

A Traditional Bowhunting Organization

United Bowhunters of Illinois

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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.

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President's Report - Jim Ellis

I am always humbled by the UBI banquet and membership. Every year I see the results of a strong organization of like-minded individuals who pull together to keep traditional bowhunting alive and well.

The UBI board of directors all agreed that the 2016 Banquet was a great success. Personally, I want to thank everyone who attended and everyone who made a donation in any way. I want to acknowledge and thank Mike Wiltse, Tim Nuss, Tom Bartolomucci, and the UBI Board of Directors for all of their work on this banquet. Tim worked hard at mailing the registrations, receiving banquet tickets, and making packets for each attendee. For the past 10 years Mike Wiltse has volunteered and worked hard to log and keep track of donations for the auctions. He also does an outstanding job with our magazine. Tom Bartolomucci, our UBI Treasurer, spent all day at the banquet selling Raffle tickets and collecting money from the live and silent auctions. I would like to thank my son, Jamie for making the brain tanned buckskin bow sleeve that we gave to Gene Wensel. I want to say thanks to our vendors who took the time to set up for the day. Their presence is an added plus to our banquet.

Mr. Gene Wensel has to be one of the greatest speakers and entertainers in bowhunting today. What a wealth of knowledge and stories! UBI was blessed to have Gene and his wife Donna give their time to us. Like clock work, IDNR Biologist Paul Shelton was there to update the membership on the Illinois deer herd, current law changes, and upcoming changes and legislation. We were also honored to have IDNR Director Wayne Rosenthal at the banquet dinner. UBI member Jason Farr presented a seminar on his Alaska musk ox hunt, and luckily I got to sit in on that one. Jason gave a great presentation. Scotty Bryant, President of IFOR, gave us a legislative update and graciously answered our questions on upcoming legislation.

I hope everyone takes time to look at our treasurer's report. In the past few years UBI's budget has been tight, and our Conservation and Education donations has been very limited. This year we have more money to work with thanks to the membership.

The UBI Board of Directors sent two letters during the last quarter. One letter was to show our support to the IDNR and their deer biologist. UBI received a number of thanks for this letter including from Director Rosenthal and Paul Shelton. We also received fire from the Illinois Whitetail Alliance and antler worshipers for it. The second letter was in response to UBI's vote at our membership meeting on "Bowhunting during Gun Season." The membership voted for the IDNR retain it's right to make this Administrative Rule change rather than it coming from legislation. It should be a decision made in the best interest of deer management rather than mandated by the legislature. We sent a letter to the IDNR and appropriate legislators on this proposed law.

Every year there are three board positions up for election. At this time there has been three members step up to the plate to run for the board. I am hoping we will get one more member to throw his hat into the ring and make an election. If we do not get a fourth candidate to run for the board we will print the names of the three candidates in the newsletter along with their personal bios. Without a contested election and no objections, we will save the expense of mailing ballots, and these members will take board positions by acclimation.

The summer shoot will be June 4 at Broken Arrow 3D Archery Range near Hutton, Illinois. This is the same location as last year. Broken Arrow 3D range offers 30 Rinehart targets along with food thru out the day. UBI members that attended last year say it was a great range.

I will be asking some of our members to write their thoughts on the future of bowhunting for our magazine and I would like to call this piece "Then and Now." With-in this organization we have people that have bow hunted for more than 40 years. I believe their insight on bowhunting is very valuable. This should be some great reading.

Editor Mike Wiltse would like someone to help him at our next banquet logging in donations. Mike has been a great asset to UBI, and he works with few breaks during the day. I am asking someone to lend a hand to Mike that has computer skills and can understand Mike's computer program he uses.

Mike Wiltse also thought about putting all of the past issues of the UBI newsletter/magazine electronically on a disk. This will help preserve every issue that has been published. I recently went through my collection, and I thought that I had them all. Looking at my collection from 1995 to 2005, I have them all except seven issues. Mike has every issue stored on his computer since he became Editor in 2006. If anyone else believes they have all the issues from before 2006 or has them archived electronically please let me know.

Have a great turkey season and a fun summer of carp shooting.

Jim

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Director's Report - Jerry Gille

The annual banquet was a huge success by all accounts. As usual our members stepped up and filled our raffles and auctions with great (and many one-of-a-kind) items. We had good attendance and great participation in all the events. Gene and Donna Wensel were very gracious guests and a pleasure to spend time with. The list to individually thank everyone is far too long to note and I'd likely forget someone anyway so a combined THANK YOU goes out to each and every person that was somehow involved in our 2016 Annual Banquet. I already can't wait until next year. Speaking of next year, the 2017 banquet will occur on Saturday March 4, 2017 at the Northfield Inn and Conference Center in Springfield. Mike Mitten will be our keynote speaker. His keynote will be "The Solo Spirit" which will be a new presentation for the UBI. I cannot thank Mike enough to coming back and doing our keynote again. I know the March 4 date conflicts with a probable pig hunt by some of our members but we just couldn't get a better date. There is a lot that goes into scheduling this, the least of which is availability at the Northfield Center so we did the best we could to accommodate all interests.

I will not be running for the UBI Board this year. I was asked by Jim Ellis to fill in for a vacancy and happily accepted. That term is up this year and I will not seek another term. At the time of this writing, I believe we have just enough Board interest to fill all expected seats. I sure hope that is the case. An actual election would be even better. Thanks to all those that have stepped up so far and thanks to my fellow Board members that have worked alongside me. There is no greater supporter and advocate of this fine organization than Jim Ellis. I hope all of you realize that and appropriately thank and support him for all he has given to the UBI. Thank you Jim.

Winter is starting to lose its grip on the Midwest as I write this report. Truth be told, it really hasn't been much of a winter anyway. I must say that I do enjoy the changing seasons where I live. Yes, the hot months and the very cold months do wear on me a bit but I do like the variety. I have found early March to be an exceptional time to scout for deer and plan next year's ambushes. I've pretty much narrowed down all my sets years ago but I always like to make an adjustment here and there. Of course that always assumes I'll continue to hunt the land I'm on and since I don't own most of it that's a temporary arrangement for sure. The warmer weather will bring turkey gobbling and carp rolling soon. I wish all of you luck in enjoying all that Illinois has to offer the bowhunter this spring!

Jerry



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Banquet Membership Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 2:20pm by UBI Chairman Jim Ellis. Jim introduced the UBI Board of Directors.

Treasurer's Report

Tom updated the membership on our current financial status. He will know more after the banquet proceeds and expenses are realized.

Conservation Committee Report

Peter Tarcha provided a Conservation Committee report. He spoke about a recent purchase/donation for Illinois CPOs and talked about the need to add members to his committee.

Membership Report

Tim Nuss provided a membership report which included information about banquet reservations and renewals. He will have more information after the banquet is complete.

Legislative Report

Jerry Beverlin spoke briefly about HB4428 sponsored by Brandon Phelps. This bill would allow bowhunting during gun season. Jerry stated that the IDNR already has the ability to allow bowhunting during gun season through ad rule if they so choose. He doesn't like the idea of legislating things such as this. Jerry stated that regardless of our feelings for this subject, in his opinion, the UBI should consider opposing this bill simply because of its attempt to legislate something that the IDNR can already do on their own. Scotty Bryant and Rick Stillman then commented on this bill from their IFOR perspective. Their fear is that if we support this bill, Phelps will expect a return favor of full season crossbow inclusion. Jerry Beverlin stated that he feels those attempts will occur regardless of any action we do or do not take on this bill. Chairman Ellis opened the discussion up to the membership for consideration after noting that the UBI has historically opposed efforts to allow bowhunting during Illinois' gun seasons. Several members offered their opinions on the matter – some in favor and some opposed. Michael Wiltse made a motion to take action on the matter but after discussion he withdrew his motion and made a new motion. Michael Wiltse made a motion that the UBI oppose HB4428 on the grounds that this process should not be legislated and should be left to the IDNR to decide. The motion was seconded by Jerry Beverlin. After discussion, the motion passed a vote by the membership.

IFOR Report

Rick Stillman and Scotty Bryant gave an IFOR update. Their banquet will occur on May 7, 2016. Everyone was encouraged to attend. Rick also encouraged everyone that was not currently an individual IFOR member to join.

Election

Jim Ellis updated the membership on the upcoming Election. Peter Tarcha, Paul Lander and Jerry Gille's seats are up. Peter has agreed to run again. The membership is encouraged to come to Jim if interested.

Adjourn

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Bret Cagle. The motion was seconded by Jerry Beverlin. The meeting adjourned at 3:41pm.

Submitted by Jerry Gille, in Paul Ladner's absence.

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Director's Report - Peter Tarcha

As Chairman of the Conservation Committee, I want to briefly review what UBI recently did in the interest of conserving our wildlife resources, especially the white-tailed deer. If you did not attend the banquet in Springfield early February you missed the presentation of our Conservation Police Officer of the year award to Marc Folden, from Unit 5. Officer Folden is a dedicated officer and sportsman. When I called him about the award, he took my call on his cell phone while he was in the field on a duck hunting trip. As an officer, Mr. Folden made a broad impact against those who violate our game laws by obtaining fines and convictions of an outfitter engaged in the business for some time without a license, an out-of-state individual who killed at least 4 deer in Illinois using landowner permits over two years, and numerous deer jack-lighting and hunting without valid permits violations. It was especially nice that the Director of IDNR, Wayne Rosenthal, attended our banquet and personally congratulated Officer Folden.



CPO Steve Swance receives donated field cameras and accessories from Conservation Committee Chair, Peter Tarcha, at the IDNR Offices in Springfield, IL. February 5,

The Committee had a \$1000 budget and spent 95% of it acquiring and donating cameras to IDNR. One was a real-time data-transmitting surveillance camera made by MaxSur and three were static trail cameras manufactured by Browning. We included lock-boxes with all cameras, since Lt. Danner, Director of IDNR procurement, told us that theft has been an issue. I will follow-up with Lt. Danner later in this year's hunting season to get feedback on where the cameras were used and how the cameras worked out.

As part of our Saturday program, Dr. Paul Shelton, a senior wildlife biologist at IDNR gave us an update on the deer herd, especially important as the State is actively engaged in controlling the spread of chronic wasting disease (CWD). For us CWD is seen mostly in northern Illinois with disease in southern Wisconsin as our greatest threat. Illinois has managed to keep the prevalence of the disease quite level at around 1% through managed hunting and culling in localized areas where confirmed cases of the disease are found. Wisconsin was doing the same until 2007, after which they stopped culling due to public protest. Thereafter, the prevalence rate in Wisconsin has steadily increased to 5% in 2012 with a continuous upward trend.

There is a scientific article that compares the CWD management strategies in both states over 10 years and their impacts on disease prevalence rates and hunter success opportunities. Surprisingly, there has been little or no negative impact in Illinois on success opportunities, but the program has been quite effective in controlling the spread of disease. It is well worth the time of any serious hunter to obtain and read the article given below:

“The importance of localized culling in stabilizing chronic wasting disease prevalence in white-tailed deer populations.” Mary Beth Manjerovic, Michelle L. Green, Nohra Mageus-Pinilla and Jan Novakofski, Preventive Veterinary Medicine, vol 113, pp. 139-145, 2014.

I googled “Novakofski and CWD”. One of the hits was a site scimedirect.com.xxxxxx.etc. Clicking on it allowed me to download the PDF of the complete article. If that does not work, your public library reference section should be able to obtain a copy of the article for you.

In addition, Paul Shelton and Patrick McDonald have a most current CWD update on the IDNR website. Type “shelton and CWD” in the search box and you will see “Illinois CWD 2014 -2015 Surveillance and Management Report,” among others by the same authors.

Informed hunters are true conservationists.

Director's Report - Denny Hayford

Education Committee Request for assistance

We have one request for assistance with an NASP program so far this year. Bernie Swank contacted me about the Cuba archery club needing equipment for their program. They are about 20 members strong but are not connected with the schools due to lack of funding. The Canton schools have given them some equipment to get started but they are in need of arrows, targets, and shooting gloves or tabs. The committee will be working through Bernie to see if we can purchase some of this equipment to help them along.

This is a great example of a member getting involved with a program that is asking for assistance. I'd like to hear from more members willing to take a little time and doing some leg work for us so that we can get resources to deserving organizations.

Banners

We are still looking for a good place to have a couple new banners made at a reasonable price. The size is about 36 x 72.

The Banquet

Thanks to everyone that helped to make the 2016 banquet a great success. The donations were top shelf and from what I've heard this year's budget will reflect that. The Education Committee is looking forward to helping more archery programs this year and your generosity will make that happen.

2016 Summer Shoot

The summer shoot will be held at the Broken Arrow Club near Hutton, Ill again this year. The date will be June 4. We enjoyed a great course there last year and everyone that camped thought the Fox Ridge Park campground was one of the best kept secrets in Illinois. I would like to say I'll see you there but Manitoba has called me away to a bear hunt that week. I'll be enjoying the cooking of our own world renown chef Mike Davenport and all the mosquitoes and black fly's I can swat.

Anne and I are planning another visit to the Twin Oaks Tennessee Classic this year. It is the first weekend in May and is always a great time. The potluck on Saturday night is always worth the wait in line. The courses are challenging and the number of great bowyers just waiting for the opportunity to share their knowledge on that stove you've been working on keeps us novices coming back. This is as good an event as you can find so if you have that weekend open give it a try. You won't be disappointed. For event information: <http://www.twinoaksbowhunters.org>


The Broken Arrow club that sponsors our summer shoot will be holding a Reinhart 100 shoot on April 21-22. There hasn't been one of these in Illinois for a while so if you'd like to shoot some of the more unusual targets Reinhart creates this will be your opportunity. They are located south of Charleston, Ill. See the Reinhart 100 website for all the details. <https://www.r100.org/events/>

The Region 3 Stump Shoot is rapidly approaching for me so we have been working long hours at our property to get ready. The ice storm that passed through our area did some damage so clean up is underway from that. The fields have been burned and the grass is greening up fast enough that I will likely have to mow before the campers arrive. Anne and I are hoping for the best turn out ever for this event. By the time this goes to print this year's shoot will be over so I hope if you are one of the ones that made it you had a great time.

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

Best Regards,

Denny Hayford



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Director's Report - Paul Ladner

Of course our annual banquet and auction dinner is in the past. I hope everyone who attended enjoyed themselves. Unfortunately I was not in attendance and therefore missed the opportunity to bid on any of the goodies offered. I did however manage to shoot a nice Georgia hog the day of the banquet. A first for me and another game animal harvested with my Brad Jansen longbow. The hunt was a PBS member hunt, one of the advantages of belonging to that fine organization.



I was able to attend the biennial PBS banquet held in St Augustine Florida and saw a number of UBI members in attendance as well. I was a successful bidder on a handful of items there. The PBS is struggling to come to terms with the fact that it is essentially a traditional organization. It is causing divisions within the organization in spite of the fact that 95+% of the membership are traditional archers. It is unfortunate and I hope they will one day clearly state what they have always been- a traditional archery organization. Until then strife will continue. I am glad that the UBI had the fortitude to get it done a couple years ago.

We will have had a board meeting after this is written and before the newsletter is mailed. We are exploring an option for a different venue for the banquet. Not that there is anything wrong with the facility we have but it is good to explore other options. This would not affect the 2016 banquet in any case.

I look forward to serving the UBI again if re-elected. Thanks to all on the current board for their efforts thus far. It has been good to get to know you all.

I have been busy with prairie burns and tree plantings so far this spring. Turkey hunting and food plot planting next. Good luck with your spring hunts.

Texas Sunshine - Dan Forystek

It was late into the night and I was very tired, completely soaked from head to toe from on and off rain showers for days with a forecast of more of the same until the end of the trip. I was determined to stay on stand as long as it took for the hogs to arrive and remembered that the trail-cam showed that they did not hit this bait every night and that could very well happen this night. It was hours before sundown when I settled in. I gathered my gear lowered my bow and started to leave. A few steps toward the road and I thought I heard a grunt. I stopped to listen and realized it was not a hog but a bunch of hogs and they were racing each other to be the first to get to the corn. Hurrying to get up into the stand, by the time I got my back pack off I glanced toward the bait and in the green glow of the bait light I could see two good sized hogs followed by a bunch of piglets, shoving the logs aside to uncover the corn. Trying to stay calm set my pack on the seat quietly and hoist my bow I looked back at the bait and a bigger hog charged in sending off the two lesser pigs. As I fumbled for an arrow the big pig flipped one of the

piglets six feet through the air over the wood pile and began to gorge itself on the feed. Two more piglets got in the way and got the same treatment one flung right one left all squealing and coming back for more corn in the frenzy. This zero to sixty mph action is what makes long sits in the stand worth the long wait. It brands into the memory like a tattoo to look back at for the rest of your life.

Early pre-spring with plenty of snow remaining here and there up north at home makes a person eager for sunshine and warm temps. So the thought of going to the great state of Texas known for heat and sun was very appealing. It's been a couple of weeks since I have returned home and past experience tells me that by now all the thorns have been either pulled out or worked their way to the surface of my legs and hands and are history. Most of the gear is cleaned and stored and calls made to figure out who the unclaimed gear belongs to. It rained for about five of the six days of the hunt.

Some of the storms very heavy with a tornado passing close by. The evening prior to the big storm everyone made an attempt to hunt with the thought that we may have to hunker down not knowing how bad it would be before getting back out. Rick Stillman had the first action that did not pan out but stirred enthusiasm to a fever pitch. That evening as I sat in a tree over bait hoping the pigs would feed before taking cover from the storm. Lightning began to appear on the horizon at dusk and no pigs showed up. The wind picked up and after one gust nearly flung me from the tree I tucked my tail and headed for camp. Later information from our trail cams indicated that hogs don't care about storms or much of anything else if they think food can be had. We had pictures of those hogs chomping away in the middle of the storm at night with lighting flashes everywhere. Hearing the term gully washer was only a joke before. The next morning a few low areas that were dry now looked like class A trout streams. For the rest of the hunt the most repeated phrase was everything I have is wet. I have spent almost forty years working outside and forced at times to finish a job in the rain and always hated it but, this isn't work....we didn't have to do it this was hunting. The rain was not going to quit and everybody knew it. It was hunt or quit. It was hard to believe how high the spirit was in camp. Like always Chuck Jones toughed it out and with a Black Rhino bow under 50 pounds killed a big one at about five yards in the dark with one of Rick Stillman's arrows tipped with a Tuffhead broadhead. Not only did that light bow cut through that tough hide the tuffhead busted the humorous bone on the opposite side. The boys were going out in the pouring rain like our game, pig headed, to make it happen. Albie I think made the next kill, and after the shot seeing how much of a blood trail he had went after his hog....in the dark. It has been my limited experience that hogs don't bleed like a deer might and when they do it's a good bet there're done. Following the blood trail with flashlight in one hand and wisely a 45.cal 1911 in the other he came upon a dark figure in the thick brush. It was his hog and it was very alive and not all that accommodating. As it charged him the six foot eight inch South African native put two rounds into the upset tusker side-

stepping it as a bull fighter would and the paralyzed hog went another thirty yards where Albie laid him to rest for good. As a side note the autopsy revealed that at point blank range the 45.cal loaded with Hornady Critical defense ammo (The really expense stuff.) barley penetrated the skin and for all practical purposes did not expand at all. Food for thought in choosing ammo for though game defense.

The following night is where this tale started out. With more pigs than I've ever seen and the biggest pig I have ever had a chance to shoot reclaiming composer was a task not easily reclaimed, ok, not reclaimed at all. The thrill was at fever pitch. This is what we live for as hunters. I wanted very badly to shoot and told myself wait until it turns broadside. Even if it leaves it has to turn, hopefully turning slow. As it turned quartering slightly toward me I started to draw my bow slowly thinking aim low. The arrow was gone and all I could tell was the arrow was sticking out way to far I thought. The pig backed out without much reaction and walked off quickly. The rest of the clan remained. In the time it took to knock another arrow the talk in camp of a piglet on a spit came to mind and I drew down on one of the piglets. On impact it charged off in the darkness and I heard at about 25 yards two moans then 35 yards two loud squeals. Somewhat puzzled, for the next 45 minutes there was a deep intense growling going on in the area where the last squealing came from. I was not willing to go investigate a possible angry sow.

When things got quiet I got down, light in one hand, 44mag in the other and followed the good blood to the thick brush where I choose not to meet up with an angry large hog on my hands and knees until morning. No blood trail for the piglet. I returned to camp.

To my surprise almost everybody was still up at about 11:30 pm and after my explanation of events Chuck thought with a lot of blood the hog was most likely dead and with the rain we should go after it. With Albie being attacked the night before one of the guys said we should vote on whether to wait until morning. Off we went Chuck with a 12 gauge, me a 44mag, Brad with a 9mm and Larry and Wayne with only a flashlight. Chucks ability to see blood even at night is something to see to believe and in no time at all both pig were in tow and in camp thanks to Larry Jones and Brad Gentry the big tusker was to the truck in short order. Upon gutting we found that the big hogs heart was split by the arrow. No finding the arrow from the small hog I learned that sometimes other hogs will run off with it explaining the squealing when another hog pulled it out perhaps. I am forever grateful to Brad Gentry for refusing to give up after gutting that big pig and staying up in the rain until 3:00am to skin and quarter that hog and the other guys helping go out in the rain to help drag out the game.

Until next year, I look forward to.....Texas Sunshine

Dan Forystek



Then & Now - Pat Cebuhar

Jim Ellis called me last night with an idea to run a series of articles in the UBI newsletter. Jim plans to ask, in his words, “some of the old timers, well those with years of experience” their observations, thoughts, and opinions about bowhunting, Back Then & Now. My immediate response was then why the hell you asking me, if those are the requirements? Jim & I been friends a long time and he didn't really answer that? Maybe he thinks things are getting a little dry and he thought we need a little fodder for discussion? So I expect when he asked for opinions, other than looking in the mirror, I was the most opinionated bowhunter he knew that was still alive? With that said, Jim & I share very strong convictions about what hunting with a bow & arrow should be. Surely he didn't ask me to write this because I was getting old & crusty, repeating my stories to anyone who gets cornered & politely listens to stories they have heard before? Well maybe, just maybe, it was having held archery deer license for 43 years? Or prior to that, as young teen agers, my cousins & I chased rabbits, muskrats, and any other critters deemed fair game, with our bows on Sunday afternoon's at Grampa's farm. Each toting colorful, green, red, or yellow solid fiberglass bows. Ya know, the ones that had a shelf on each side so it could be shot right or left handed. Each of us had two, maybe three wooden arrows painted with stripes, almost like candy canes. Old mom & pop hardware stores had boxes & boxes of these arrows off in some corner with other outdoor hunting & fishing equipment. We always made sure we got back to the house before the American Sportsman with Curt Gowdy came on ABC, one of the 3 tv channels (today you can Google it / You tube it to see it). That's it that has to be why he asked, all those formative years it took back then to develop into a bowhunter. No Instant Success. My comments will be those things I observed and experienced bowhunting in Mid Central Illinois. The basic facts as I seen it around here as well as my limited hunting travels around the Country. My reference time frame will start in the late 60's early 70's. The opinions are my opinions and not those of UBI or anyone else. So if you disagree it's OK, you can be ticked at me, I don't care. Most who know me well, I believe would tell you, I call em like I see em, like it or not. I know many who read this will have more years of experience and can relate to or remember days gone by. Others maybe not so much. They'll likely think of this as a BS story of walking to school uphill both ways in the snow barefoot. Oh well, whatever it is to you, hopefully it is thought provoking. Something to ponder over while hunkered down in a turkey blind, or a quiet time in a treestand.

I have an assignment for you before you read further. Take a few minutes or days and write down the reasons WHY you started bowhunting and or traditional bowhunting. Then set that list aside for later reference.

So for our purpose here we'll assume we are supposedly in some agreement on equipment as members of a traditional bowhunting organization. I will try to refrain from too much time picking on

the obvious degradation of bowhunting the invention of wheels on bows. What I might do is challenge traditional Bowhunters to take a look at “what are you doing”? Some changes have been good, some bad, & some is just different.

Somewhere between 30 & 35 years ago PBS published a short article I had written entitled, “Do You Remember When”. I've dug it out & will use it for reference or a starting point, unthinkable changes have happened over those last 30 years. Then, I wrote this by hand or on a non-electric typewriter, Now, using a computer, where with a few “clicks” funny looking text appears in the title of this article and most of my Fulton County grammar & misspellings are at least highlighted. Not that I'll doing anything about it.

So, “Do You Remember When”;

Success

Back then every deer big or small, taken with a bow was a trophy and treated as such. The deer was respected and the success was measure by personal accomplishment of hunt with accepted limitations & additional challenges. If someone shot a deer with a bow & arrow any deer, who lived in your town you knew them & most likely it was your one of your hunting buddies. Their picture was in the paper the next day. Wasn't always the best composed picture, like on the tailgate or hanging in the garage with the little kid standing there picking his nose alongside proud dad & his deer. It was newsworthy. Nobody got upset about it or thought it was politically incorrect. Now not so newsworthy, unless trigonometry & calculus calculations are required to measure it's true gross size. Oh, by the way, back in the day, if someone did harvest a buck worthy of measuring, those doing the measuring could add subtract fractions in their head. No rackaholic calculator required. Now it's a photo opportunity with all the sponsors stuff listed, ½ doz. different hats, and then the celebrity is off to kill the next one while the aspiring wanna be's take care of the downed victim. All taken in the name of promoting the Hunting Industry. They tell me it's good for the sport?

The deer herd was managed more by biology & less politically. Note I said more & less and the location of each. That may be different today? Hunters were limited to one deer per year in most States. So it was one & you're done for the year unless you had time & could afford to hunt out of State. The majority of Bowhunters were OK with this as it provided them far more time to hunt small game. You wanted to get your deer hunting done and have time to get in some rabbit or small game hunting before the close of season. There was/is nothing more enjoyable than a BOW, a BEAGLE, BUNNIES & BRIARS! Very few understand or appreciate that kind of experience today. Today there is no record book for that type of hunting. Over years hunters skills improved, along with deer numbers, & the effective range of equipment ex-

panded resulting in more opportunities with far more success. With a one deer limit, if you shot your deer Oct. 3rd it was a heck of a long time until Oct. 1st. That led to hunting multiple States. Locally called the Grand Slam was taking a deer in Wisconsin, Illinois, & Missouri in the same year. Today with basically unlimited permits & hunters without any measure of personal restraint, the deer season isn't over until it's over on the calendar. I struggle with those be it traditional or not who complain about how the deer herd is managed, citing lower numbers when they themselves regularly tag 5,6,8,10 deer per year in one State. Each doe taken effectively reduces the herd by 3 the following year. With that said back in the day the State in my opinion had more management control over the deer numbers just because of the way things were. This leads us into –

Access / Opportunity

It used to be if you were a bowhunter it was reasonably easy to get permission from a farmer to hunt his property. First they considered deer a nuisance rather than a commodity. When a guy with a plain old stick & a string asked to hunt, there was a sense of amusement. Farmers looked ya over, sized you up & considered you as no threat to anything including all those deer who were eating tons of soybeans & corn. Yep, back in the day, “them there bow & arr-a fellas was a different lot”. “They sure spent a heck of a lot of time sittin out there.” “Kind of nice when, well not very often, but every once in a while they get sump-ton.” Access Now? it's nearly all beg, buy or lease and the price keeps going up. The driving mentality is quicker, better, bigger, faster at any cost. Then there are the “Outfitters” and all the issues they bring to the party. In the early days bowhunters were considered a small special interest group, there was plenty of access for all who accepted the additional challenge of hunting with a simple stick & string. That was before bowhunting became an “Industry”.

Hunting as an Industry

Before hunting was considered an “Industry” there were individuals who had businesses producing bows, arrows & hunting equipment. Most were long time bowhunters like Fred Bear, Earl Hoyt, Glenn St. Charles, Ben Pierson and others. Those were some of the bigger names but every little town had an archery shop in someone's basement or garage. This was always the local hangout for the gathering of bowhunters. Bulletin boards covered the walls with Polaroid pictures, or prints from film exposed in a Kodak Instamatic camera. Those folk's always had a day job at the factory, construction or a similar trade type job. Their wife's were usually ticked off because the shop was filled with experienced hunters telling stores & the novices listening to every word hoping to gain the tid bit of information that would be the key to success. They never seemed to go home, and when one leaves another one or two show up. It didn't leave a lot of family time. Volumes of Knowledge Through Experiences was shared & passed down in these little places. This was the “class room” portion for apprentice bowhunter wanna-be's. In that era information was shared freely

but YOU had to apply your skills & earn your stripes to become a bowhunter. Many people were put in a good spot and shot a deer, yes they were successful at killing a deer with a bow & arrow but they did not gain the respect or title of bowhunter that easy.

Much of today's off the shelf manufactured equipment was not available or even thought of back then. Those choosing the bowhunting path, by nature, seemed to have creative ability and be very skilled in hands on type work. They took pride in making as much of their own equipment as possible, from arrows, bows, tree-stands, leather work, knives, & broadheads. They were far more personally involved with the entire experience. To them the art of hunting with a bow included craftsmanship, & woodsman ship. Preparation had meaning & importance to them. Those early inventors had good intentions and loved the sport so much that they thought “wow wouldn't it be neat to make a living while bowhunting”? Again those early entrepreneurs had good intentions, but when you “Have to Make a Living” off of something, the game changes, especially when competition comes along. As those opportunist entrepreneurs came out of the woodwork, even Bear Archery was effected and was near bankruptcy. Something had to happen, the customer base had to grow to support all these new startup companies. Marketing ramped up & Fred Bear promoted “The Two Season Hunter” campaign and told us to go out & promote bowhunting. Yep, we listened, went out, did our job well, brought in millions of neophyte opportunists to the sport & have just about promoted ourselves out of the woods. In defense of Bear, Pierson, St. Charles, and a few others of their era, the sport needed them at that time, the work they did and what they had to offer made bowhunting a more recognized hunting method in the eyes of State Game Departments. The real damage came along later the mid 70's & 80's, with those younger entrepreneurs like Allen, Adams, James, Jennings, jumping on the opportunity bandwagon. Their slick marketing of a quicker easier path to success was appealing to the masses of opportunists. Those who wouldn't put forth the effort or time required to be successful in the traditional methods of the sport. Everything was driven in pursuit of fame & fortune. Those guys traveled the world hunting exotic places & game and writing it off as a business expense tax deduction for sales & marketing. A little fame, fortune & success was like a drug for some. To be successful in business & stay on top sales must increase every year. So new markets had to be explored or invented. It wasn't unusual to see an advertisement with a lady holding a bow but it was long before the Hunting Industry created what some call the babes of bowhunting for TV today. The combination of sex with success are standard marketing tools. I recently heard that there are even a few very rare Bear Archery ads with bare Bear models holding Bear bows? So those marketing tactics are nothing new, just elevated to a much higher level through multimedia today.

The sport they supposedly loved so much was loved to it's death. Today's mainstream bowhunting is hardly recognizable of what the sport once was or was meant to be.

Some of those later industry leading icons of bowhunting businesses have recently, or are currently retiring. The Mainstream bowhunting community sings praise for all they have done for bowhunting. Maybe we should first ask the question, "What have they done TO bowhunting?" rather than what they think they have done for bowhunting? Self-promotion & business preservation has been the down fall for many who have gotten caught up in it all. It is becoming more frequent these days to read where some shady or less than respectful activity has happened because they have to maintain their celebrity like status, or deliver the required result for a demanding sponsor. Success sells. Organizations like United Bowhunters of Illinois, PBS, Comptons will never be able to turn back the hands of time or undue the irreparable damage. At best through their actions, and professional behavior while practicing the art of traditional bowhunting, others just may take notice & follow in those footsteps.

Social Behavior

White wagon spoked wheels on four wheel drive trucks, K5 Blazers, Jeeps, & International Scouts, all equipped with CB radios were the vehicles of choice in the day, with a few true Station Wagons thrown in as long as there was a luggage rack on top & all the seats folded down. CB Radios were the Tweeter's of the day & every night driving home, reports of deer sightings, successful results & the requests for expert trackers filled the chosen CB channel. Distracted driving wasn't an issue, & keying the mic with one hand wasn't against the law. Cell phones have changed a lot of things. One of the little things I find concerning is, deer seem to appear on Facebook before they are even field dressed? Have our ego's and quest for fame & recognitions gotten so out of control that we can no longer take a few minutes of silence to reflect on the event that just happened & the time, the effort, put forth to accomplish the feat? Isn't there something so personal within ones sole that these cherished moments need to be savored, recorded in one's mind for future campfire stories? They say pictures are worth a thousand words, I agree, but there is also something to be said for less than a thousand words painting a picture in the mind's eye of audience. Story tellers that have that unique quality where you hang on every word & develop a picture in your mind. Monty Browning is that kind of guy. Monty & others like him I believe have taken the time to reflect on their experience at the time of happening, before graciously sharing it with others.

Pictures, while we're at it. The late Glenn Parker from Texas, likely the greatest broadhead collector of all time, always referred to "making a picture" rather than taking a picture. What I got out of that was, we need to Stop and take the time to compose a picture of the event that has occurred. Hunters seem to be in Too Big a Hurry to get to the local watering hole. Or local archery shop or deer check stations since they no longer exist. We need to have respect for the game & the hunt. Please stick the deer's tongue back in it's mouth and clean things up a bit. Pay attention to what's in the background. Pictures taken like some were, not all, in days gone by, likely would not our best advertising tool. We can do better today. Again a picture is worth a thousand words, it is an autograph of your behavior. Today most of what we see is some cell phone picture. Some are ok, but many the quality is poor, due to a variety of reasons. The way you have to hold the phone, lighting, etc. I guess the attraction of the phone is it's fast, convenient & can be sent out to the world in an instant from anywhere. Get some quality prints made, it's far better than passing a cell phone around, eventually the screen goes dark and the process starts over because someone hit a button by accident. We must be proud and respectful of our game and our chosen method of harvest. Our choice of how we share those experiences with others, especially non-hunters will make lasting impressions. Please make it be positive.

The "Watering Holes" why is it that these days every one horse town has at least three taverns? Every one of them, has to have a great big florescent orange banner "Welcome Hunters" on it. That might not be the best public message to send during these times. That's not to say the Hamm's Beer Bear, Irish Setter Whiskey, Wisconsin's Leinenkugel beer, Stag etc. & the Marlboro Man didn't advertise to the outdoorsman. But there was just something different about it. The intent was the same, to sell product. The marketing was artwork like & had class. The interpretation by the general public was different. Today, what some non-hunters interpret in this a sign, or their perception is of a bunch of drunk load mouth guys shooting up the timber. Along with Rock Star like TV programs & video's where hunters are in your face, whacking them, stacking them big bucks down, booya! Like it or not these guys are labeled as hunters by anit-hunters & non-hunters. I believe hunter's actions will be the determining factor of how long we enjoy our sport. Don't be part of or support this growing problem.

Egos, Competition, and a new Generation. The National Field Archery Association was the governing body over competitive archery target shooting. This was way before 3-D animal targets were even thought of. Archery was the sport, hunting with a bow & arrow was merely an extension of that. Hunting with a bow & arrow was kind of recognized by the NFAA as there were big & small game awards, (pins & a certificate I believe) for those hunters who accomplished specific requirements in taking game. They also occasionally had shoots they called "Hunter Rounds". The Hunter Round targets on the field course were opposite of the normal field targets, they were black targets with white dots on them. As archery hunter numbers grew, a riff began to develop between the field

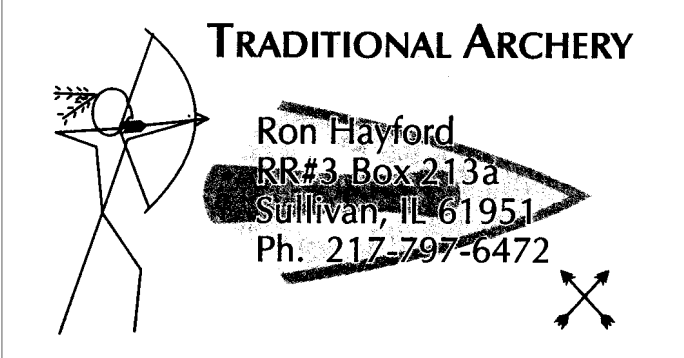
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archers and the Bowhunters. More & more of the old field archery clubs were being over taken by this new phenomenon of 3-D animal target shoots. The field ranges of the past are all but extinct. What didn't go away was the competition. There is nothing wrong with target archery as a competitive sport. However, it is my opinion, that competition within bowhunting is a problem. Competition between Bowhunters leads to many things which tend to be a detriment to the sport. Everyone is familiar with The Pop & Young Club and the records started by the late Glenn St. Charles. The original purpose & intent of those records was to use them as tool when lobbying Game Departments for allowing use of archery equipment, or for requesting archery only seasons. St. Charles need a tool to prove that archery equipment was truly effective on big game animals. Glenn's record book tool worked well for the intended purpose. However, human nature took over. The competitive nature of the "American Way" took over. The records became the goal, the measuring stick for competitive comparison between bowhunters. I've heard bickering between Bowhunters arguing over who had a bigger deer, one saying my net score was bigger the other saying his gross score made his deer the biggest, or one measured non-typically measures more than the others typical score. Similar to the field shooter with the highest score on the target range is the best shot, the winner if you will. The records generate nearly instant recognition and or fame. We see people paying extra for personalized license plates reading things like, P n Y 17 or Booner 2, like it or not there is a competitive ego on display. That competitive drive be it formal, conscious or just the non-conscious competition of egos, those egos which formulated through thoughts of one's own mind. Misguided thoughts of more or bigger than the next guy's animal, somehow equated to superiority or greatness. That is however the "American Way" quicker, better, bigger, faster, than the next guy. So maybe the true art of hunting with a bow & arrow is not so American. The art of hunting with a bow & arrow, specifically traditional bowhunting, is often compared to fly fishing. Fly fishing's roots go back to Europe & Japan. Both practices should be considered historic, honorable, and respectable sports. Self-pride is in the How of the accomplishment. The competition is between man & himself, where he overcomes chosen self-limitations in the quest of a desired outcome.

If you stop & think about it there was a lot going on. Archery was in a transition stage from traditional equipment to the latest & greatest bow, gadget or accessory, hordes of new participants, a New Generation, entered this new & exciting sport. A combination 3-D target shooter and bowhunter emerged. Every new invention to make success, quicker & easier was gobbled up by the consumer without any thought about the real process of hunting with a bow. Consumer demand increased the Hunting Industry market, manufacturers developed & produced anything that would sell. That New Generation, I'd say was made up of late Baby Boomers & "Generation X'ers". With the Baby Boomers, "Failure isn't an Option. Now Generation X'ers, the group of "Everybody Gets a Trophy", "Everybody is a Winner". Parents raising these generations made sure their children were "winners" & successful. Some of the older generations have to accept some of the responsibility for

things gone wrong. They may have had good intentions but never considered other consequences of their actions. Target archery is proof. Take a look at all those classes & trophies, differentiating age group, sex, every combination or variety of equipment has it's own class, the list goes on and on. I've seen adults go to the range registration booth, review the registration classes, determine the competition and then adjust their equipment & register in the class that they know they can win in? Archery became like most other youth sports too, everybody gets a trophy or ribbon for participating. That learned reward mentality, carries over into the woods as well. Each parent wants little Jr. to get a trophy critter. So you know the story, a parent takes them out to sit in a predetermined spot, the youngster pulls the trigger on que, smiles for the cell phone, text it to mom and grandma, and hurry home to make it to volleyball practice. Gene Wensel has written that there should be an apprenticeship of sorts, I strongly agree. Mike Mitten recently wrote an article "Redefining Success" published in (Dec15/Jan16 Traditional Bowhunter Magazine). Look it up & ponder his message. While we are on the Wensel / Mitten brothers, "Primal Dreams" and "Essential Encounters" videos should be required viewing for all new Bowhunters. As well as Clay Hayes's video "Untamed". These videos set the tone of what true bowhunting is and should be. Reverence for bowhunting's history, the outdoor experience & respect for the wildlife are an intricate part of bowhunting. Appreciated by only a few and cast by the wayside by the masses living in a fast paced society seeking instant success with minimal time & effort invested.

Respectful behavior by hunters is so important today. We see hunters using bad language, in boisterous conversations, wearing bloody camo, & obnoxious sayings or pictures printed on tee shirts in public. TV shows, videos that rant & rave are ammunition for those who do not believe we should hunt at all. They will use all this media against us. We each need to personally think about our actions and refrain from supporting in any way those individuals whose behavior sends the wrong message. If the demand for their product or their media production goes way, so will they.



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Method Stage 5

Recently the Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources recognized my participation of 40 years as a Young Hunter Safety Instructor. In the class we explain to students the Five Stages of the Sport Hunter. Shooter Stage, Limiting Out Stage, Trophy Stage, Method Stage, and finally the Sportsman Stage. Obviously hunting with a bow & arrow falls within the Method Stage. What is important is “How” you harvest your game. But even as we are method hunters within the Method Stage we will go through sub –Stages if you will, as Shooters, Limiting Out, Trophy Hunters, and finally Method Stage Sportsmen. Think about what the Hunting Industry has Done To the Method Stage. Example, I saw an advertisement for an “electric” firing Muzzle Loader? Wow, that’s almost as wild as putting a Light Bulb on the end of your traditional arrow?

During Bowhunting’s early days, it was a “Man’s Man” sport rugged yet reserved & respected. I wasn’t for everyone. You accepted the challenge, a higher standard was expected & you had to measure up if you were going to be part of it. That doesn’t mean women couldn’t participate it was just that they really didn’t want to. They were simply really good at kicking the guys butt on the field range & happy about it. If you come across some older high school year-books you will find many local schools had archery teams which were comprised of nearly all young ladies. Don’t let them kid you those ladies have a bit of a competitive streak as well.

Early on in our neck of the woods many folks coming into bowhunting were former waterfowl hunters. Waterfowl hunting had gotten to the point that many just couldn’t afford it or they no longer had access to duck hunting grounds as big clubs developed sucking up most of the access. Sound familiar? Bowhunting at the time was a practical sport. Buy a recurve bow a few arrows, a quiver, make some stuff, camo from military surplus and access to hunting land was not hard to come by. You scouted found a deer trail, or a spot where they were feeding on acorns & looked for a nearby tree that was climbable. There were few if any commercial tree stands or climbing devices available. We stood in the crotch of a tree switching feet every 10 – 15 minutes. Although I do not recall many people falling out of the tree in those days there have been some equipment improvements in this area. I have to say they are safer, far less of an eye sore, and much friendlier to the tree. But again now we are going backwards in some aspects. There seems to be suburban deer lodge hunting stands popping up in the trees, kids used to call them tree houses. Deer fortresses rising up out in the middle of fields or along the edge towering over some food plot. Guess they may be effective but they ain’t purdy. Now the mid-west is one giant food plot. One thing I noticed over the years the worst farmer always had the best deer hunting. Much of the time because he was working a day job and farming too, he didn’t get the crop in until late. When he did some of his equipment was less than perfect resulting in some food left behind for deer and small game to winter on. Today not so much. Crops seem to be ready much earlier in the fall, modern equipment is so efficient that there is hardly a grain of corn left. The speed at which

they harvest is incredible, leaving ample time to complete fall field preparation before the ground freezes, leaving behind a big mud flat with no left over agricultural food. I hear some traditional Bowhunters complain that it is not fair or ethical to bait bears. However they turn right around & plant a food plot to draw deer to within bow range? It is illegal to bait deer in Illinois, and I DO NOT agree with baiting deer. It is legal to plant a food plot, which I understand is very effective especially in the late season. Isn’t a food plot just a small field of bait? Waterfowlers have a similar rule I guess. They can legally plant a field, leave it standing, flood it in the fall and hunt it. It is illegal to bait ducks? In other words they can bring the water to the food but can’t take food to the water. The Hunting Industry didn’t miss this one either. There are isles with shelves after shelves with seeds & soil products all claiming the best rack growing product on the market. As well as a larger area for the 4-wheeler equipment used to prepare the soil for the miracle rack growing product. My observation is this recipe of buying your own land and managing it for deer, controlling the harvest, planting food plots, manipulating cover, travel routes & open spaces is best formula for consistently harvesting above average size bucks. The hunters I see who are consistently harvesting bigger bucks have some form of this process in place. They in effect have taken deer management out of the hands of the State and manage their farm as they determine is best for the results they want to achieve. Most are very effective in achieving their goals. Is it a fair compare that hunters harvest successes with the poor sucker who for a variety of reasons may only have access to public hunting areas shared by many users and other user groups. In both case there could be a lot of different types of effort put forth with very different results in terms of the size of the deer on the ground. Which is more of a trophy? Just because it makes “The Book” doesn’t automatically mean it is more of a trophy than another deer. The method, the involvement, the detail can and should be a factor in the determination of a trophy. Although I’m not familiar with what’s in place or how it works, I believe the Compton Traditional Bowhunters moved in a direction to recognize the hunting method in combination with the animal in their Record Archives.

Again for our one sided discussion, we are traditional Bowhunters. Your next assignment is think about your personal hunting routine. Equipment choice, clothing, method of travel, access, preparation, how you hunt from a ground blind, treestand or still hunting. All the associated actions involved in your personal hunting activity. Make a list.

Finally, take your two lists. Do they complement each other? Are there things on one list which are contradictory to your original list of why you started bowhunting? Bowhunting is a Method sport which changes the hunter as they accept bowhunting’s challenges & limitations. Bowhunting was Not intended to be a sport where the hunter removes those challenges & limitations through technology in order to fulfill their desire for success. Forty years ago no one even considered the sport would be invaded by crossbows, threatened by drones, and changed so much due to the attitudes of hunters themselves.

Bernie

I was asked by a friend of many years and fellow bowhunter, if I would submit an article to the UBI magazine. The subject was to be along the lines of what I, and other founding members had in mind when we formed the UBI.

I cannot speak for the others, but I have always truly enjoyed the camaraderie of fellow bowhunters. It seems we all have a sense of tradition and an unspoken purpose for the rich heritage that goes along with bowhunting. There is a big difference between “shooting archery” and “bowhunting”. Shooting archery is a different type of skill. Scoring points and accuracy is a fundamental skill no doubt. Don’t get me wrong, these are great skills to learn and master but there is something much deeper in the soul, the primal yearning. The predatory desire the need of a successful hunt and the harvesting of nature’s quarry. It’s not just an ego trip which I hunt. I love the challenge to survive as early man did. It’s that instant you know you made a good shot, when you see that animal, large or small. You harvested that animal and give thanks. You are a predator, like it or not.

My purpose in this organization is to help keep this rich tradition alive and in the forefront. I want others to enjoy and experience hunting with nature. I want them to learn the ethics of such a wonderful tradition. You are your own judge and jury with this experience. It is your ethics, your decisions and your conscience as to how you conduct yourself.

I also know that I am preaching to the choir, but this is the message we want heard by all others. I want the young beginner, the novice hunter, the old timers and the guy that might just take a chance on getting caught. It’s easy to fall to temptation. Remember, what we do as hunters and as outdoorsmen is also viewed by the “non hunting public”. The importance of this is great. Most non hunters do not have much of an opinion about our sport. You had better believe if you or someone else is caught doing something unethical, they will have an opinion. And they vote, and they do have a voice in the big scheme of things, so don’t push them to the “other side”. In the famous words of Forrest Gump “stupid is as stupid does.

We as a group have a voice and it is being heard. We have turned some heads. We don’t always agree upon everything brought for-

ward and that is as it should be. Our membership and our board members/officers do a great job representing our group.

I personally think that the decision to become a “traditional” oriented organization has brought our focus together. Sitting at the annual banquet meeting we now spend our time and energy on things that truly matter to our heritage. Before, we would spend an unsurmountable amount of time trying to accommodate only a few. It held us back from the real things that will and are affecting our passion. I know not all agree but we moved forward and as a group we are stronger. My opinion and I stand by it!

I never want to be an “elitists’ where only my way is right and to hell with everyone else. That drives people away as fast as anything else. We need to be steadfast in our purpose yet also willing to bend sometimes. I want our members to be enthusiastic. I want them to hunt and to teach and to encourage and to feel the deep need for man to express his primal side.

Remember, today we hunt for our own reasons. Before, man hunted to survive, a BIG difference. The two biggest motivators in the world are hunger and fear. There is no measure of what man will do for those two factors. Never under estimate what can happen to humans under those conditions. It does become “primal”. Let a vegetarian go hungry for a while and he will become an avid hunter. Back a man into a corner and he will kill you.

I do not know if there is an explanation of what I wanted to help preserve with our organization but then again, I was never asked. When our group got together and started kicking around the idea of forming the UBI we didn’t have to ask the core group, every one of us understood this feeling. We were drawn together “naturally”. The unspoken words, if you will. The brotherhood, the camaraderie was already there. I am proud I was a part of it! May it live forever!

Traditionally,

Bernard Swank



United Bowhunters of Illinois

Fall Rendezvous

Eagle Creek State Park, Lake Shelbyville

October 14, 15, 16 2016

Activities for the entire family

Camping- Class A, C, & D- restrooms and showers

Deer hunting (site permit required), biking, hiking, boating, fishing and bowfishing.

Friday night chili supper.

Blanket trade on Saturday afternoon.

Day trip for the women to area crafts and quilting.

Saturday night potluck

Bring a dish to share (meat and drinks provided).

Come enjoy an October campfire!

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Region 3 Report - Ron Hayford

It was nice to see many of you at the 2016 banquet. It seemed to be a great success with good presentations at the seminars and Gene Wensel as the keynote speaker. Congratulations to Jim Ellis and the board of directors. A successful, well run banquet does not happen by itself. It requires a lot of work and planning by many people. So, thanks to all who contributed, it was another good banquet.


Region 3 will be helping again with the Links to the Future Boy Scout event on May 21, 2016 at Wolf Creek State Park. This is a great time for us to work with 500-700 young scouts to get bows in their hands and show them what our sport is all about. We could use some help again this year as it seems we are getting older (how does that happen?), and it's harder to retrieve arrows and be on our feet instructing. So if you have some time on that date, come out and help pass on the tradition.

It seems like many of us are interested in the history of our sport. While the bow and arrow dates back around 5000-8000 years, our modern history in the US is much more limited. Although there were some very capable archers around the Civil War era like Will and Maurice Thompson (the Witchery of Archery), the real beginning of modern archery in America was probably the Saxton Pope, Art Young, Ishi, and Will "Chief" Compton era. This would date back from about 100 years ago to the present day.

Over the last 100 years we have good records of the people involved and their achievements in promoting archery. We are also lucky to have the Archery Hall of Fame. It is located in Springfield, MO at the Bass Pro Shops, and it is also available online by searching Archery Hall of Fame. The seed was sown in 1969 at a Professional Archers Tournament in Michigan, but it took flight in 1971 with the help of Joe Rusinek(president of ALOA) and Dave Staples (president of the PAA) presenting the idea to the American Archery Council. The AAC bought into the idea and the Archery Hall of Fame is now a valuable resource preserving the last 100 years of our archery history. So if you find a day this spring when you are not mushroom hunting, shed hunting, turkey hunting or bow fishing; try searching Archery Hall of Fame. You may be captivated for the rest of the day.

We have some events coming over the next 3 months, beginning with Denny Hayford's Stump Shoot on April 16th. That is followed by the Boy Scout event at Wolf Creek on May 21st. Then comes the UBI Summer Shoot at Broken Arrow near Charleston, IL on June 4th. Last year several of us camped that weekend at Fox Ridge State Park. We were all pleased with how nice the campsites were and plan to camp there again this year. It is not too early to make reservations through www.reservamerica.com. This is a fun weekend, and you will like the Broken Arrow course. It is a nice woods to stroll through while shooting at Rinehart targets. There are also some out of state events that are fun to attend. The Tennessee Classic will be the weekend of April 29- May 1. Then the Cloverdale Traditional Nationals on June 10-12. Finally, what has become the biggest event of the summer, The Compton Traditional Rendezvous in Berrien Springs, Michigan on June 17, 18, 19. Then save some time for one last event in the fall, the Region 3 Eagle Creek Rendezvous on October 14, 15, 16. It is great fall camping and deer hunting at Eagle creek State Park on Lake Shelbyville. You will enjoy this one,, and we will enjoy having you here.

I hope to see you at some of these events! Ron Hayford




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Region 4 Report - Gilbert Best

It has been a mild Winter around Region Four for the most part, yet, I am looking forward to the warmth of Spring just the same.

I enjoyed the banquet and thought it to have been a great event. Mr. Wensel proved to be informative and entertaining. I was very happy when my wife won the Jim Reynolds Bow Raffle. She even let me pick out the bow for myself! Thank you UBI and in particular, Mr. Reynolds for providing support for this great prize!

Turkey season is right on the horizon as I write this article. Best of luck to everyone and be safe. In my Macoupin County home, turkey sightings are way down. I have even given up my land owner's permit to go hunt in Brown County. I see more turkeys in one week in Brown County, then I see the whole season in Macoupin County. I don't know why this trend is becoming the norm, but I am saddened by it.

There are two events which were brought to my attention, that I would like to promote:

Illinois Federation For Outdoor Resources or IFOR will be having their yearly fund raiser, Saturday May 7, 2016 in Alton,IL. Please contact Bob Becker 618-466-2582 or Cheryl Roberts 618-830-5076. My wife and I are attending again this year, if you would like to join us, please contact me so we can get a UBI table together.

Traditional Fun Shoot, sponsored by the Smokey Hollow Archers Sunday June 5, 2016 in Palmyra, Mo. For more information call 573-769-3536 or 573-406-4192.

Please let me know if you have any events or ideas that would help our organization grow. I am always willing to visit and share with other like-minded hunters. Enjoy the outdoors.


Gilbert

Region 2 Report - Dan Forystek

Now that spring is here and we look forward to turkey hunting and shooting rough fish I also toy with the idea of learning to build a bow . One of the reasons I would like to acquire this skill is to provide bows in a wide range of draw weights to offer a better fit for the kids that flock to the traditional shooting that I offer at the Southeast Sportsmans Club picnic here where we live. Since I don't yet have this skill if anyone has any small youth bows or light weight adult bows that they would like to donate please let me know. I currently have bows 13#, 23# and of course 50#and up. I would like to be able to offer traditional bows in-between those poundages to enable these new to shooting a better fit for more

success. The better they shoot the more likely they are to get hooked on the sport. As I have said before even the adults want to give it a try. The adults unfamiliar with shooting don't want to shoot a tiny kids bow but the adult bows I have are too much poundage for them to shoot with proper form. It's a rewarding experience helping people young and old to shoot well .

Enjoy the spring and don't forget to get some pictures and save the memories .



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Region 1 Report - Sunny Mooney

ANNUAL BANQUET

It was good to see all you Region 1 UBI members at the Annual Banquet. I commend the Board for the assorted presenters and key note speaker. Gene made some 'life in general' comments that I had to tweet to a larger audience. I also want to thank the Board for the commemorative knife and sheath that they presented.

SPRING STUMP SHOOT

If you missed this Region 1 event, then I would encourage you to place it on your 2017 calendar. Denny always sets up a challenging course at his Congerville, IL property. Plus, Ann is always a gracious hostess as well. Thank you Hayfords for hosting this event.

STATE FAIR

I would encourage you to visit the Illinois State Fair in Springfield this summer. Bill and Marie Seeker and several grandchildren do an excellent job 'manning' the archery tent located in the IDNR area. Board members and Region 3 assist the Seekers one week-end. If you have a free Saturday or Sunday joins us as we promote our discipline with the young and young at heart.

SUMMER OUTDOOR EXPO

Dave Duren, owner and operator of Dave's Outdoor World, is still putting this July or August event together. The proprietors of Moonlight Bay Restaurant and Marina along the Rock River have agreed to be the venue. But Dave is in need of some commitments and volunteers from the various organizations and vendors.

Last year we introduced our organization to several traditional archers and bowyers in the Sterling area. But none have joined as yet. So we will need some UBI craftsmen and members from Regions 1 and 2 to man our tent and show off our skills. I will add this event to the UBI website calendar as details are finalized (www.unitedbowhuntersofillinois.org/calendar.html).

END OF SEASON HUNT

It is with great sadness that I write this event's obituary. She was a vibrant vixen when hosted during her youthful days at Siloam Springs. Few deer were taken but the fellowship was great.

Her arduous journey to Jubilee College State Park wore her down over these past years. It was either the frigid weather or the wrong kind of 'rut' that got the best of her (and us) as the numbers dwindled down to near zero. So I bid her a fond fare well (at least till someone else or another region wants to resurrect her).

Shoot straight and live honorably!

Sunny



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Bio - Jason Farr

Dear UBI,

I would first like to say what an honor it is to have the opportunity to run for a board position in this organization. I feel our group of individuals stand for what bowhunting is all about.

My wife and I along with our nine month old daughter Ella live just outside of Table Grove on my family farm which I operate after my day job at Caterpillar Tractor Co.

I started bowhunting when I was around ten years old. As a lot of people change interests and hobbies as they go through life mine never have. It's always been about bowhunting for me. I am personally enthralled by every step in the process from hanging tree-stands to collecting bowhunting memorabilia to chasing ground squirrels at our local cemeteries.

I am a member of the Pope and Young Club, the Professional Bowhunters Society and the UBI for the last four years.

It's hard for me to give just a few words on the present and future state of bowhunting. The majority of bowhunters "like" to bowhunt. I "live" to bowhunt. It's a subject I'm very passionate about.

Bowhunting has morphed into a sport of technology where anything less than instant success is an unforgivable sin. The majority of people today have lost the desire to learn and earn their rewards. They'll just buy it and in bowhunting it's by the use of the latest gadgetry which in turn is robbing them of the whole experience.

In the future I believe we will see more interest in traditional equipment from people maturing in their journey as hunters. However this may all rely on the availability of land to hunt. Something else that is alarming is the lack of participation which is why I would like to take a step forward and ask for your support in filling a position on the board for the UBI.

Thank you,

Jason Farr

Bio - Peter Tarcha

Peter Tarcha, Brief Bio., 2016

I was appointed to the Board of Directors of the United Bowhunters of Illinois (UBI) in mid-2015 and have agreed to stand for election in 2016. My residence is in Lake Villa, Illinois, which is about 30 miles north of Chicago and 15 miles west of Waukegan. I am married to Liz and have two daughters. For about 30 years I have taken a bow into the woods, first starting out as a compound shooter, but moving to traditional equipment, where I have stayed for the last 25 years. My transition to recurves and longbows happened shortly after joining the Waukegan Bowmen Hunting Club, where a high percentage of members were and still are traditional bowhunters and archers. I am still an active member of the Club and have served in the past as Range Officer for over 4 years. Range Officers are responsible for the set-up and maintenance of the 30 target station outdoor range. I have been a member of the UBI for about 18 years. Prior to joining the Board, I served on the Conservation Committee under Sunny Mooney's direction in 2014 -2015. I am currently Chair of the Conservation Committee.

My thoughts on the future of bowhunting focus on three threats that can compromise the sport as we know it. The first and biggest threat is the increasing average age of the Club membership. Other organizations that I belong to, namely, the Lake County Farm

Heritage Association, Lake County Astronomical Society and Waukegan Bowmen have the same issue. We need to continue and even increase our effort to preserve our sport and keep the interest alive. UBI hosts the youth archery tent at the State Fair, provides conservation-related scholarships and supports Archery in the Schools. The youth today have many distractions that divert their attention towards entertainment and away from doing things that take time to appreciate and may be hard. Shooting a bow correctly and accurately and being comfortable with nature and the outdoors are examples that take a commitment and a passion. Secondly, unethical hunters despoil our sport and the new gadgets (e.g., crossbows, air pressure driven arrows, high let-off compounds) compromise the beauty and impact the pride we have in bowhunting. We address this gravitation towards the "easy way" by leading through example and supporting our Conservation Police Officers. Lastly is public ignorance. Wildlife face threats from disease, commercial interests, and emotions of the uninformed. As ethical bowhunters we owe it to ourselves to take the time to become accurately informed about wildlife management issues, so we can influence politicians, other organizations that impact our sport, fellow sportsmen, and the general public toward supporting the correct decisions in managing the resources.

Bio – Paul Ladner

UBI Board Candidate Statement

I am hoping to continue serving the UBI as a board member for a second term. Traditional bowhunting is one of my primary outdoor activities and I want to see quality hunting opportunities and generous archery seasons continue in Illinois.

The United Bowhunters of Illinois has been fortunate to have good relations with the IDNR because we have been rational and supportive of biology driven wildlife management. The political side of the IDNR, money constraints of the state budget and the pressures exerted from other outdoor enthusiast groups makes resource management a fractured affair.

Ultimately the lawmakers decide many of the issues impacting Illinois natural resources. They are bombarded by opinions of all sorts including those offered various factions of the “hunting industry”, animal rights groups and others, many with deep pockets. We are a lobbying entity in our own right but with essentially no money to “bribe” legislators our voice is easily drowned out. Even the DNR is powerless to offer more than its opinion. Sadly participating in lobby groups, for example IFOR are a necessary part of making our voices heard by the lawmakers.

Serving on the board has been an eye opening experience so far. The mentoring and experience of others on the board has been invaluable and I feel better prepared to serve knowing better now what it’s all about. Maintaining a strong organization helps to make us a relevant contributor to any discussion we have an opinion on.

I encourage all members to be active. If you have a question or concern or become aware of some issue we might want to address please speak up and let the board know. I haven’t participated in many UBI sponsored events, but I hope for that to change and encourage you all too as well. Fraternalism is an important part of a strong organization with a narrow interest like ours.



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<http://www.unitedbowhuntersofillinois.org>

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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