 lb lifting restriction. We were loaded up, and I pointed my truck north and hit the road. It was

The X-ray

just us and his German Shorthair, Ellie. She's a great dog for a road trip. She curled up in the backseat and slept the four and a half hours.

We arrived on a Monday with plans to hunt for three days and come home Friday. I can't say the timing of the trip was exciting according to the "experts." It was smack dab in the dreaded October lull. However, the temperatures were frosty due to a cold front, and the mornings were chilly. As the day wore on, the sun gently warmed the day. As for me, anytime I can spend in the woods is just fine, October lull or not. I suppose when I'm done working, I'll be able to be pickier about the timing of things.

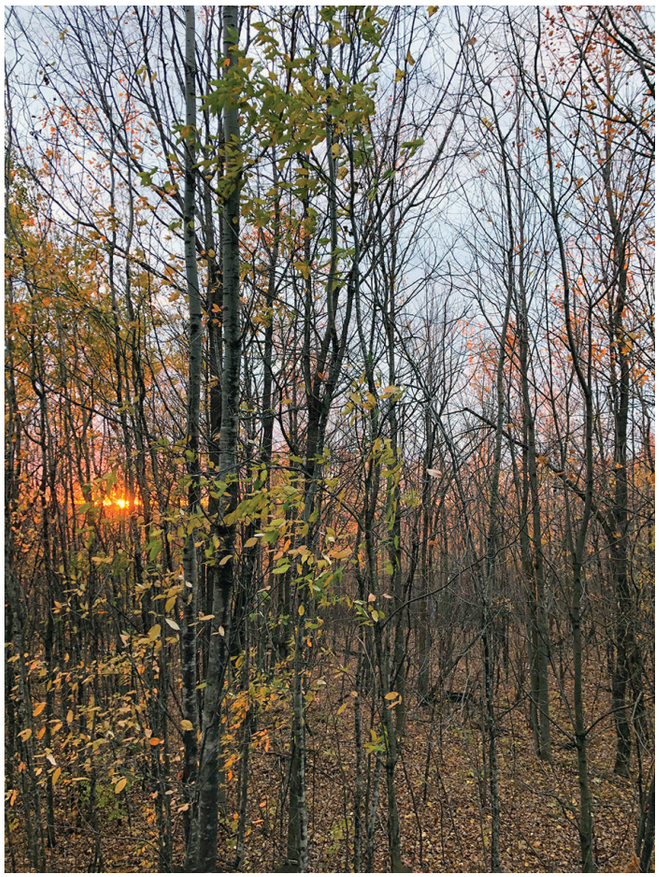
For some reason, this past fall, I saw deer every sit I had in the woods. I'm unsure if I was more present, my choice of setups was better, or the good Lord was smiling down on me. Regardless, I had a few instances where I thought I'd get a shot but was never presented with one. I decided to sleep in Wednesday morning and enjoy the trip with coffee and a good breakfast. My friend doesn't deer hunt anymore and really enjoys just cooking and being a great host. Who am I to argue?

I went out later that morning and chose a setup over a small little clearing we had made in the woods. The tree I chose was smaller in diameter than I like, and it was a little blustery. But it was the best option considering the wind, or so I thought. As the sun continued to warm my face on one side, the breeze chilled the other. The tree gently swayed in the breeze as I began to drift off. I wasn't sleeping per se, but I was taking it all in while in a quiet, still, zen-like state. I was deeply aware of the sun's warmth on my face and, at the same time, the chill, the smell of the decaying leaves on the ground, the birds singing back and forth, and other little creatures busy readying themselves for the impending winter months and all the while thanking God for my friend's generosity and my broken finger.

I'm unsure if I felt the deer's presence or heard her first. But something made me open my eyes and slowly look around. There below me was a small doe coming into the clearing. Surprisingly she had come in downwind and walked right underneath me. As quietly as possible, I took my bow off the hanger and readied myself for a shot. I desperately wanted her to walk off to my right and get a little further out, as that position was better for me as a lefty.

Then it was her turn. I believe she then felt my presence or heard me and stopped a few yards in front of me and quartered hard away. However, she was almost underneath me still. I picked a spot high up on her ribcage, drew, and released. I've never taken a shot from that steep of an angle

Bow and arrows hanging in the tree



Monday afternoon prior to sunset

and instantly regretted it. I watched her run with my arrow smacking trees as she went. I willed myself to remain quiet and wait 45 minutes. I quietly climbed down and gathered my gear. As I made my way to where she was standing, I didn't find blood. However, I was able to follow the trail of kicked-up leaves and was proud that my woodsmanship skills are improving in that area.

I put into practice what I'd read regarding how to act after the shot. I found some blood where she entered the tree line, but it wasn't spectacular. I was fairly certain I didn't have an exit wound, and my apprehension made me sick. Isn't it amazing how quickly we can go from excitement to fear and dread? However, as I started following her trail through the leaves, I found blood sprayed up onto the trees and found a great blood trail. Shortly thereafter, I found her. She hadn't gone far at all. While field dressing her, I saw I had broken a rib on entry, passed through her right lung and heart. I didn't have an exit wound, but one wasn't needed.

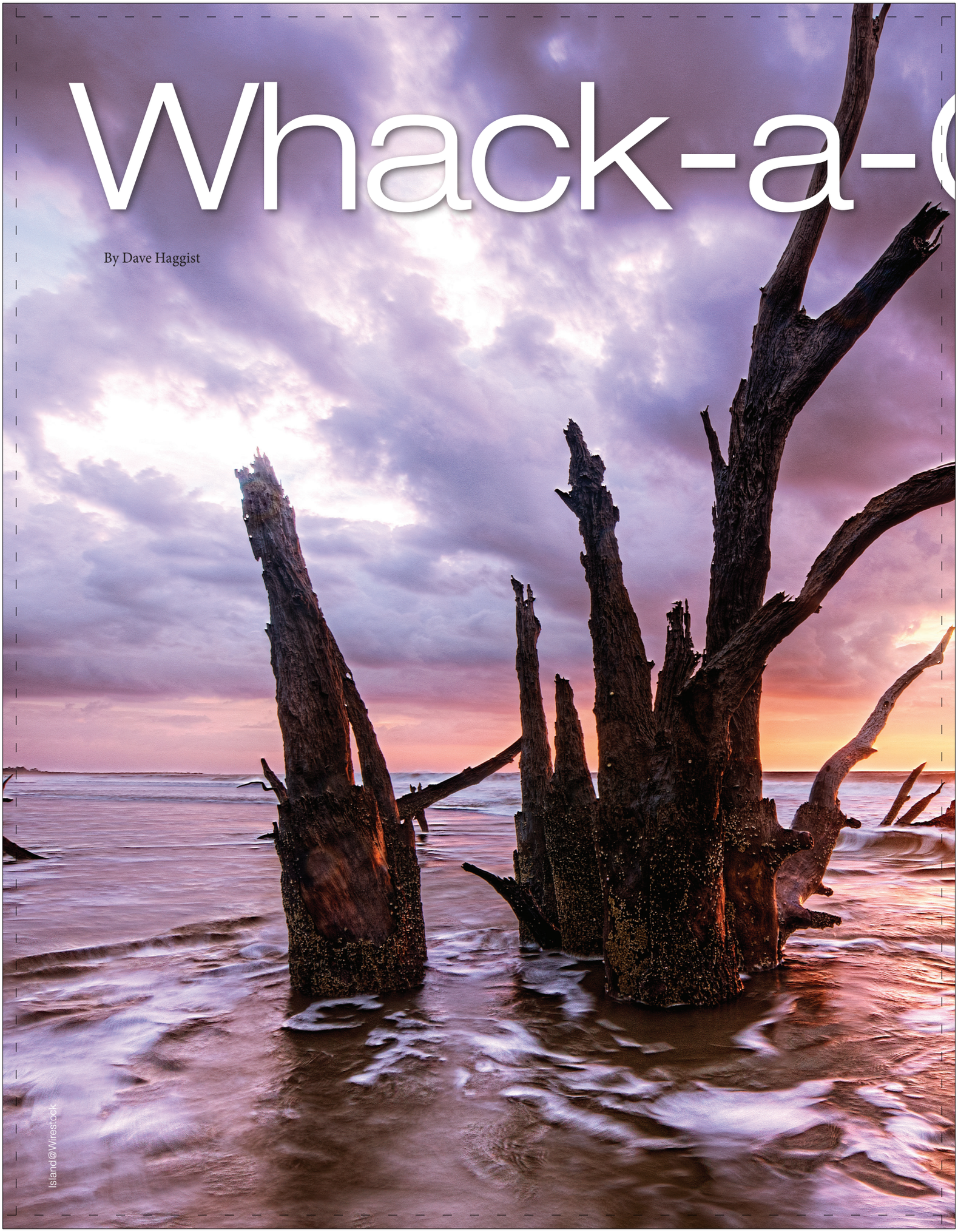
It was a beautiful fall afternoon filled with pictures, a happy drag back to the cabin, and a wonderful evening around the wood stove. Sometimes life has a way of making us feel like the deck is stacked against us. I had been really looking forward to my fall vacation time and felt as though I may not be able to enjoy it. But I believe that God saw fit for me to be able to start it just a little sooner. I'd be remiss if I didn't mention that I also have a great wife who supports my passion to be outside in the woods. Although she doesn't partake in the harvests, she encourages me to go and get outside, shoot my bow, and enjoy my passion. What more could a guy ask for?

Author after field dressing the deer

My name is Jeremy Holden. I live in a NW suburb of Chicago, IL with my wife of 25 years and two wonderful children. I've been bowhunting for almost 20 years with traditional equipment. I pay my bills as a career firefighter/paramedic and look forward to many more "Falls". This hunt took place with a 1996, 60" autumn oak Black Widow PSAIII, 43#'s at my draw. The arrows are Day 6 350's, 200 grain Cutthroat single bevel broad heads for a total arrow weight around 580 grains.

Whack-a-

By Dave Haggist



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Gator

Minutes before last light, the eerie quietness of the swamp was broken by familiar footsteps. The deer moved in a pattern that brought it painfully away from my hide but then closer...

The shot looked high but good, and silence had returned to the swamp within seconds. I carefully climbed from my tree stand, making as little noise as possible, examined my arrow, and scanned where the deer had entered the head-high palmettos. A large swatch of blood dripping from a palmetto frond calmed my nerves and gave me confidence that this trailing job would be short.

Preparations for this hunt began a month earlier when my hunting partners and I came to Blackbeard Island for a scouting trip. Keith and I went to our familiar spots on the North Trail while other members of our group made the long trek up Middle Trail. Keith and I decided to check out a Persimmon grove near one of my stand sites. We were surprised by a good-sized alligator as we walked down a game trail. The gator's location was out of place since no water was nearby. Thinking I could whack the gator on the tail and it would move off, I retrieved a small tree limb. Imagine my surprise when the gator did a 180 and lunged at me with jaws wide open. Plan two involved a bigger and longer stick and assistance from Keith. After several minutes of playing "whack-a-gator," the only ones retreating were me and Keith. Wisely we decided to find a different path to the Persimmon grove and left the gator in "his" spot. The Persimmon grove was loaded with ripe fruit, and I could hang a stand in a nearby tree. My usual slough looked good as well, and I hung a second stand.

Confident in my stand locations, I spent the remainder of my day exploring this coastal paradise. I never tire of the beauty and wildness of coastal island wildlife refuges and always walk the pristine beaches on my visits.

Now back to the hunt. I marked the location of the blood sign and began the 45-minute walk back to camp to get some trailing and dragging help. After a quick drink and snack bar, my friend Joe and I returned to my stand site. It's funny how it never takes as long to get to your stand from the camp when you have a deer down. I led the way on the blood trail, and to say Stevie Wonder could have followed the trail would have been an understatement. Less than 30 yards later, I found my deer! After a joyful drag to the road for pickup by wildlife staff, it was off to camp.

After many years of hunting I still consider every animal taken with traditional archery equipment a trophy and a blessing. This deer turned out to be a button buck, and I knew it would provide many outstanding meals.

A native of the southeast, the author now resides in Arizona and hunts exclusively with vintage Bear Archery equipment.

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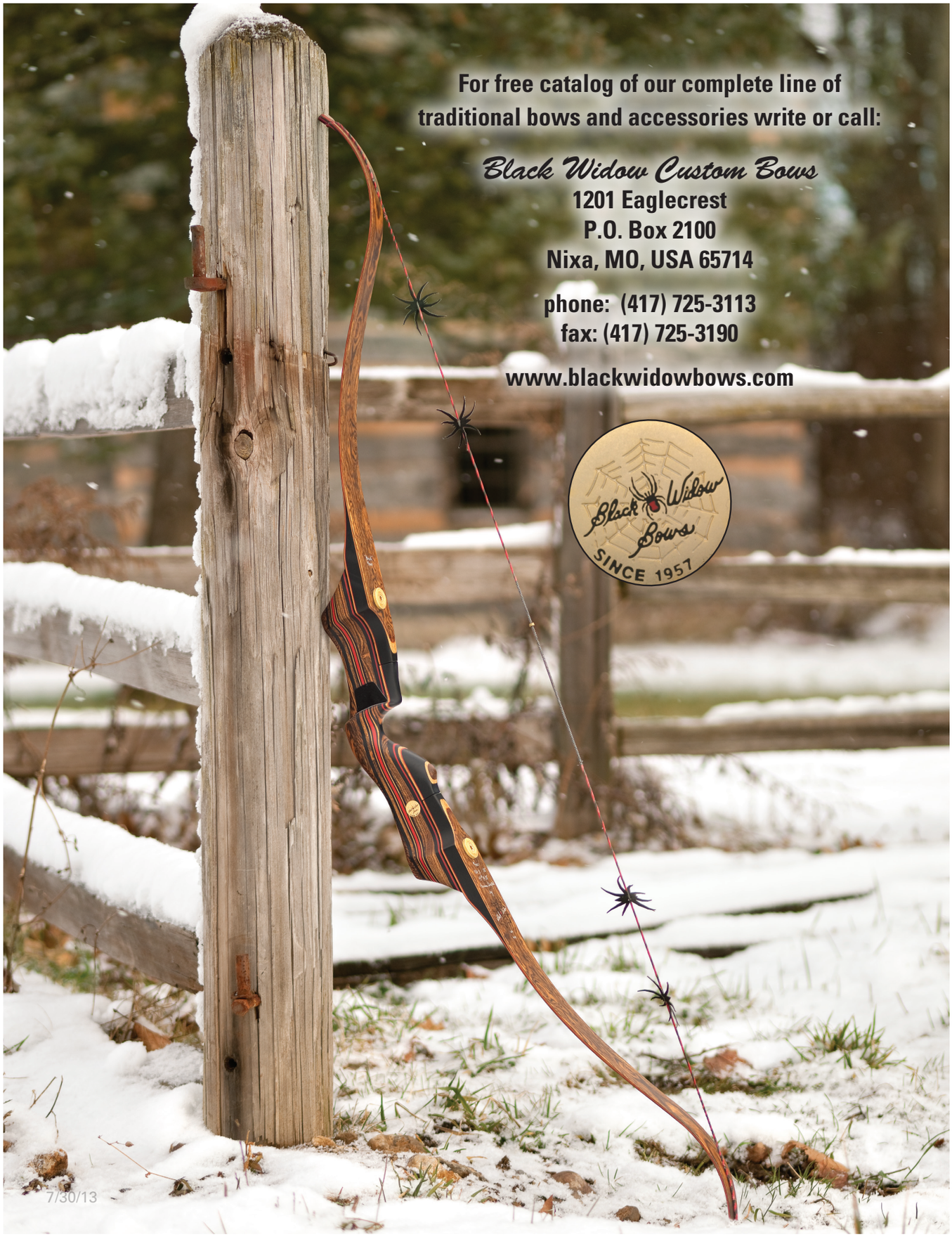
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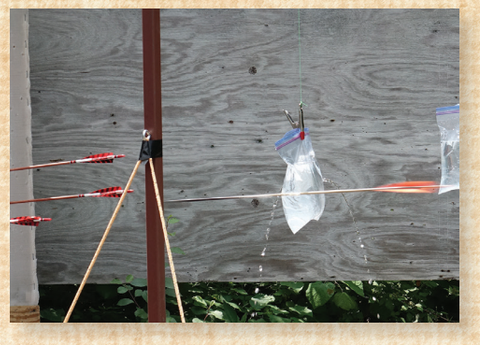
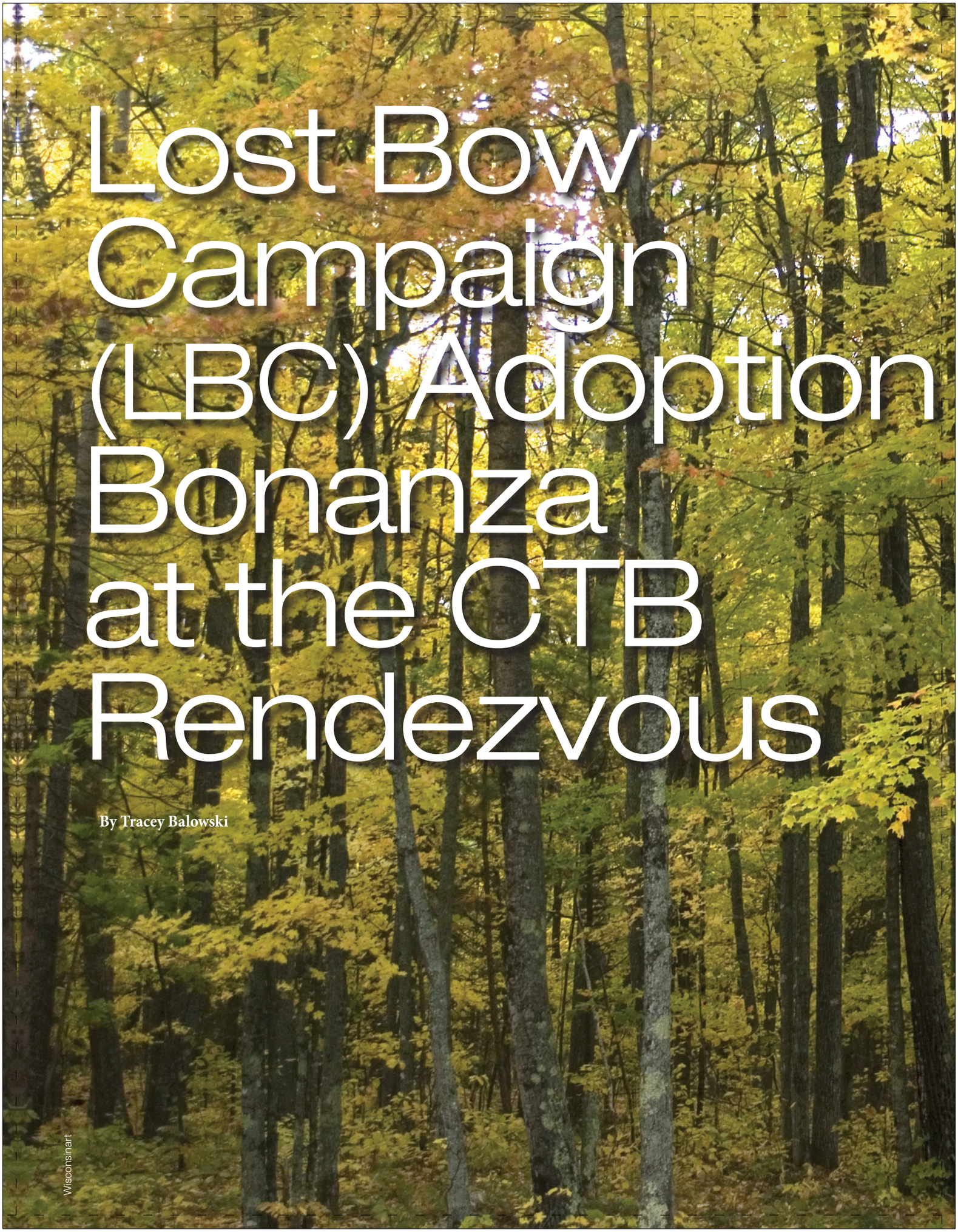


Lost Bow Campaign (LBC) Adoption Bonanza at the CTB Rendezvous

By Tracey Balowski



Wisconsinart

I just returned from the 2023 Compton Rendezvous in Berrien Springs, Mi. Even though I'm worn out from sun, fun, hugging friends, and working a booth, I had to sit down immediately to write this story while the glow of the event was still fresh. What an AMAZING weekend! I could go on and on about how wonderful everything was, but I need to tell you about something extraordinary that even attendees may not have known was going on amid all the Rendezvous events. Eleven children were gifted free traditional bows, archery equipment and much more via the Lost Bow Campaign.

If you aren't familiar with the Lost Bow Campaign, you aren't alone. It's relatively new. It started in 2020 amid the pandemic. It was originally dreamed up and funded by a single anonymous donor. He wished to see bows put into the hands of young ones who wished to become archers but needed help for one reason or another. He called it the Lost Bow Campaign as he wanted to do the placements of bows and equipment like an adoption. He loved the idea of young ones adopting the bows and that those of us already established in this community would be adopting these youth and welcoming them into our archery family.

This generous donor, who we came to call our Angel, entrusted David and me with the first adoptions. However, our Angel's vision was bigger than our tiny company, St. Joe River Bows, had any way to accommodate. We needed more hands on deck to make this program flourish and grow. Enter Michigan Traditional Bowhunters, who stepped in to guardian the program and help it grow. And grow it did!

The humble beginnings of this program started with outfitting a few youngsters that needed and wanted bows, arrows, quivers, etc., with the equipment that would help them embrace traditional archery. The MTB membership donated both used and new equipment as well as funds for purchasing equipment. It was all adopted by enthusiastic youngsters nominated by members as fast as it came in. Many times, whole families decided to try traditional archery as a result of the adoptions.

As adoptions grew, so did the generosity of our traditional archery family. Many people stepped up and embraced nominating and mentoring the newbies. MTB designated David Elliott, Paul Biediger, and Ric Parent to oversee adoptions, and then 3 Rivers Archery was approached for help with the equipment. They all jumped on board with great enthusiasm and generosity. More angels were now at the ready to support and grow the program.

With things going so well, would our LBC original angel feel his job was done? Would he just sit back and rest while others carried forth his vision? No! Of course not! He knew in order to grow, the LBC would need more funds and sponsors. While Gene Hickey preferred to be totally anonymous, he stepped out of that comfortable

role to become more proactive for the LBC. Gene approached the Birch Run - Frankenmuth – Reese Michigan chapter of Whitetails Unlimited and pitched the idea of becoming a sponsor for the Lost Bow Campaign. This kind chapter looked beyond the humble beginnings of the LBC and saw the potential for positively impacting youth, for archery, for hunting, and for a future where traditional archery can be preserved for generations to come. They donated over $3600 as an investment, adopting Gene's vision as their own and becoming LBC angels too.

Immediately Gene, the LBC crew, and MTB board put their heads together to plan how best to make the most significant impact with this large gift. The Compton Rendezvous was only a few days away. Every year at this event, we see many kids who want to participate but have either no or poor equipment. Sometimes they don't even know they are interested until they attend and see how much fun everyone is having. It was the perfect place to find adoptees for bows and to be adopted into our archery community. They alerted David, me, and 3 Rivers to prepare for outfitting the newbies.

The whole MTB board, LBC crew, David, and I spent the weekend keenly searching for any with interest or need. The Compton vendor tent and its many booths tend to draw newbies, and I found a few adoptees as they wandered through. But the real gold mine was the Compton youth shoot. Every young one with a stick and string or wishes they had such ends up there.

As the weekend progressed, the excitement and energy of the adoption bonanza grew. The spirit of generosity and giving was contagious. Early on, Eric McKee at Great Northern Quivers jumped into the fray with his new youth quivers, and so did Vince Smith at Lonesome Wind with his new youth bow lineup. Some attendees of the Rendezvous, when learning about the campaign's goal to give away as many bows as possible, were moved to make donations of bows, arrows, and cash. As you can see from the smiling faces in the pictures, it was an extraordinary experience for everyone involved.

When all was said and done, eleven new young archers from 3 states went home with the archery equipment they

adopted joyfully. The Compton, MTB, Whitetails Unlimited, LBC archery community adopted eleven young archers into their family with open hearts.

For more info on donating or making nominations go to: mitradbow.com Lost Bow Campaign

Archives Report

As I sit down to write my column for this issue of the A Walk in The Woods fall issue. I'm finding myself having trouble finding a good place to start. The archives have had one of the best years so far since I have been the archives director. In the last issue we were covering the Big Game Classic which would take place in March, so I didn't know what to expect for the rendezvous that took place in the middle of June. Once again, the membership has been very supportive of the Compton organization. We had approximately 20 animals that were entered into the archives at the rendezvous in June. I was very pleased with that, since it was only a few months since we had asked everyone to bring their animals to the Big Game Classic.

Another highlight for me is our new book, Traditional Bowhunting Archives, that just came out. We had lots of interest in the new book while manning the archives booth. Quite a few books were sold and that's our goal. This wonderful book represents our whole Compton organization and the documentation of the animals that we have been fortunate enough to harvest and the means we used on our journey for the harvest. I find the information fascinating as I look at a certain species, then compare everyone's journey in which they used to harvest their animal. I am extremely pleased with how the new archives book turned out. So many people were kind enough to share in this monumental task and that's special.

As our annual rendezvous wrapped up Father's Day weekend, all I can say is WOW! What an awesome time was had by all who attended. It is a monumental task to put the rendezvous on. So many people came together and worked their tails off for long periods of time. It's very difficult trying to name everyone, because of the sheer numbers of volunteers, vendors, speakers, and donors for the bucket raffles and auction. Compton has so many volunteers that come back year after year just to help out with the rendezvous. From myself and every one of the Board of Directors, Thank You to everyone who helped out and Thank You to everyone who attended this year's rendezvous. We all had a great time. I look forward to seeing all of you once again next year.

I have been receiving quite a few entries, for which I'm very thankful for. A lot of the entries, mainly the typical whitetail deer, have been using the old score sheets from when the archives first got started. I'm going to include a new typical whitetail deer and the new Fair Chase Affidavit with my column. All of the score sheets and the fair chase affidavit can be downloaded from the website. If you have any difficulties getting the updated score sheets, please just give me a call and I will email or mail them to you.

I hope all of your drawing applications were good to you this year. I have struck out on every single application so far. This will be the first year in a long time that I won't be able to pursue one of my favorite animals, the pronghorn antelope. I'm positive that I will find something else to pursue if I could just stop whining about no antelope hunting for me this year.

I'd like to wish all of you a safe, enjoyable, and hopefully a successful season this year. Please consider entering your awesome animals into the Compton archives. It's a great way to honor the harvested animals. I would also like to encourage you to write about your experiences and your journeys. My archives booth is a hot spot for hunting stories, and I treasure every one of them. Please consider sharing them with the membership.

Please take the time to enjoy every moment of your journey.

–Jim Kinsey, Archive Director

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Compton Traditional Bowhunters

Traditional Bowhunting Archives of North America

To be eligible for entry into the Compton Traditional Bowhunting Archives, an animal must meet or exceed the minimum entry score and have been taken in accordance with all game laws. In addition, the animal must have been taken under the conditions of Fair Chase. In this regard, Fair Chase means that the animal is not taken under any of the following conditions;

1) Helpless in a trap, deep snow, or on ice.
2) While swimming in water.
3) Residing behind any game proof fence or on a game farm.
4) By Jacklighting or shining at night.
5) From any power vehicle, including auto, boat or ATV.
6) In violation of any state or provincial game laws.
7) By use of any tranquilizers, firearms or poisons.
8) By herding, driving or harassing any animal with any motorized vehicle including automobile, boat, ATV or using an aircraft to land next to any animal or for relaying animal position to hunters on the ground.
9) By the use of any electronics attached to either the bow or arrow. This includes electronic calls.
10) By any other means that the Archives Committee shall deem as unethical.

For the Purpose of the Compton Traditional Bowhunters, a recurve bow is defined as a bow that when braced the bowstring touches the upper and lower limbs; a longbow is defined as a laminated bow where the bowstring does not touch the limbs when strung; a selfbow is defined as a bow comprised of a single stave or spliced billets, having no glue lines or laminations.

Falsification of any section of this Fair Chase Affidavit will cause the entry to the Archives to be rejected, all current entries of the individual to be removed, and no further entries allowed to be entered. Compton Traditional Bowhunters also reserves the right to accept, reject or remove

Date of Kill: _____ Time of Kill _____ am ___ pm ___ (Check One) Age _____ Male ___ Female ___

Years Bowhunting: _____ Type of Bow Used: ___ Recurve ___ Longbow ___ Selfbow

Make of Bow: _____ Draw Weight: _____

Type of Arrow: ___ Wood (Not Self Made) ___ Self Made Wood ___ Aluminum ___ Carbon Other _____

Total Weight of Arrow (if known) _____ Broadhead used: _____ Number of Blades: _____

Hunting Method: ___ Treestand ___ Elevated Stand (Windmill Etc.) ___ Ground Blind ___ Stalking

Guided: ___ Yes ___ No (Check One) If "Yes" Guide Name (Optional) _____

Location of Hit on Animal: _____ (Chest, Paunch, Rump, Neck, Body, Etc.) Shot Distance: _____ Yards

Recovery Distance: _____ Yards Was animal recovered the same day it was hit? ___ Yes ___ No (Check One)

NOTE: If animal was not recovered the same day it was hit, please provide a complete explanation here, or use a separate sheet of paper if extra space is needed.

Write explanation here

continued to page 42

continued from page 41

Animal Position when Shot: ___ Standing ___ Walking ___ Running Other: _____

Location of Kill: Nearest Town, or Geographical Landmark (Mountain, Lake, Etc.) _____

County: _____ State / Province: _____

I, _____ attest that my _____ was taken
Hunters Printed Name, as you want it to appear on Certificate, PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY) (Game Species)

entirely by use of a bow and arrow, that it was taken in accordance with all game laws, and in accordance with the above definitions of Fair Chase. I also acknowledge that this animal has been drying for at least 60 days before being measured. (With the exception of Turkeys which do not require a drying period)

Hunters Signature: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Day Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

(Please print clearly as this informatin will be used to mail your certificate)

To enter this animal, all data must be filled in and form must be signed by the hunter. A photo at the kill site is also requested if possible. (picture may be used in the club newsletter, A Walk in the Woods) Send photographs and forms along with a check for $25.00 (US Funds) made out to Compton Traditional Bowhunters.

$20 DOLLAR INTRODUCTORY MEMBERSHIP OFFER

As a thank you for entering an animal in the Compton Traditional Bowhunting Archives, the club is extending a one time, one year membership for only $20.00 (US Funds) Normal one year membership is $35.00. Join us now to further preserve and promote traditional bowhunting.

_____ _____ _____ _____
Last Name First Name Middle Initial Date of Birth

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Day Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Have you ever been convicted of a game violation or felony? ___ Yes ___ No (Check One) If "Yes" please provide a brief explanation on the back of this form or a separate sheet of paper.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

By signing this applicatin I affirm that I use traditional equipment in bowhunting and related activites in the field. I understand that my membership may be reviewed by the membership committee and that if I am rejected I cannot repeal the decision. (Application will be forwarded to the Membership Chairman by the Archives Secretary**; There is no need to make a seperate check for membership. Check total for one entry and introductory membership will be $45.00**

Mail to: Archives Secretary

Compton Traditional Bowhunters

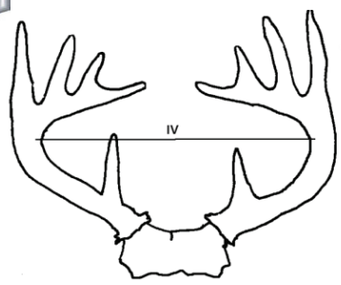
Traditional Bowhunting Archives

TYPICAL WHITETAIL / COUES DEER

Minimum Compton Points; Whitetail 125 / Coues Deer 55
*All measurements taken to the nearest 1/8"

Type of Deer (Check One)
[ ] WT [ ] Coues
[ ] In Velvet

Point Measurement



Abnormal/Non-Typical Points				
	Right Antler		Left Antler	
	/8		/8	
	/8		/8	
	/8		/8	
	/8		/8	
	/8		/8	
Sub Total				
Total				

NOTE: if this total is greater than 15" on Whitetail or 10" on Coues it must be entered in the Non-Typical Category

			Right Antler		Left Antler	
I.	Number of points on Antlers	Right		Left		
II.	Length of Main Beams			/8		/8
P-1	Length of 1st Point			/8		/8
P-2	Length of 2nd Point			/8		/8
P-3	Length of 3rd Point			/8		/8
P-4	Length of 4th point			/8		/8
P-5	Length of 5th point			/8		/8
P-6	Length of 6th point			/8		/8
P-7	Length of 7th point			/8		/8
C-1	Circumference of smallest point between Burr and 1st point			/8		/8
C-2	Circumference of smallest point between 1st and 2nd point			/8		/8
C-3	Circumference of smallest point between 2nd and 3rd point			/8		/8
C-4	Circumference of smallest point between 3rd and 4th point			/8		/8
		Left and right antler sub totals				

III.	Sub Total	
III.I	Abnormal / Non-Typical Points from table at top right hand corner of form	
IV.	Inside Spread of main beams	/8
V.	Total Animal Score - Add line III. Columns (Right and Left) and Line IV.	

Compton hunting method point calculation (place an X in the shaded box to the left of the appropriate method, the correct value will be added)								
VI.	Bow Used;		Recurve = 0		Longbow = 1		Selfbow = 2	(Check only one box per row)
VII.	Arrow Used;		Aluminum = 0		Carbon = 0		Self Made Wood = 1	(Check only one box per row)
VIII.	Hunting Method;		Tree Stand = 0		Stalking = 1		Ground Blind = 1	(Check only one box per row)
IX.	Unguided;		Whitetail Deer = 1				Coues Deer = 5	(Check only one box per row)
X.	**Compton Hunting Method Point Sub Total (Add lines VI through IX)**							

I certify that the above animal was measured in accordance with the Compton Traditional Bowhunting Archives Method and that the data is correct to the best of my Knowledge

Compton Point Total (Add lines V & X)	

Official Measurer's Name, Address & Phone Number:

(Print Name)

(Address)

(City, State, Zip)

(CTB Official Measurer Signature)

Hunters Name:

(Please Print Clearly)

(Date Measured)

(Measurers Phone)

For Archives office use only:	
Amount Paid:	Check #
Date Entered:	
Date Cert Mailed	

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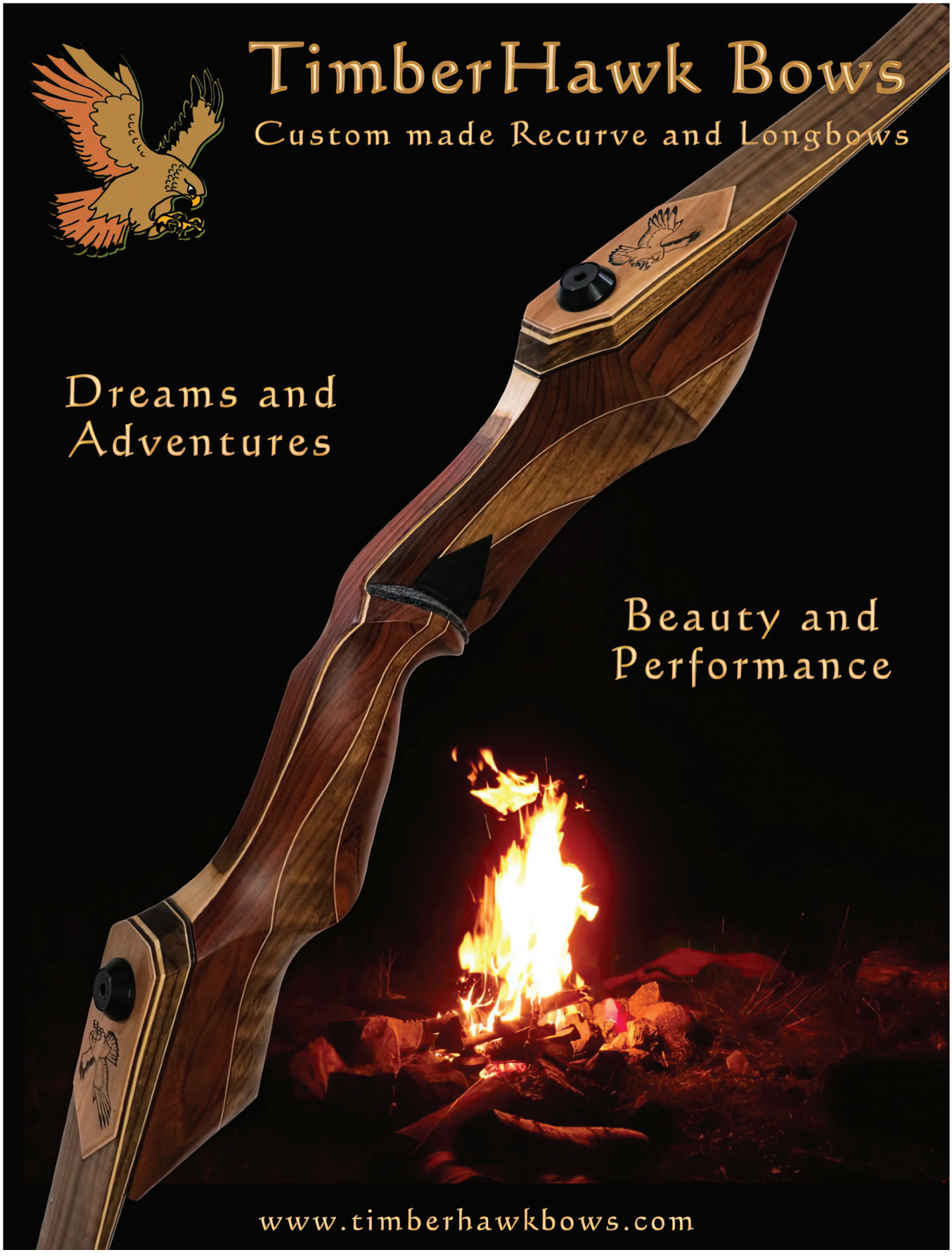
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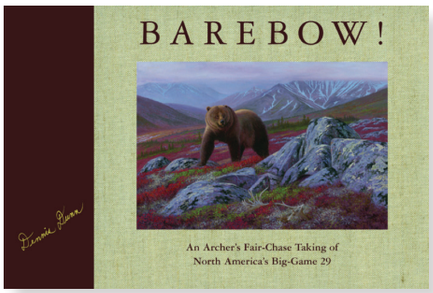
Make as many of them as possible partners in your love affair with archery and Mother Nature. While in the woods or mountains, make every arrow count. Even if for no more than the sheer pleasure of watching it in flight!

When afield with bow in hand, never fail to take time to admire and give thanks to Almighty God for the infinite variety of miracles — both large and small — that are his handiwork and creation. Then, finally, when you are blessed with putting an animal on the ground and meat in your freezer, give heartfelt thanks and praise to Him who made it all possible.

— Dennis Dunn, Life Member,
Compton Traditional Bowhunters



If you enjoyed reading the message to the left, you might wish to consider helping an archery student-athlete at Hillsdale College, Michigan. Make a tax-deductible contribution to the Dennis and Karen Dunn Archery Scholarship Endowment Fund. OR, you may wish to have a child or grandchild apply for admission to Hillsdale College AND our scholarship. Karen and I consider this the finest institution of higher learning in the country, bar none. Hillsdale offers its students an outstanding education — not only in the basics of math, science, literature, history, philosophy, and free market economics— but also in thinking for themselves and conducting an ethical and moral life. For more information about the college or its many scholarship opportunities, contact Rich Moeggenberg (moeggenberg@hillsdale.edu or 443-655-4225). www.hillsdale.edu

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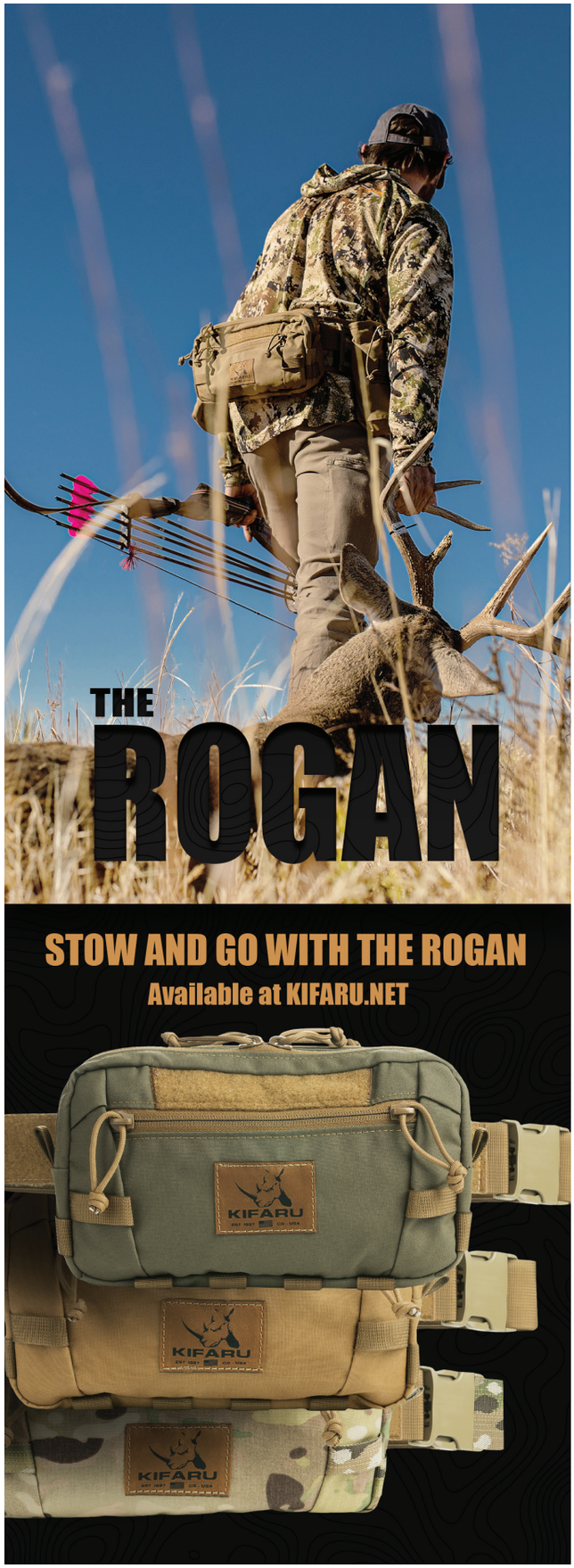

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Youth Report

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer. We just concluded the Rendezvous. The weather was perfect.

The kids event Saturday was awesome. We had almost twice as many participants as last year. As usual Floyd Wells and the Michigan Longbow Association did an amazing job teaching the older kids, and Brenda and Larry Hudson and family worked their magic with the younger kids.

We want to extend a HUGE thank you to Tracey and David Balowski who donated a youth bow, as they have done for many years. We really appreciate all their support! Hannah Ponce won the bow, and she was really excited!

We have our youth hunt coming up the last weekend of September. Sixteen youth submitted applications. It was very hard to choose as all were excellent. But in the end, we had to choose as there are only 4 spots available. The lucky youth are Gavin Guadiz, Nicholas Lemoine, Gage Steed, and William Holtz. They will join us at the historic Plum Creek Ranch in central Nebraska to hunt for whitetail deer September 29th thru Oct 1st. We're excited about this opportunity and want to thank Carol Mauch for making this possible.

As always please contact me if you have or know of a youth program that needs traditional archery equipment, or if you have any opportunities or ideas for our youth program. In closing I want to personally thank Scott and Julie Nolletti. They have worked their fannies off helping with the youth event.

Shoot Straight,

Scott

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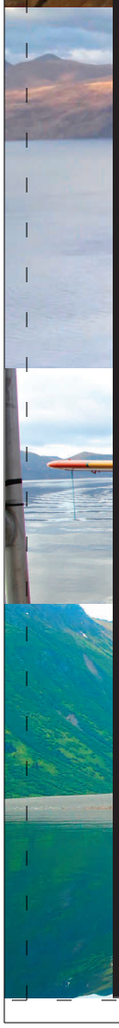

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Simply go to the St Joe River Bows website **www.stjoeriverbows.com** purchase ANY of their youth bows, and add the limited-edition, custom Compton Traditional Bowhunters emblem to be inlaid into the riser of your bow.

SJR has created a system called the “Outgrown Youth Bow Program,” where the bows grow with the child. All bows ordered with the CTB Emblem will be eligible for the Outgrown Youth Bow Program.

For every Youth Bow sold with this emblem, St. Joe River Bows has generously agreed to donate $30 to the CTB Youth Program.

Tracey and David Balowski of St. Joe River Bows are huge supporters of Compton Traditional Bowhunters, and have dedicated their livelihood to passing along of our way of life to the next generation of bowhunters.

We want to thank them for their support, and we hope you’ll take advantage of this partnership opportunity.

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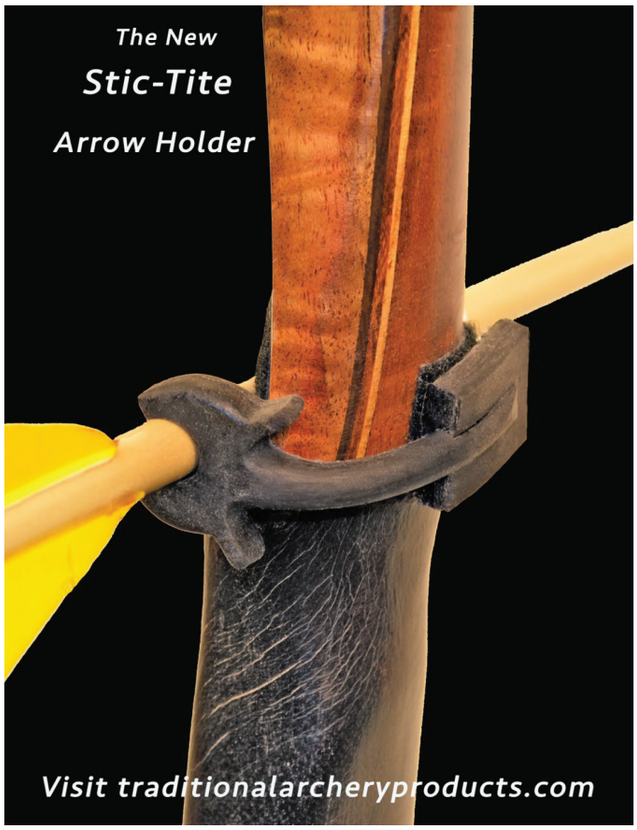

Compton Membership Hunts

Have you ever wanted to hunt in another state, hunt another species or share a camp with other Compton Traditional Bowhunters? Compton membership hunts provide the opportunity to do just that. Having Compton membership hunts across the country is also a fantastic way to reinforce the fact that Compton is The National Traditional Bowhunting Organization. You must be a Compton member to participate in this hunt.

Our first Compton member hunt will be hosted by Jamey Baggett of Dickson, TN. Jamey will host up to 20 Compton members on a whitetail deer hunt in the Cheatham Wildlife Management Area near Ashland City, TN. The Cheatham Wildlife Management Area is over 20,000 acres and is south of the Cumberland River. The dates of the hunt are October 14-15, 2023. Non-residents must purchase a 7 day, all game license so you might want to arrive early to take full advantage of your license. Primitive camping is available. Please contact Jamey Baggett at 615-504-0553 for additional details if you're interested in participating in this hunt.

We would like to see Compton member hunts across the country so, if you're interested in hosting a hunt in your neck of the woods, please contact Sam Barrett at 724-902-9184 or Secretary@ComptonTraditionalBowhunters.com so we can advertise it in our magazine, website and social media pages.

New Compton Members

APRIL - JUNE 2023

Dennis Walter - Prospect, KY
Jay Turner - Langsville, OH
Robert Epstein - Dallas, TX
Nic Gillott - Oakman, AL
Joel Klammer - Ainsworth, NE
Bobby Parrott - Knoxville, TN
Lambert Lopez - Arlington, TX
Aaron Redder - Van Alstyne, TX
Russ Alcorn - Soldotna, AK
Michael Fischer - Richlands, NC
Craig McLaughlin - Chelsea, ME
Ryeker Lasseigne - Spokane, WA
Nathan Winger - Cazenovia, WI
Tommy Craig - Sparta, IL
Anthony Ortiz - Corrales, NM
Barry Retcher - Liberty Center, OH
Cody Roiter - Lansing, MI
Troy Jessee - San Antonio, TX
James Young - Leroy, WV
Logan Myers - Milford, IN
Greg Graves - Minneapolis, MN
Josh Ouellette - New Castle, VA
Denton Young - Phoenix, AZ
Dan Stewart - Syuracuse, NY
Chris Lemmons - Kaufman, TX
Brandon Mason - Heber City, UT
Jon Brown - Twisp, WA
Vic Stickels - Fairfield, IA
RJ Kropp Family - Franklin, WV
Greg Nicolaou - Traverse City, MI
Robert Shosted - Mesquite, NV
Cy Kasten - Houston, MN
Matthew Mora - Horseshoe Bay, TX
Grant Rahm - Turton, SD
Kyle Johnson - Red Lodge, MT
John Watlington - Meeker, OK
Michael Scott - Paloma, IL
Patrick Costigan - Elkader, IA
William Collins - Susquenauna, PA
Christopher Reinmann - Carbon, IL
Jack Wallingford - Strongsville, OH
Daniel Umbreit - Ruth, MI

Micheal Johnson - Norris, TN
Terry Cook Family - Monmouth, IL
Charles Crutchfield - Hendersonville, TN
Jamie Hampton - Anna, OH
Jason Davis - Ann Arbor, MI
Earl & Katherine Cowher Family - New Castle, PA
Courtney Cox - Gulfport, MS
Rob Angelo - Bethany, ON, Canada
Kaleb Bonner - Silverwood, MI
Ben & Deni Potts Family - Akron, OH
Jason & Brooke Cox Family - Howard City, MI
Dustin Morris - West Terre Haute, IN
Hunter Newman - Center Point, IA
Douglas Warren - Omaha, NE
Dakota & Emily Osburn Family - West Salem, OH
Daniel & Erin Russell - Bartlett, IL
Jeremy Tilly - Eau Claire, MI
Ken Collison - Stevensville, MI
Brent Kernstein - West Terre Haute, In
Chris Gortney - Cromwell, IN
Daniel Wiktorzak - Westchester, IL
Rowan Iwaniek - Niles, MI
Eric Vito - South Haven, MI
Frank Garramone - Arvada, CO
Thomas Irwin - Leslie, MI
Austin Smith - Petersburg, MI
Fred Allard - Milton, VT
Scott Sullivan - Colona, IL
Grant Durley - Homeworth, OH
Kenneth Monti - Willow Springs, IL
Brian Whitmore Family - Wales, WI
Sean Card - Connersville, IN
Maribeth Kulynycz - Princess Anne, MD
Roger Hinchcliff - Willis, MI
John Warner - Castile, NY
Wiilliam Pfingsten - Cresco, IA
Jim Hillier - Edwardsville, IL
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Chase Snider - Trafalgar, IN
Jacob Silvey - Rosston, AR
Andrew Wetzsteon - Hamilton, MT

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COMPTON TRADITIONAL BOWHUNTERS SCHOLARSHIPS

Compton Traditional Bowhunters awards scholarships each year in memory of former board member and long-time educator, Nick Dedaker. This year's winners each received a $1000 scholarship and their names were announced on Saturday evening at the Rendezvous in Berrien Springs.

Our scholarship recipients are listed below along with excerpts from their applications.

Joseph Hayes *(from Shelby, Michigan and attending Hope College in Holland, MI):*

Not only did Compton Traditional Bowhunters plant the seed for me to become a traditional archer, but it has also been an organization that has brought community and welcome. My family of traditional bowmen is friends with other traditional archers. We gather together, sharing memories and struggles as we continue to grow in our capabilities as traditional archers.

Brianna Miller *(from Lapeer, Michigan and planning to attend Saginaw Valley State University):*

I used to be a part of my middle school's archery club where we shot compound bows, and I absolutely loved it, but nothing from my time there can compare to the fun that I had while shooting traditional bows while at the Compton Rendezvous. I shot a couple of the courses and didn't want to stop!

Thank you to all who applied and congratulations once again to Joseph and Brianna as you continue your academic journeys.

For those interested in applying for the Nick Dedaker Scholarship in the future, details can be found on the CTB website at the following url:

www.comptontraditionalbowhunters.com/nick-dedacker-scholarship-program

Win one of these bows!

2023/2024 Membership Drive

Details on Application form!

Membership Drive Bow by Shrew Custom Bows

New Member Bow by Big Jim's Bow Company. $1000 toward any new bow build!

Women's MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

WIN THIS ENTIRE PACKAGE!

Drawing will be on June 14, 2024 at the Rendezvous. Need not be present to win.

Custom Bow

Custom, one of a kind, one piece bow from St. Joe River Bows.

Selway Quiver

Slide on or strap on quiver from Selway Archery.

Custom Cedar Arrows

One dozen custom cedar arrows from Lost Nation Archery.

KUIU Jacket

KUIU Women's Guide DCS jacket

ALL NEW WOMEN MEMBERS ARE ELIGIBLE TO WIN!

QUESTIONS?

Frederick Thacker 615-879-0721
membership@comptontraditionalbowhunters.com

Compton Traditional Bowhunters

The National Traditional Bowhunting Organization

2023 / 2024 Membership Drive

As a member of Compton Traditional Bowhunters you have an opportunity to win a new custom Shrew Bow made to your specs by Shrew Bows. You will also be doing your part as a member to promote and grow the organization. As a bonus, all new members will be in a drawing for $1,000 towards a new custom bow build from Big Jim's Bow Company.

In order to participate, we are simply asking you to help by signing up NEW members at a special rate of $20.00. Here's your chance to sign up that friend who would make a great member and get them involved

How this works:

The sponsor's name will be entered into a drawing for every new member you sign up. Each new member will also have a chance at winning the $1,000 towards a new bow build. The

NOTE: SPONSORING MEMBER MUST MAIL THE COMPLETED FORM WITH PAYMENT.

Mail Application to: Frederick Thacker (Membership Secretary) - 121 Parkwood Ave - Avon Lake, OH 44012

New Member Name & Address

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE INITIAL	DATE OF BIRTH
ADDRESS			
CITY, STATE, ZIP		COUNTRY	
BEST CONTACT PHONE	EMAIL		

Sponsor Name & Address

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE INITIAL	DATE OF BIRTH
ADDRESS			
CITY, STATE, ZIP		COUNTRY	
BEST CONTACT PHONE	EMAIL		

SIGNATURE_____ DATE_____

By signing this application I endorse the new member I have signed up and feel they will be a good member of Compton Traditional Bowhunters.

Compton Traditional Bowhunters

The National Traditional Bowhunting Organization

IT SHALL BE THE PURPOSE OF THE COMPTON TRADITIONAL BOWHUNTERS TO:

- Promote the use of traditional archery equipment in hunting as our primary focus.
- Provide the opportunity and encouragement for others to share the traditional experience.
- Support and promote exemplary ethics and conduct by all bowhunters in the field.
- Preserve and promote the historic and cultural value of the bow and arrow, and those individuals whose dedication and vision have shaped bowhunting.
- Promote and support the traditional bow and arrow as a viable hunting tool for maintaining stable wildlife populations.
- Develop and maintain an educational program to introduce all interested persons to traditional archery, with special emphasis on educating the young.
- Organize and conduct periodic member gatherings for the purpose of camaraderie, fellowship and education.

Circle One

1 Year Individual Membership $35.00
3 Year Individual Membership $90.00

1 Year Family Membership $55.00
3 Year Family Memberhsip $140.00

Life Membership $700.00

Donation to Glenn & Margaret
St. Charles Trust Fund $_____

Donation to CTB
Scholarship Fund $_____

General Donation to CTB $_____

Total Enclosed $_____

Make Checks payable to:
Compton Traditional Bowhunters

We Accept Visa, MC & Discover

Mail Application to: Frederick Thacker (Membership Secretary) - 121 Parkwood Ave - Avon Lake, OH 44012

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE INITIAL	DATE OF BIRTH

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP COUNTRY

BEST CONTACT PHONE | EMAIL

Have you ever been convicted of a game violation or felony? ___YES ___NO if yes, please provide a brief explanation.

Years Bowhunting? | How did you hear about Compton Traditional Bowhunters?

What other organizations are you a member of?

Visa - MC - Discover: Card Number | Exp Date: | CVV Code:

SIGNATURE_____ DATE_____

By signing this application I accept and embrace the purpose and principles of the *Compton Traditional Bowhunters.*
I understand that my membership may be reviewed by the *Membership Committee of the Compton Traditional Bowhunters* and that if I am rejected I cannot appeal the decision.

Margaret and Glenn St. Charles — Trust Fund Donors

April - June 2023

Bryan Burkhardt	Scott Hargrove	Craig Schoneberg
Dale Karch	Mike Mitten	T.J. Conrads
Dennis Harper	Rob Patuto	Wade Job
Jerry Gowins	Sam Barrett	Scott Nolletti
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CLASSIFIEDS

Classifed advertising rate is 50¢ per word. Telephone numbers, web sites, E-mail addresses, names and zip codes are considered as one word.

Deadlines for Submissions:

Winter — October 1

Spring — January 1

Summer — April 1

Fall — July 1

Contact Sam Barrett for all your advertsing needs.

Advertising Manager:
Sam Barrett

(see page 4 for contact info)

WE DON'T MEAN TO BOWST

WE HAVE EVERYTHING YOU NEED AND THE KNOWLEDGE TO BACK IT UP

- Over 25 years serving traditional archers worldwide
- User-Friendly Web site with reviews, FAQ's & Videos
- High Quality products at competitive low prices
- You get the goods sooner–same day shipping
- Your complete satisfaction–100% of the time
- Largest selection of traditional archery products
- Shop Online, on the phone 24/7 @ your convenience
- Leading the industry with cutting-edge products
- Knowledgeable, friendly & fast customer service
- Expert technical advice online and on the phone

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Compton Traditional Bowhunters
C/O Frederick Thacker
Membership Secretary
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