

North Carolina

Fall 2013

\$4.99

# BOWHUNTER

Magazine

2013 SPORTSMAN  
OF THE YEAR AWARD

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DO YOU HAVE YOUR  
HUNTING APP?

CHECK OUT OUR REVIEWS ON PAGE 11

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GRANNY TOLBERT'S  
WILD GAME  
RECIPES PAGE 15

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BOW HUNTING  
BIG GAME IN  
SOUTH AFRICA PAGE 30

The Official Publication of the  
North Carolina Bowhunters Association



Preserving the heritage from generation to generation.

INVITE A FRIEND TO JOIN TODAY!



*Eddie Bridges-  
Field and Stream's  
2012 Hero of Conservation*

Photo: Chris Crisman

The North Carolina Bowhunters Association would like to thank Mr. Eddie Bridges, and his organization, the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation for their continued support.



North Carolina  
**WILDLIFE  
FEDERATION**



*Wild Lives, Wild Places*

The North Carolina Bowhunters Association would like to thank  
The North Carolina Wildlife Federation for their continued support.

Celebrating **40** years.  
1973 - 2013



The North Carolina Bowhunters Association would like to thank  
The North Carolina Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation for their continued support.

# North Carolina

# BOWHUNTER

## Magazine

## We Have a New Look.

*North Carolina Bowhunter Magazine is the quarterly publication of the NCBA, North Carolina's mast-head organization for the bow-hunting community. Reach out with your products and services to the entire NCBA membership, our Affiliate Clubs and select archery stores throughout our tradition-rich state. Focus your advertising dollars and maximize the return on your investment by gaining access to this qualified audience of outdoorsmen and women. We are taking placements for our 2014 printings and look forward to having you join us!*

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[NCBA\\_Mag@furnacecreativegroup.com](mailto:NCBA_Mag@furnacecreativegroup.com)

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National Rifle Association - [www.nra.org](http://www.nra.org) | National Shooting Sports Foundation - [www.nssf.org](http://www.nssf.org) | US Sportsmen Alliance - [www.ussportsmen.org](http://www.ussportsmen.org)  
NC Wildlife Habitat Foundation - [www.ncwhf.org](http://www.ncwhf.org) | NC Wildlife Federation - [www.ncwf.org](http://www.ncwf.org)*

*The NCBA also supports the ideals of:  
The Pope & Young Club - [www.pope-young.org](http://www.pope-young.org) | The Professional Bowhunters Society - [www.bowsite.com/pbs/](http://www.bowsite.com/pbs/)*

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Preserving the heritage from generation to generation.

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*Wake County Wildlife Club - 2011, 2012, 2013 | Ben Pearson Archery - 2013 | Drop Tine Archery - 2013  
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*Hummingbird Bows (Ben & Linda Graham) - 2012, 2013 | N.C. Wildlife Habitat Foundation (Eddie Bridges) - 2011, 2012, 2013  
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### Sponsorship Levels

Platinum	\$2000+	plaque
Gold	\$1000 - 1999	plaque
Silver	\$ 500 - 999	certificate
Bronze	\$ 250 - 499	certificate
Contributions	\$ 500+ Value	plaque/certificate

Contributions may be in the form of monetary donations; or products, goods, services, etc. directly resulting in the NCBA realizing measurable monetary income/revenue from these donations which meet minimum donation levels

NCBA recognizes both individual and corporate entities who have contributed to various funds which help sponsor and support ongoing NCBA programs. These programs are: LAF - Land Acquisition Fund; BDF - Bowhunter Defense Fund; RS - Records System; YEF - Youth Education Fund; JRW - JR Wright Memorial Fund; MEF - Memorial Endowment Fund; IMO - "In Memory Of" Fund; PRF - Poacher Reward Fund (gifts are transferred to the NCWRC); and the NCBA General Fund (Contributions are distributed to other funds as needed)

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North Carolina Bowhunters Association | Winter 2013

**On the Cover:** NCBA Member Ryan Gilbert tracking a Butner Hunt buck.  
Photography by Matt Jenkins

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A short message from the stand:

The NCBA has been attending the NCWRC meetings for many years. Many of the commissioners have been replaced this year, and the word I hear is more changes will take place. Commissioner Jim Cogdell was named as the chairman. We look forward to working with the NCWRC in the future.

Our Becoming a Bowhunter program is gaining students but we do not have enough mentors, especially in some areas. We all had to get started somewhere and through much trial and error, each of us has made it to where we are today. Please consider helping others – by passing your bow-hunting skills along to others who may not have someone to teach them. A few hours of your time is all it takes.

Recent years have brought many changes to the economy – and hardships to our members. It is still tough going for many. If you can help some on our Deer Donation Registry or post to our members on Facebook, I am sure they would appreciate it.

This year the Dixie Deer Classic made the decision it is not economically feasible to continue the 3D shoot that has been an event there for many years. At the September Executive Council meeting, we made a proposal to try to hold the shoot ourself. It passed with the consensus that it must make money, we can not operate the event otherwise. We will have multiple shooting events going on at the same time in the Kerr-Scott building from Friday through Sunday. Since our banquet is held in the same building, we will have to stop the shoot Saturday afternoon around 3 or 4 so we can get the tables arranged. My hope is we will have better participation by having multiple shoots at one time. This will be an event you will not want to miss. *Hint: shooting at zombies...*

Our goal is to promote archery, as not only a hunting tool but also as a shooting sport that nearly everyone can participate in. As bowhunters, we must learn many lessons. Two at the top of the list is to practice and to have patience. Practice to make the precise shot. Patience to set in a tree or blind and not be distracted. Oops, I better get back to the hunting.

If you shoot, always make the best ethical shot possible.

*Enjoy nature when you can.*

Andy Smith

**North Carolina Bowhunter Magazine** is the official publication of the North Carolina Bowhunter Association. It is published quarterly, and we invite letters to the editor, comments, pictures, articles and stories, recipes, humor and bowhunting tips. Please note - photography should be scanned clean and sharp. You may submit all items electronically to: **NCBA\_Mag@furnacecreativegroup.com**. We reserve the right to refuse the use of any material we believe not suitable for publishing.

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## North Carolina Bowhunters Association, Inc. Membership Policy

**NCBA Membership dues are \$30 annually and run from the month paid. Life Memberships are \$450. If you are affiliated with a NCBA Local Chapter Club, your dues will be renewed as a group on their designated month. Add payment for patches, license tags, decals and other donations etc. to membership dues.**

**For new memberships, renewals, change of address, membership applications, credit card sales, patches, decals, tags and other purchases please contact:**

**Maria Bell, NCBA Member Services 7796, NC Hwy. 68N Stokesdale, NC 27357  
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# HEY JACK!



## SIGN UP NEW MEMBERS & WIN!

### NCBA Membership Contest

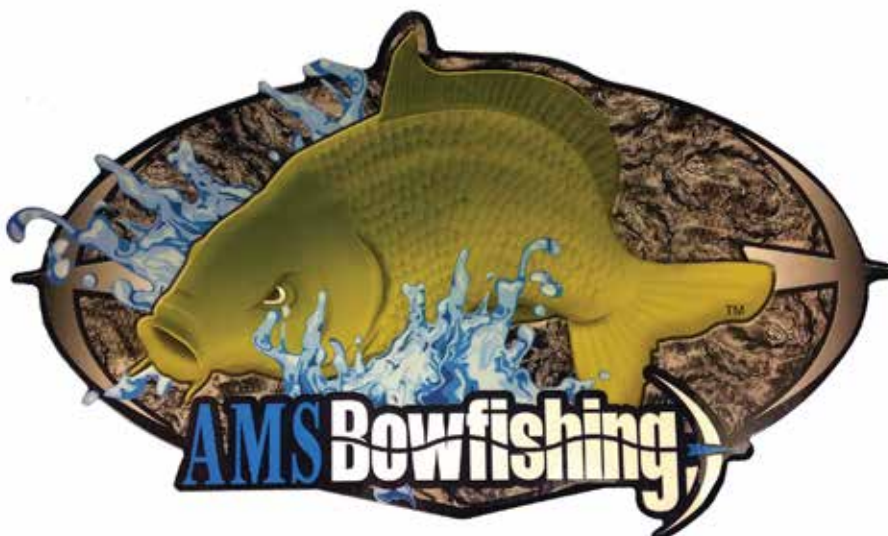
Now through January 31, 2014, sign up new members & win.

Begin signing up NEW members now!

#### Official Rules

1. The recruiter must be a current member of NCBA
2. The recruiter's name must appear on the application of the new member at the time it is submitted to the MSR.
3. Only NEW members and members who have been out of the NCBA for a year or more may be counted as a new or recruited member.
4. All applications must be postmarked no later than February 15, 2013.
5. The member who recruits the most new members will receive the Grand Prize of either a \$300 gift certificate to Bass Pro Shops in Concord, NC, or a NCBA Life Membership valued at \$450. All members who recruit ten members or more will receive an embroidered NCBA Logo shirt.
6. The business that recruits the most new members will receive a free 1/2 page ad in NC Bowhunter Magazine for one year, with the option to upgrade it a discounted price.
7. Executive council members, their immediate family members, and the MSR and NOT eligible to participate in the contest for the Grand Prize. They will receive an embroidered shirt if they recruit ten or more members.
8. The NCBA is not responsible for lost or misdirected applications.
9. PLEASE read over all applications and check for legibility and completeness before sending them to the MSR. If we can't read an application because it is illegible, or lines are left blank, it will affect the application being processed in a timely manner.
10. Question: contact Jamie Brady, Membership Chairman, at 336-669-0307, or e-mail: jebradyjr@yahoo.com

Mail or deliver completed applications with checks, money orders, etc. to Maria Bell, NCBA Membership Services, 7796 NC Hwy 68 N., Stokesdale, NC 27357





Maria Bell  
maria\_7796@yahoo.com

FALL – a beautiful time of the year... also brings cooler temperatures. I've been watching a couple of fawns under the old apple tree – nibbling on fruits – but mostly playing like kids in a park. At night I know the deer are moving through the yard as Holly keeps me informed with her barking. And in the morning when we walk it is obvious the deer have come through for their 'dinner' because the ground under the apple and persimmon trees is clean. This is a busy time of the year for all; however, I ask that you please remember to let me know if your address, phone number or e-mail address changes. Keeping the NCBA roster updated is important in getting mailings and messages to the members in a timely manner.

Please remember all of those serving in the Military and keep them in our thoughts as the holidays draw near.

Donations made to NCBA from members:  
\$ 10 -LAF & BHD from Allen K. Crowe; \$250 -Carolina Traditional Archers; \$150 -Andy Smith; \$ 5 -LAF from Ricky W. Jackson, Jr; \$20 -GF & LAF from Jerry H. Sauceman

“Go afield with a good attitude, with respect for the wildlife you hunt and for the forest and fields in which you walk. Immerse yourself in the outdoor experience. It will cleanse your soul and make you a better person”

–Fred Bear–

# NCBA Local Chapter Clubs

**Back Creek Bow Hunters**  
Efland  
336-562-5789

**Big Buck Archery Club**  
Stoneville  
336-573-3536

**Big Oak Archery**  
Gold Hill  
704-209-3600

**Black Creek Archery Club**  
Benson  
919-625-0825

**Blue Ridge Bowhunters**  
Leicester  
828-683-9545

**Broken Arrow Archery Club**  
Chapel Hill  
919-942-2602

**Brown Creek Archers**  
Cameron  
910-245-1640

**Brushy Mtn. Archery Club**  
Hiddenite  
828-635-6113

**Cape Fear Bowhunters**  
Castle Hayne, NC  
910-399-3441

**Carolina Traditional Archers**  
Catawba  
704-435-0265

**Dirt Nap Bowhunters (DropTine Archery)**  
Advance  
336-940-3250

**Fishing Creek Archery Club**  
Wilson  
252-289-5095

**Forsyth Archery Club**  
Winston-Salem  
336-757-2557

**Gooch's Mill Archery Club**  
Oxford  
336-364-9788

**Guilford Bowhunters**  
Gibsonville  
336-855-6613

**New River Bowhunters**  
West Jefferson  
336-846-9705

**Nock A Round Archery Club**  
Kinston  
252-560-8106

**Randolph Bowhunters**  
Randolph County  
336-674-8906

**Rockfish Bowhunters**  
Hope Mills  
910-424-8216

**Rockingham Bowhunters**  
Rockingham County  
336-498-9155

**Sam's Christian Archery**  
Black Mountain  
828-669-8830

**Sissipahaw Traditional Archers**  
Alamance County  
919-528-4647

**South Mountain Bowhunters**  
Forest City  
828-980-4030

**Stick and Wheel Archery Club**  
Colfax  
336-337-5028

**Tar River Archery Club**  
Bunn  
919-556-0082

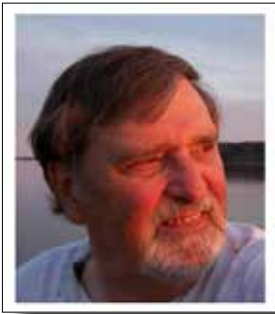
**Twin Lakes Archery Club**  
South Hills, VA  
434-247-9008

**Western Carolina Bowhunters**  
Fletcher  
828-684-2636

**Western NC Sportsman's Club**  
Canton  
828-648-6407

The NCBA needs Local Chapter Coordinators in all areas, but especially in the Central, Northeastern and Western areas. If you are interested in serving please contact the NCBA: 336-643-4455 or by email: [president@ncbowhunter.com](mailto:president@ncbowhunter.com)





I have just finished reading a sample of what our future magazines will look like. I am impressed and encouraged by what I saw. Matt Jenkins was installed as our new editor at yesterday's Executive Council Meeting at Guilford Bowhunters Clubhouse in McLeansville, near Greensboro. Kirk Vaughan took a "Panoramic" photo of the meeting area that he posted on NCBA's Facebook page.

The best news I have for this issue, and possibly the entire year is that our "Poacher Reward Fund" bill was signed into law by Governor McCrory on July 29, 2013. I extend our sincerest thanks and gratitude to N.C. House Representative John Faircloth for sponsoring this bill for NCBA. I also thank Mr. Dick Hamilton, Camo Coalition Coordinator for the N.C. Wildlife Federation for his help in getting our bill drafted. Lastly, to our Treasurer, JR Stone, who attended EVERY Legislative Committee hearing on the bill, a law now known as General Statute § 113-294.1 Wildlife Poacher Reward Fund. It takes effect on Dec. 1, 2013. NCBA ran the ONLY Anti-Poacher Reward program in N.C. for over 35 years. During that time, we paid out over \$60,000 in rewards to people who turned in poachers and serious wildlife law violators.

As Chairman of the Becoming a Bowhunter in N.C. (BABINC) program, I report that this program is moving forward slowly, but progressing and growing at an acceptable rate. We are currently keeping up with student enrollment. We have developed three Course Outlines and numerous Study Guides to assist "Mentors" in coaching students through the Level #1 & #2 Courses. It is very helpful if the students complete the Basic Hunter Safety and the IBEP (Today's Bowhunter) courses before beginning the Level #1 and #2 BABINC courses, respectively. After completing these two courses, they can easily and rapidly complete the first two BABINC courses and be adequately

prepared to move into the actual bowhunting phase of the Level #3 course. Minimal "Hands-On" work with their bow learning proper shooting form and minor tune-up procedures on their bows can be done with a Mentor at an Archery Shop or Bowhunting club. After learning essential shooting form and safety procedures, the student, like all bowhunters, must put in practice time to develop and maintain shooting prowess and accuracy. It is NOT difficult to become a NCBA Mentor. Anyone with actual bowhunting experience can serve well to help pass on our legacy to others who want to learn to bowhunt. If you know someone who wants to learn to bowhunt, refer them to our BABINC program. If you have a good knowledge of bowhunting basics and are willing to "Pay it Forward" to someone who is eager to learn, contact me about signing up as a BABINC Mentor. Everyone involved will learn, benefit and greatly enjoy the experience. **Prospective Students and Mentors can email: [education@ncbowhunter.com](mailto:education@ncbowhunter.com) or call: 336-643-4455. Check the "Becoming a Bowhunter" link on our webpage at: [www.ncbowhunter.com](http://www.ncbowhunter.com).**

Be sure to keep a bowhunting journal for yourself, a youth or your Local Chapter Club. Contact us after January 1, 2014 and someone will assist you in filling out the nomination form(s) for our annual Executive Council Awards.

Lastly, you will find a ballot for NCBA officers in this issue. There may be only one office that is contested for by more than one person. That is the office of president. If so, both men are qualified to hold the office. At this time, I have no definite position on which candidate I will support. In fact I may not choose to support one over the other in the election. But, whoever does win, I will do my best to support them.

I do hope to get back to my "ROOTS" in the ways I can continue to serve NCBA by working with your new Records Chairman, Steve Fox. I also want to see the BABINC program get on solid footing and becoming operational. This program has the potential to build NCBA's membership up to where it should be... but everyone who is able will have to pitch in and help.

Above all else though, please take a moment to fill out your ballot and VOTE! This is a very important election!

For Bowhunting,  
Ramon Bell

# BABINC



Roger Shi is the very first student to complete the BABINC program, shown here proudly displaying the certificate of his achievement.

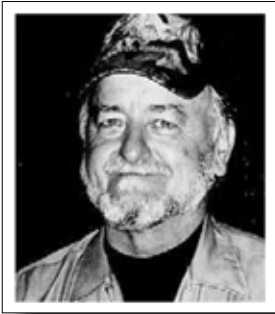
**JOIN TODAY!**



**Did You Know  
Your \$30 Annual  
NCBA  
Membership  
Includes  
\$100,000  
in Hunter  
Liability  
Insurance?**

Having this coverage will help you obtain permission from land-owners to hunt their property... and, it covers gun hunting, too.

**[info@ncbowhunter.com](mailto:info@ncbowhunter.com)**



## Barrel of Monkeys

by: Jeff Eberbaugh (submitted by Jim Jordan)

*I was driving North up seventy-nine, in a semi-truck haulin' corn moonshine.  
A truck full of barrels pulled up along side, when I looked into the barrels, I almost died.  
There was three or four monkeys down in every one, I thought, "where did a truck-load of monkeys come from?"  
These barrels of monkeys were really havin' fun, till the truck hit a bump and the driver lost one.  
Through my rear-view mirror I saw the barrel shatter, the driver went on like it didn't really matter.  
I pulled off the highway and found four monkeys dead, I cleaned up the mess and took'em home to my shed.  
One of them monkeys looked a lot like my brother, so I got on the phone a called up my mother.  
She said, "they're man-like critters that live in the trees;" but she didn't have no road-kill monkey recipes.  
I called the man at the diner to find out what to do, he said, "cook'em like coon and make a road-kill stew."*

I found a little something which really touched me - and so I thought I'd share it with the NCBA community.... something good to read and let sink in. A family member's Alzheimers disease is a horrible thing for a family to live through - I know first-hand from experiencing it's effects on my mother before her passing in January 2013. I thought this little writing might help people see and understand what might be going on inside the head and heart of someone suffering from Alzheimers. Please do not lose sight of these few words and thoughts - this could happen to you or I:

♥ *"Please do not ask me to remember – don't try to make me understand – just let me rest and know that you are with me. Kiss my cheek and hold my hand. I am confused beyond your concept – I am sad, sick and lost - and all I know is that I need you to be with me at all cost. Do not lose your patience with me – do not scold, curse or cry – I can't help or fix the way I'm acting – and I can't be any different even though I try. Just remember that I need you – that the best of me is gone – so PLEASE don't fail to stand beside and love me "til my life is done."* ♥

I hope everyone has been able to get out into the "big, wide, wonderful woods" to do some hunting – and if you have – I hope you were able to "bag the big on!" If not, maybe you'll see him next time. Just remember to look up and give thanks to the "Big One" who makes it all possible! Something for you to ponder: Today will be yesterday – tomorrow.

Be safe - keep 'em sharp!  
"Hillbilly" Jim Jordan

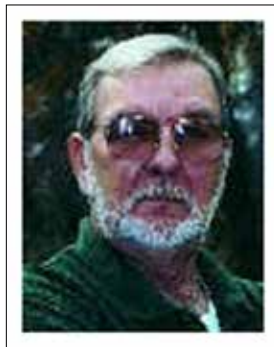
**HELP ENFORCE  
NEW POACHING  
LAWS HERE IN NC  
& CASH-IN!**

**REPORT ALL  
WILDLIFE  
VIOLATIONS.**



**1-800-662-7137**

### OUT OF THE QUIVER MESSAGE FROM TREASURER



Have questions or comments?  
Please email J.R. Stone

email: [stonej45@nc.rr.com](mailto:stonej45@nc.rr.com)

### Financial Report | Fall 2013

BB&T Checking as of October 30, 2013			\$ 27,351.38
Wells Fargo as of	July 31	Aug 31	
General Savings	44,669.97	43,771.15	↓ \$ 898.82
JR Wright Fund	2,464.90	2,415.07	↓ \$ 49.83
Bowhunter Defense Fund	66,661.41	65,698.41	↓ \$ 96.30
Land Acquisition Fund	30,084.63	29,731.38	↓ \$ 353.25
NCBA Endowment Fund	2,746.85	2,727.66	↓ \$ 19.19



Hunter George Rubiaco, from Alexander, NC with his 8-pointer.

**THE SPINE MESSAGE FROM PROGRAM CHAIRMAN**



**“You can’t always get what you want. But if you try sometimes, you might find, you get what you need.”**  
The Rolling Stones. Great lyrics for both bowhunting and life in general. We all dream of that awesome shot or that once in a lifetime buck each fall. For a lucky few it pans out, most of us will collect some great memories and hopefully some venison. One thing I have noticed is – the harder you try – the luckier you are. If this holds true, our Association is and has been very lucky because a lot of folks are trying very hard.

“I enjoyed the great time I had at Cutawhiskie Creek Outfitters, located in Ahoskie, North Carolina. I won a hunt while attending the yearly NCBA banquet/awards. Clay McPherson, the owner, has donated this hunt numerous times, and deserves our support, for his continuing support of the NCBA.”

My son Lance and I arrived Wednesday evening in time for a delicious meal of crab legs and chicken, prepared by Master Chef Steve. We enjoyed nightly meals – rivaling any restaurant – of steak, chicken, pasta and all the trimmings. Up at 4:00 AM and in the stands by 5:00AM.

Daily sighting of numerous deer, one 150-inch class buck, a very tall ten point, and my son had a 650 pound black bear at his corn pail for ½ hour and too many turkeys to count. The stands are well laid out for bow hunters and include ladder stands, hang-ons, ground blinds and box blinds. Head guide Jeremy and Clay discuss the next hunts weather conditions and the hunters desires to determined who hunts where.

Anybody who wants a chance at a record class deer close to home here in North Carolina should consider Cutawhiskie Creek Outfitters!

Clair Luce, NCBA member  
3 October, 2013



Our community archery outreach projects alone add up to thousands of volunteer hours each year. Projects such as The Valor Games, Archery Alley, Youth Days and School programs have a huge impact on kids and adults lives throughout the State. One of my most un-expected rewards from this association came from working the archery alley type events in Dist. 9. Seeing kids light up when hitting a target with an arrow is an infectious thing. NCBA has volunteers that literally are somewhere almost every weekend, firing kids up on Archery and Bowhunting. We all live busy lives, but a day, half day or even a few hours can be a huge help at some of these events. Get a hold of Laura, Brooke, Mickey Strader, Russell Poole or myself to find out where and when you can get involved. If you see a need or want to start some archery outreach in your area, give us a call. The future of bowhunting depends on you.

Plans for the 2014 NC Bowhunters Banquet are well under way – and you won’t want to miss this one. This year instead of just our Saturday banquet, we are taking over the Kerr Scott Building Fri, Sat and Sun. – hosting a bowhunting/archery blow-out. Starting Fri. morning, Pop-up 3-d tournament, 3-d tournament, Zombie shoot and novelty shoots – with more to come. Shoots will last till Sun 3pm. The main banquet will start at 6pm Sat. . . Win hunts, bows and gear along with great food for a night of bowhunting celebrations. All this with the Dixie Deer Classic going full blast next door will make for a great day/weekend. Look for more details in the near future on NC Bowhunter. Com, the winter issue of NC Bowhunter and our e- alerts. Feel free to call or e- mail me if you have any questions about the banquet or any of our programs. We may not get what you want but we will try to get what you need.

*Shoot straight and may your blood trails be short.*

David Whitmire



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### Big Buck Down!!!

The pictures keep blowing up my phone from everywhere; I get an alert, open my phone and see 160+ inches of bone and a set of teeth from a happy bow hunter. It's obvious the last 2 years of solid acorn mast, a little management, the 2 buck limit, and supplemental feeding have all been extremely effective – producing positive results in the center of the state. With the bow & arrow we have had 5 deer harvested over 160 this season and 3 that will gross over the Boone & Crockett minimum of 170. The deductions and the 60 days drying period will be the determining factors on our possible New State Record that was taped out at 174 gross, 168 5/8 net, and yet another deer hits the ground at 168 net within 50 miles from the

first. Keep your fingers crossed for these guys. Congrats to you both!

### Youth Members:

We have a pile of youth in our organization and we always beg for them to turn in their harvests. This year we have youth filling the freezer and the awards banquet will have plenty of hardware (awards) to show for it. We have 6 doe and 2 bucks already on the board and plenty of season to go. Our youth have taken several New Records this year but we still have many animals that haven't been taken by a female in the youth division. Those will be listed on our web page at Records for you to check out.

### Dixie Deer Classic & Scoring:

Its time to start my volunteer list for the Dixie again and I look forward to seeing all my friends in the scoring booth. It's going to be an exciting time this year and I expect to see several deer panel scored so get ready to have your picture taken. If you plan to measure this



year please let me know asap, my numbers have been set and space will be limited. The last 2 years at the DDC had a drop in measured deer but I think it is going to be well above last year's numbers if the season stays like September.

### Southern Stingray Category:

In the last few years many of our members have taken their bowfishing gear to the coast to try their luck at some salt water monsters. We had a few shoot some rays early on and then Josh Hether stuck a real monster that became both our State Record and the World Record at 140 lb. Since then the number of harvests grew to over 100 this year alone. I am looking to add the Southern Ray as an Official Category at the DDC. I will take my proposal to the Records Committee for approval and anticipate all entries starting January 2014 to be in the contest

### Harvest Entries and Official Measurers:

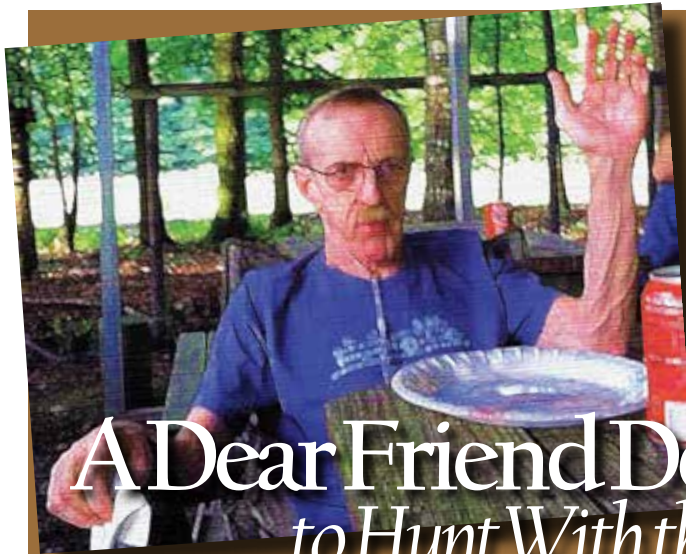
The deadline for entries will be here soon. All entries have to be received by mail by January 31. If you have something you need measured please let me know so we can get you in contact with a measurer close by. If you are a measurer please send me an email with any changes to your email, phone number or mailing address so I can update the roster.

I have been blessed to be a part of NCBA Records committee for many years now being a measurer, Vice Chairman, and Chairman. The first year as Chairman was tough and I learned how to pull my hair out over a hotel room list and how crazy a hunter can get when his friend told him his deer was a 150 class buck and we measure it at 124. They don't take that news so well to say the least. But it has been so rewarding to me to work with the group of measurers who are involved – and to have each of you as my friend. This is an Election Year and with the changing of officers, our very own Steve Fox will become our New Records Chairman at the NCBA Awards Banquet on Saturday at the DDC. Steve has been a Pope & Young measure for about 15 years now and has been beside me since the day I started measuring. I am exciting about this change and look forward to having him at the steering wheel as our Chairman.

I want to thank everyone that has supported the NCBA over the past year and helped out. All my measurers who came to the "Southern Trophy Hunters Big Buck Expo" and other events. Thanks to Scott Strong, Mark Headen, Clair & Joann Luce, John Mark Trexler, Tommy Kimball, Laura Phillips, Jamie & Rhiannon Brady, Ryan Miller, Cole Miller, Mickey Strader, Earnie Shew, Russell Poole, Andy Smith, Crystal Hughes, DropTine Archery, and everyone I missed.

*Until next time, Shoot Straight*

Joey Thompson



On Sunday morning, October 27, 2013, the angels delivered William Clark to God's arms. He is no longer in pain and will be able to shoot his bow at The Happy Hunting Grounds. Please keep William's family in your prayers. Amen.

## A Dear Friend Departs to Hunt With the Angels



Honoring William Clark at the Butner Hunt BBQ, Friday, October 25, 2013

(Transcribed by Jonathan Clark, as my father William Clark speaks to all NCBA members):

First off, I would like to thank Ryan Miller for his posting of my picture at the last Dixie Deer Classic, and to J.R. Stone and his wife Dee for printing and framing the photo and delivering it to me. To Steve Fox your hand written letter which I am holding in my hand right now is very special to me. I have never seen that chipmunk but I have known a squirrel made by the same hand except in my case he was carrying my corn away one cobb at a time and I - like you believe that this world is too perfect to be formed by some random chemical accident. I have observed Gods hand at work for over 40 years beginning at sun rise as soon as it was light enough for me to see. To Debbie Moore Rodriguez I met your brother Quince several times briefly during the early seventies through a mutual friend Tommy Tart in Butner, N.C. he had already started (rambling) back then. In those days our love of the bow brought each of us to Butner. This was at a time when most people thought of bow hunters as simply crazy. The past few months when feelings of being cheated out of time creep into my brain I have often thought of Quince, and although we both loved this sport the same I have had almost twenty years longer than he had to enjoy it. His untimely passing has truly been a loss to us all. Also when I get feelings of regret about various things in my life and things I wish I could change, I think of the young children the various forms of cancer that they are facing that Gooch's Mill has done benefit shoots for, all of whom at a young and tender age that they had not even had the time to have regrets in their life, where I at least have had enough years to have regrets.

On the bright side my oldest son started bow hunting this year at the ripe old age of 36. Cory my youngest son's baby boy Nathan is 4 months old. I have been a taxidermist part time for over 40 years, and his other Grandfather Dean Rogers is a hunter and full time Taxidermist in Wyoming. I don't know what his future holds in life or what he shall choose if it shall be the same (Taxidermy) or if he will choose to be a avid hunter like myself, as he should have the genes for it. But I know if he shall choose to do so I will be walking with him in these woods for years to come. In closing to Connie, Gary, Jimmy, Ramon, Joey, and Gooch's Mill President Ronald Hayes, I was proud to serve I did what I could when I could. I only wish I could have done more. To Wayne Smith, Paul, and Richard I am proud to have shared a camp with you and cherish all of our memories. I love you all and thank you all for your thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,  
William Clark



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*Ramon accepting his award from Carol Buie Jackson (NC Wildlife Federation) and Mallory Martin (NC Wildlife Resource Commission). Joining Ramon is his son-in-law Scott Rempe.*

“There are few aspects of the sporting world that call for as much dedication as the committed archer. Despite modern technology, shooting a bow well requires a serious investment of time, a studious attention to detail, and a commitment to stay at it, day after day after day.” These were but some of the words spoken about the NCBA’s very own, Ramon Bell. On Saturday evening, September 7th the Past President of our organization was presented the 2013 Sportsman of the Year Award from the North Carolina Wildlife Federation, at the The 50th Annual Governor’s Conservation Achievement Awards Reception and Banquet.

Ramon Bell has been advocating for the sport of bow-hunting 12 months a year, from one end of North Carolina to the other for decades. A devoted leader, teacher and dedicated defender of the sport of archery, Ramon has also been a long-standing advocate for smart wildlife management and president of the N.C. Bowhunters Association. The members of the NCBA know quite well how hard Ramon pushes for our hunting rights as bow-hunters - but the truth is, every sportsman - young and old - who steps into the North Carolina outdoors owes Ramon a huge thank you for all he has done over the years - and still continues

to this day. “He’s there when the Wildlife Resources Commission considers new rules that might affect archery hunters. He’s there when Hunters for the Hungry is meeting to plan a new season of venison to homeless shelters. He’s there when news media report on urban archery seasons. He’s always right there — right on the forefront of speaking up for sporting rights, be it through interviews or letters to the editor or visits to public officials.”

“When the rest of us are out there scouting for deer, or tuning up our bows, or poring over maps, Ramon Bell is out there making sure we have places to hunt and access to public lands and that archery hunters are viewed as conservation leaders.” We are quite proud to name him the Sportsman of the Year.” Congratulations Ramon, the NCBA is proud of your hard work, too!



# “What It Was... Was a Smart Phone”

By: Ramon Bell

As Andy Griffith mighta said, “What it was, was a... “smart phone!” I don’t recall exactly when the technical generation really began for me? The first cell phone I had was a bag phone about the size of a cigar box. It was really somethin’!

Later, I got a digital pager. They were pretty neat too! Then I had a “flip-phone”; then a “Razr!” You know the routine! Every time you have to go to the phone store for something, they try to “give” you a newer model with a rebate. The phone, as they say, is “free”. (Yeah, really?) But, you also get a new two year binding contract along with it!

At some point I obtained my first “smart phone” in conjunction with one of these special “deals” from the cell phone company. The problem is that every “smart phone” is “smarter” than the previous one, and the problem this poses for me

is the newer ones are smarter than me too! But, that ain’t too hard to understand either! Bet you’re wonderin’ what this has to do with huntin’, fishin’ or the outdoors in general? Well, as ‘puter illiterate as I am, I’ve still found ways to use my smart phone to my advantage, and it’s even a little fun and entertainin’ to fiddle and play with in a deer stand on a slow, mid-afternoon hunt too!

One day, my grandson tried to ‘splain to me what an “App” was. After a bit, I finally got the basics and “hang of it” down pat. There’s apps for just about anything and everything you can imagine, and many of them are free. I’ve downloaded some that I’ve found to be very helpful while in the woods hunting, or out on the water fishin’, or even bowfishin’. Here’s a short list of Apps that I use along with comments about what I use’em for and how they help me.

**Time2hunt Lite:** 4.3 / 5 stars  
 This app has Solar-Lunar tables that give “Primary” and “Secondary” best times to hunt every day, hour by hour. It also gives sun and moon rise and setting times as well as moon phases. I’ve found this information to be very helpful in predicting when deer movement is best. There’s also a “Time2fish” app that works just as well.

**GPS Tracker:** 4.5 / 5 stars  
 Search this app name and scores of apps will pop up to choose from. Again, many are free, or very inexpensive. Choose one and work with it. If you don’t like it, “uninstall” it and try another one. If you’re out in the woods, in familiar, or unfamiliar territory, you can scroll around in “map” or “satellite” view and literally “scout” the surrounding area from home or field, night or day, or when you are actually out walking around and scouting, or sitting in you tree stand or blind. Of course, you don’t want to get too involved in this while on a stand hunting or the “Big Boy” just might slip past you without you ever knowing it! There will be no need to carry a GPS with you anymore, as these apps will do everything most GPS’s will do and more, as long as you have a good phone signal! You can mark and save “way-points” and “tracks” same as with your GPS.

**WeatherBug:** 4.2 / 5 stars  
 This is another free app that you can use before and during hunting and fishing trips. It gives current and extended weather forecasts; current temperature, wind direction and speed, and all this at your current location or anywhere you select. It shows Doppler radar of approaching cloud and storm formations that are very helpful. From a tree stand, it can help you get prepared for an approaching storm front, or give you enough advance warning for you to get to your vehicle or other shelter. Twice during the summer of 2011, my grandson and I were on the water 8-10 miles from the dock bow-fishing. I heard some rumbling thunder, and noticed some dark cloud formations off in the distance and checked this app to see some threatening clouds approaching us. We had just enough time to get back to the dock and into my vehicle before the storms hit. Had we been a few minutes later, we would have been caught out on the lake and been in serious trouble with very high winds and heavy rain to deal with.

**ScoreMyRack:** 4.8 / 5 stars  
 Being a B&C and a P&Y measurer, This app comes in handy if I want to unofficially rough score a deer rack without having to write anything down. It does just what it says. It provides a score form to record measurements for scoring Typical and Non-Typical deer, elk, caribou, etc.

**TIME2HUNT LITE**   
 by: Bad Daddy Sports

**SCORE MY RACK V 1.2**   
 by: Pytac Sodis

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Well, you get the idea. There’s an application for just about everything you could imagine! Don’t forget though, that if any electronic device, such as a walkie-talkie, cell phone, etc., is used to alert or lead a hunter to an approaching animal, it disqualifies that animal from entry into the Pope and Young Club, Boone & Crockett Club and North Carolina Bow-hunters Association all-time records systems. ■



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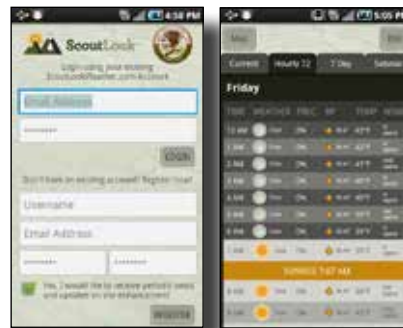
Deer Log - \$3.99



Mossy Oak - Free



Fishing - \$3.99



ScoutLook Hunting App   
by: Huntlogix

**ScoutLook® Weather DeerLog**, brought to you by Mossy Oak, is the ultimate Weather & Deer Management/Planning tool for Deer Hunters. This app merges world class Weather, Wind Mapping, Solunar Times, Tides & Moon, Hourly Barometric changes, and a sensational Deer Log ALL into one app!

The new, updated version of DeerLog addresses the stability issue experienced by users with older devices, as well as location detection, and Null information in certain locations. DeerLog automatically captures time, date, gps location, weather details, wind and moon info at time of sighting and enables real time deer logging in drop downs with NO TYPING!

Review logs on phone or PC since data syncs with FREE account at ScoutLookweather.com: Automatically tracks buck to doe ratios and buck age structure by stand or property! Sort logs by all data fields to see what works, when and why, or export to Excel for further use.

Create personalized access codes so all hunters on your land can log all sightings & conditions at every stand to your private log database. Monitor your deer herd and hunting activity on your land, and know what conditions work best all stands with this user-friendly, intuitive and powerful tool.

The cool ScentConeSM Wind Map displays speed and direction at your hunting locations for 72 hours!  
(CONTINUED PG 14) 

By: Matt Jenkins

You've spent a large portion of your paycheck on trail cams - scent elimination clothing - food plots - lighter, faster gear - But have you put that smart-phone to work for you yet as a hunting tool? Practically everyone carries a smart phone today - and the smart hunters are using it for more than just a GPS or calling for a ride back to the hunting cabin. Take a look at some of my favorites, as these hunting apps can help you acquire, store, catalog and utilize more information on deer patterns and habits. Used with all that other high-tech gear you've acquired, they turn you into the Ultimate Predator, and help you hunt deer more consistently.



# Passing Down the Heritage

by: Steve Fox

October 9, 2013 – Watauga County, NC.

Every time I plan an evening hunt I think about it all day long. When one of my daughter's makes plans to join me it makes it that much more exciting. Wednesday, October 9, 2013 was one of those days. Ashlyn Fox, my 14 year old, was going on her 3rd bow hunt with me. After picking her up at High School we went home so she could shower and change. By the time we got in the stand it was 5:00PM. I texted my good friend, Eddie Townsend, to tell him we were in our stands. He texted in response that his son Brahm, who is 13 years old, wanted to go so they were in their blind. I told him that was great and good luck. Wouldn't it be cool if the kids killed their first deer with a bow on the same day. It would make a great story. He said yes it would and wished us luck as well. Around 6:00



PM Ashlyn said there was a deer coming, a spike. I told her to take the shot when he offers it. Then I saw another deer, a 4 pt coming. I told her not to be picky, just which ever one gave her the best shot. The 4 pt finally gave her a good shot at 18 yards. She drew and made the shot. It was a little back but I knew it was quartering away some, so I hoped it got liver. I texted Eddie to let him know. He said great! Ashlyn and I tracked for about 100 yards and the I decided to wait a while. A little after 6:30PM Eddie texted me that Brahm had just shot a nice doe. I told him

that was awesome! Brahm made a high shoulder, spine shot and dropped her in her tracks. He then made chest shot to make sure she didn't go anywhere. This is Brahm's first year hunting and his first deer! Gary Fox, Eddie and myself went back at first light and found Ashlyn's 200 yards from where she shot him. We are very lucky parents to have such good teenagers, and that they want to spend time in the woods with their Dad's. It is such a great feeling to pass on something you love so much to your children. ■

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**ScoutLookweather.com** is the ONLY major weather website that is owned and operated exclusively by hunters! Scoutlook also has a FREE online service providing pinpoint, map-based weather details, wind map tools, solar times, lunar phase, tides, hourly barometric changes, and a log book to help you decide where, when and how best to hunt or fish. It allows you to login from your App (or online) and get all you need to know, from one resource, before you head out into the tree stand or blind.

The **Hunting Journal V 1.2** application from ProHuntersJournal.com is a powerful, complete and useful hunting tool and application for the iPhone. With your free Pro Hunter's Journal membership you can record the exact date and map location of your hunting or scouting trips, the weather conditions, moon-phase, species seen or harvested, the gear you used, the buddies you were with and much more. Plus, you'll be able to record the memories of your hunt in the Field Journal Notes section. It was a solid, easy to use hunting app. By recording dates, locations, weather conditions personal notes and more, you will get smarter about where to hunt, when to hunt and how to hunt. From week-to-week and season-to-season, you'll start to see patterns that other hunters just don't see. This will give you a major advantage in the field.

**Hunting Ops** uses the latest technologies to empower you with information and insight from every experience - so you can maximize your results. Hunting Ops is one of the powerful sportsman hunting apps I've tested, as it auto-collects everything you can imagine. And at \$4.99 it is very reasonable for turning your smart-phone into a hunting tool. I spent less time playing with my smart-phone and more time watching the action in front of me.

Umax designed Hunting Ops to be easy and effective regardless of your activity or experience level. Your data is kept totally secure with a unique system, which is only accessible by you! Whatever you hunt, Ops has you covered. Here are the features ⇨

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**HUNTING CAMERA** - Capture all the action without leaving the app and every picture can auto collect all of the environmental details automatically!

**AUTO-JOURNAL** - No more hand written journals stealing your time. The journal auto stores every your activities and auto collects all the environmental details.

**EAST TRIP SETUP / AUTO TRIP SHARING/IN-APP SOCIAL MEDIA SHARING** Everyone in your group can auto share all the pictures and data automatically before, during and after. This app will automatically send your pics to the NCBA facebook page, go figure.

**HUNTING WEATHER** - Get the local and national forecast, marine forecast, tides, barometer and the lunar phase.

**GAME DOWN STEALTH NOTICE** - When you are hunting with friends but in different locations and you don't have time for calls and text, there's a one-and-done push button that sends your friends your activity and gives them your GPS location for getting their help to retrieve your animal.

**US STATE BY STATE HUNTING REGS** Know your season dates and bag limits at a glance.

**ON-BOARD SUPPORT** - Tech support answers your questions within one hour. Seriously. I contacted them just to test this little feature out. Tech guy was back with me 11 minutes, 32 seconds Later.

**METRIC AND IMPERIAL SETTINGS** Easily switch all measurement to what you are accustomed to very easily.

For my own personal preference, I like the **ScoutLook** app the best. Hunting Ops is a close second - they do the exact same things - except for the feature which set them apart - ScoutLook's ScentConeSM Wind Map - it is just a very useful feature when trying to figure out how the wind is affecting all of your stand locations - especially at zero-dark thirty. The hunting app is just one more tool the most successful hunters have in their arsenal! ■

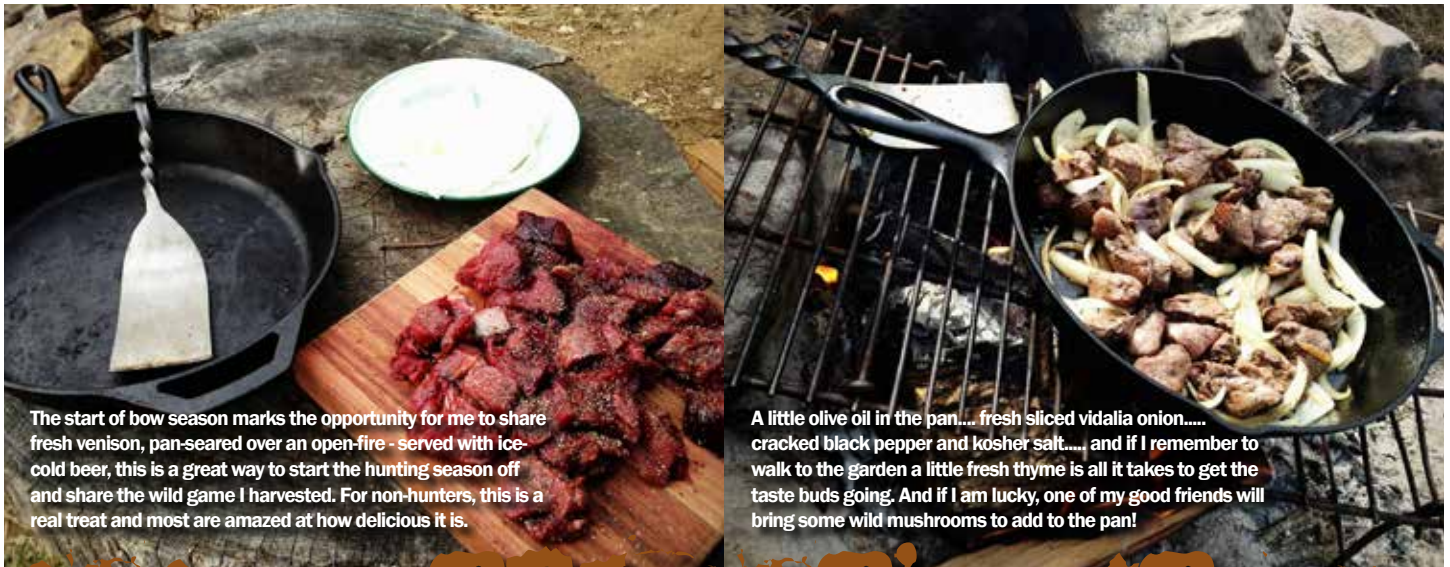


Hunting Journal V 1.2  
by: Mt. Lookout Media



HUNTING Ops \$4.99  
by: UMAX Outdoors





The start of bow season marks the opportunity for me to share fresh venison, pan-seared over an open-fire - served with ice-cold beer, this is a great way to start the hunting season off and share the wild game I harvested. For non-hunters, this is a real treat and most are amazed at how delicious it is.

A little olive oil in the pan.... fresh sliced vidalia onion..... cracked black pepper and kosher salt..... and if I remember to walk to the garden a little fresh thyme is all it takes to get the taste buds going. And if I am lucky, one of my good friends will bring some wild mushrooms to add to the pan!

# GRANNY TOLBERT'S KITCHEN

**Wild Game Recipes that will make your tongue slap your face & make you go kiss the cook!**

*Above: Pan-seared venison loin with rough-cut vidalia onions, thyme, wild mushrooms and salt/pepper to taste. This was served on ciabatta bread with fresh greens, crumbled feta cheese, a drizzle of extra virgin olive oil and ice-cold "Summer Harvest," a great seasonal craft beer from Fullsteam Brewery in Durham.*

By: Matt Jenkins

Every family has one - the proud woman who tirelessly slaved over a hot stove preparing those culinary treats which would create a carnival for our taste-buds. Those fond memories we associate with growing up and sharing great times with loved ones at the communal dinner table. Granny, Maw-Maw, Mamaw or Grandma is the iconic master of the cook-top who holds up the family's reputation at church pot-lucks, neighborhood picnics and at the state-fair baking contests. And she was the one who grandad took to the cabin every hunting season to cook for he and his hunting clan. She must have really loved the old coot.

I am biased, but my Grandma Tolbert (Gertrude) was the best cook I ever knew. Yea, sure, she passed on what she knew to my mother and aunts (and any other struggling cook who needed advice) but she could do things in the kitchen which would bring people from all over the county to sit and eat her offerings. I miss those times. Today we are so caught up in this digital world, that we forget to take the time - no, the decency - to sit and break bread with each other after a long day of work, like families used to do.

I grew up in the mountains of West "By God" Virginia and her people learn to make do. Hunting is not just a past-time - it is a necessity for many -if not most - families to survive. To this day, the main-stay of

my mother's family still live in the Beckley area and most keep a freezer full of game on hand. Those in the family who have had to venture elsewhere to make a living still have heart strings pulling them back "home" to the hearth and comfort of a big family meal (or fall tailgating when venison is on hand).

Growing up I ate whatever was put in front of me. Yea, sure, as a young kid I snarled my nose up, squeezed it shut with my fingers and choked down stuff because it was my way of protesting, lol. But as I grew, I learned to appreciate the efforts my grandmother made to serve delicious meals from meats other families would have laughed at or looked upon in horror. I have digested many a fine meal which came from the woods: and it did not all "taste like chicken."



Now, I am nowhere near the cook my grandmother was - or even my mother, aunts or brother for that matter. But I have been told that I received some of her genetics when it comes to art and cooking (she was also a very good painter). Like she used to do, I love to create in the kitchen. Many of my friends and hunting buddies have enjoyed some pretty good hunting camp meals by my hand. I also have several cast iron skillet she gave me when I was a younger man so I like to think I have some of her kitchen mojo working in my favor.

I'd like to have this recipe section of the magazine continue regularly. As consumers from the wild game supermarket, I feel we are always curious to taste recipes passed down through other families - to see how they prepare the table-fare. So I will need to rely on all of you - to supply me with recipes from your family's Granny Tolbert.

Deer, wild boar, duck, goose, squirrel - whatever - you send it in and we'll give it a try and print it in these pages. Better yet, invite me over to try it after YOU'VE prepared it the way it's done in your family (so I can't mess it up, lol). Get cooking my fellow bow-hunters - break bread together, share some stories after the harvest and move away from eating in front of the idiot box (TV). Sit down at the table and make great memories together. ■

## Wild Boar chops with Peach BBQ Sauce

### Boar Loin Chops

1 whole rack of Wild Boar - frenched  
(*Bone-in loin*) cut into individual chops

4 ounces Southwestern seasoning blend

Clean the racks of wild boar of any sinews and excess fat. Rub generously with Southwestern spice blend and allow to sit for at least 45 minutes.

Grill on mesquite coals over medium heat until an internal temperature of 140-145 is reached. Do not overcook, or the boar will become very dry. Allow to rest for about 10 minutes before serving the chops.

Arrange the individual chops around a bowl of the peach barbecue sauce & serve.

### Peach barbecue sauce:

4 fresh peaches  
3 ancho chilis (*stems and seeds removed*)  
1 sweet onion, diced  
8 ounces ketchup  
½ bunch cilantro, diced  
3 ounces brown sugar  
3 ounces butter  
3 ounces honey bourbon  
1 lime, juiced  
1 pint chicken stock  
¼ teaspoon kosher salt  
1 pinch ground black pepper

Sauté the onions in butter until soft. Add in all remaining ingredients and bring to a simmer. Allow to simmer lightly for 20-25 minutes. Puree with a stick blender (or pour into food processor) until smooth. If the sauce is too thin, reduce by simmering longer. If it's too thick, add a touch more bourbon.



## Seared Venison with Hot Pepper & Cranberry

### Ingredients

1½ tsps. chopped fresh rosemary  
1 tsp. fresh grated ginger root  
2 large garlic cloves  
2 tsps. extra virgin olive oil  
1 venison tenderloin (approx. 1 lb.)  
½ cup dry red wine  
½ cup dried cranberries  
1 cup beef broth  
½ cup water  
1 tsp. corn starch  
3 Tbsps. hot pepper jelly

### Directions

Grind half of the rosemary, ginger and garlic with a mortar and pestle to make a paste, then stir in 1 tsp. of the olive oil. Pat venison dry and put in a bowl, then rub with paste. Season well with pepper, then cover and chill 20 minutes. Preheat oven to 450. In a cast iron skillet over high heat until hot, add remaining oil, and coat evenly. Season venison with salt, and brown (about 3 minutes per side). Transfer skillet to middle of oven and roast venison until an instant-read thermometer inserted diagonally into center registers 135 F, about 10 minutes (give or take). Remove venison from pan and let stand prior to carving. Deglaze skillet with wine and cranberries. Stir broth, water, cornstarch, and remaining ½ tsp. rosemary in a bowl and add to skillet. Simmer, stirring, until mixture has thickened (to your preference). Whisk in hot pepper jelly, salt and pepper to taste. Cut venison into 1/3-inch-thick slices and serve with sauce. Garlic-smashed potatoes with parmesan shavings, and pan-seared baby asparagus shoots round out this after hunt dinner. I recommend a 2009 Sangiovese from central North Carolina's Round Peak Vineyard to enjoy with dish.

## Wild Rabbit Breakfast Delight

*Wild rabbit, like most game is much lower in fat content than domesticated meat. My sausage had been processed as breakfast sausage meaning I blended the rabbit with pork fat when running through processor. Doing this allows it to have the rich familiar consistency of breakfast sausage.*

### Ingredients

1 pound rabbit breakfast sausage  
1 tablespoon olive oil  
1 small red onion, chopped  
1 small chile peppers (*minced*)  
3 sage leaves chopped  
1 teaspoon red pepper flakes  
Salt and pepper to taste

In a heavy skillet, heat the olive oil over medium heat. Add the onion and chile pepper. Sauté until they begin to soften about 2-3 minutes. Add the ground rabbit sausage and spices to the skillet, break up into small pieces and brown until fully cooked. This gives a nice crumbly texture. Serve immediately. Roasted red potatoes on the side and a fried egg to top off the rabbit make for a hearty breakfast dish after you climb out of the tree stand.



top - Wild Rabbit  
right - Venison Loin  
left - Wild Boar

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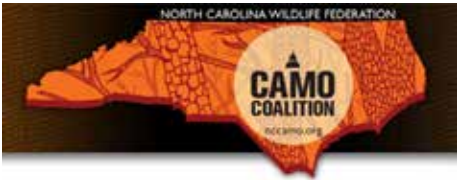
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## ATTENTION NCBA MEMBERS!

The NC Wildlife Resources Commission is planning to collect 3,000 white-tailed deer specimens from cooperating hunters during the 2013 deer hunting season from across the state as a critical part of the Chronic Wasting Disease surveillance program. This surveillance program is conducted at five year intervals and is important to detect CWD if the disease has been introduced into North Carolina and to contain the disease if it is detected.

If you as a deer hunter are successful, the WRC is asking you to call the District Wildlife Biologist on the day of the kill and the biologist will arrange to meet you and take the sample within 24 hours. The attached link from the WRC explains the importance of this program and provides the contact information in a map format for contacting the District Wildlife Biologist.

Please accept this request as a responsible hunter. Call the WRC representative when you take your deer. It is important to the future of deer management and hunting in North Carolina and only you and other deer hunters can make the surveillance successful.

Find out more information on our website: <http://www.ncwildlife.org>

“I come home with an honestly earned feeling that something good has taken place. It makes no difference whether I got anything. It has to do with how the day was spent.”

—Fred Bear—



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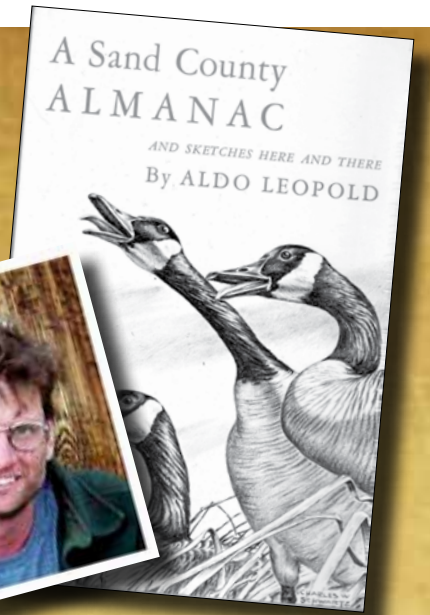
Chapman Taxidermy

# A Sand County Almanac

by Aldo Leopold

Reviewed by Steve Graf

The best things truly do come in small packages - and at 226 pages this tome qualifies. In order to tell you about this book, I must start by telling you about the author himself - Aldo Leopold.



Leopold was a bow-hunter - deer hunter - grouse hunter and master woodsman. He grew up in the Midwest and was among the students in the first graduating class from the School of Forestry at Yale University. He joined the Forest Service in 1924 and worked in Arizona when it was still a territory. By the end of his life (cut short while fighting a wildfire) he had become a conservation advisor to the United Nations. Leopold was a deep thinker, a naturalist, and a scientist. He combined the best of what he was, and what he experienced, to write this beautiful book.

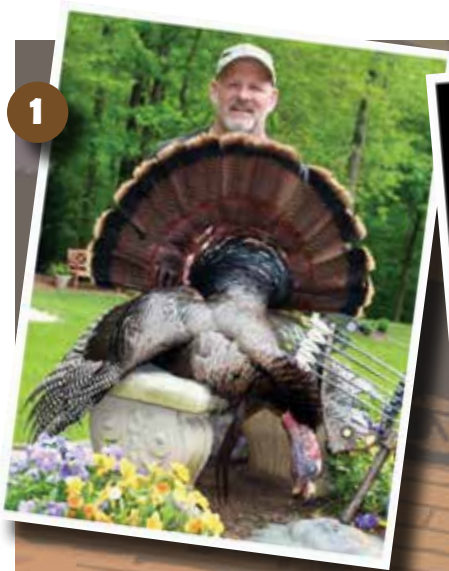
This book can be read on many levels. Almost immediately the reader will notice the lyrical prose. The book is chock full of wonderful little gems, like: “There are two spiritual dangers in not owning a farm - one is the danger of supposing that breakfast comes from the grocery, and the other that heat comes from the furnace.” Another, “One swallow does not make a summer, but one skein of geese, cleaving the murk of a March thaw, is the spring.” Yet another, “On motionless wing they emerge from the lifting mists, sweep a final arc of sky, and settle in clangorous descending spirals to their feeding grounds. A new day has begun on the crane marsh.” This music is only the first layer of meaning to be had from this book.

The Almanac takes you through a year on Leopold’s Wisconsin farm, month by month. You learn what the skunk did with his time in January, how Spring comes in March, what the river is doing

in June, and where the grouse are hiding in October, among many other things. Leopold then takes you on his many journeys through the Southwest, including a trip with his brother down the Delta of the Colorado River in 1922 - where they had no schedule, no obligations, and lived freely on what they gathered from the land. These stories are heartwarming and serve to connect us to the land in ways we had not thought possible.

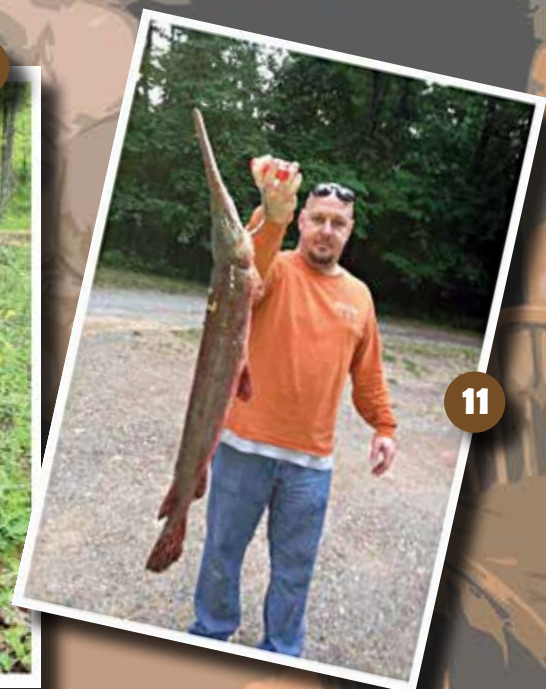
All of this is a warm up to the third part of his book, which he titled “the Upshot.” In there, Leopold laid out - for the first time in human history - a rational and moral argument for why man has an ethical obligation to the land. He defined “the land” to include the soil, the water, the air, and everything that lives in it and upon it. And he calls his new concept “the Land Ethic”. He gives warning in his forward that : “Only the very sympathetic reader will wish to wrestle with the philosophical questions of Part III”. I would encourage everyone, especially anyone who calls him/herself a bow-hunter to wrestle with these philosophical questions.

As bow-hunters, we are keenly aware of where our food comes from, and what the cost is to the animals that provide our meat. We understand that we ourselves are simply part of the food web. Our little corner of that web can be simply put: Acorn to Deer - Deer to Indian - Indian to Acorn. Before we feed the oak tree, I believe we should all strive to understand and improve the world the best we can. Reading this book is a great start. ■



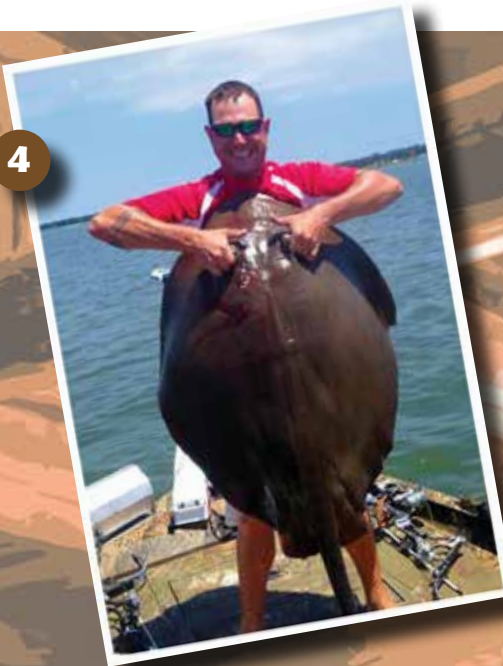
# The Trophy Room

1) Ken Dobbins -Turkey / 30 April 2013; 2) Steve Patterson -Deer (4X4) / 7 September 2013; 3) Andy Smith -Southern Ray (107lb - 6oz) / 11 September 2013; 4) Josh Hether -Southern Ray (105lbs - 14oz) / 15 June 2013; 5) Brennan Morton -Southern Ray / 15 June 2013; 6) Matt Cox -Southern Ray (115lbs - 7oz) / 13 July 2013; 7) Andy Smith -Gar (12lb - 1oz) & (Carp 14lb - 14oz) / 1 June 2013; 8) Tommy Thompson -Gar (2) / 10 April 2013; 9) Clyde Dougherty -Southern Ray / 15 June 2013; 10) Ken Dobbins -Bowfin / 16 March 2013; 11) Joey Thompson -Gar (10lb - 11oz) / 24 August 2013; 12) Chris Greeson -Turkey / 27 April 2013; 13) Cole Miller -Ground Hog / 24 August 2013





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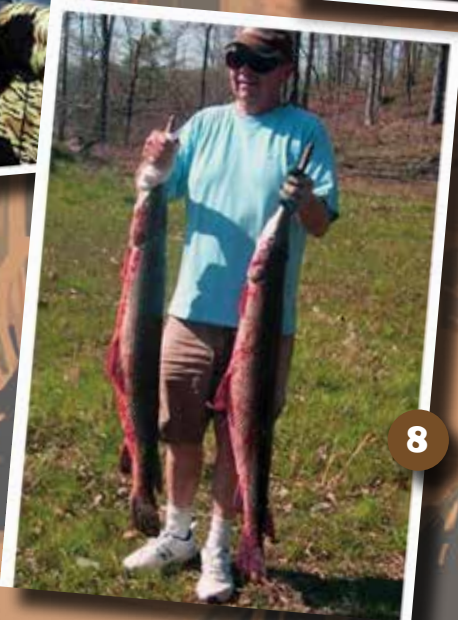
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# DropTine Archery

## North Carolina Business Spotlight

# DropTine Archery

Pictured: Pam & Robert Brookman at their facility in Advance, NC

by: Andrew Dye

ADVANCE, NC — The year was 2011 and it was decision time for Robert Brookman. He sat down with his wife, Pam, one night and said he was tired of working for other people and that he wanted to open his own archery facility.

The country was going through a recession and the economy was in the tank. But instead of looking at her husband like he had lost his mind, Pam Brookman gave him a thumbs up.

"I was nervous," she said. "But Robert had done this for such a long time, I knew that he knew what he was doing."

That's how DropTine Archery was born. Fast forward to today, a mere two and a half years later, and business is booming.

As for the recession: What recession?

"We really didn't feel the recession here," said Pam Brookman. "We've just continued to grow. We've had a lot of great response for our shop because we do a lot of things other shops don't."

Virtually every kind of archery equipment is available for purchase at DropTine Archery but it's much more than just a store. There's indoor and outdoor shooting facilities, archery camps for kids, private lessons and monthly tournaments from January through June.

"We cater a lot to kids and women and that's something a lot of other shops don't do," Pam Brookman said. "We're a very family-oriented facility."

Robert Brookman said that wasn't by accident. "We all know that if mom is happy, everybody is happy," he said. "If you get kids involved in something, the parents will follow. We're big on mom, dad, brother and sister. We've gone from a customer base of nothing to more than 1,300 customers.

"Business is great today, just great."

Brookman grew up in Princeton, W.Va., where bow hunting "is almost a religion." He moved to North Carolina in 1989, working part-time at archery facilities in Kernersville and Asheboro, while also helping build houses on the side. It didn't take long for him to realize that working



with archery was a lot more fun than pounding nails.

"Everybody told me I should get my own place, that I had the gift of gab and could sell ice to Eskimos," said Brookman. "But I didn't know. I wasn't sure. Finally, I just decided that when I turned 50 it was time for me to do my own thing."

While a high-quality bow can cost several hundred dollars, the sport is not an expensive one. "The big thing with archery is that once you buy the bows and arrows, that's all the cost there is," said Brookman. "You're not re-buying bullets. You pick the arrows from the target and go back and shoot them again."

Brookman says the sport of archery is booming in popularity and one of the reasons is Hollywood. Movies such as "The Hunger Games," "The Avengers" and Disney's "Brave" have helped grow the sport. "Those movies have just gotten more people involved in archery," he said. Memberships are available to DropTine Archery. The cost is \$150 annually for a

single membership and \$300 annually for a family of four. And there's no limitation on how often members can use the facility. "Members can come out here for eight hours a day and shoot as much as they want," Brookman said. "It's just something the whole family can do at an affordable price. Compare that with a family going to the movies, where you'll spend \$50 if you buy popcorn."

Safety is one of the things that's stressed at DropTine Archery. The first 15 minutes of any of the archery camp for kids is spent going over how to stay safe. "I know the kids get bored with it but it's the most important thing we can do," said Brookman.

The tournaments at DropTine Archery are once a month. They end after June because of the start of hunting season. Saturday's tournament had 11 preliminary categories: Elite Open, Senior Open, Men's Open, Women's Open, Young Adult, Elite Hunter, Men's Hunter, Women's Hunter and three other categories for younger archers. The top finishers in the adult divisions advanced to the Open Class Shootdown and the Hunter Class Shootdown.

There were 112 competitors at Saturday's tournament, the most ever at DropTine Archery.

There are 20 different targets to shoot at, ranging from deer, bear, wolves, cougars, warthogs, antelope and wild turkeys. The distance ranges from 50 yards for the more advanced shooters to 20 yards for the younger ones. The top amateurs receive trophies; the top professionals get up to \$100 for a first-place finish. An archer's score on each target is 12, 10, eight, five or zero.

When DropTine Archery first opened, Pam Brookman tried to explain to her husband the importance of social media, things such as twitter and Facebook. Robert Brookman didn't know about such new-fangled ideas, didn't care about them and didn't think his business needed them. "I just went ahead and did it anyway," Pam Brookman said. ■



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# A Look Ahead

## NEW NCWRC Bear Management Rules Are in Store For 2014.

by: Matt Jenkins

Well my first few steps into the political world of NC wildlife resources are now taken. For someone who would rather sit in a tree stand with my bow, I put on my political camo (*coat and tie*) and spent a couple days at the NCSU Centennial campus – home of the NC Wildlife Resource Commission. So it's now time to share some "Bear" Facts from the days.

According to Gordon Meyers, director of the NC Wildlife Resource Commission:

*"House Bill 296 established a \$10 black bear hunting stamp that, beginning after August 1, 2014, must be procured in order to lawfully hunt black bears. This stamp is in addition to other license requirements associated with harvesting big game species. This stamp will provide very important information about who and how many hunters are pursuing bears. The revenue from the stamp will be used for black bear research and management. The legislation also gave the commission authority to promulgate rules allowing the aid and use of certain baits. In particular and in accordance with several laws in combination, the commission may now adopt rules allowing for the take of black bears with the aid and use of unprocessed food. The commission's Big Game Committee will be examining rule proposal ideas in the next couple of months."*



Okay – first, let's talk numbers for a second: Since 1970, NC hunters have NEVER harvested more than 17% of the state's bear population..... never. And in a perfect world, this number needs to be around 24-27% annually in order to manage the population effectively and responsibly. *Translation: we have more bear in the state than we did in 1970 – so we need to promote interest in bear hunting.* But in truth, the NCWRC still does not have much information about bear hunters, and the passing of the bill will provide them with a tool to collect more data – helping to get the harvest up to proper management levels.

So the introduction of a new annual state-wide bear stamp fee of \$10 will begin in 2014. Much like other stamps (waterfowl, trout, etc.) the new stamp fees will go directly to manage the bear population. Sales of the stamp will also allow the WRC to get a good count of bear hunters in the state. Currently, the only data is derived from the harvest reporting checklist which provides the data of how many bears are taken, but it doesn't give an accurate count of how many hunters are trying to harvest a bear annually. It should be noted that the bear stamp will be free to current lifetime license holders.

**"If you're not working to protect hunting, then you are working to destroy it."**

*–Fred Bear–*

In the field, bill 296 begins to level the playing field for us (just a little) with the dog hunters. Where we could not hunt bear over any kind of bait (processed or un-processed) the dog hunters could run a bear off an unprocessed food plot without being in violation. Bow and gun hunters will now be able to hunt bear over unprocessed food sources (*details TBD*). We will still need to wait till the animal has gotten it's fill and walked away from that food source, but at least we are getting closer to a balance. This may help some people fill a bear tag and put the management of the population into check. ■



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# Raising A Stink About a Smelly Topic

By: Tony Robinson

Two hunters take position in their tree stands not far apart at the breaking of a new day in the late fall woods. This day in the season they are hunting is open for deer and bear both - and while hunter A's goal is to bag his first bear - hunter B's objective is to bag his first deer. Prior to leaving their vehicle and entering the woods, hunter B - the deer hunter - applies a few drops of pecan and vanilla extract to his outer clothing. He surmises that the odor would not only help block his own scent but serve as an attractant for deer as well. With the odor on his clothing and the bottle in his pocket he enters the woods in pursuit of his first deer. Anticipating being in the tree stand a long time, hunter A - the bear hunter - packs a few snacks and some lunch into his pack for later in the day. About mid-morning the hunter pulls out a jar of peanut butter, some crackers and a crisp apple to eat. This is helped along with a bottle of grape juice. For lunch he opens up a can of sardines and in spite of the strong odor, he eats them all with his leftover crackers. At the end of the day hunter B - the deer hunter - actually bags a bear, but discovers he is in violation of the law.

The NCWRC and the citizens of the state recently saw the state's game lands program reach its fortieth birthday. From the beginning the administrative code - known as state regulations - has made it unlawful to put food products on the game lands or hunt any game that is attracted to such foods. The exact wording reads:

**"No person shall place, or cause to be placed on any game land, salt, grain, fruit, or other foods without prior written authorization of the commission or its agent. A decision to grant or deny authorization shall be made based on the best management practices for the wildlife species in question. No person shall take or attempt to take any game birds or game animals attracted to such foods"**

Since that time, WRC personnel and hunters alike have never looked at having some type of scent creating substance on the hunter as being considered a food source for game when hunting on state-owned game lands - and the

state had no bear bait law with regards to game lands. Thirty-five years ago, the General Legislative Assembly passed an amendment to G.S. 113-291-1, which addressed bear hunting with the aid of bait. The exact wording of the law, which is still on the books today states:

**"No black bear may be taken with the use or aid of any salt, salt-lick, grain, fruit, honey, sugar-based material, animal parts or products, or other bait".**

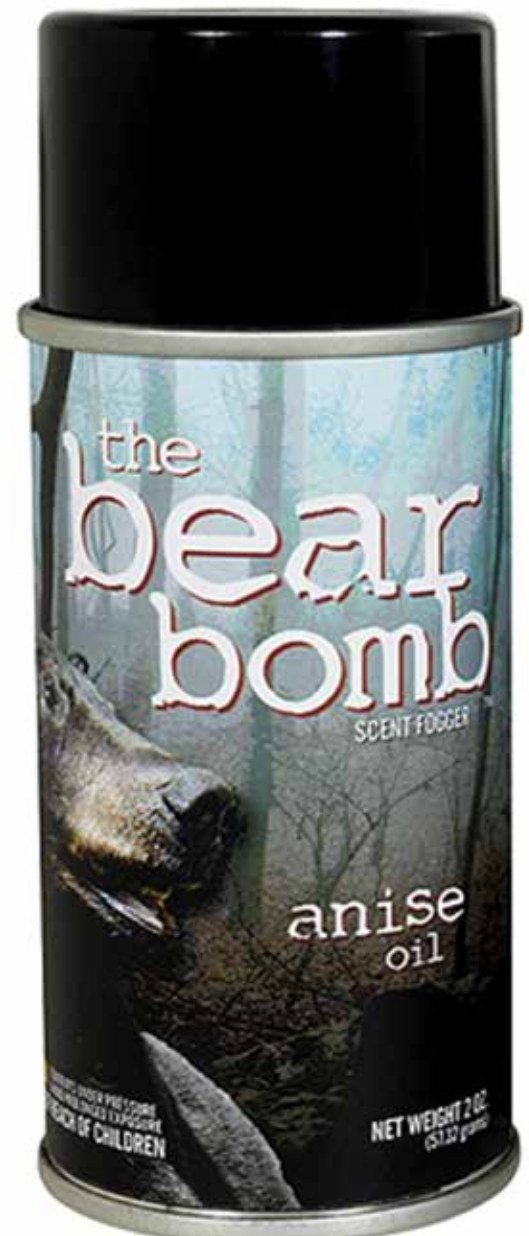
According to Dick Hamilton, onetime director of the NCWRC during many of those years:

**"It was never the intent of the agency to consider any odor creating material as bait as long as it stayed a part of the hunter and was never added to the grounds or left on site."**

Until five years ago, no one treated the fact that a hunter - even a bear hunter who was still hunting - had some type of scent about their person or stand, as hunting with the aid of bait. It was always *assumed* that hunting with the aid of bait meant that there was some amount, even a small amount, of some actual food substance or product placed and left in the outdoors. Due to the habits of some people putting large amounts of sugar-based foods on their lands, and confusion about the application of the then current bear baiting law, the General Assembly created a new law. Session Law 2007-96 Senate Bill 1246, titled: An Act to Prohibit Placement of Processed Foods in Areas Where the WRC Has Set an Open Season for Taking Black Bear. G.S. 113-294 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

**"It is unlawful to: Place processed food products as bait in any area of the State where the Wildlife Resources Commission has set an open season for taking black bears. For purposes of this subsection, the term - processed food products - means any food substance or flavoring that has been modified from its raw components, by the addition of ingredients, or by treatment to modify its chemical composition or form or to enhance its aroma or taste.**

**The term includes substances modified by sugar, honey, syrups, oils, salts, spices, peanut butter, grease, meat, bones, or blood - as well as extracts of such substances. The term also includes sugary products such as candies, pastries, gums, and sugar blocks, as well as extracts of such products. Nothing in this subsection prohibits the lawful disposal of solid waste or the legitimate feeding of domestic animals, livestock, or birds. The prohibition against taking bears with the use and aid of bait shall not apply to the release of dogs in the vicinity of any food source that is not a processed food product as defined herein."** *continued on page ??*



# Raising A Stink

continued from page ??

The 2007 amendment to G.S. 113-294 was passed on June 14, 2007 and went into effect on October 1 of that year. Nineteen days after the law went into effect the WRC passed a resolution that directed its employees to not treat certain substances that had historically been used by deer hunters as falling within the meaning of the law when used for deer hunting. In short the resolution read:

**"Since the new law did not limit such bait that is placed to attract black bears only, but applies to bait placed for any animal if the bait falls under the definition of processed food products and since many hunters routinely supplement natural foods for deer with commercially available mineral supplements marketed specifically for deer and since mineral supplements was not specifically addressed within the term – processed food products – then any commercially available mineral supplement, whether placed with unprocessed food products or by itself, shall be deemed by this Commission to be a processed food product within the meaning of G.S. 113-294. However, the placement of commercially available mineral supplements specifically and exclusively marketed for attracting or feeding deer shall not be considered illegal under G.S. 113-294. In addition, the prohibition against taking bears with the use or aid of bait shall apply to the release of dogs in the vicinity of any commercially available mineral supplement whether placed for the purpose of attracting or feeding deer or otherwise."**

If all of this is not confusing enough, here is where it gets even stinker. Conflicting with all historical interpretation of hunting with the aid of bait – not including an odor for the sake of just providing an odor by the hunter – the WRC is now attempting to treat an odor source used with the intent of attracting a bear the same as hunting with the aid of bait. This would be the case even if the material is never applied to the grounds or vegetation of the area being hunted. This is why hunter B is deemed as breaking the law – because his homemade scent is treated as a processed food that was used with intent as bait to bear hunt with. On the other hand, even though the new law provides no exception for hunters bringing scented processed foods to eat while hunting, it is assumed that the hunter could have and eat anything he wanted and it would not be bait. Odor producing scents, lures and other attractants have been a part of hunting for longer than anyone can remember, and the large assortment of flavors offered on the shelves of your local retailer, cover as many odors as species objectives. A new one titled "Bear Bomb" mimics scents that some claim is favorable to bears, may be the next stink that the states wildlife agency needs to address and clarify the legality of using odor simply for the sake of using odor as most hunters think that it is ok.

I would like to point out some important wording about the actual title of the recent bear bait (processed food law). Session Law 2007-96 Senate Bill1246, titled:

An Act to Prohibit Placement of Processed Foods in Areas Where the WRC Has Set an Open Season for Taking Black Bear. I would ask that close attention be applied to the title of this bill where it reads "An Act to Prohibit Placement of Processed Foods in Areas."

Seldom does a hunter venture into the woods who did not have an odor about him. Nearly every hunter has some type of snack or food item – which is technically a processed food – upon their person. They never intend to put this substance out on the grounds or vegetation and never consider it as bait. And according to a long-time wildlife resource advocate, the intent of the recent bear bait law was never intended to consider an odor source that was simply an odor source as bait – just as the intent was not that by the General Assembly, WRC and hunters back in the late seventies when the bear bait law was passed then as well.

Have we really reached a point where a hunter is going to be treated as a violator due to his smell? Or even his possible intent for smelling the way he does? If the law makes it a crime to simply have a bacon flavor scent sprayed upon ones clothing or blind – why wouldn't that same law make it unlawful to bring a bacon sandwich into the field for lunch. I hope the WRC will set the stage for getting this smelly issue clarified as soon as possible. ■

Tony Robinson / [decodydoc@charter.net](mailto:decodydoc@charter.net)



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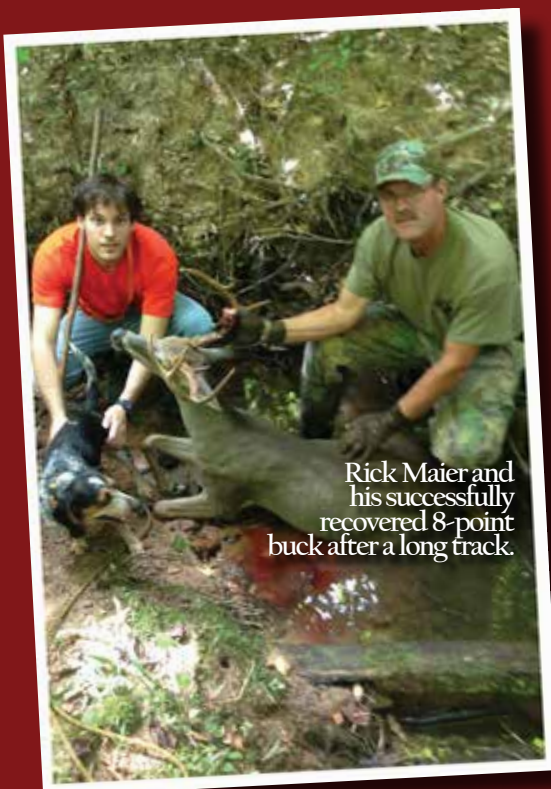
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# TRACKING YOUR ANIMAL

Kirk Vaughn, Country Boy Blood Tracking



“With no exit wound & very little visible blood to track, this hunter made the wise choice to call in the dog. As a long-time bow hunter he knew pushing the deer would be bad, and thought - when in doubt, back out. So he called in the blood tracking team for assistance. A trained blood tracking dog is still your best bet for search/recovery of a lost or hard to track big game harvest.”



Rick Maier and his successfully recovered 8-point buck after a long track.

I recently was able to experience how valuable of a tool a tracking dog is. I have been a dedicated bow hunter know for about 15 years. Although I have shot numerous does and some smaller bucks, I never have been able to close the deal on a trophy buck. I was hunting in an urban hunting environment one morning when I had what I would consider a trophy buck come into shooting range. It was only 15 yards away and I was about 15 ft high. With it quartering away and taking my height into consideration I sunk the arrow exactly where I thought it should hit. Well hind sight being 20-20, I should of aim slightly lower. A quartering away shot make you kill zone very small. The arrow went in hit a shoulder and did not pass through. The buck left with my arrow sticking out of the right side. I immediately thought no exit would, and assumed it was going to be a hard track. I didn't know how true that was.

After waiting an hour I got down and started scanning the open wood for him laying out there. No luck. I waited another hour and then carefully took up tracking. I was careful not to step anywhere I thought the buck may of step so I could go back and research should I lose the trail. Blood was very scares. A spot here another maybe 10 yards away. As I progress, at about 150 yards the blood just stopped. I continued down what I thought was the trail he would of taken, being very careful to stay off the trail. All the time thinking, I may need a tracking dog.

Our club has a member who has a tracking dog. When I could not find any more sign, I called the guy who had the dog. He could not get to me until he got off work at 6:00. I had a lot of time to worry about where my buck was. I called another member who has hunted this stand before and he explained to me where a deer he had shot went after the shot. So with this new info, I tried to use this to link it to where my deer might of went and carefully went to where I last had sign and headed in the new direction. I was about 100 yards from the last sign checking the obvious deer trail, looked down and saw a spot of blood. With new hope I pressed on to no avail. Then my member with the dog called and explained to me the track may be to cold for his dog by the time he could get to me and I may want to give Kirk Vaughn of Country Boy Tracking a call.

I called him and after a short question and answer about the shot, he said he would come right over. He arrived and went to work all the while explaining to me what the dog (Mac) was doing. It was pretty amazing how Mac would smell the small amount of blood then relate that to the unique smell of that particular deer. I was skeptical at first because a lot of people you meet that have hunting dogs tell you how great there dogs are only to find out that really was not the case. Although Kirk really never told me how great Mac was. He let Mac prove it himself. Mac would on occasion get off coarse only to circle back around and get back on the deer. About 3 hrs later after tracking down the ridge, across the road, through some thick woods, down a river bottom, through a gentleman's back yard and back to the creek he located my deer. It was a half mile away. It was every bit as impressive of a deer as I had remembered so many hours ago. As was Mac, my new hero. I am a testament as to how valuable of a tool that a tracking dog is. I would of never found that deer on my own. It would have been a terrible waste and a bad memory. Kirk does this without a cost. And even with a cost it would have been money well spend. So I felt compelled to make a small donation to Mac and Kirk so they can continue this great service. I cannot thank Kirk enough for the service he provides and though I hope I never need his service again, his number is saved in my phone.

Rick Maier  
NC Bowhunters/BCRS member

# TRACKING YOUR ANIMAL

by: Matt Jenkins

*Your chest is still pounding - your hands are still shaking - and it's hard to catch your breath. Less than a minute has elapsed since you've shot one of the biggest bucks you have ever seen and it happened so fast it's hard to believe. Your next steps will determine whether or not you'll recover your buck.*

The first impulse most hunters have – due to the excitement – is to bail out of your tree-stand and take off after him. Depending upon your arrow placement, this could be the biggest mistake you make. A deer that has not been hit with a quick kill shot will spook and make recovery much more difficult. Knowing where the animal is hit makes a difference in how you track him. Tracking a deer starts with choosing the right gear. Installing brightly colored fletching, such as white, orange, yellow or red will come in handy now that the big buck may be on the ground. In my back-pack I carry a book, journal or some other item to help me calm down, relax and occupy my time long enough to let him expire. Listed below are some types of hits and how you should proceed tracking for each.

**1) A lung-shot deer** will most times run hard for about 50 to 65 yards. After that he will usually walk until he falls. The blood will usually have tiny air bubbles in it. This blood trail usually gets better and heavier as you track the deer. However, if the deer is hit high in the lungs, the blood trail may sometimes become light and even disappear completely. The deer could be “filling up” inside with blood, showing very little external bleeding. The hair from the lung area is coarse and brown with black tips. The deer will usually go down in less than 125 yards. Give the deer 30 minutes before climbing down to track.

**2) A heart-shot deer** will often jump wildly when hit. The blood trail may be sparse for the first 20 yards and a heart shot deer could track as much as a quarter of a mile, depending on what part of the heart is damaged. Usually it will travel less than 125 yards. The hair from this shot will be long brown or grayish guard hairs. Again, a 30 minute wait is advised before starting your track. But, if while trailing you find where he has bedded back off and wait an hour before taking up the trail again.

**3) A liver-shot deer** is a definite killing shot. The liver lies against the diaphragm in the approximate center of the deer. The blood trail will be decent to follow and the deer should bed down and die within 200 yards, if not pushed. Wait one-hour however before climbing down. The hair from the liver area is brownish gray and much shorter than the hair from the lung area. If you push the deer out of his bed, back off and wait another hour.

**4) A gut-shot deer** is in my mind the most frustrating and difficult to recover because of the poor blood trail and the hunter's impatience to wait him out. A lot of bow-hunters want to hurry up and find the deer and will end up pushing it further and further from the stand. The liver and stomach are close together, so it is possible that the deer will go down and die quickly if the shot penetrated both. If the deer is dead in an hour, he will still be dead in 4 hours. Have patience, he will not go anywhere. Wait him out for at least 4 hours. An overnight wait is

recommended if the deer is shot in the evening. Back out of your stand quietly, get a good night's sleep and get back out at day-break.

A stomach shot deer will usually take several short jumps and commence walking or running. His back will usually hunch up and his legs will be spread wide apart. Hair from this wound area is brownish gray and short. The lower the shot is on the animal, the lighter colored the hair will be. The blood trail is usually very poor – with small pieces of ingested material (stomach contents) visible. If the intestines are punctured there will be green slimy material or feces. Take your bow with you because a second shot might be required.

**5) A spine-shot deer** will usually drop in his tracks or hobble off. Either way, a second shot will probably be required to finish off the deer. If a spine-shot deer hobbles off, wait a half-hour and track slowly and quietly. Look for the deer to be bedded down.

**6) A neck-shot deer** is a very tricky one, as the deer will either die within 100 yards or he will recover from the wound. The lower portion of the neck contains the windpipe, neck spine, and major (carotid & jugular) arteries. If the arteries are hit, the deer will run hard and drop in less than 100 yards. The blood trail will be easy to follow. A shot above the neck bone will give you a good blood trail for about 150 to 200 yards before quitting. The deer will more than likely recover for you to hunt him again one day.

**7) A hip-shot deer** is the only deer I recommend getting out of the stand and tracking immediately. The large (femoral) artery runs down the inside of each deer leg. This artery is protected from the outside by the leg bones. The femoral artery is most often severed from the rear or at an angle. If this artery is cut, the bleeding will be profuse and the deer will usually be found in less than 100 yards. The ham of a deer is very rich in veins - hence, it contains a lot of blood. Track him slowly and quietly to keep him moving (walking) to bleed him out.

If you jump him and he runs, back off for a few minutes then continue trailing. You want him to walk, not run. A walking deer is easier to trail.

**8) An artery-shot deer** will almost always go down in 100 yards or less. The aortic artery runs just under the backbone from heart to hips, where it branches to become the femoral arteries. The heart also pumps blood to the brain through the carotid (jugular) arteries. Sever any of the major arteries and you've got yourself a deer. There catch is, arteries are tough and it takes a very sharp broad-head to cut through them. A dull broad-head will merely push them aside as it travels through. Keep your broad-heads sharp! And like I said - once you arrow your buck - read, watch nature, text your buddies, heck start writing an article for the NCBA magazine. Just give him time to go down and die so you don't give yourself more work to do.

## TRACKING TIPS

\* After shooting the deer, stay in stand and be quiet for the recommended time. A noise might push a wounded deer away. He could be bedded down 100 yards (or less) away. It is now that I open my Scout-Look app and start looking at terrain maps in direction the deer fled.

\* Tie surveyor ribbon on the tree from my stand position and place an illumi-tack at eye level from where I shot. After getting my bearings on the terrain features near where the deer was standing – and where it ran too – I tie the ribbon and attach the illumi-tack before coming down. From the ground looking back up to the ribbon and illumi-tack, I can get a better visual for locating exactly where the deer was and went.

\* Before beginning the track, mark where the shot on the deer occurred with another length of survey tape and an illumi-tack stuck on a branch. I get a better visual bearing on the deer's direction - then I mark a way-point on my hunting app.

\* Periodically mark the trail with illumi-tacks . . . about every 20-25 yds. This will give you a line on the deer's travel. Mark each tack with a way-point.

\* When the arrow is found, check it for hair, tallow, blood, etc. to give a good clue on how to proceed with the track. Example: Tallow and slime means a wait of 4 hours (or in the morning). And yes – you guessed it – mark where the arrow was found with a way-point.

\* Check for blood carefully and walk to the side of the deer's travel path as to not disturb the blood.





*What clues do you see in this blood splatter?*

\* Look for blood on trees, saplings, and leaves that are about the same height as the wound. Blood will often-times rub off the body.

\* When tracking as a group, spread out a little. Keep noise to a minimum. One rule to think about - sometimes too many people is a bad thing. It might be better if only 2 or 3 people tracked the deer. If using a hunting app, stay in the middle - this way you have a centerline of where the group has searched.

\* While tracking if you jump a deer and it flags its tail, it's probably not your deer. A wounded deer will very seldom "flag." But check out the area where the deer was bedded for blood sign anyway.

\* Gut-shot deer have a habit of going to water. If you lose a gut-shot deer's trail, check out the water holes in the area. He could be down by one and quite possibly lying in one. Look carefully.

\* Tracking at night presents special problems with visibility. The blood and the deer will both be hard to see. A good flashlight designed for blood trailing is essential. If the deer is not hit well, and no rain is forecast, it's best to wait until the morning. If he is dead in 10 minutes or 4 hours, he will still be dead in the morning.

\* I should point out - if you aren't using a hunting app, you should carry a compass in your pack and keep a bearing log as the tracking trail gets longer.

\* It always helps to have someone who did not shoot the deer help with the blood tracking. Even an experienced hunter - in the excitement of the moment - misses things which could prove helpful.

\* Get down on your hands and knees when a blood trail is hard to see. While night tracking you can shine the light in the direction of travel and often see blood you missed when standing over it.

\* Look at the bottom of leaves on branches at deer body height. Sometimes as the branch slides along the body of a deer it is the under side of the leaf that picks up the blood.

\* Some shots that look good may be one lung or a poor liver hit because of the angle. These deer can take several hours to die. Be careful about pushing them too soon, since they will rarely leave much blood sign if they are jumped when bedded.

\* Keep look ahead as you blood track for deer and movement. The deer may still be alive and you might get a second shot off - or back off without spooking it.

\* Look for disturbed leaves, broken twigs and hoof prints as well as for the blood sign on hard to follow blood trails.

\* It is often hard to follow a blood trail in grass. Sometimes it seems that the blood falls all the way to the ground without hitting a single blade of grass.

\* Look for insects - clusters of ants, flies and daddy long-legs. You may find small drops of blood because these bugs are feeding on it.

\* Often when the blood trail seems to end you will find the animal off to one side and not in the same direction of travel. Don't keep your head glued to the ground, and look up occasionally, lol.

\* Listen for birds like magpies, jays, and crows. Sometimes they make a ruckus where the animal lies dead.

\* Be steady, patient and persistent!

\* Use your nose. sometimes you can smell a deer you can't see. A gut shot is even more likely to have a detectable smell.

\* A dog can often prove very useful. Even your house pet. They can see with their nose what we can not see with our eyes. If you are having problems tracking a deer - call Kirk Vaughn with the NCBA Blood Tracking Program to come help retrieve your animal.

\* If none of these tips helps you become a better tracker - I suggest only hunting with 4 inches of snow on the ground, lol.



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*Chris Lepley and his non-typical harvested over a HWI food plot.*

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# UNTRUTHS, MYTHS & FACTS ABOUT

By: Willem Frost

# Hunting Africa



Following Botswana's move in 2012 to do away with safari hunting – in favor of photographic safaris – Zambia has also announced that the tender for 19 hunting blocks has been canceled and the whole industry will be investigated. According to the Minister of Tourism and Arts, Sylvia Masebo, this decision is the result of the corruption within the Zambian Wildlife Authority and the hunting industry also. Hunting on other existing areas – and on private land – will not be affected (*as of yet*) and will continue as before. The moratorium on hunting is

thus probably only temporary. There is however also a moratorium on the hunting of lions and leopards which means the future of 'big cat' hunting is clearly in the balance. And whilst the minister must be duly commended for taking action against fraud and corruption, the consequences of banning all hunting – if this is indeed where the country may possibly want to go – will have disastrous consequences for the country's wildlife as well as the economy.

As could be expected, the anti-hunting fraternity availed themselves immediately of the opportunity to claim victory and to stir up further strife against hunting. Reading through some of the views and comments in the media, it is quite clear that anti-hunting sentiments are largely based on untruths and myths. Below, I will attempt to deal with these and also add some facts which the fervent anti-hunters are usually quick to conveniently ignore.

*Willem, Lorraine and Flippie Frost own and operate Matlabas Game Hunters in Horison, South Africa and are proud supporters of the NCBA*



## UNTRUTH:

Hunting is bad because trophy hunters weaken gene pools by shooting the best breeding bulls. Truth is that hunters seek the old bulls that have been displaced by younger bulls. These old bulls are past their breeding age and present the better trophies. Going through the Roland Ward and SCI record books, it will soon be noticed that new record animals are still being taken regularly. If the gene pools have been destroyed by the hunters, this would not have been possible.

## UNTRUTH:

Trophy hunters are responsible for the decline in wildlife numbers and do not care if species are hunted into extinction. This kind of accusation merely illustrates a total lack of insight into conservation and the hunting industry. The causes of the decline in Africa's



wildlife are well known: loss of habitat to ever increasing human settlements; overgrazing by cattle, goats and donkeys; logging that open hitherto inaccessible forests to poachers and bush meat traders; habitat degradation due to agricultural development and logging; excessive illegal and uncontrolled hunting in many parts of Africa; the bush meat trade that has now reached crisis proportions; and an apathy by African governments towards conservation. Trophy hunters take only a few animals on a very selective basis and do not affect the overall population.

### UNTRUTH:

Photographic safaris offer superior financial returns to hunting safaris. Anti-hunters often hang on to this myth as if it is the gospel truth. Fact is that nothing could be further from the truth, especially on privately owned land. To the best of my knowledge none of these claims have ever been proved by empirical research. There are, however, studies that have concluded decisively that game ranching offers superior returns to livestock farming, and we all know that game ranchers earn a substantial portion of their income from hunting.

I have personal experience of consumptive as well as non-consumptive utilization of wildlife on private land and have learned that hunting is far more profitable than photographic safaris, period. There are a number of reasons for this such as the inability of smaller reserves to compete with the national parks that can offer the 'big five'; the absence of geographic features that can act as a 'pull factor' or competitive advantage; lower numbers of wildlife; relative inaccessibility of the reserve or resort; etc.

### UNTRUTH:

Hunting is morally and ethically indefensible. This clearly not a statement of fact; it is merely an expression of sentiment. One should, however, recognize that hunting is not everyone's cup of tea, just like we are not all athletes or pianists or science fanatics or boozers. The fact that some element of human society does not like hunting (whether for sentimental reasons or otherwise), can never be grounds for banning hunting. If that was the case then man should, for example, probably ban boxing as a sport because there people who do not like boxing. Another example: where is the morality in allowing prostitution - and in some countries like Holland even certain drugs - but banning hunting on moral grounds? Those who object to hunting on moral

and ethical grounds often do not mind the raising and slaughtering of domestic livestock, provided it is done by someone else in some unseen place. It is inconceivable how such hypocrisy can be taken seriously. It also raises the question of fishing. If hunting is indefensible on moral grounds, then why should fishing not also be banned and the commercial fishing companies not also be closed? The arrogance of the conscience objectors to hunting to enforce their selective 'morality' on the rest of society is not only unacceptable, it takes us into the realm of the absurd.

## THE FUTURE OF 'BIG CAT' HUNTING IS CLEARLY IN THE BALANCE

### UNTRUTH:

Trophy hunters are ruthless, bloodthirsty killers that will shoot any animal that dare show its face. Again, this is not fact or even an argument; it is merely malicious mudslinging by the uninformed. I know a lot of hunters, professional hunters and outfitters and in my experience they are all upright citizens who care a lot about the natural world. Admittedly, the hunting industry also has its few rotten apples just like any other industry but these are not typical of the industry. The following analogy may illustrate the point: the fact that there are from time to time drunken drivers on our roads does not mean that the motor industry is bad or undesirable. I have been a hunter and hunting outfitter for many years and I do this proudly because I regard myself first and foremost as a responsible conservationist. Offending me with a string of insults (such as the bloodthirsty killer tag) is definitely not going to change my views. Also: all hunting organizations that I know of expect their members to abide by a code of ethics and to hunt responsibly and in the spirit of fair chase.

### FACT:

Anti-hunters deliberately do not differentiate between poaching and hunting. It is hard to believe that they do not understand the difference. So, it must be done to maliciously distort reality and to mislead the broader non-hunting public who do not know better. It is sad that those who claim to be walking the moral and ethical high ground, find it necessary to drag the hunting debate into the mud of untruths, twisted truths and misrepresentation.

### FACT:

South Africa, and possibly Namibia too, now have more wildlife than at any time since 1900. South Africa has, without a shadow of doubt, the most successful wildlife management model in Africa. The reason for this is that the country developed a multi-faceted conservation model that makes provision for private land and wildlife ownership, consumptive and non-consumptive use of natural resources, national parks and other public owned conservation areas that allows only game viewing tourism, and a well managed hunting industry mainly on private land. It has been estimated that the number of game animals on private land currently exceeds the total in the national parks and reserves by a couple of hundred percent. Whilst the gazelle and hartebeest numbers, for example, are declining sharply elsewhere in Africa, the red hartebeest and springbok is flourishing in South Africa and their numbers are on the increase. If it was not for the hunting industry this success story would not have been possible.

### FACT:

Those countries in Africa that do not allow hunting, has lost almost all its wildlife, due to a number of factors the main one being poaching. A good example is Kenya that has outlawed hunting in 1977 and since then its wildlife numbers have reportedly been on a steady but fast decline. There are already reports coming in from Botswana's Okavango Delta about poaching that has increased sharply since the withdrawal of hunting companies. In Malawi there is almost no wildlife outside of a few parks like Liwonde, Lengwe and Majete. Even Kasungu NP, once the home of healthy populations of elephant, puku, sable, etc, is now a wasteland. In West Africa most of the wildlife has disappeared into the cooking pots of the hungry masses. North Africa is even worse and uncontrolled illegal hunting is driving a number of species to extinction. It

## UNTRUTHS, MYTHS & FACTS ABOUT *Hunting Africa*

remains a mystery why the anti-hunting fraternity refuses to accept, in the face of overwhelming evidence, that poaching sharply increases in the absence of hunting. Another analogy may illustrate this naivety: it is like giving the keys of your Mercedes Benz, together with a case of whiskey, to a group of first year university lads and believing nothing bad will happen.

### FACT:

Leading conservationists from around the globe recognize the important role of hunting for conservation and are supportive of trophy hunting. We need look no further than the scientists of the World Conservation Union to find a rational perspective on the role of hunting. Not surprisingly, in 2012 the Species Survival Commission of the IUCN published their "Guidelines on trophy hunting". Sadly, the uninformed anti-hunting fraternity flatly refuses to acknowledge the insights of these leading scientists and conservationists. One can only conclude that many anti-hunters are NOT pro-conservation; they are only concerned about the shooting of a single animal.



### FACT:

There are areas in Africa that is not suitable for agriculture or photographic tourism. This is due mainly to the type of soil, low rainfall, and lack of water and other basic infrastructure. There are often also very few humans living in these areas. Best use for most of this land is to set it aside for hunting as photographic tourism is simply not viable in these areas. Unfortunately, the anti-hunters do not seem to be able to understand that there are different types of habitat; that there are limitations to land-use options; and that not all land is suitable for game viewing tourism.

### FACT:

Hunting leaves much less of a carbon footprint than photographic tourism. Hunters require much less in terms of infrastructure and facilities than game viewing tourists and they do not mind lower game densities or fewer species being around. Nor do they need scenic attractions in the absence of huge game densities; they accept nature for what it is. Hunting concessions are unquestionably more eco-friendly than the tourist camps in national parks and reserves.



### FACT:

Man was created as an omnivore that needs protein and wildlife is still Africa's main source of protein.

This means that poaching will not stop once hunting is outlawed. On the contrary it will increase as local communities have lost a controlled and legal source of meat. Farming with game animals to produce meat and related products is tricky and has had only very limited success so far. Yet the continent needs further research and experiments and pilot projects to make venison farming a reality – not to replace the wild populations, but to compliment the wildlife populations in parks, reserves and hunting areas and to compliment other protein producing projects. The South African game ranchers will probably have to take the lead in this – the most likely next major strategic

development in the industry. A lot can be learned in this regard from New Zealand who is one of the world's major venison producers. Unfortunately, one should expect a lot of obstruction from the so-called "animal lovers/anti-hunters" many of whom enjoy a beef steak but regard a kudu steak as 'morally indefensible'. These lunatics should best be ignored in our quest to conserve our biodiversity and to feed the hungry millions at the same time.

### QUESTION:

Africa's wildlife is not threatened by controlled trophy hunting; the threats arise from other well known causes. Yet one never sees the vehement anti-hunting agitators ever raising their voices over the horrors of the bush meat trade, the problems caused by logging of the forests, poaching, habitat degradation and destruction, or overgrazing by domestic livestock. One has to question why this is the case. The answer is probably a combination of irrational thinking, being brainwashed by disinformation, apathy towards conservation, lack of insight, and misplaced sentiment. ■

# SOUTH AFRICA HAS, WITHOUT A SHADOW OF DOUBT, THE MOST SUCCESSFUL WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT MODEL IN AFRICA.



*The Author, Larry Howell and his trophy impala*

I wake up Tuesday morning and realize I am in a strange tent. My watch reads 12:00 am and 32 degrees. My electric blanket has no adjustable thermostat, but it's warmth outweighs the cold tent in which I sleep. The sun will be up at 1:00 am my time - 7:00 am here in South Africa. I am 6 hours ahead of my home of Como N.C.

It's time to get moving - under armour first, then my camo. I gather my boots, hat and hearing aid - installing the little thing behind my ear. I grab my coat, unzip the door and head to the dining room for a hot breakfast. The rest of the hunting group begins to gather and everyone's joke on the last hunter to arrive is a greeting of, "good afternoon." The aroma of coffee fills the room and muffins are up for the taking. My guide for the trip is Johannes (*pronounced Yo-Hon*) and he is always joking with me . . . I tell him he talks funny and he says, "Ha, you sound funny to me also because of your accent." He is fluent in several languages - a must for his profession here in the African Brush.

We are hunting with Matlabas Game Hunters and their 7,000 acres in the Limpopo section of South Africa. This high-fence ranch is sectioned off in three parts so the population of the game animals can be better controlled. Shots with a bow usually are around 20 yards.

## The Hunter's Journal:



Yesterday afternoon I harvested a Red Hartebeest buck. It came in at around 3:00 pm with four females and another buck about the same size. It weighed about 350 lbs. Today's game list for me is either Blue Wildebeest or Impala, but you never know what might happen to show up for a drink at the water hole. Johannes tells me that there has been no rain since the 1st of April - and with today being July 23 - we are bound to see something come for a drink. He checks the wind forecast and picks one of his favorite stands for me. It is winter here and is always the driest time of the year. The summer brings the rains so it's the opposite weather pattern of what I know back home. Days start out being cold but by 1:00 pm you start pulling layers of clothing off - only to put them back on again before sunset. Afternoon temps can reach into the high 80's, but the grass thatched roofs are a foot thick and keep it cool and comfortable. A variable wind is the worst enemy of a bow hunter and is quite common this time of year.

The sun is coming up as we head out to the chosen stand in Johannes' truck, and as he drives the network of one lane red dirt paths, the sun glares into our windshield. A lot of dead grass covers the land and thorny brush must be dealt with as well. The tallest trees are about 15 feet and as we travel I notice lots of game tracks - some of which are quite large. Johannes has been hunting and guiding at Matlabas for 7 years now and can navigate anywhere he wants. Pulling up to the stand, I notice the white sand surrounding this waterhole has not one single square foot without animal tracks.

### 7:30 am

We climb up the stand and put up our drink cooler and bow. There are three plastic arm chairs that sit reasonably comfortable until the 5:30 pm departure time arrives. Johann takes the truck away then walks back, climbs up and sits - the hunt begins. As I start writing, Johann whispers and points toward the waterhole. I look and see a small animal that looks like a deer. It is only one foot high by maybe 18" long, a fawn. He whispers, "dika." I ask if she is weeks old - she is full grown carrying two pencil size horns about 3" long. I grab my video camera to shoot some footage before sitting back down.

### 9:00 am

Johannes whispers and again points toward the waterhole. He puts a finger to his mouth in the universal sign for "be quiet." I am sitting at the back right side of the blind. I get up and look out to see a large warthog drinking. His tusks are huge - in both height and length. I had already taken one late Sunday afternoon so I decided to pass on him and he wandered off after he drank his fill.

### 10:00 am

Johann is again getting my attention pointing under our blind and whispers, "water buck" again giving me the quiet signal. I stop writing and he whispers, "female." He points and holds up two fingers - four - then five. I get up to capture some video for a while. I sit back down to write and almost immediately Johannes points and says, "buck" - raising his hands high.

He points at my bow hanging on the stand and I get back up. I see horns about 3' tall – curving outward for a spread of about 18" and the diameter of a piece of 2" PVC. Beautiful but I have to turn it down. God has made a lot of big beautiful animals but he has yet to make my savings account equally as big – so I watch – as a total of 10 water bucks appear to feed and drink a mere 20 yards away. The action is so fast this morning that I can hardly keep up with my writing. Females are butting each other as they feed from the split 50 gallon barrels Johannes had put food pellets in. Supplements are needed this time of the year to keep the animals healthy.

### 9:45 am

A lone impala buck is coming in to join the 10 Water bucks. Johannes motions that the Impala is average big, so as he shares the water hole, I write. Some of the water buck females walk off about 40 yards and lay down. The big water buck walks off – then the Impala bolts off. Johannes motions to me that the wind swirled and he scented us. A few of the female water bucks continue to lie there resting.

There are a lot of pretty birds here – a red breasted cardinal, with black wings and head appears to drink, down tuned in vocal singing from all the birds we have at home. (Several) light blue chested birds with a raised crown above the head are about – sounding like deep throated crows. Sitting atop the tallest brush trees and acting like crows also, they must be on vacation too.

### 11:15 am

A female warthog runs up (*they never just walk*) – the difference between the males and the females have no warts on their snouts. They drink and Johannes motions to me – impala buck approaching slow with caution, making sure the area is safe. If there are no other birds or game already there having water buffet – looking like a party – entry time is much slower. My mind wonders a bit . . . I farm grain, so what would it be like to put corn out for these desert beauties as we do back in North Carolina. Johannes measures his overall appearance – antler size – markings for character – and motions to me – he is a trophy shooter. I take my bow down from the hook and prepare to draw for the shot as it drinks

from the water hole standing perfectly broadside. The only thing I did not like about the situation was the buck had its front leg angled mighty far back – almost covering the target of where I wanted to place the arrow. I aimed the arrow behind the shoulder – where I would not have to hit the leg bone – down at heart level as best I could – and . . . released the trigger.

As the arrow found it's mark on the Impala, he veered left with the blood pouring out both the side entrance and the bottom right side exit. "It hit the impala perfectly," Johannes said. With his remaining strength he hurdled over brush at full speed – running to get away from whatever had just happened at that water hole. Fifteen seconds later – his heart having pumped out all of his blood – he collapsed while running full speed. Johannes said, "that's how to get it done, man, the easy way to track is to have lots of blood." He had videoed the event and played it back for me at a remarkably slow speed and you could see the arrow hit – penetrate – and exit with blood evacuating immediately out a foot from each side of his body. The exit hole was visible and there was no doubt the arrow had busted the heart, it was a quick kill. He never knew what happened.

We prepared all of our gear, climbed down out of our grass thatched blind to go and retrieve the great impala. We went approximately 40 yards to find it lying on its side. Johannes said, "that's as nice as an impala gets to be." Congratulating me, he took some still pictures of the buck and I and then went for the truck. We loaded the impala, our gear and headed back to lodge for lunch. After nourishing ourselves, we dropped off the impala to be cleaned by camp members and headed out to a new waterhole – where blue wildebeest had been caught on game cameras.

### 1:00 pm

We are set back up and by 2:00 pm Johannes wakes me from my short "post lunch" nap. "Zebra coming in," he says. I look and here are four at 100 yards. They stand a lot – and approach very slowly. They are huge animals weighing around 500 lbs. each. They have moved to within 75 yards now – checking out the waterhole to make sure it is safe. They turn out to our right to circle before they come in. After watching them for 15 minutes, the wind enemy takes away our hidden identity and they bolt off.

### 3:00 pm

It's a beautiful afternoon and a female warthog decides to enter. They have the best noses but she manages to come in from the right after pausing a half dozen times to check out the area. She drank for at least 5 minutes non-stop – then stopped – turned around – put her long tail straight up – and trotted away.

Johannes and I were the first back to camp and several animals were brought in that afternoon. Benjy my son had taken an impala, Dave was successful taking a big kudu buck, Jeff harvested a gems bock. We all congratulated each other and shared beer and bourbon around the campfire and told our stories of the day's events. What a wonderful, warm feeling to share this hunt experience among friends.

William Frost, the developer and owner of Matlabas Game Hunters and his son Phillipe, gather around an outside fireplace illuminating the discussion and jokes about the days happenings. Lorain, William's wife, prepares the meals which consisted always of some type of venison meat that the hunters had harvested. The meals are served buffet style in the Trophy building with plenty of vegetables, casseroles, bread and homemade desserts. Fresh home-grown vegetables and fruits include lemons, oranges, grapefruit and all the fresh herbs she had in her garden. It reminded of 50 years ago, the way my Grandmother Howell would cook. I have waited to the age of 63 to make this long journey to such a wonderful hunting destination, and it reaches the top of any of my past expectations of harvesting quality trophy animals.

If you have the means go visit their 7,000 acre brush ranch. It will take you back 40 years. They choose to live their life with no pressure, very few neighbors and way out of town. Accommodations are great and you are always reminded if there is anything you need, they can get it for you.

Go for the fall weather they have in the middle of July (*South-African winter*) with mid-day temperatures ranging in the 80's and no insects. My thanks to the North Carolina Bow Hunters Association for making this once in a life time hunt for me and my son – The Best of The Best! ■

# FINDING THE RIGHT OUTFITTER FOR YOUR AFRICAN BOW HUNTING SAFARI

By Willem Frost

The success of an African safari usually starts with the selection of the outfitter with whom the safari is to be booked. The outfitters and professional hunters outnumber the available species to hunt by many times and it can be quite a daunting task to find the right outfitter for your African adventure, especially for first timers. It is thus understandable that the international sport hunter can be bewildered after a visit to a hunting show where he may meet several outfitters and professional hunters, some of whom will tell him almost anything he wants to hear. The information overload at some of the major hunting shows can be simply overwhelming, leaving the prospective hunter none the wiser. So, how do you select an outfitter for your trip to Africa? Below are a few pointers which may be helpful – especially for the novice African bow hunter. Following these will not necessarily guarantee success, but it will certainly reduce the risk of a disappointing experience.

Approaching a booking agent is one option but it is no guarantee of finding the right outfitter for a specific hunt. Booking agents usually represent some of the better known names in the hunting business, but they normally have only a limited number of outfitters on their “book” and they promote only these. They work for a commission and will usually pitch the outfitter that pays the best commission rates or that offers other incentives.



Photo of kudu by: Etienne Oosthuizen

Website research can be extremely useful. Outfitter websites usually provide some information on the species availability, the accommodations, rates and costs, etc. However, look out for obvious exaggerations. A common one is the brag about being the absolute best in the industry – nobody else can supposedly provide a hunt of similar quality. This is obviously to be taken with a pinch of salt. There are always a number of outfitters who could meet the hunter’s needs and who could provide a memorable hunting experience. Most of the braggards have no basis for a comparison, or grounds on which to base their claim of being better than all other outfitters. Treat them with caution. If you

want to have some fun, ask the bragging outfitter for a copy of the market rating which has found him to be numero uno.

Also look out for obvious omissions on the website. Is there a price-list? Bow hunters should specifically look for evidence that this is a bow hunting outfitter. Do you see only rifles on the photos on the website or are there bows as well? What do they tell you on the website about the blinds, the set-up at the waterholes and walk-and-stalk hunting? Do they have basic equipment like a bow press to do emergency repairs? Is there any evidence of a commitment to ethical hunting practices? Which associations do they belong to? Specifically, are they members of the local Professional Hunter’s Association and are you happy to hunt with them if they are not?

The majority of outfitters in Africa, by far, are rifle hunters. Few will however say no to the bow hunter when he comes along. There are only a relatively small group of outfitters that specialize in bow hunting. It would be advisable for the bow hunter to book with one of these established bow hunting outfitters in order to reduce the risk of a safari not meeting with expectations or promises due to the outfitter’s inexperience and lack of bow hunting skills. Some bow hunters insist on hunting only on ‘bow hunting only’ concessions; make sure about this if ‘bow hunting only’ is one of your requirements.



References from friends and colleagues or other independent individuals can be extremely valuable. Their experiences should normally weigh much more than the outfitter's sales pitch. You may also ask the outfitter for a list of references; most outfitters will have a list ready. Many outfitters do not publish the contact details of their references on the website in order to protect them against spammers. So, you will have to ask. Ask the references about their view of the value-for-money proposition; the accommodations and food; the skill and behavior of the professional hunter(s); the trackers and the recovery rate; the availability of species and the general trophy quality. How was the hunt conducted? Is it fair chase? Do they shoot from vehicles? Have they been back to this outfitter or will they return? etc., etc.

Another useful tool is the Bowsite and Outfitters Rating websites ([www.bowsite.com](http://www.bowsite.com) and [www.outfittersrating.com](http://www.outfittersrating.com)). These sites offer comments on outfitters by previous hunters. It would be worthwhile for the prospective hunter to see if there is a common thread through the comments.

Meeting the outfitter prior to booking a hunt is recommendable whenever possible. Use your people judgment skills and experience to assess whether you would be happy to spend two weeks or more with this particular individual in the middle of nowhere.

Some hunters go to hunting conventions specifically to buy donated hunts at discount prices. Although this can lead to real bargains, it is a risky approach if you know nothing about the outfitter

and his operation. Things of real value in life are not bought on the basis of price; nor should a hunting safari be bought solely on the basis of pricing. Do look out for obvious overpricing though. The same cautious approach should be followed when unrealistic cheap packages are being offered. Remember: when something seems too good to be true, it usually is too good to be true.

Most of Africa's bow hunting outfitters are based in South Africa, but there also excellent outfitters in Namibia, Zimbabwe and elsewhere. The species on the hunter's wish list will most of the time determine where he goes. For a first time African bow hunt, however, one cannot go wrong by going to South Africa or Namibia. Africa consists of a great variety of habitats and most game species are usually confined to a specific habitat. Discuss the species you wish to hunt beforehand with your outfitter and seek his guidance on where to hunt which species. Do not expect all species in the same location or habitat. Most hunting concessions nevertheless usually offer an impressive species list to the visiting hunter, particularly for first timers. In any event, make sure the species you are after will be available from your outfitter.

If you are taking non-hunters along, it would be essential to find out beforehand what activities and excursions are available for non-hunters.

In summary: an outfitter experienced in African bow hunting with a reputation for professionalism, ethical hunting practices, good interpersonal skills and unquestionable integrity (all vouched for by previous hunters), will go a long way to ensure a memorable safari.



# THIS WILL NOT JUST SIMPLY BE A VISIT TO AFRICA; BUT INSTEAD AFRICA WILL BECOME A PART OF YOU FOREVER!

Below:  
Matlabas Game Hunters provides a full-service facility with a variety of hunting opportunities.





# 7th Annual NCBA Bowfishing Tournament



Sydney Webb proudly shows off the new AMS Bowfishing reel she won!

The 7th annual NCBA Bowfishing Tournament was held on May 17 & 18, 2013 at Jordan Lake and was a very fun event for the members who participated. There was a large number of fish taken, laughs had and memories made – all for a great cause as the proceeds from the event go to the NCBA Land Acquisition Fund. Muzzy and AMS Bowfishing provided some very nice door prizes for the event. If you've never tried bowfishing – there are plenty of fellow NCBA members who are more than ready to initiate you into the sport. Make sure you circle this event on your calendar and plan to attend in 2014! And remember what they say, "When the fish ain't bitin' – Go bite them!"



## SHOUT OUTS TO THE NCBA PEEPS!



A Big NCBA Thank You goes out to William Newton and his grandson for running the archery program at the North Carolina Trapper's Association state meeting on Sept 27 - 28, 2013.

A shout out to all of the NCBA local clubs - start sending in your happenings and going's-on so we can get them into the magazine. We are going to start having a "local spotlight" article in every issue!



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28th Annual NCBA Convention, Banquet & NCBA Archery Tournament & Shoots

Kerr-Scott Building  
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Feb. 28 thru March 2, 2014  
Fri.-9am-8pm | Sat.-9am-4pm | Sun.-9am-5pm  
(Shoots will close at 4pm on Saturday to set up for banquet)

- Open to the Public -

**DIXIE DEER CLASSIC**  
\$10 per person for entire weekend  
Under 12 get in free

**NCBA AWARDS BANQUET**  
Saturday Night - March 1st  
6 p.m. / Dinner starts at 6:30 p.m.  
Banquet Tickets-By Reservation ONLY!  
Adults: \$25; Under 12 get in free  
\$10 Cover Charge w/out meal (at door)

Contact Deann Stone (919)477-7184;  
Email: stoney45@nc.rr.com

Premium Raffle Tickets: \$100 each ...  
Check our Website after January 15 for  
up-to-date info on all the great hunts!

For general information call:  
919-302-2102 or 828-553-0083  
Premium hunts/raffle info:  
828-553-3023

- Motel Reservations -

Days Inn | Raleigh Beltline  
919-878-9310  
\$49.95 per night + Tax  
Rate good thru 2/15/2014  
(Ask for the NC Bowhunter special rate)  
Includes Continental Breakfast

Red Roof Inn | Cary  
919 469-3400  
\$44.99 per night + Tax  
Rate good thru 2/15/2014  
(Ask for the NC Bowhunter special rate)

Camping available  
Call N.C. State Fairgrounds  
to make your reservation  
919-821-7400

Trail Cam Photo, Video  
& Photo Contest

To enter, stop by a NCBA booths in either  
Dorton Arena or the New Expo Building

president@ncbowhunter.com  
www.ncbowhunter.com

# 2014 NCBA RABBIT BOWHUNT

Saturday, January 25, 2014

Starting at 9:00 a.m. Rain or Shine!  
Meet at: "4 Corners" Intersection of US 158 and Hwy. 119 in  
Caswell County; or, drive about 1 mile north on Hwy. 119 and  
look for us on the left. You'll see a bunch of vehicles parked  
approximately 150 yards off the road, next to a barn.  
GPS Coordinates: N 36.40968; W 079.20856  
Call: Mickey Strader (336) 339-9095



This event is open to NCBA members  
and non-members alike.  
NORSVP Required! Lunch provided.  
Homemade Chile & Hot Dogs!  
NO BROADHEADS! Field points  
w/ Washers or Adder-Points, Judo  
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# 2014 NCBA ELECTIONS

Ballot for the election of executive officers

President  Andy Smith (or)  
 Mickey Strader

Vice President  Joey Thompson

Treasurer  J R Stone

Secretary  William Newton

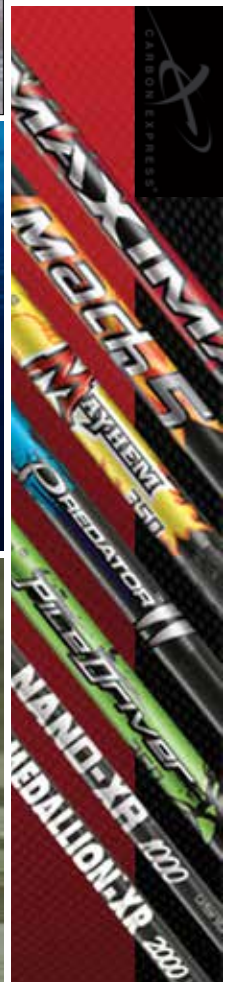
Editor  Matt Jenkins

Please mail your ballot to: William Newton  
454 Lamb Rd.  
Snow Camp, NC 27349

(Note: You may also hand-deliver your ballot to William)

All ballots must be in a  
"single envelope" with  
the members name ,  
return address and the  
word BALLOT printed  
below the address - as  
the sample below:

John Q. Member  
1234 Main St.  
Anycity, NC 27123  
**BALLOT**



# 2014 NCBA BANQUET Awards Program Guidelines

## It's Time to Turn in Your Nominations/Packets for Bowhunter of the Year & Local Chapter of the Year Awards. Have your animals scored and turned in to the Records Chairman.

Guidelines for our annual awards as determined by the NCBA Executive Council, have been formulated and finalized. Please read them carefully to see if you or anyone you know would fit any of the categories listed. You may submit your own nomination and resume or do one for someone else. The awards are for you, the members of the NCBA. If you know of someone who deserves recognition but may feel uncomfortable submitting their own resume, please don't hesitate to contact one of the council members.

*NOTE: For the year 2013, we ask that nominations & resumes be mailed, emailed or hand-delivered so that the President, or any Executive Council member receive them no later than January 15, 2014.*

The awards guidelines are as follows:

### BOWHUNTER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Bowhunter of the Year Award is designed to recognize special efforts or accomplishments by a NCBA member in the field of bowhunting. A new nomination ballot went into effect January 1, 2011. REFER to the NCBA website for interactive copies of this form.

1. Nominations may be submitted to any member of the Executive Council using the standard form for these awards no later than January 15th.
2. Nominations may be submitted by any member including the nominee. The person submitting the nomination and resume is responsible for the credibility and accuracy of its contents.
3. The nomination, which will encompass the preceding year from January 1st thru December 31st, must outline the hunting skills or accomplishments of the hunter. Some things which may be considered, but not limited to, are: Time spent in pursuit of game; Knowledge of the game and its habits; Physical effort put forth; Preparation for the hunt; Woodsman-ship; Ethics; Type of game pursued; Variety of game pursued. (See new guidelines on our website.)

*NOTE: Monetary cost and expenses incurred may NOT be mentioned in the resume or considered by the Executive Council when naming the award winner.*

4. The winner of this year's award will be chosen by using of the new nomination and scoring system. (See new guidelines on our website.)
5. The recipient of this award will be recognized at an annual awards banquet and receive a plaque or other concession which will be decided by the Executive Council.
6. The recipient of this award is limited to NCBA membership.

### FEMALE BOWHUNTER OF THE YEAR AWARD – YOUTH MALE BOWHUNTER OF THE YEAR AWARD – YOUTH FEMALE BOWHUNTER OF THE YEAR AWARD

*\*\* Same guidelines apply for these three as for BOWHUNTER OF THE YEAR*

*For YOUTH awards, nominees must have been under the age of 16 on the date any animal was harvested, or for any journal entries to be considered. The youth or his/her parent/guardian must also have been an active member of NCBA on the date of harvest.*

### NCBA PRESIDENTIAL AWARD

The purpose of the Presidential Award is to recognize the special efforts or contribution of a single person or group who's actions have best benefited the purpose and causes of the North Carolina Bowhunters Association.

1. A resume of the person or groups action and how it has benefited NCBA must be submitted by the January EC meeting, preceding the Annual Awards Banquet.
2. The resume shall encompass the activities or contribution during a period from January 1st through December 31st of the year preceding the Awards Banquet.
3. All resumes shall be submitted to the President by the January EC meeting. ONE winner will be chosen by the President. If no resumes are submitted, the President may choose someone to receive the award and it will be announced at the EC awards banquet on Saturday night.
4. Recipients shall be recognized by NCBA at an Awards Banquet and receive a plaque or other concession which will be decided by the President.
5. The recipient shall be recognized by NCBA at an Awards Banquet and receive a plaque or other concession which will be decided by the President.
6. This award is "optional" and will be given at the discretion of the President.
7. The recipient(s) of this award is NOT limited to NCBA membership.

### LOCAL CHAPTER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The purpose of this award is to recognize the special efforts of a local chapter club in promoting bowhunting and furthering the cause of the North Carolina Bowhunters Association. A new nomination ballot went into effect January 1, 2011. REFER to the NCBA website for interactive copies of this form.

1. A resume of club activities during the period of January 1st through December 31st must be submitted to the Executive

Council by the January EC meeting of the following year, preceding the Annual Awards Banquet utilizing the new format for selecting the winner of this award.

2. Categories may include but are not limited to: Promoting Bowhunting; Educating Bowhunters; Community Service; Conservation; Money Raising Projects; Bowhunter Defense; Membership Recruitment.. (The new nomination format went into effect January 1, 2011 and must be utilized for this award.)

3. All nominations shall be submitted to the Executive Council no later than January 15th. The winner will be chosen using the new nomination and scoring system adopted for this award, which can be found on the NCBA's website.)

4. The recipient of this award will be recognized at an Annual Awards Banquet and receive a plaque or other concession which will be decided by the Executive Council.

5. The recipient of this award is limited to NCBA local chapter club membership.

### MOST ACTIVE NEW LOCAL CHAPTER AWARD

The purpose of this award is to recognize a new local chapter club and their efforts to promote Bowhunting and further the cause of the North Carolina Bowhunters Association.

1. A resume of the clubs activities during the past three years, but not to exceed 36 months, must be submitted to the Executive Council no later than the January EC meeting preceding the Annual Awards Banquet utilizing the new format for selecting the winner of this award.

2. Categories may include but are not limited to: (Same as for LOCAL CHAPTER OF THE YEAR, item #2 above.)

3. The winner will be chosen using the new nomination and scoring system which can be found on the NCBA's website.

4. The recipient of this award will be recognized at an Annual Awards Banquet and receive a plaque or other concession which will be decided by the Executive Council.

5. The recipient of this award is limited to NCBA local chapter club membership.

### OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARDS

The purpose of this award is to recognize the outstanding services, contribution, or commitment to NCBA by an individual, club or group.

1. Members of the Executive Council shall



## Awards Program Guidelines continued

provide nominees, and a reason for the nomination for this award and the winners will be decided by a simple majority vote of the Executive Council. Nominations must be made no later than the January EC meeting preceding the Annual Awards Banquet.

2. The recipients of this award are NOT limited to NCBA membership.

3. The recipient of this award will be recognized at an Annual Awards Banquet and receive a plaque or other concession which will be decided by the Executive Council.

### NCBA BYRD BUILT GOLDEN ARROW AWARD

The "NCBA Golden Arrow Award" was founded by Kenneth Byrd of "Byrd Built Custom Arrows" in 1996. Nominations are submitted to the NCBA Executive Council each year and the winner is determined by majority vote of the council. The award is given to a bowhunter who has been "Physically Challenged" and faces physical adversities which would normally prevent him/her from participating in the sport of Bowhunting. The recipient may, in fact, NOT be able to bowhunt any more! In many cases, the recipient has (legitimately) qualified for the special cross-bow permit, but has chosen to continue to shoot either a traditional or conventional (compound) bow. The recipient of this award is limited to NCBA membership. Nominations should be submitted to the NCBA President each year no later than January 15th for the previous year's award.

### LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS

The secretary shall present any LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP applications received during the previous calendar year to the Executive Council no later than the January EC meeting, preceding the Annual Awards Banquet. Applications will be read aloud and reviewed by the Executive Council.

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP applications will be voted upon by the Executive Council. Final approval by a majority vote of the Executive Council is required.

### NCBA BOWHUNTER HALL OF FAME

Nominations may come from any active NCBA member in "Good Standing" and must be received by the president or any member of the Executive Committee no later than the January EC meeting in order to be considered for acceptance into the "Hall" each year. Nominations must be accompanied by an essay, resume and any other documentation available which would help justify consideration and

acceptance of the nominee. There is NO time limitation for documentation of information in the resume. The nomination must also be signed by at least three other NCBA members upon being submitted to the Executive Council for consideration. The recipient of this award is limited to NCBA membership.

### CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE HALL OF FAME

There shall be three "classes" or categorical requirements for membership. These are: "Pioneering", "Service" and "Bowhunting Accomplishments." Nominees must satisfy the requirements of at least "one" of these "classes" to be considered for acceptance.

AWARDS will be presented to new inductees into the "HALL" at the Annual NCBA Awards Banquet, if possible. These awards may take the form of a certificate or plaque, as deemed appropriate by the Executive Council. The design and wording shall be standardized and approved by the Executive Council.

### OUTSIDE AWARDS (FOR non-NCBA MEMBERS)

#### ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD

#### N.C. BIOLOGIST OF THE YEAR AWARD

#### WILDLIFE COMMISSIONER OF THE YEAR AWARD

#### N.C. LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

(These are optional awards which may be given at the discretion of the Executive Council) The purpose of these awards is to recognize the outstanding service or contribution to NCBA and Bowhunting in North Carolina by a single individual or each of these four groups.

1. Members of the Executive Council shall provide nominees and a reason for the nomination by the January EC meeting.

2. The resume should encompass the preceding years accomplishments beginning December 1st of the previous year through November 30th of the current year, prior to the upcoming NCBA Annual Awards Banquet.

3. The winner(s) shall be chosen by a simple majority vote by the Executive Council.

4. The recipient of these awards will be recognized by NCBA at the Saturday night Annual Awards Banquet and receive a plaque or other concession which will be decided by the Executive Council.

### NCBA FRED BEAR AWARD

The Fred Bear Award was proposed by: Mickey Strader in 2011. Ryan Miller wrote the following definition and captured the meaning of this award in 2013:

This award recognizes the extraordinary achievements made in the sport of archery as defined by the career of Fred Bear.

The essence of this award goes beyond hunting with bow and arrows. It goes beyond the successes, discipline, patience, perseverance, skill, and outdoorsmanship that the recipient also shows. This award is not given as a result of popularity or bowhunting achievement, but rather for someone that has displayed a lifetime connection to archery as a teacher, mentor, guide, leader and defender. This award is for someone whose involvement will be long felt in archery and bowhunting for years to come in our state.

The recipient of this award has put their life and spirit into the promotion of our sport. Not only to spread their love of archery to countless others through his (her) selflessness, but also to encourage wildlife management through sound practices that balanced the wants of the hunter. He may have held many positions in the NCBA. With each of them, he brought his dedication, heart and soul into the position. He always respected his fellow archers and wanted to help them improve.

Each time we go to the woods carrying a bow, or work with a beginner new to archery, we think of the person that is being honored with this award. Just as Fred Bear would say, "Pick a spot", the winner of this award has picked a spot in the history books of archery in the state of North Carolina, and for that, we honor the recipients with the North Carolina Bowhunter's Association's Fred Bear Award.

Nominations should be submitted to the NCBA President when appropriate, but no later than the January Executive Council Meeting for the previous year's award. It is awarded when appropriate to current or past members of NCBA who are deemed worthy to receive it by the NCBA Executive Council.

Past winners of the Fred Bear Award are:

**2010 Sylvester (J.R.) Stone, Jr.**  
(Regular & Service Life NCBA Member; Sec/Treas; 2002-2014)

**2012 Ramon N. Bell**  
(Regular & Service Life Member; Records Chairman 1982-2004; President; 2005-2013)

# N. C. Bowhunter Association Membership Application

*Enclosed is my check/money order for membership in the N.C. Bowhunters Association. With this membership, I pledge not to intentionally violate the game laws of North Carolina and to abide by and support the Constitution and Bylaws of the N.C. Bowhunters Association*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY or TYPE**

**SIGNATURE:**

**FULL NAME:**

**Called By:**

**St Address:**

**DOB:**

**City/State:**

**Wildlife District #**

**Zip Code:**

**County:**

**Phone # include area code:**

**Cell #:**

**E-mail address:**

**Referred by (NCBA member or other):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Hunting Clubs you belong to:** \_\_\_\_\_

- New Member -- \$30** ..... \_\_\_\_\_
- Renewal Member -- \$30** ..... \_\_\_\_\_
- Life Member -- \$450 (quarterly payments available) ...** .....
- Life Member -- \$100 (Infant)** ..... \_\_\_\_\_
- Life Member -- \$250 (Youth or Senior)** ..... \_\_\_\_\_
- Member's Spouse or Child -- \$15...(circle one).....** .....
- Military Service Disabled -- \$15.....** .....

**Note:** Birth Certificate w/Infant & Youth; Birth Certificate or valid driver's license w/Senior

- Donations:**
- Land Acquisition Fund..... \_\_\_\_\_
  - Memorial Endowment Fund ..... \_\_\_\_\_
  - JR Wright Mem. Endow. Fund ..... \_\_\_\_\_
  - Records System ..... \_\_\_\_\_
  - Youth Education Fund ..... \_\_\_\_\_
  - General Fund ..... \_\_\_\_\_
  - Bowhunter Defense Fund ..... \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Membership & Donations..** \_\_\_\_\_

Mail check, payable to NCBA, with **COMPLETED** Application to:..... Maria Bell

**NCBA Membership Services**  
7796 NC Hwy 68 N  
Stokesdale, NC 27357

**Comments & Suggestions--(please list any activities/programs where you could volunteer your time & talents):**

**(FOR INFORMATION:**

call Membership Services: (336) 643-4455 or visit website: [www.ncbowhunter.com](http://www.ncbowhunter.com) or e-mail: [maria\\_7796@yahoo.com](mailto:maria_7796@yahoo.com)

# The Legend Continues.



Ben Pearson Archery is wholly dedicated to the products we make and the customers we make them for. The legend of archery excellence was forged many years ago by Ben Pearson himself and that commitment to excellence remains true today.

We are committed to building the most technically advanced bows on the market – fast, smooth, light & easy to shoot are our priorities. Our design and engineering team pioneers new concepts for our product line utilizing the latest, most advanced materials and technologies available – and consistently bring you the best performing bows in the world.

Ben Pearson Archery's full line of products are born from passionate bowhunters and archers who tirelessly work to remain the leaders in the advancement of bow technology. We are dedicated to living this lifestyle so, every product we make is designed with a bowhunter's mentality. We have experienced the many hours of practice, scouting and hanging stands for ourselves. And we know the money our customers spend each year – so we spend the many hours developing products to meet the rigorous standards you've come to expect when you purchase a bow from Ben Pearson Archery.



**BEN PEARSON** Rebirth of a Legend.

2172 West 9 Mile Road #347 Pensacola, Florida 32534 [www.benpearson.com](http://www.benpearson.com)



### NCBA Member Discount

Please present this coupon and your NCBA membership card at time of purchase to receive the discount. May not be combined with any other offer. Subject to change without notice.

## BLACK CREEK SPORTS SHOP

270 GRACE ROAD  
BENSON, NC 27504  
919-625-0825



### NCBA Member Discount

Please present this coupon and your NCBA membership card at time of purchase to receive the discount. May not be combined with any other offer. Subject to change without notice.

## JOHN'S ARCHERY PRO SHOP

2039 PORTER ROAD  
GREENVILLE, NC 27834  
252-227-2114



### NCBA Member Discount

Please present this coupon and your NCBA membership card at time of purchase to receive the discount. May not be combined with any other offer. Subject to change without notice.

## EAGLES FLIGHT TRADITIONAL ARCHERY

1626 TROLLINGWOOD-HAWFIELD ROAD  
MEBANE, NC 27302  
919-563-2682

## FREE TARGET

### NCBA Member Discount

Please present this coupon and your NCBA membership card at time of purchase to receive the target. May not be combined with any other offer. Subject to change without notice.

## S&S GRAHAM ARCHERY RANGE

1700 NORTH MAIN STREET  
CHINA GROVE, NC 28023  
704-855-1300

NC Bowhunter  
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7796 NC Hwy 68 N  
Stokesdale, NC 27357  
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