

A Traditional Bowhunting Organization

United Bowhunters of Illinois

Volume 26, Issue 2

Summer 2020



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The UBI newsletter is published quarterly by the United Bowhunters of Illinois. Opinions expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of the UBI.

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

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

PUBLICATION DEADLINES: Spring Edition, January 1st - Summer Edition, April 1st - Fall Edition, July 1st - Winter Edition, October 1st.

Commercial advertising rates: Per Issue Ads, Full Page - \$40, ½ Page - \$30, ¼ Page - \$20, Business Card Special \$10 for 4 issues

We offer FREE classified ads to members. Personal items only no business ads. Contact the editor for more information

If you have a favorite charity you would like the UBI to consider supporting, please contact a board member. All donations to the UBI are tax deductible.

Have You Moved?

Please Keep Your UBI Membership Records Up To Date
Send Address Or Contact Info Changes To Our Membership Chairman

Visit The New UBI Website at -

<http://www.unitedbowhuntersofillinois.com>



President's Report - Tim Nuss

Wow 2020! Lots of things have changed since our 2020 Annual Banquet on March 7th. It has been a year like I could have never imagined. So many cancellations, lifestyle changes, and adapting to what everyone is calling the new normal. It has been hard for me as I know that it has been hard for a lot of you.

I have learned a lot with all this COVID 19 crap. One of the biggest things that I have learned is to not take anything for granted. I have more to learn, like how to adapt to change, cancellations, and frustration.

We in the United Bowhunters of Illinois, have had to deal with all those things. The cancellations, closures, and restrictions, we have had to depend on social media to stay in touch and gather information. I have had to get used to doing communications on things like ZOOM, Go to Meeting, Messenger, Facebook, Text Messages, Teleconferences, and the number of e-mails I get have doubled.

Like everyone else I am waiting to see what and when how these new phases will affect us.

Now on the more positive. Joliet Archery Club 3rd Annual All Traditional 3D Shoot, will take place on August 8th and 9th, 2020 address 3700 W. Francis Rd., New Lenox, Illinois, 60451. Please keep checking our Facebook page, website, and Instagram for more details. This would be a great time for us to communicate with each other and still social distance as required. Any questions give me a call.

I would like to thank Jason Farr and Paul Ladner for their service on the UBI Board. Their term was over. They both had served a number of years A big Thank You to them!

I would like everyone to extend a warm welcome to Mike Roberts, our new UBI Board member. Mike Roberts is from New Lenox, IL and is owner and operator of Sauk Trail Archery. We are still in need of one board member. Anyone having any thoughts or suggestions please let a board member know.

Hoping everyone is well and we will have more events coming up as soon as the restrictions are lifted.

Tim Nuss

My Cell Phone Number is (217) 379-7555

My Home Phone Number is (217) 395-2411



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Director's Report - Nancy Norris

Has everyone been busy practicing with their bows? One lucky thing about traditional archery, it's not a problem for social distancing. Keep up your archery skills so you are prepared for deer season. It isn't too far away. This might be a great opportunity to scout your hunting areas for the upcoming season. Don't forget your bug spray and Permethrin for ticks.

Good news for 3D shooters, we have found out that the International Bowhunters Organization has kept their original World Traditional shoot scheduled for July 16-19 at Twin Oaks Bowhunters near Clarksville TN. Also, the Traditional Archery Society has rescheduled their World Championship for August 28-30 with Muddy Creek Archers at Farmland Conservation Club near Winchester IN.



Because of all the 3D shoots that Danny and I normally attend have been cancelled, Danny and Joshua have been doing a lot more fishing. The fishing has been great! Danny landed the biggest largemouth bass of his life. He caught it at Ferne Clyffe State Park. Danny's spring scale registered it at a little over 8 ½ lbs. After checking his scale against a digital scale, it was found that his spring scale was 1 lb light. It was determined that the bass was approximately 9 ½ lbs. Believing in catch and release, this trophy largemouth is back in the lake to give someone else the time of their life!

I hope everyone has had a chance to visit our new website. Please search for unitedbowhuntersofillinois.com. You will notice that the only difference in our website address is the extension of .com I would like to ask all members for their help in getting our new website more exposure. After you finish reading this newsletter, please go to our new website. This might be a good time for you to bookmark, or save our new website in your favorites. The more hits our website gets, will ensure that others will be able to find us easier.

Since I'm on the subject of social media, do you have a Facebook account? We would like to see posts from you to know what you are doing. Also, don't forget we also have an Instagram account. We would also like to have a presence on YouTube. Does anyone know how to put a YouTube account together and volunteer for the position?

Nancy Norris

618-363-1646

Wanted!

Newsletter Editor

Contact Any UBI Board Member

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New Director Bio - Michael Roberts

I am a freight conductor for BNSF Railway, as well as the owner/bowyer at Sauk Trail Archery.

I have been married to my best friend, Kristin Roberts, for 20 years, and have 2 daughters, Elaina, and Grace (Rooster).

So far, Rooster is the only one who has taken on my love for hunting, but who knows what the future holds.

Born and raised in Illinois, I've spent most of my time hunting locally, and at my folks place in Wisconsin. Having a bow in my hand from the time I was 4, my father had a plan.

Soon, it became a defining feature of who I am. I harvested my first deer, (a 4 point buck), when I was 12 years old, and followed that up with many more filled tags, and thousands of dirt covered arrows. Since then, the passion has only grown stronger, and has been passed on throughout our family.

Traditional archery has been a tremendous part of my life, and has become a common theme within our household, as well as throughout the Roberts family. From the 3D shoots, to the holiday shoot offs in mom and dads back yard, we all seem to get involved and share in the fun.



Director's Report - Bob Mayo

I hope all you UBI members survived the virus and shut down. I had to cancel my spring turkey hunt, because all the campgrounds in far southern Illinois were closed at that time. Jan and I sure miss seeing all our UBI friends at all the traditional shoots that were canceled this spring and summer so far.

We have already gotten word that the Great Lakes Longbow Invitational, scheduled for August, has been canceled. Some traditional shoots scheduled in August, are still up in the air yet, so you should check first before making the trip. We took a ride through a wooded area early this afternoon, and saw a lot more squirrels and deer and we usually see there. Squirrel season opens August 1, and all the state hunting areas in campgrounds are open now, so hopefully we will all get to go out and enjoy the outdoors and bowhunting.

I hope I can see you all at the Region 3 UBI Fall Rendezvous on October 15 – 17. We always have a great time at that event. Stay safe and healthy, and we hope to see you soon.

Bob Mayo

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Podcasts For The Traditional Bowhunter - Jered Shofner

My friend asked “What is a podcast?”. That was when I realized many UBI members may not know about this resource for traditional bowhunters. If you have wondered what podcast are and why they are relevant to the culture of tradition bowhunting, this article is for you.

Remember your local radio station’s weekly outdoors show? Podcasts can be thought of as the modern version of that radio show. Just like the weekly radio programs, podcasts usually focus on one area of interest and have new episodes on a regular basis. Podcasts differ than radio because you can listen to the podcasts at a time and place of your convenience.

There are podcasts covering every imaginable topic, including hunting with traditional bows. Many UBI members have been featured on podcasts episodes. Some podcasts are highly produced programs and others are less polished. I enjoy both. Podcasts have been sponsored by organizations like Compton Traditional Archers and The Professional Bowhunters Society. Does that peak your interest?

If you are new to the podcast world, you are about to be amazed on how many podcasts promote traditional archery. Your first step is to download one of several free smartphone apps to your phone that organize and store podcasts.

I recommend going to the application store on your device and downloading the “Pocket Casts” application. There are several other applications that will work, but the Pocket Casts app is free and user friendly. If you are not sure how to install an application, then find someone without grey hair and ask them.

Once your podcast application is installed, search for the topic you are interested in. Searching for the title of the podcast will produce a list for you on the episodes available. Then is just a matter of reading the summary of what is discussed, and downloading the file to your phone. Listen whenever you have time. Here are 10 podcasts that I recommend.

Traditional bowhunting and wilderness podcasts (tbwpcast.com). This was one of the first podcasts focused on traditional bowhunting. There are now 375 episodes. It is primarily a monologue with the hosts about his opinions on life and traditional bows.

The Stickbow Chronicles – The latest episode (#119) has an interview with Jake Downs (The UBI banquet speaker in 2020). Jake discusses his June 2020 grizzly bear hunt.

The Push – traditional archery podcast. This podcast is well produced and tends to focus on the technical side of shooting traditional gear, competition, and hunting. The



UBI's own Jason Wesbrock gives great shooting advice in episode 20 and in the shorter "Coaching Moments" episodes part 9 and 10.

The Stickboys – This is one of the newest podcast focusing on traditional bowhunting. They describe it as "about one thing and one thing only, traditional bowhunting, pure and simple." Sponsored by the Professional Bowhunter Society (PBS). Episode 15 features Illinois own Jon Simoneau. Note- I had to use the Stitcher podcast app to find this one.

Traditional Outdoors – This podcast covers tradition archery and some on black powder hunting.

Primitive Pursuits – Do not miss episode #066 starring UBI board member Bob Mayo of Ace Archery!

Hunt the backcountry podcast – The is not focused on traditional archery, but western hunting. I like to dream about those trips, and this gives me great advice and motivation.

The Meat Eater – Highly produced and very popular. This show focuses on conservation, hunting, and the role of sportsman in today's world.

Cals week in review - A modern version of the old "Animal stories" radio spot on WLS radio, but focused on hunting. This is a great source for a weekly update on topics about public land and conservation. Be prepared to laugh. The hosts also archery hunts with a longbow.

Cutting the distance - This is my favorite "How to" hunting podcast. A seasoned guide talks about lessons learned in the field while focusing on western big game hunting.

Downloading a podcast episode places the digital recording on your phone. Listen whenever you want.. My favorite times to listen are when I am mowing, driving, exercising, or working on hunting or fishing gear. I even know people that will listen with a single ear bud while passing time in a tree stand.

Give podcasts a try. Let me know if this article helped. They will never take the place of the face to face interaction with our friends around a campfire. They can, however, help entertain and educate us while we wait for the next campfire conversation.

Jered Shofner

ANNOUNCING THE UBI ARCHIVE PROJECT - Jered Shofner

We need your help to build a UBI archive! The purpose of this project is to gather a digital collection for the preservation of UBI history and future promotion of our organization. We are asking each member to dig into their favorite collection of personal photos, videos, or writings and submit copies to the new UBI archive. Tim Nuss, Nancy Norris, Dan Forstyk and I are the on the newly formed archive committee.

Why is this the time for this project? Our bylaws have always challenged us to promote ethics, fellowship, and conservation. A digital archive will enable the UBI to continue that work using today's tools like social media, web sites, and publishing. The archive material will be used to update our website. The archive committee is even exploring the possibility of printing a book chronicling the first 25 years of the UBI.

Your contribution will be stored digitally on a cloud-based service. Think of it as a locked footlocker full of photos, video, and written content. When the UBI board needs material to promote our ideals and organization, they can pull from that footlocker. That could be a social media post to demonstrate the effectiveness of traditional archery equipment or as part of the previously mentioned book. We are in the process of capturing past newsletters for inclusion in the archive as well.

Please understand that by contributing to the archive, you are expressing your consent for the UBI board to use the material to fulfill any purpose of the organization. We ask that at least one past or present UBI member appear in photographs. The story behind the photos will be invaluable.

Contact me to contribute to the archive. Email ultrahunters@gmail.com or call me at 217-519-4292. Our strategy to copy the material will depend on the type and volume you have.

As a bonus, contributors will be given online access to see what other members have contributed. Please take some time to dig through those memories and select those that are special to you.

Jered Shofner

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Treasurer's Report - Jan Mayo

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Receipts:

Dues New Memberships & Renewals 178.98

Total Receipts **178.98**

Disbursements:

Michael Wiltse UBI Spring Newsletter 565.38

Nancy Norris Web Hosting Fee & Domain Registration 228.85

Illinois Secretary of State Annual Report 10.00

Cusack, Gilfillan & O'Day LLC Preparation of Annual Report 75.00

Gilbert Best Microsoft Excel User Fee 74.36

Total Disbursements **953.59**

Ending Balance as of 06/30/20 **11,970.80**

The above is a true and accurate accounting of Income and Expenses incurred by the United Bowhunters of Illinois for the Second Quarter, 2020, commencing April 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020. Any questions or concerns can be addressed to me at my email address: jan@acearcherytackle.com

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Mayo, Treasurer



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Region 5 Report - Randy Beasley

Have you been thinking about preparation for this fall's hunting seasons?

Well, I have been. I consider June my official fall season preparation start date. This allows me two months to be ready for squirrel season, three months for elk season, and four months for deer season. Since I did not kill any squirrels last year, I need better preparation for close-range blunt shooting. I also need improved accuracy to shoot elk at longer ranges. I missed a couple of elk last fall as well as a couple of deer. Therefore, I decided I needed to work on being a more consistent shooter overall. Step one was completing Tom Clum's "Solid Archery Mechanics" online course. Now when I practice, I concentrate as much as possible on each element or step of the shot sequence. Before a practice session, I review my shot sequence. One issue was failure to grip the string consistently. Sometimes, I used the correct "deep hook" but occasionally, I was not getting a "deep hook". Therefore, my draw length varied with each shot. Some shots went high, low, left, or right. The proper shot not only requires hours of practice, but hours of correct practice. Through analysis, I discovered my inconsistency in gripping the string. Since June 1; my shooting consistency and accuracy have already improved.

Let me tell you some of the other things I have been doing. This includes getting in better shape for elk season. The first time I added my backpack while mowing this year, I only lasted about five minutes before removing my backpack to finish mowing. Today, I made it forty-five minutes with my backpack. Soon, I am hopeful to mow my entire yard with my backpack. Another important step is analysis of gear. I needed a new pair of hunting boots for the upcoming elk season and another dozen arrows for deer season. Previously, when I found a pair of boots, I really liked they were discontinued, resulting in another boot search the next time I ordered. I have considered buying two pairs at once, but by the time I determine that I really like a specific boot, it is too late. So, I have ordered, received, and am now breaking in my latest pair of hunting boots. As for arrows, I shoot Douglas Fir.

Since Surewood Shafts is a UBI supporter, I ordered a dozen shafts from them and began the process to prepare them as deer hunting arrows. Those who work with wood shafts know the time-consuming process necessary.

In addition, I have planted five food plots on my property. These include red clover, alfalfa, white clover, New Zealand clover, and soybeans for the deer and other wildlife. This should keep the deer on my small acreage. My trail cameras have shown deer, rabbits, skunks, opossums, raccoons, and turkeys using my food plots. They may not all eat what I have planted, but they travel through the food plots consistently.

Another preparation activity is cutting trails through the woods, removing the bush honeysuckle and autumn olives using the techniques perfected from the 25th anniversary UBI seminar by Jamie and James (Jim) Ellis. This is also an excellent way to social distance. Not many people get close while I am using a chain saw cutting these invasive plants.

As for this year's UBI region 5 event, I was just informed by South Central Archery, the UBI 3D shoot on August 8th and 9th at Forbes State Park has been cancelled due to the Covid-19. We will try again next year.

Remember: Pick a spot to make your shot

Randall Beasley

UBI Region 5 representative

(618) 780-4006

Beas322@charter.net



Region 2 Report - Dan Forystek

One thing we can all count on is change. In the early 70's I joined an archery club in Crete Il. About 15 minutes from my home. It was a good group of men who maintained an archery range in a piece of woods that looked like a setting for a Robin Hood movie. It was a beauty. A well groomed and mowed practice area up front and a really nice range in the heavy woods with about 20 targets on about 5 acres. Sunday mornings were the best times to join most of the members for a good time shooting the course. Lotts of laughs, shooting tips , and looking for lost arrows. Many members came and went, many have passed on in all these years.

When the compound bows became popular I was one of the last holdouts to cave in to the new machine when everyone else was out shooting me and rubbing it in with good humor unrelenting. Then it seemed like overnight most everyone went back to traditional gear . I had a good laugh when one trad shooter told me that the bow that I was shooting sounded like someone slamming an old screen door. After a technical malfunction I ditched the machine and am living happily ever after with a long bow in hand.

After many years membership fell off and the work days out there dwindled down to fewer and fewer guys showing up. Soon it was only myself and another senior citizen trying to maintain the range. When he moved away for most of the year I became the work party. Moving 45 minutes away I still tried to keep it running. It was more than I could handle but I did not want to let it go. There were so many good memories there. Then a week ago the owners who graciously leased that land to us informed me it was being sold to the forest preserve. It is a blessing in disguise I suppose and now on longer my responsibility. The place will be missed by the last few members that held on for so long. Good bye Golden Eagle Bowhunters.

Dan Forystek

Region 4 Report - Gilbert Best

“What a long strange trip it's been!”

What a Long Strange Trip It's Been is the second compilation album by the Grateful Dead. It was released August 18, 1976

I think this rock classic sums -up my I view of Covid-19 and our world. I am eager to grab my long bow, silently rest against a big oak tree in the plush backwoods of home ,and hunt. For me August 1 can't come soon enough.

I am wanting to give up the Region 4 seat. I am feeling that a much younger man with the abilities that I am not afforded should take this position up and run with it. I of course would help in any way. Please really consider taking on the position. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Hope you have a successful Fall Hunt, Covid free of course...

**“Truckin, I'm a goin home. Whoa whoa baby, back where I belong,
Back home, sit down and patch my bones, and get back truckin on.
Hey now get back truckin home.”**

With autumn closing in...

Gilbert
Best5@madisontelco.com
618-635-2360

Membership Report - Cheryl Best

I am unable to connect with these three Life Members. If you have knowledge of any of the following, please shoot me an email or give me a call. Thank you!

Steve Gutierrez - Jim Davis - Len Dickson

AUGUST 8TH & 9TH 2020

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Visit The New UBI Website at;

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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