

A Traditional Bowhunting Organization

United Bowhunters of Illinois

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Fall 2017



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If you would like to have an article, letter, photograph or other item published in the newsletter, send it to the editor.

All MS Windows based PC programs/formats can be used. All materials submitted become the property of the United Bowhunters of Illinois and we reserve the right to edit or reject any material submitted.

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Presidents Report - Tim Nuss

By the time you read this, hunting season will be well under way. I hope that all of you have the most enjoyable and safest time afield that you have ever had.

Things are going to be a lot different for all of us this year. The day we all fought against for a very long time has been forced upon us, the legalization of crossguns in our Illinois Deer season. It is a bitter pill to swallow. I have been told for a very long time that it would happen. I just didn't want to believe it. I have always felt that crossguns didn't belong in any part of archery hunting. They are a gun not a bow, I will always say that they belong in gun season not bow season. I was also appalled by the way it was rammed through our Illinois legislative bodies, and who was behind the push to get it done to us. It also hurt me a great deal that so few came to the defense of bowhunting. It is all about the Money.

We also have been dealt a blow with the drastic drop in legal minimum pull weight being lowered to 30 pounds at some point with in a 28-inch draw and a minimum arrow length is 20 inches. That will hurt all bowhunters overall. We will see and hear about more wounded game animals than we ever have. When you add up the light weight draw, the small arrow and let's not forget the sold everywhere mechanical broadhead, that adds up to lots of wounded animals. And we know who will take the blame for that. We will have to defend and do everything that we can to protect our reputation as the ultimate conservationist. With all this being said, we know that we have our work cut out for us. That is why I am so very thankful for the great people of the U.B.I.. We know that our legislators have let us all down. I also know that we have to put more pressure on any and all of them that will listen. If they will not listen or open a dialog you need to remember that whenever they come around with their hand out or ask for your vote. We put them in office we can take them out of office just as easy.

I am really looking forward to going out hunting this year. It just seems like with work, family and church activities there just isn't enough time to do everything that I want to do. But this year like no other I am going to do everything that I can to spend as much time hunting and enjoying every minute of it. I am not saying that church, family and work responsibilities are not as important as bowhunting, but for my all-around wellbeing I need that time. So as with most of us, this is a season of a balancing act. Let me know if you have any advice on how you balance things like this.

The date, time and place are set for our U.B.I. Annual banquet. It is March 3rd, 2018 at the Northfield Inn, Suites and Conference Center. The address is 3280 Northfield Drive, Springfield, Illinois, 62702 Phone number is 217-430-7900. Mr. Rick Duggan will be our keynote speaker. Mr. Duggan is one of the most accomplished traditional bowhunters of today. He has completed the North American Super Slam, all 29 big game species with his recurve. If

you have a chance check him out online. We will also have some other fantastic seminars going on throughout the day. One being my good friend and mentor Jason Wesbrock. As most of you know Jason is a world renowned archer, very accomplished bowhunter, regular contributor to publications like Traditional Bowhunter Magazine, Archery/Bowhunter trainer and so many other things. He is and has been a member of the United Bowhunters of Illinois for a very long time. Jason will be doing a great seminar on "Alternative Aiming Methods for Bowhunting". It is going to be a fantastic weekend. We will have lots of great seminars and vendors to look forward to. The plans will be finalized very

soon and we will get as much information out to you as soon as possible.

I would like everyone that has considered submitting an article for our newsletter to please do so. Any pictures with a brief description would be greatly appreciated. And don't forget our website at www.unitedbowhuntersofillinois.org. We also have a great Facebook Page. So please check us out and tell everyone to look us up on social media.

Like I said earlier we have a lot of work to do and great times ahead if we pull together and encourage new members to join us. I would also like to have everyone reach out to past members to get them back and always be looking for new members.

Tim Nuss

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From the “Farr Side of Fulton County” - Jason Farr

Dear Traditional Bowhunters,

By the time this newsletter gets to you the rut may be showing its signs. Either way fall is finally here! It's a great time to be a bowhunter! I've got some great pictures this summer of a few mature bucks and this will be my first season hunting with wood arrows shot from a bow I helped build. Needless to say there's a lot of anticipation in my 2017/2018 Illinois whitetail season.

Almost every day throughout the summer I am preparing for this special time of year. It's a labor of love that kind of consumes me as much as the hunt itself. I currently have 27 treestands setup, along with a number of trees trimmed and ready for an API climbing treestand. I'm a firm believer that the first time a tree is hunted is your best opportunity. So why not have as many firsts as possible? Lots of people will question, why so many ambush sites? Earlier in the summer I had a fellow bowhunter ask me how much money I had invested in hang on and ladder stands. His question kind of caught me off guard, so I had to explain it to him like this. It's a matter of priority like the \$500.00 beer cooler in the back of his truck. It might be wildly stronger and keep ice longer but who the hell needs to keep ice for weeks at a time? By the way, do you know what else is “grizzly proof”? Illinois, that's what!

Me giving anyone advice on whitetail hunting is laughable, especially to you guys, but I would like to give you an idea of what I do, day in and day out, to provide myself with copious amounts of opportunities from October thru mid-January. I don't golf, fish or ride motorcycles. My hobby is getting within spitting distance of whitetails, period. When I get skirted more than once it bothers me. It bothers me to the point where I, have to, figure out why. So first, if I have a dog in the fight I never “Let The Chips Fall Where They May”. I don't do it in life, so I won't do it with my bowhunting. Second, like Einstein I agree the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results. If it's not working I cease operations and reevaluate what I'm doing. Below are a few examples of what has worked for me over the last thirty years of chasing our beloved whitetail.

Who Left the Gate Open?

Who left the gate open? I did and I mashed down the dilapidated fence that was keeping deer from entering my wheel house. Now before you get you guard hairs up, realize not everyone and every situation will allow this to happen. Every situation is unique and common sense must rule. I have a couple spots where in the corner of the property at the edge of the timber, there was an old gate. Knowing the ag fields will no longer be grazed by cattle, and with the landowners permission, I removed the gate. Creating an instant funnel. I have also mashed down and removed old fence, or sections of old fence, that have out lived their purpose, again creating a funnel. A stand location at the end of said fence is a great place to wait as deer maneuver around and pass by your position. That

being said, I've also built small sections of fence in the timber, to manufacture funnels producing the same results. I'm a ten yard guy. I can shoot farther, but if I don't have to, I won't. On a side note, you can do the same thing by hinge cutting less desirable trees. Falling trees in certain travel corridors you can keep your quarry crossing well inside your affective shooting range.



A mowed path from bedding to feeding with a treestand tucked along the trail.

Keep em sharp!

Like people, most animals will take the path of least resistance. Monopolizing on this fact, I spend a ton of time every summer after July 15th with a corn knife or a Sthil weed eater with brush blades in my hands. When I find certain feeding areas where deer can enter from multiple locations I try to neck them to me by finding the right tree and then cut a trail past it providing deer the best way from point A to point B. As I'm sure you've witnessed a groomed trail through a jungle of buck brush is irresistible to an unpressured whitetail. Using these methods I've actually pulled deer off properties I can't hunt onto farms I can.

And Nature's Way...

I've always said the work I do in the offseason is what kills white-tails in the fall. That being said, the majority of my stand locations are natural pinches. For example a header (the top or beginning of a ditch that runs down hill) will push deer to the top of hill and provide both hunter and hunted a predictable wind stream. Living next to some reclaimed strip mines, provides the opportunity to do some slow pushes in the late season with our bows. There is a spot on the side of one of the strip mine lakes where a header has eroded 2/3 the way down a 100 yard bank. It's approximately twelve feet deep and twenty feet across. Guess where every deer trots by when trying to get out of dodge? You got it. At the top of the header, right in our lap. Another great topographical occurrence I love to see, is when the base of hill sides have a bend in the creek

at the same point. I have one location where the distance from the base of the steep hill and the deep creek is 11 yards with an enormous hedge tree growing in the most perfect stand location. I wish someone would have took a picture of my face the day I found that wonderful natural spot.

In Conclusion.

In closing if I could give you in my opinion the absolute, number one best advice for winning whitetails it would be, "BE PERSISTANT"! I cannot emphasize how many times I've experienced success by dumb luck or just being in the right place or right time. BE PERSISTANT! Plan your hunt, hunt your plan, and always BE PERSISTANT! I was going to add the popular drawing of the frog who refuses to give up and is choking on the egret that was trying to eat him, but instead I'll leave you with one of my favorite short stories. In the late 1970's or early 80's there was a professional tennis player named Vitas Gerulaitis who was playing a man by the name of Jimmy Connors. Gerulaitis was easily outmatched and was beat by Connors sixteen times in a row. However, Gerulaitis won the next match and when asked about it at the press conference he grinned and said, "And let that be a lesson to you all. Nobody beats Vitas Gerulaitis 17 times in a row." PERSISTANCE.

"A Bowhunter"

Jason Farr

State Fair Archery Tent - Bill & Marie Secker

Another year has come and gone with good weather and good turnouts for the most part at the Archery Tent. The last four days of the fair the numbers were down a little due to the fact that most schools had started early.

The first five days was busy and the food vendors in the conservations area said they had their best year of sales.

We had a very good turnout from the UBI on both days and would like to thank Tim Nuss, Jason Farr, Jim Ellis, Peter Tarcha, Paul Landner, Jim Schultz, Bernie Swank and Elmer Service for their help on Saturday and on Sunday we had Tim Nuss, Ron Hayford, Denny Hayford, Pat Norris, Ron Jack, Don Osborn, Chuck Ormsby, Frank Farris and to those who brought their wives a thank you to all of them as well.

On Saturday Paul Ladner brought kettle corn and cookies and on Sunday Ann Hayford brought her delicious cookies for the help so a big thank you to both of them for their generosity. It was very nice to see all of you and we appreciate all the help and the fact that you came out and gave up a day to help the share the thrills of shooting a bow.

We would like to thank Paul Ladner for organizing the UBI staff. It takes a lot of time to make sure everything is in line. A

big thank you to Rick Stillman for organizing the first weekend of the fair getting help from the Panther Creek Archery Club.

Marie and I cannot express enough how much we appreciate Joe Robinson and all he does to keep the Archery Tent open and making sure that we are comfortable and have enough help through the ten days of the fair. Without his kindness we would not have stayed for the past 17 years. He is truly an amazing man and because of him we have more Traditional bows than compound bows. He was also able to purchase from Chuck Jones two more long bows this year and the children seemed to like using them. They are very high quality as there were hundreds of arrows shot from them with absolutely no problems.

We would also like to thank the UBI board members for presenting us with a visa gift card. We appreciate your kindness.

Hopefully we will be able to work again next year and we hope that all of you will continue to support the UBI weekend and help us out. We appreciate all of you and hope you all have a great holiday season.

Happy and Safe Hunting,

Bill and Marie

Then & Now - Pat Cebuhar

4th Time = Quads

For this 4th edition of **Then & Now** I am relating a story told to me over forty years ago in one of those hometown basement archery shops. As a new young bowhunter I listened closely & hung on to every word. I tell their tale to the best of my recollection. This hunting story happened around 50 years ago, sometime in the mid to late sixties. Some of you may remember back **Then** when the islands between Canton, Missouri and Quincy, Illinois were first opened to bowhunting. A small group of diehard dedicated Bowhunters from the Canton, Illinois had permits and were headed for a weekend hunt on Long Island and Dillon Island. I believe camping at Bear Creek Recreational Campground. The anxious to get hunting, blue-collar Bowhunters left after work one early October evening. One member of the group had a very heavy, heavy duty army surplus jon boat & homemade (redneck) heavy duty trailer. The craft to be underpowered by someone else's small outboard motor but it would work for what they needed and it was the best they could do. The thought of hunting a big herd of un hunted deer was the driving force to get there, one-way or another. They visioned trophy class bucks roaming the islands among the abundant deer herd. The guy with the big boat had a car equally as big, a seasoned Cadillac or Buick, ya know the kind, one of those land yacht type things where the hood looks like you could land an airplane on. Did ya catch that "Seasoned" comment? Seasoned, where "fill er up" means it takes a quart of oil to each tank of gas, not a car to take off in on a long road trip. Oh a thought just hit me, **Then** there was a guy who came out, filled her up & washed the windows all with a smile. And **& Now** well not so much. Back to their story. They were all loaded up, gassed up and ready. The convoy takes off, but in their hast someone didn't fill her up with oil. A fatal mistake, especially since they had a big load and A HEAVY BOAT IN TOW. Only a couple miles south of Canton the engine let go & sent a rod out the side of the block. Not to be detoured by a little car trouble, they had the land barge towed, and left the boat along the roadside. One of the guys had a Jeep with a hitch on it, they hooked up the military landing craft which squatted down the little Jeep, putting the nose in the air, light in the front end. The second driver wasn't too experienced in pulling a heavy trailer, a trailer which didn't have trailer brakes. So listening closely you know what's gonna happen & sure enough, the inevitable happened & they rolled the Jeep. Again they had not made it too far out of town. The light weight, short wheel based Jeep's quads were sticking up in the air, luckily nobody was hurt. Another little setback but by gosh they was going deer hunting. The third time & the third vehicle was the charm for the determined group and they made it to their destination late that night. The 100 mile journey was an adventure.

In the morning the secluded islands were no longer so secluded. There were plenty of bowhunters stalking the islands and flinging arrows which kept the deer moving all over the islands and swimming to & from each island. They saw plenty of those early years of bowhunting horror stories played out live in front of them over the weekend. I believe at least two of the guys were successful taking deer, a buck & a doe for their efforts. I think there was a story of someone even shooting an albino deer which was legal at that time. As I recall they safely returned home without further adventure.

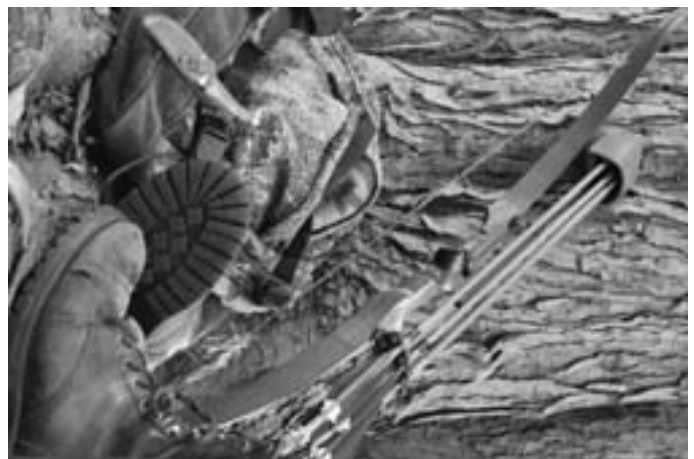
So **Then** the Bowhunters of yesterday were hard core, not detoured by a little hardship. In contrast with Now. What do we hear and hear often? "Well I was gonna go hunting tonight, but my four-wheeler is broke down or my trailer lights don't work so I couldn't go." More often than not those statements are said by someone who's healthy enough but just plain lazy, not willing to put forth that much effort. That in my opinion is pretty sad. Now most of us can't compare to Mike Mitten's ability to carry 2 adult bucks out on our shoulders at the same time, but barring any serious physical condition, we at least otta be able to walk to the stand.

Then getting ready for deer season meant foot scouting, hand sharpening knives, & broadheads with oil stones, worn vibram soled boots treated with mink oil, hanging stands, building arrows, and waxing your bow string. **Then** getting ready for deer season did not require a four wheeler, mower, & a rototiller. Patches of white oaks & farm fields were considered food plots.

In closing, A quote from - Backcountry Hunters & Angler's - "Use the Quads God Gave You!"

Back in the Day dedicated Bowhunters could "Out Walk" the neophytes to get away from the crowd.

Today it's hard to "Out Walk" a four wheeler to find seclusion.



Director's Report - Peter Tarcha

A Self-Bow Building workshop was taught by Bernard Swank on July 22-24, 2017 at Paul Ladner's farm near Maquon IL. We have 6 members build self-bows, including one new UBI member, Dennis Blejeski. The other participants were Ron Jack, Mark Stotler, Dan Forystek, Ken White, and Peter Tarcha. We should see the overall results at the 2018 banquet, where we will have a self-bow contest which may include shooting proficiency with the self-bow. Many thanks to Bernard for his dedication to the bow-building craft and the time he spent teaching us.

We now have cross-bows, a non-archery weapon, for the entire archery hunting season. A common belief is that this change will not increase the number of hunters in the field during archery season because most of the cross-bow shooters are transitioning from using compounds, but we shall know in the next year to if the harvest rates change.

I want to welcome Mark Stotler, from Region 3, Bloomington, IL, as a new member of the Conservation Committee. As noted above, Mark built a bow at the recent workshop. He impressed me as a true sportsman with varied interests in traditional archery and outdoor sports in general. We are glad that he wants to help the UBI in a greater way and are looking forward to his participation. The Conservation Committee members are Devlin Newhouse, Jamie Ellis, Mark Stotler, and Peter Tarcha.

Be sure to check out the IDNR's new "Living with Whitetailed Deer" webpage, <https://deer.wildlifeillinois.org>. The site has 6 dropdown tabs, namely, Life History, Stakeholders, Objectives, Management, Data Resources and Research and they are well populated and well done. Each tab has a wealth of information relating to the management of the deer herd, including deer biology, deer research studies, statistics, disease, and many other related topics.



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Director's Report - Paul Ladner

The board met with IDNR director Rosenthal at the IDNR headquarters in Springfield as part of our day volunteering at the archery tent (we also held a brief board meeting). The director seems like a reasonable man with a lot of various special interests demanding his attention. It is disappointing that he didn't stick up for our opinion regarding the full inclusion of crossbows in the archery season but our meeting was amicable.

We clearly voiced our concern that increasing pressure on the deer herd, through the use of more sophisticated and efficient devices, could result in limitation of opportunities for archery hunting, namely shortened seasons. We support the use of biologically sound population management practices and not market/profit driven decisions such as the crossbow inclusion clearly represents.

I would like to thank the board for taking time to attend the meeting and volunteer at the archery tent as well. We have a great crew of volunteers who worked the following day as well.

Bill Secker deserves our special thanks for running the archery tent for many years. He can be seen putting fletching back on arrows while he "takes a break" from instructing at one of the shooting lanes. He is present routinely every day of the fair and his wife is also present a good part of the time. We donated \$500 for the support of the archery tent again this year as we have in the past.

Tim has been very engaged with the regional reps. He is hoping to have at least one event in each region and have the regional reps be in better contact with the membership in that region. Consider attending the regional event.

Planning is in process for the 2018 banquet.

Remember to like, follow and share the UBI Facebook page and visit the web site.

Directors's Report - Bob Mayo

We had a great time at Blackhawk Field Archers annual traditional shoot near Rockton, IL. They have been hosting that traditional shoot for 25 years now. We feel that we should support what may be the only all traditional shoot left in Illinois. Unfortunately this year it was on the same weekend that the UBI runs the archery booth at the State Fair. We saw a few UBI members there this year and we always see a few Illinois traditional bowhunters at the shoots who are not UBI members, and some who have never heard of the UBI. We all need to encourage our trad friends and acquaintances to consider joining the UBI.

As I write this, deer season is quickly approaching. I hope everyone is aware that Illinois has reduced the minimum legal bow draw weight to 30 pounds for deer and turkey. I hope that rule change encourages some younger or older hunters to use traditional bows.

I'm anxious to try out my new Rancho Safari Shaggie suit, donated by Bernie Swank of Mystic Longbows, that I won in one of the raffles at the UBI banquet this past March. There are always a lot of great raffle prizes, and auction items at the banquets. The guest speakers and seminars are always informative and entertaining. The guest speaker at the next UBI banquet will be Rick Duggan, who was the first to complete the "Super Slam" with a recurve bow. I have not heard him speak yet, but I hear from several sources that he is a really good storyteller.

Earlier in the day we will have a number of seminars, including our good friend and UBI member Jason Wesbrock. His seminar will be on "Alternative Aiming Methods." For those of you who don't know Jason, other than to read his articles in Traditional Bowhunter Magazine, he has won more IBO, NFAA and other tournaments that I could possibly list here. His shooting style works just as well on live game as on targets, as his many traditional kills prove. Learn from the best at this free seminar. Be sure to mark your calendar for March 3, 2018, because this is one UBI banquet you won't want to miss.

My wife and I are really looking forward to the UBI Region 3 hunt at Eagle Creek State Park, hosted by Ron and Karen Hayford. Ron and Karen always put a lot of effort into the event. By the time you read this it will be history, but we hope that this great event continues next year.

I applied for an Illinois bobcat tag again this year. I didn't get drawn last year, but I'm going to keep trying. I hope one of us has a good bobcat photo for the next UBI newsletter.

I hope everyone is having a great hunting season.

Region 1 Spring Stump Shoot

April 21, 2018

The 8th annual Region 1 Spring Stump Shoot! Last year we had 25 attendees. That turkey will wait! Let's make this year the another record breaker. Anne and I will again host it at our property in north western McLean County.

Weather permitting there will be primitive camping available, a warming fire, bow bird shooting, target trail, and all the hunting stories you can tell.

A pot-luck meal will follow the shooting on Saturday afternoon. If you are coming in on Friday and camping please let us know. The weather will play a big role in what we will be able to do but we will HAVE FUN.

Bring field points, blunts, and Flu Flus! Traditional Equipment only!

Directions from Rt 150: Take county rd. 1650E south (west side of Congerville, go about 2.25 miles) to 2050N. Turn right and go about a qtr. mile. Look for the UBI sign on the left hand side of the road.

Directions from Rt. 9: Take the Danvers Y turn off into Danvers. Take Old Peoria Road west to 250 East Rd (right turn – watch closely or you will miss it). Go about 2.5 miles to 2050 N and turn left (right turn will land you in the creek).

Go qtr. mile and look for UBI sign on the left.

Note: 250 E and 1650 N are the same road depending on which county you are in?!?! (also known as Irons Road)

Contact Denny Hayford @ 309-840-2327 for more information.

Traditional equipment only. Longbows, recurves, or selfbows. Carbon arrows ok.



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My Summer of Archery Fun - John White

So far this year, I've had some great Archery experiences. I've gone to rendezvous, competitions, and expos. At some of these events, I've met some famous archers and some really nice people.

In April, Dad and I went to a stump shoot hosted by Denny Hayford. When we got there we talked to the people, then we shot 3-D targets through the woods. After that we shot flu- flus and I hit 3 bow birds. We had a potluck supper around the fire before leaving in the evening. I enjoyed every part of the day.



In June Dad, Mom, and I went to the Traditional Nationals in Cloverdale, IN. When we got there we shot 2 of the 3 courses. In the evening, we listened to Monty Browning tell some funny hunting stories from his trips to Africa. The next day we shot the last 3-D course and turned in our score cards. While we waited for the awards ceremony, I shot flu-flus and I even got to help launch the bow birds for other archers. I won 2nd place in my shooting class and came home with a nice plaque which I asked my Dad to hang up as soon as we got home.



Later in June, my parents and I went to Compton Traditional Rendezvous in Michigan. When we got there we set up camp next to Ron Jack and his grandson Dylan. The next day we shot a couple of their 3-D courses. After that, we looked at the vendor booths and bought T-shirts and souvenirs. In the afternoon we shot a couple more 3-D courses and I got to shoot on the children's range and at the bow birds. We had a chili supper and the I played with some of the kids there while my parents had a meeting and listened to a speaker. On Saturday we shot another course and I got to participate in the kid's shoot. My grandpa came up from Mishawaka to watch me shoot, which was fun for me and he enjoyed it too. After lunch we packed up and said goodbye to everyone and left for home. I ended the weekend very tired but I had such a good time.

In July, my family went to the Illinois Deer and Turkey Expo. When we got there we looked at the vendor booths. We talked with Byron Ferguson and I shot the kids novelty set up at his booth. Mrs. Ferguson gave me a pin for shooting so well. I enjoyed his trick shooting show because I got to help with one of the shots. Byron and Mrs. Ferguson played a trick on me though. When she threw the target disk for him to shoot while blindfolded, she threw it in front of me! Thank goodness he didn't shoot that time. As a thank you for helping, he gave me a free DVD of his trick shooting. Before we left the expo, I gave Byron one of my McLean County Sportman's Club pins.





In August Mom, Dad, and I went to an Archery rendezvous at Blackhawk Field Archers in northern Illinois. We went up Friday night to set up camp. Saturday was the start of the rendezvous with a delicious breakfast cooked by the guys in the clubhouse kitchen. We talked with Mr and Mrs Mayo from Ace Archery Tackle. Then we went out to shoot one of the three courses, which was really nice. Before we shot a second course, we talked with some of the shooters warming up on the practice range and I got to meet Jason Westbrook. I also got to shoot an atlatl which a vendor brought. We shot the last of the courses one of which had large, homemade targets. They were so neat and we had a lot of fun with that course. For supper, the Blackhawk Club put on a hog roast with all the fixin's to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the rendezvous. Yum!

Once it got dark, we went on a special "midnight" shoot in the woods where the targets were milk jugs with glow sticks inside them. I didn't hit any milk jugs but I was pretty close on a few of them. Sunday morning we visited with some more of the people we'd met and we got to shoot the course with handmade targets twice more before it was finally time to pack up and head home.

Over the summer I also got to shoot Archery at Cub Scout camps and with our local Archery club, Six Mile Archers. I have had so much fun learning Archery and spending time with my mom and dad at events and just practicing.

Bio-

John White is 8 years old from Central Illinois. He's been shooting a St. Joe River longbow for 4 years. He has also completed IL DNR Hunter Safety Education and IL DNR Trapper Education.



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Region 3 Report - Ron Hayford

As you read this newsletter we should be about 3 weeks into that time of year. I hope your season is going well and you have attended or are going to attend the Eagle Creek Rendezvous at Lake Shelbyville.

I would like to thank the terrific team of volunteer helpers from Region 3 who worked at the State Fair Archery tent on Sunday. You guys always come through. This year the helpers were Ron Jack, Don Osborne, Chuck and Kathy Ormsby, Frank Ferris, Denny and Anne Hayford, Tim and Karen Nuss, and Karen Hayford. Thanks again for giving your time to promote our sport. Also, thank you to our board of directors who worked the archery tent on Saturday.



Above - Firearms Institute archery range

On Right - Dream Lake in Rocky Mountain National Park

In the last newsletter, Peter Tarcha exposed the NRA lobbying effort to push through the crossbow bill in Illinois. As a longtime member of the NRA I also wrote them kindly thanking them for being a strong voice for my gun rights, but to please remember that they are the National Rifle Association and not the National Archery Association. I would encourage other members who feel they are out of their element to contact the NRA. The advertisement in the American Hunter magazine shows a crossbow with the caption "This is your next rifle." I asked why they aren't fighting to include it in the gun season.

I am sitting at campsite 33 in Rocky Mountain National Park writing this report. We have come to Colorado for about 2 weeks in September. Our first day in Colorado was spent with family in Loveland. We went to the Liberty Firearm Institute, a 23 million dollar indoor shooting complex. There were 52 shooting lanes from 25, 50, and 100 yards with separate room for steel silhouettes and live fire active shooter scenarios. It also had up to 50 yard indoor archery range with recurve rentals and 3-D targets, paper targets, and an elevated tree stand. We then went to the Sportsman's Warehouse and a huge gun show all in the same day and all very close together. What a day!



On to Rocky Mountain National Park. We camped in the Moraine Park Campground from Monday through Friday. The first day we hiked Bear Lake to Nymph Lake to Dream Lake to Emerald Lake reaching 10, 200 feet in elevation and walked over 6 miles. From camp that night we could hear elk bugling in the Moraine but were too tired to go seem them. The next day we hiked from Bear Lake to Alberta Falls and then to Sprague Lake. Sprague Lake is an interesting and beautiful man-made lake created by Abner Sprague before Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park became a park in 1915. The Sprague's ran a resort at this location prior to 1915. This hike exceeded 7 miles, but the elevation was not high. We were still tired at the end of the day, but had energy to walk to the moraine to watch the elk in the evening. There were more than 100 elk in sight. There were several large herd bulls some of which were squaring off and fighting for their share of cows. It was quite a spectacle with the bugling on into the night. Wednesday we needed a day of rest and went to Estes Park to walk around town and shop. We still walked over 4 miles, but got back to the park in time to watch the evening elk show. We about got into trouble this

night as a herd of about 15 cows and bulls wanted to cross the road where we were standing and watching. Tense moments passed before they moved up the hill to where the rangers had parted the crowd and cars to make an opening for the elk to cross. They were very close this night, but of course we forgot our cameras. No pictures. Thursday we hiked the Cub Lake loop. It was a rough but scenic trail about 6 miles long. It partly followed the Thompson River and passed near Stone's Point. On this hike we encountered a good size chocolate phase black bear on the trail. There were more tense moments as he crossed the trail about 20 yards away. This time I had the camera ready. He didn't stop to posed, but I did get a side view. What a great trip!

Best wishes for a quick and complete recovery to UBI members Ron Jack and Joe Furlong. Ron had his other hip replaced in mid-September, and Joe had some heart problems that required stints. Hope to see you both up and about as soon as possible!

Good luck to all this season.



Elk in our campground

Region 4 Report - Gilbert Best

Region 4 is gearing up for the Fall Season. One thing that is new in our area is also all over the state... the ability to hunt with the crossbow. I am not happy about this decision that has been implemented into law in September. I spoke with my State Congresswoman and State Senator. Both said, "You know that we live in a hunting community and I have to do what my constituents want." I guess I feel a bit frustrated because my view didn't win. I still believe that money was the winner of this vote. I did learn you can't stand around and gripe, at least let your voice be heard! Seek out your representatives and express your opinion. I am proud to say I did that. It may be the law of the State of Illinois but on my land the crossbow is not welcomed.

Bobcat season has also been the talk of my area. It is now in it's second season and I thought I would apply for a permit and try my bow at it. Many of my friends have seen the eluding cat on their cameras and my neighbor has sited one in his backyard. I am excited to learn more about this nocturnal creature.

Basic Facts About Bobcats

<http://www.defenders.org/bobcat/bobcats>

The most common wildcat in North America, the bobcat is named for its short, bobbed tail. They are medium-sized cats and are slightly smaller but similar in appearance to their cousin, the [lynx](#). Their coats vary in color from shades of beige to brown fur with spotted or lined markings in dark brown or black.

Diet

Bobcats mainly hunt rabbits and hares.

Bobcats are also known to eat rodents, birds, [bats](#) and even adult deer, which they usually consume during the winter months, as well as lambs, poultry and young pigs when a ranch is near.

Population

Approximately 725,000 to 1,020,000 bobcats remain in the wild.

Range

Bobcats were once found throughout most of North America from northern Mexico to southern Canada. In the early to mid 1900s, bobcat populations in many Midwestern and eastern states of the United States were decimated due to the increased value of its fur. However, international laws began to protect the world's spotted cats in the 1970s, and populations have rebounded since then. Today, populations are stable in many northern states and are reviving in many others.

Behavior

Bobcat habitat varies widely from [forests](#) and mountainous areas to semi-[deserts](#) and brush land. A habitat dense with vegetation and lots of prey is ideal. Bobcats are excellent hunters, stalking prey

with stealth and patience, and then capturing their meals with one great leap.

Usually solitary and territorial animals, females never share territory with each other. Male territories, however, tend to overlap. Territories are established with scent markings and territory sizes are extremely varied – generally 25-30 square miles for males and about five square miles for females.

Dens: Each bobcat may have several dens, one main den and several auxiliary dens, in its territory.

Main den: Usually a cave or rock shelter, but can be a hollow log, fallen tree, or some other protected place. (Also called the natal den)

Auxiliary dens: Located in less-visited portions of the home range and are often brush piles, rock ledges or stumps. These are also called shelter dens.



Reproduction

Mating season: Late winter, but throughout the year is possible. Gestation: 50- 70 days. Kittens are usually born around early spring.

Litter size: 1 – 6 kittens.

The kittens begin eating solid food at around two months and begin learning to hunt at 5 months. When they are between 8 and 11 months, the kittens are evicted from their mother's territory.

The kittens begin eating solid food at around two months and begin learning to hunt at 5 months. When they are between 8 and 11 months, the kittens are evicted from their mother's territory.

I hope all of you have a great season. Success is good, but enjoyment in our craft is so much better.

Gilbert

Region 4 Representative

Gilbert Best Jr.

best5@madisontelco.com

Region 1 Report - Denny Hayford

Region 1 Spring Stump Shoot 2018

Last year's Spring Stump Shoot was the best ever and I'd like to make next year's even better. So I'm putting the information out a little earlier so you can get it on your calendar. Saturday April 21 will be the date. We have about 20 3-D targets set out, room for lots of camping and a great time. Look for the flier in the newsletter.

State Fair tent

Thanks to everyone that helped out at the State Fair Archery tent this year. It makes the day a lot easier when there is lots of help. If you haven't every done this, I encourage you to give it a try. The attendance seemed to be down a little but we saw some beginners that couldn't get enough. The lines were short so they were able to come through again and again. This is a great way to build the future of archery.

For what it's worth

Ok, so I was working at the property this weekend and one of my tasks was to cut the deadfalls out of the small creek that comes in from the back of my property. I was about half way up the creek when to my surprise there was a trail cam on a big walnut on the first terrace out of the creek bottom. Yes, it was mine. I'd forgotten I'd put it there. I will pause now in my writing because I'm dying to see what is on it..... not as productive a spot as I had anticipated but there were some small bucks and some funny pictures. I know not everyone thinks the use of trail cams are good for hunting, but I love looking at what is roaming my woods when I not around.



Be safe, hunt hard, shoot straight.....

Best Regards,

Denny Hayford



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Application

Purpose:

To promote bowhunting, conservation, and the wise use of our natural resources by making monetary awards available for appropriate college students.

Eligibility:

UBI members, member's children and their immediate family members who are enrolled or reenrolling college students either full time or part time.

Awarded money:

Up to a \$1000.00 scholarship given upon college entry for the year, paid directly to the student upon proof of enrollment and G.P.A.

Criteria:

- In order of importance:
- Field of study
 - Hunter/conservationist/outdoor interests
 - G.P.A.

Application requirements:

Preference will be given to students studying in a natural resources/conservation field of study while maintaining a cumulative grade point average of a C equivalence or higher.

All applicants must submit at a minimum a 500-word essay explaining the importance of natural resources conservation and what ethical bowhunting means to them.

All applications and essays must be post marked or e-mailed by **January 12, 2018**.

Students Name: _____
first mi. last

Home address: _____

Home phone number including area code: _____

____ Male ____ Female

Date of birth: _____

Name of College/University: _____

School Address: _____

Major/field of study: _____

Cumulative grade point average: _____

Awards and honors received in college or high school: _____

Civic, community and or college/ high school extra-curricular activities (including bowhunting history):

Conservation interests/groups you belong to: _____

I am the child or immediate family member of UBI member: _____

(if not a UBI member yourself)

In addition to completing this application and essay, attach a copy of your high school/college transcript.

Signature of applicant: _____ Date: _____

Signature of UBI member: _____ Date: _____

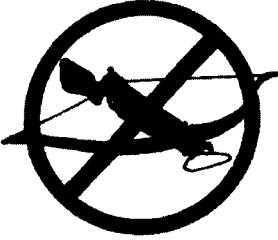
Return completed application to:

UBI Education Committee
Paul Ladner
120 Lakeland Drive
Galesburg, Illinois 61401

You will be notified of the committee's decision as soon as possible. If chosen you will be presented with a plaque at the next UBI banquet. Please make every effort to attend so we can present the award in person. Thank you.

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UBI Crossbow Position Statement

The United Bowhunters of Illinois is adamantly opposed to the inclusion of any weapon that is not hand drawn and hand held in Illinois' archery season. Specifically, we are opposed to the use of the crossbow and the drawlock device, as well as any other weapon that does not require the shooter to draw by hand, hold by hand, and release by hand. Such weapons have the potential to negatively alter the primitive weapon status originally designated for archery seasons in Illinois

We are not opposed to the use of such devices by the truly handicapped, but we do question the legitimacy of some of these cases. Therefore we support all efforts by the IDNR to maintain the integrity in issuing handicap permits so as to minimize abuse in this practice

UBI Archery Season Position Statement

The United Bowhunters of Illinois is opposed to the creation of any new hunting season, or the extension of any existing hunting season which will decrease the length of the archery only season or displace the season into less favorable dates. While the United Bowhunters of Illinois recognizes the rights of hunters who choose to use other weapons in separate hunting seasons, we will oppose all efforts to include such users in Illinois' archery season

UBI Big Game Shooting Enclosure Position Statement

The United Bowhunters of Illinois opposes any big game hunting where the animal is within the confines of game proof enclosures. We oppose this despicable practice on the grounds of fair chase hunting, the threat of disease spreading from captive cervids to our wild deer populations, and the fact that privatizing wildlife is contrary to the North American model of game management. It is our position that the selling of hunts for big game animals that have been raised within an enclosure, or animals that currently are confined within an enclosure should be illegal in Illinois