

A Traditional Bowhunting Organization

United Bowhunters of Illinois

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Spring 2018



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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 - Tim Nuss

It was sure great to see everyone at the U.B.I. banquet this year! It was certainly nice to see new members along with those that have been members for years. I would also like to thank everyone on the board that worked so very hard for a long time to make the banquet a success! Thank You!

We are already working on next year's banquet. I would like to see the U.B.I. schedule our annual banquet on the first Saturday in March each year so that everyone would be able to plan ahead. That would be March, 2, 2019 for next year. I would also like to reserve the Northfield Inn & Suites each year. They have always been great to work with and very accommodating to us. That would give us the ability to confirm the date and place for the ban-

quet each year. Please let me know what you think about this idea so the regional reps and the board know how the membership feels.

We tried some new things this year at the banquet. Jered Shofner was able to post one of our daytime seminars on Facebook Live. It worked great and we received a lot of positive input on this. I would like to encourage other members to post and record events out on the U.B.I. Facebook page. If anyone would like to post anything to our Instagram account please feel free to do so. Facebook and Instagram are two great tools if we use them correctly to promote and inform people about what is going on with in the U.B.I.

Director's Report - Bob Mayo

My wife, Jan and I had a great time at the banquet this past March. We really enjoyed talking to all of our UBI friends that we haven't seen for a while. Our guest speaker, Rick Duggan, was very entertaining and did a really outstanding job. Kevin Bishop and Gene Hall had a really good display of historical archery memorabilia. Many thanks to Jason Wesbrock for his very informative seminar. I would also like to thank all the members that helped put on the banquet, and who donated the many auction items and raffle prizes. And thanks to all the members that attended and helped make it a success.

As I write this, turkey season is almost ready to open. I have a turkey tag for Union County, 1st season. I plan on camping for a few days at Pine Hills campground, and hunting in that area of the Shawnee National Forest. By the time you read this, turkey season will have ended, and I'll be eating fresh roasted wild turkey or a Swanson turkey TV dinner with my tag soup. I hope all you guys had good luck with the turkeys.

I hope to see many of our UBI friends at some of the traditional shoots this season. Illinois has 2 new all traditional shoots this year. The East Central Illinois Archers will have their first traditional only shoot on Sunday, May 20 at their range in the Judge Weber Park, in Urbana, Illinois. The Joliet Archery Club will have their first all traditional 3-D shoot on August 18-19, at their club range in New Lenox, Illinois.

You won't want to miss the Blackhawk Field Archers 26th annual traditional shoot. That will be August 18-19. They always put on a great shoot, have good food, including a Saturday night pig roast, and a few vendors. They have 3 courses, including their great, handcrafted classic target course. The Blackhawk and the Joliet shoots are close enough together that a person could shoot one of them on Saturday, and the other one on Sunday. Let's try to support some of these Illinois shoots.

Bob Mayo

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ace@acearcherytackle.com



Director's Report - Paul Ladner

The banquet was a success. Thanks to all who attended, volunteered and donated items for the auction as well as our vendors for being there. The speakers were great and getting to visit with everyone is hard to beat.

Michael Wiltse has been a key participant at the banquets for about 10 years logging in and organizing the donated items for the live and silent auctions as well as the bucket raffle. He is looking to pass the job on. I am sure he would be happy to do what he can to bring a new recruit up to speed. Please contact Michael if you might be interested in serving the UBI in this position.

He is also looking to pass on the newsletter editor/publisher job. This could be the same person, but not necessarily. He has faithfully fulfilled this position and could use the well deserved break. Please consider volunteering for either of these positions.

The crossbow battle has been lost. The salespeople are happy and the deer will get slayed with ever greater efficiency. The total deer harvest and the archery harvest increase this past season seems likely due to the crossbow. Rumor is that about 1/3 of the "archery" harvest was done with crossbows. On to the "air bow" and whatever contrivance the manufacturers come up with.

Scotty Bryant, the IFOR representative, spoke at our membership meeting and it was not optimistic at all. We bowhunters need to be concerned with the potential for limitation of our seasons and harvest restrictions. I certainly don't have the answer and even if I did it is far from certain that the DNR will listen at all.

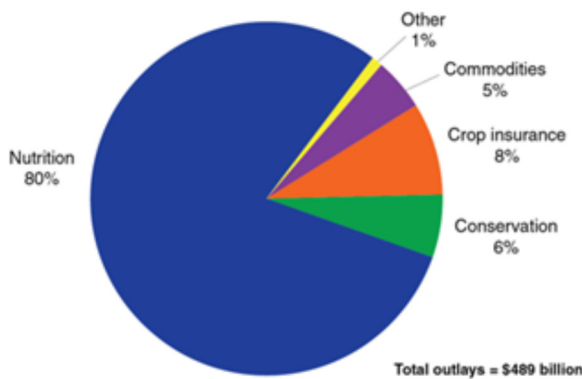
Support conservation in the 2018 Farm Bill

I am going off topic, but it is a shame that the natural resources in Illinois are subject to political whims and individual desires rather than being driven by biologic principals. Although we may not have mountains or sea shores, prairie can be a beautiful and diverse ecosystem for which we have lost all respect. Our native grasslands have been beaten into submission by factory farming (corn/bean rotation with extensive use of herbicides, insecticides, fungicides...).

Our game and non-game animals rely on habitat. Without the habitat there will be no hunting. Not shortened seasons, not limited bag limits but no hunt at all. Look at what has happened to our native game bird the prairie chicken (you may ask "what is a prairie chicken?", as it is likely that none of us have ever seen one). They were long ago decimated not so much by over hunting as habitat loss. There were as many as 10 million birds in Illinois before the prairie was broken and now they are essentially extinct in Illinois (62 known to exist in Illinois in 2014 due almost entirely to relocation from other states). No one has hunted prairie chickens in Illinois for 85 years.

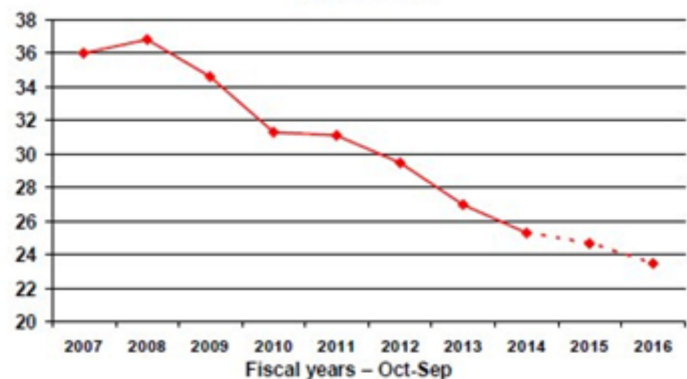
What about quail? Seen many of those lately? They were relatively abundant until recently. I don't claim to understand all the causes for their demise, but I'll bet all those fencerows being pulled out didn't help.

Projected outlays under the 2014 Farm Act, 2014-2018



Source: USDA Economic Research Service using data from Congressional Budget Office, Cost Estimates for the Agricultural Act of 2014, Jan 2014.

LAND ENROLLED IN THE CRP (million acres)



Every 4-5 years congress decides on a new Farm Bill and this is the year. The 2018 Farm Bill can have a huge impact on habitat for years to come. Although 80% of the budget is spent on food stamps (now more politically correct SNAP, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) there is a small part (6% of \$489,000,000,000 budget or \$29 billion) set aside for conservation. That includes CRP and other programs to encourage landowners to set ground aside from crop production and institute other conservation practices.

It is sad that we have to put a dollar value on wildlife and their habitat, but that is today's reality especially on productive midwestern farm ground. The prairies very productivity is its own demise. Landowners facing the economic realities of modern farming practices can hardly afford to get teary eyed over evicting a dozen bunnies, some nesting sparrows, a quail or bedded fawn when they can produce more row crops. Of course squeezing more acres out of the individual farms and more bushels out of each acre only exacerbates the problem by creating a larger supply and lower commodity prices.

Enter the Farm Bill and one of its least appreciated aspects in the world of politics. Introduced in 1985 and in spite of proven benefits to wildlife and reduction of acres in production, CRP acres have been decreasing in recent years. Dollars spent on these programs are a win-win.

If you care about hunting and by extension habitat, speak this up, share with friends and speak to your federal representatives. This is a non-partisan issue that helps preserve and expand native habitat. More acres in CRP=more habitat=more game.



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Director's Report - Peter Tarcha

The deer harvest numbers are in for the 2017 – 2018 season.

Season	2016-2017	2017-2018	% increase/-decrease
Total	144303	147535	2.2
Archery	53468	57937	8.4
Youth	3272	2372	-27
Shotgun	79559	80021	0.58
Muzzle-loader	3308	3700	12
Late Winter	4696	3505	-25

There was a small increase in total deer harvested, but the muzzle-loader and archery harvests had the greatest increase. Youth and Late Winter had large decreases. We will probably have to wait for a few more years of data before we can make any conclusions on the effect of the crossbow on the harvest numbers.

We honored Conservation Police Officer, James Blakeley, as CPO of the year at our March 3, 2018 banquet. Officer Blakeley lead a year long investigation of the Hadley Creek Outfitters operation in Adams and Pike counties. The effort involved a team of 12 officers and resulted in numerous citations for deer baiting. The case is still working its way through the judicial system and no definitive judgments or agreements can be stated at this time. We also honored the other team members with a separate plaque having the following inscription and the CPO names listed:

“This plaque is given in recognition and appreciation for the many hours of effort and dedication toward protecting the wildlife of Illinois and the interests of law abiding Sportsmen. Specifically we recognize the following Conservation Police Officers for successfully initiating and executing the Hadley Creek Investigation:”

<u>James Blakeley</u> (Brown County)	Mike Goetten (Jersey County)
Karl Wheatley (Hancock County)	Matt Lentz (Montgomery County)
Chris Gushleff (Macoupin County)	Aaron Jansen (LaSalle County)
Greg Weishaupt (Calhoun County)	Zach French (Madison County)
Mike Blazinic (Adams County)	Sgt. Eric Myers (Region 4 Dist. 9)
Don Schachner (Monroe County)	Cpt. Laura Petreikis

Sgt. Eric Meyers accepted the second plaque for the team. It will likely be displayed at the IDNR Offices in Springfield.

The UBI purchased FLIR Scout III Thermal imaging camera and hard case as an equipment donation for IDNR. This item was decided by the Conservation Committee based on feedback on needs from several CPO's queried by committee members. It was sent to Lt. Danner in the procurement office and it is my understanding that it went to the CPO's in Lake County.

We had great participation in our self-bow contest at the banquet, where 10 bows were entered in the competition. The bows were strung for the judging but we did not have shooting as part of the competition. I heard that last year someone put an arrow hole in the conference center wall and the hotel management was not too keen on the shooting part. The bows were assigned numbers and were judged by a panel of self-bow experts led by Bernard Swank. The winner was Number 8 and the bowyer was recognized during the banquet and received a leather back quiver as the prize. The contestants names were kept anonymous to the judges, but I failed to get the name of the winner to recognize in this report.

Treasurer's Report - Jim Ellis

Date	Check Number	Pay To	For	Credit	Debit	Balance
12-19-17			Checking Balance Forward			\$6504.86
12-27-17	deposit		T-Shirts sale & postage, R. Beasley	\$53.80		\$6558.76
1-2-18	1057	Kearliff Graphic	UBI Banners		\$270.00	\$6288.76
1-4-18	1058	Jason Farr	reimburse for guest speakers gift- hatchet		\$135.00	\$6153.76
1-9-18	1059	Bernard Swank	gile suit for card raffle		\$150.00	\$6003.76
1-10-18	1060	Gilbert Best	to buy food & water for hospitality room		\$200.00	\$5803.76
1-15-18	deposit		member renewal, hospitality room donation	\$420.00		\$6223.76
1-20-18	1061	Pat Norris	receipt on banquet mailing		\$158.17	\$6065.59
1-27-18	1062	Jim Ellis	reimburse for auctioneers gift		\$150.00	\$5915.59
1-29-18	1063	Rick Duggan	Guest speaker travel expenses		\$452.00	\$5463.59
1-29-18	1064	Fully Promoted	54 UBI T-Shirt		\$634.38	\$4829.21
2-2-18	deposit		banquet tickets	\$863.00		\$5792.21
2-4-18	1065	Mike Witse	newsletter & mailing		\$586.20	\$5206.01
2-8-18	deposit		membership renewal	\$55.00		\$5261.01
2-9-18	deposit		banquet tickets	\$724.00		\$5985.01
2-20-18	1066	Fully Promoted	3 button down shirts - UBI board		\$134.58	\$5850.43
2-20-18	1067	Jim Ellis	reimburse for gifts, 3 buck knives		\$86.05	\$5764.38
2-20-18	1068	Pat Norris	reimburse for banquet printing		\$17.82	\$5746.56
2-20-18	deposit		banquet tickets	\$317.00		\$6063.56
2-20-18	deposit		new member dues	\$35.00		\$6098.56
2-21-18	deposit		banquet tickets	\$599.00		\$6697.56
2-21-18	1069	Devlin Newhaus	reimburse for GPO pictures		\$107.09	\$6590.47
2-28-18	1070	Optosplanet, Inc	IONH Thermal Imager		\$1891.20	\$4699.27
3-1-18	deposit		new member dues	\$20.00		\$4719.27
3-1-18	1071	Cash	cash for banquet		\$200.00	\$4519.27
3-2-18	deposit		banquet tickets	\$477.00		\$4996.27
3-2-18	1072	Jason Farr	reimbursed for guest Fri night dinner		\$66.00	\$4930.27
3-2-18	1073	Mike Witse	reimburse for banquet stationary supplies		\$62.96	\$4867.31
3-2-18	1074	Northfield Inn	guest rooms		\$854.79	\$4012.52
3-5-18	deposit		Credit Card electronic deposit	\$1216.57		\$5229.09
3-5-18	deposit		Banquet receipts	\$1439.00		\$6668.09
3-5-18	1075	Northfield Inn	Banquet Hall & Dinner		\$2810.00	\$3858.09
3-5-18	1076	Jason Farr	reimburse for shipping R Duggan's gift		\$15.50	\$3842.59
3-10-18	deposit		life membership dues	\$200.00		\$4042.59
		Cash On Hand				
12-19-17			Cash Balance Forward			\$0.00
3-1-18		withdrawn from checking account	cash for banquet			\$200.00
3-1-18		Cash	poster board		\$2.80	\$204.00
3-5-18	deposit		Cash into checking account (\$204)			\$0.00
3-5-18		Cash	5m T-Shirt	\$14.00		\$14.00
3-19-18		UBI savings				\$1002.94

Director's Report - Jason Farr

Below is a picture of a matching set of sheds I found in March of 2017. They belonged to a deer who vanished before last hunting season. His antlers had deformed over two years of physical stress.



This is a deer posing for a picture in October 2016. Note his left front leg. In this deer's prime he was on of the most magnificent 5 year old 4x5's Id ever seen. An incident with another hunter about a mile from where this picture was taken left this deer in the situation you see here.

A friend had this deer within range twice and couldn't close the deal and I had him at forty paces once.

Several times over the year I've thought about this deer and what ever happened to him. I can only suspect he met his demise in one form or another.



Name this bow.

This bow was gifted to a friend of mine.

Can any members identify who the manufacturer may be?

Banquet 2018 - Jason Farr



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My 2017 Buck - Donald Osborne

We like to call ourselves the Old Guys Bow Club here in Region 3 of the UBI. We are certainly a group of characters. One fellow is a comedian with fifteen bows who is still waiting on his first deer. One is 81 years old but still arowed a buck this year. One has had more body parts replaced than a 57 Chevy and is our computer guru (also the best shooter in the group). One has Huntington's disease but still shoots better than me. One can always tell you the current value of a Bit Coin and can fix anything. One stout fellow just sold his 110 pound stick bow because he says he can't pull it back anymore. One fellow is our bow maker. He made a bow and gave it to me years ago out of an old compound riser and limbs he made with which I have harvested 5 deer, including the one in the picture. The glue that holds us misfits together is the love of archery and the efforts of a married couple of retired school teachers. Me? I am just the story teller of the group.



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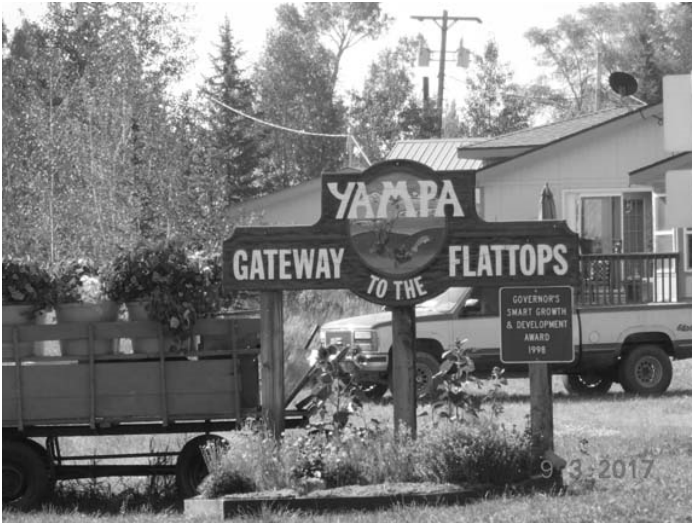
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Region 5 Report - Randy Beasley

Elk Hunting:

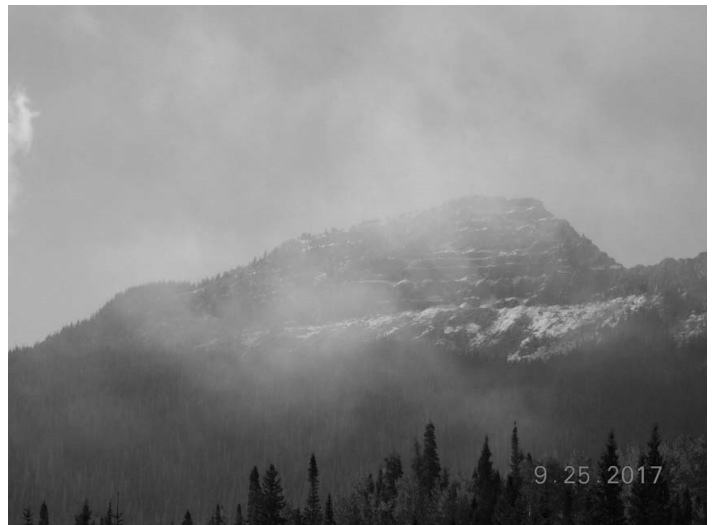
Elk hunting in Southern Illinois. Yet again a report surfaced of an elk being harvested in Southern Illinois. This time, the supposed harvest was near the town of Kinmundy and reportedly occurred during the first Illinois shotgun season. That was not me. No, I traveled to Colorado and spent close to a month in a tent just to see two elk that were very, very far away. In 2013, I harvested a nice bull elk in Colorado. However, this story is more about the normal of elk hunting; lots of hunting and often very little seeing or hearing. I did accomplish a few things on this hunt that I had failed to accomplish on other hunts. The state of Colorado provides a fishing license with their elk tags; therefore, I learned how to catch the trout that were in the reservoir close to camp. With help from other fishermen, I was able to catch my 4-trout limit twice. This might seem to be a small consolation prize, but, it gave me a boost and was something, in addition to the elk hunt, that I enjoyed. I also met two new friends. Eric is from West Virginia, and Chuck is from Colorado. Hopefully, next trip we might again camp close together. Chuck and I are already discussing a future hunting trip.



The main purpose of my article is to discuss the hardships that can occur on an elk hunt and provide advice on minimizing them. Although I felt ready for the last elk hunt, I soon realized I should have trained and prepared more thoroughly. I was hunting an area about thirty-five miles south of Steamboat Springs, and as with most elk hunting, the area was huge. While I had a horse, I also hunted on foot from the trail head. This provided the opportunity to look for fresh elk sign and for elk tracks in the snow. Neither were found. This is when I identified a need for further physical training. When walking into the hunting area, I began looking more frequently for places to rest. Stumps, logs, and piles of rocks were more attractive than in my previous elk hunts over the past twenty years. While I went swimming, rode horses, and used a treadmill before the hunt, the one thing missing was actually walking long distances in the woods. Walking might be one of the best ways to get in shape for any hunt.



In addition to training, preparation involves knowledge of the elk's location. Although many other hunters were hunting the same area, I was only aware of one successful hunter. Chuck not only killed a bull elk, but also killed a cow elk. So how was Chuck able to kill two elk when even the muzzle loaders were unsuccessful? While I do not know all of the answers, my thoughts are Chuck was more prepared. He hunted harder and smarter than me. Chuck not only was in better shape, but he also had hunted this area before and knew where to find the elk. Chuck's bull elk was going through a saddle that Chuck knew they used. Chuck decided that morning he would hunt the saddle. This saddle was four miles from the trail head. Therefore, Chuck had backpacked in the previous day and set up a spike camp, so that he would be able to get to the saddle before the elk arrived.



Since I did not know the area, I did not even hear an elk bugle during my hunt. One of the other hunters stated the elk were very vocal just outside of my hunting area. His assigned area had a limited draw for hunters. In other words, fewer hunters were allowed to hunt during the archery season for the area's size. Colo-



rado, along with several other states, uses a preference point system to limit the number of hunters in limited draw areas. These areas have more elk per acre and are managed for either larger bulls and/or improved hunting opportunities. Therefore, it is important to learn how preference systems work and apply for preference points as soon as possible. This is the best way to gain access to better hunting areas in those states. My plan is to return in 2019 and hunt elk the entire season. I also plan to use my preference points to hunt an area with more elk and fewer hunters. Even if I did not have any preference points, I would hunt elk somewhere. The key is research to identify the optimum hunting areas with fewer hunters and more elk. Rick Duggan brought this point home at the UBI March 3 banquet, when he stated that one of the elk hunting areas he hunted did not allow hunters to walk around and scare the elk out of the area. However, on public land, you cannot tell the other hunters that they cannot scout for elk and deer. However, if you hunt a limited draw area, fewer hunters will be walking around scaring the elk and other game animals.

I heard about other areas in Colorado that are not limited draw and areas in other states with more elk and fewer hunters than where I hunted. So, I will take my own advice and research those areas to determine if any might afford more elk encounters than this year's hunt.



Region 1 Report - Denny Hayford

Region 1 Spring Stump Shoot 2018

As of this writing preparations are underway for the Region 1 Spring Stump Shoot. We managed to squeak in a field burn on the 9 acres of grassland in the front of the property in between the rain, sleet, snow and whatever during the month of March. There were only about 4 days that month we could have burned and we used 2 of them. By now the shoot is in the history books. We have had 4 events with great weather but the weather pattern this year has me worried. Catch the event details in next month's newsletter.

Banquet 2018

A big thank you to the directors, president and everyone else involved in making the 2018 banquet a great success. It will be hard to top next year. This is one of the few times a year I get to visit with all you great people. Already looking forward to next year.

Trail cams, and other ramblings

There are a lot of opinions pro and con about the use of trail cams. Thought I'd share a few of my thoughts. Like anything trail cams can be used for a variety of purposes. I absolutely love to see what is roaming my woods when I'm not there. Not just deer but everything especially the weasel that I caught on one image. Not sure I had ever seen a weasel in the wild before. My new neighbor and I share photos and compare the deer etc. he is seeing on his place to what I'm seeing on mine. Last year he sent me two photos of the buck that I took, one while he was still in velvet. I get to better understand when the deer start to shed and how often the coyotes are using a certain area. I can't possibly spend as much time in the woods as I'd like to and besides, doing so would eventually drive the critters away. They need their sanctuary.

Now there are those that are so desperate for that TROPHY KILL that no amount of money spent or technology will ever be enough. Most of us in this organization know that the hunt and how we get it done is all part of the experience, and more important than bragging rights. Each of us chooses how much handicap we wish to inflict upon ourselves and that's ok. The trail cam might tell us that the big one is out there, but that there are six year and a half old bucks too and one of them would taste pretty good during the lull between seasons. You can choose to take the surplus knowing that you are making a sound management decision. I haven't shot a doe on my property in at least 5 years because the herd just cannot support it with at least 10 other hunters in the section that are less than discriminating when it comes to their harvest criteria.

The life of a hunter is a journey. I am not the same hunter I was when my children were young and hunting time was often limited. I try to meet each hunter where they are on their journey and plant the seeds that might bring them to a more rewarding or challenging hunting experience in the future.

We tend to have this distorted view of the noble primitive man and his interaction with nature. There is no question that they understood the circle of life and that in some cultures their reverence for the father's creatures far surpassed our understanding today. But

when his family was starving I'm quite sure he didn't look at that small buck and say no, he needs to be a mature 3 year old. I'll wait for the next one. We hunt for the enjoyment and the satisfaction it brings just being out there and getting a glimpse of what goes on every day without us being present.

We have lost valuable members of our organization because they are getting older and no longer feel that they can hunt ethically with their traditional equipment. They bought that dreaded compound so that they can still pursue that which makes them want to get up every morning the rest of the year just waiting for opening day. Those same ethics now prevent them from being part of the organization that they supported for so many years, but now can't pass the physical requirements for membership. They feel they can no longer join in the fellowship and comradery with old friends because their health forced them to the dark side. As an organization I feel we need to rethink how we address the issues of aging in our membership. We will ALL be there some day, some sooner than later.

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

Best Regards,

Denny Hayford

Region 1 Representative

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Region 2 Report - Dan Forystek

My guess is that much of this news letter will be about the past banquet and with good reason, it was an exceptionally good time. I don't want to bore any of you with repeat information but I have to say an attaboy should be given to our organizers who manage to somehow make this event fun and entertaining year after year. In particular I enjoyed Jason Wesbrock's presentation on aiming methods. You would think that after shooting a bow for well over 50 years you had heard it all about different ways to aim or shoot so I did not really expect much. I ran into Jason several years ago at Compton and after seeing him shoot for a bit I thought this guy is freakishly good and like most others I thought this guy is really having an on day surely no-one shoots like that all the time. Wrong again. It was an eye opener. This was the most well constructed seminar front to finish that I can remember. Clear and concise he broke it down and made what I thought was a complicated method easy to understand and then put it all back together. The learning never ends. One thing that struck home was Jason's harsh reality tip that most are not willing to take. In order to improve your shooting you have to be willing to change how you shoot. That is not easy. Thanks Jason.

Rick Duggan's seminar answered every question I could imagine concerning setting his incredible record. Speaking with him was a pleasant surprise not only was he very humble but humorous and very down to earth.

This was the first banquet me and Linda attended after missing four of them while hog hunting in Texas with a great bunch of serious bow hunters. Before hog hunting I enjoyed every banquet since 1997. With other things involved it was tuff to pass on the hog hunt but seeing all the old friends that we have met over the years made it worth it. An added bonus was meeting Greg B. from Ozark Illinois who ironically grew up in the same neighborhood as me and hunted many of the same places, only a few years later. It seems to me that someone who loves the outdoors and is forced to live in the big city develops an appreciation for hunting and fishing that is hard to put into words. That is until listening to Greg express how wonderful it is to live and play in Southern Illinois with all it has to offer. I can't wait to hear about this o'l relocated city boy does on turkeys down there.

Don't forget to get some pictures of your turkey hunting success for all of us to share and best of luck to all.

Dan Forystek

PRESS RELEASE:

Many might remember Barry Wensel as "the guy in the crooked hat" in the early pioneering days of the first hunting videos. He's been credited with shooting the first two deer with a bow in a production hunting video in the early 1980s (Bowhunting October Whitetails." Today, there have literally been tens of thousands of them filmed. What people don't know is Barry started filming his bow hunts right after high school (Class of '62 RULZ.)

This brand new production contains the highlights of fifty-plus years and over 700 hours (compare that to an average 40-hour work week folks) of accumulated bowhunting footage condensed into "chapters." It includes self-filmed and professional production, wild, free-ranging hunting footage as it actually happened. Chapters include: hunting memories; giant passed-up bucks; walk-ups and clean kills; and even a few misses. With additional chapters on bear; hogs and javies; bowfishing; shooting/practice; educational tips; vintage footage from the early '60s through present day; as well as some very rare footage, including a wild, potential WORLD RECORD typical whitetail buck that will blow your mind.

Watch the documented adventures of an old bowhunters life. It's a classic example of American freedom at its finest. Two 2-hour discs, \$20. Plus \$5. S&H available now from barrywensel@hotmail.com or www.brothersofthebow.com.

Thank you for your consideration. For better bowhunting always, sincerely,

Barry Wensel
barrywensel@hotmail.com

Region 3 Report - Denny Hayford

Year after year our annual banquet is as good as any in the country. We always have big name speakers and great presenters. This year was no exception with nationally known archers Rick Duggan, Jason Westbrook, Gene Hopkins, and Kevin Bishop. This line-up brought us a world class hunter, a world class shooter, and world class historian/collectors. For those who missed it, Rick Duggan is the first traditional archer to take all twenty-eight north American big game species. He has some great stories to tell.

Jason Westbrook lives in Illinois and has been a UBI member for many years. Jason writes the shooting column for Traditional Bowhunter magazine. (See Traditional Bowhunter Dec/Jan 2017 "An Interview with Jason Westbrook" by Denny Sturgis). He is also a 3 time NFAA national champion, 2 time IBO traditional world champion, and IBO indoor world champion. So when he explains his fixed-crawl style of shooting, it is worth paying attention. Gene Hopkins displayed a part of his extensive collection including first edition books, Fred Bear archery trophies, the Art Young arrow that took the Yellowstone grizzly in 1920, and bows and broadheads of famous archers from the past. (For the full account of the grizzly story read chapter 19 of "Hunting with the Bow and Arrow" by Saxton Pope.) There were too many items to name and a wealth of information he was willing to share about our archery history. I have seen and enjoyed meeting Kevin Bishop almost every year for the last 20 years, first at Cloverdale and now at Compton Rendezvous as well. We talk, wheel and deal on archery equipment, and just touch base every year. So it was great to have an old friend at the banquet. Kevin was also featured in Traditional Bowhunter magazine in "A Visit with Kevin Bishop collector and traditional archery historian" by G. Fred Asbell- Dec/Jan 2016. He believes in showing and displaying the archery history he has collected. He has displayed his collection at the PBS banquet in Cincinnati and the Will Compton Hall of Fame induction at the Pope and Young banquet. Like I said, our presenters are the same people you would see at a Compton, PBS, or Pope and Young banquet. Great job to our banquet organizers for bringing in such outstanding people.

At our annual business meeting much was said about the need to involve young people in our sport. We have been good about raising money for youth programs like archery in the schools, 4H, scouts, etc. Last year we donated two recurve bows and four dozen feather-fletched carbon arrows to the Eagle Creek\ Wolf Creek park superintendent to use mainly for the Boy Scout\ youth Rendezvous at Wolf Creek State Park each May. This year the Wolf Creek\ Boy Scout Rendezvous will be May 19, 2018. We (UBI volunteers) will manage the archery shooting event at the Rendezvous. Since we are traditional archers we tend to promote the equipment we have donated. It makes sense that if we want young people to know about traditional equipment we need to put a recurve in their hands. If you would like some ground floor, eye level, first hand promotion of our sport, then come help us on May 19 at Wolf Creek. There will be 500-700 young minds to influence.

Best of luck with upcoming spring activities ie. shed hunting, mushrooms, turkeys, bowfishing. So much to do.

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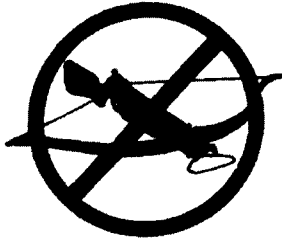
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Scorecards In By Sunday at 1:30 pm
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UBI Crossbow Position Statement

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