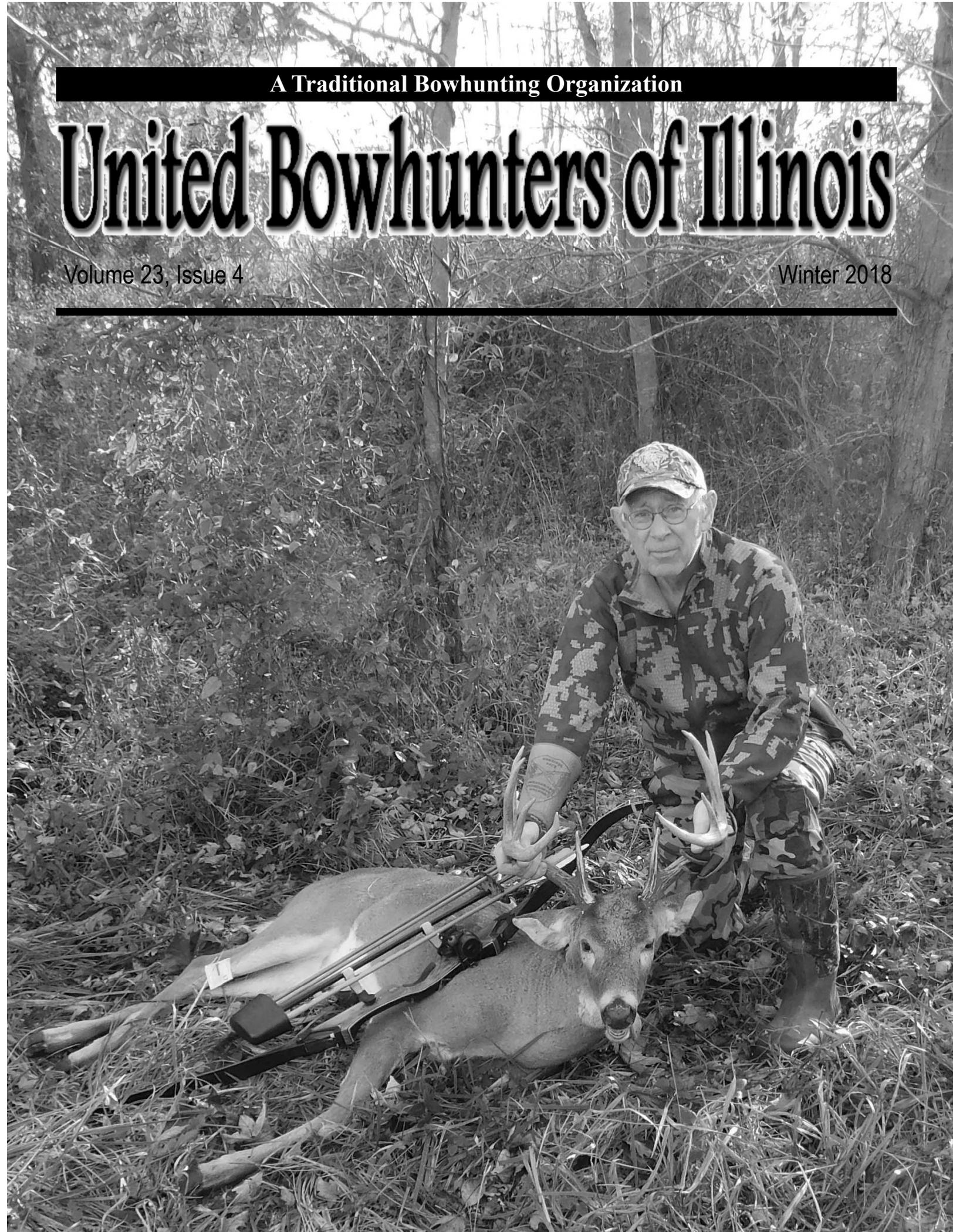


A Traditional Bowhunting Organization

# United Bowhunters of Illinois

Volume 23, Issue 4

Winter 2018



## United Bowhunters of Illinois Contact Information

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???????

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Region 3 - Ron Hayford, RR 3 Box 213A, Sullivan Illinois 61951 - 217-797-6472 - ronhayford@yahoo.com

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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.

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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.org>



# President's Report - Tim Nuss

It's a new year and about the time for our 2018 annual meeting and banquet. By the time you receive this, hunting season will be over and it will be an interesting time to hear about all your hunting adventures. If you have any you would like to share, please submit them to our newsletter.

Our 2018 banquet is taking shape and we are trying to introduce some new with the old in hopes to boost attendance. We have a lot of people involved to make this is an event members will want to attend. Feel free to register guest as well.

In 2018 we are going to try to set up a lot of regional events hoping everyone can attend, but at least be able to attend the one in your area. Look for your regional reps at the banquet and get more information on what they have planned.

As for the banquet, we have excellent speakers. Our keynote speaker will be Rick Duggen. He was the first guy to complete the North American Super Slam with a recurve. He will explain what the super slam is and how he got there. He will share some of his hunting stories along the way of completing his adventure. He will have a daytime seminar and be our banquet keynote speaker.

Jason Wesbrock , a longtime member of the UBI and a good friend to many, will have a daytime seminar, Alternative Aiming Methods for Bowhunting. Jason is one of the true Masters of the Barebow. Jason is in a new video, Master of the Barebow, volume 5. He also writes for Traditional Bowhunter Magazine.

Two well renowned archery historians, Gene Hall and Kevin Bishop, will also do a daytime seminar. We will be able to learn a lot from our past at this seminar.

We have also been working with our vendors to do a special if you preorder your items by phone. They will have the items at the banquet so there will be no shipping and handling cost to you. Contact your vendor to see the details. There will be a list of vendors sent to you as soon as possible.

Your packets for the information concerning the banquet and registration is being handled by membership chairman, Pat Norris. Those will be mailed shortly and we would appreciate you returning the information to him as soon as possible. The UBI Banquet for 2018 will be March 3, 2018 at the Northfield Inn Suites and Conference Center, 3280 Northfield Dr., Springfield, IL, same location as before. Phone number for making reservations is 217-523-7900. As always mention you are with the UBI group.

We would like to encourage you to donate as this is our big fundraiser to keep our organization going. We provide financial support and donate time and energy to many bowhunter friendly groups and organizations. It also enables us to continue the banquet and we hope to make it better every year.

I look forward to talking to all of you at the banquet. Please check out our Facebook page, Instagram and our UBI Website. We have some great people setting these things up and maintaining them. You can find more information using these online services. Never be afraid to contact me with concerns or questions.

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# Director's Report - Paul Ladner

There is not much new UBI business to report on as the board hasn't met since the State Fair.

I want to remind everyone that there is a college scholarship offered by the UBI. See the application included again in this newsletter.

Planning is in process for the 2018 banquet. I know Tim is looking to set up a time for the board to teleconference early in January to hammer out the details. I am sure we will be looking for donations for the event. Any help would be appreciated. For sure plan to attend as this should be a great meeting and it is a significant fund raiser for the group. Details should be included elsewhere in this newsletter.

A good part of the archery season is over at this point. It will be interesting to see the breakdown of deer harvest by device. Sales of crossbows have been brisk and my guess is that the crossbow numbers will be up and compound down due to people looking for easier route. By the time you get this newsletter the numbers should be available.

Gun season bowhunting has been a plus for me again. I shot 2 deer on the Saturday of the second season. It is nice to be out there in the woods displaying the bright orange for the neighbors to see. The gun hunters get a little crazy in my neck of the woods. I got to witness a good old deer drive on the property next door. They had guys blocking on a road and two deer were shot by the blockers (on the road). I stopped by and visited with them. They assured me they were ethical, but I thought hunting from the road was illegal. Go figure. At least they know I was "home" and interested in the activity. Hope it gives them pause in the future.

Hope your season has been rewarding and maybe you are planning a winter/spring hog hunt or looking forward to turkey hunting. There are a couple other things to be looking to fit in your plans. The Professional Bowhunters Society Biennial meeting will be nearby in Madison, Wisconsin March 16 and 17 2018. See their web site for details. The Compton Traditional Bowhunters will have meeting in Pittsburgh this year the 23rd and 24th of March as well.

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

## Self-Bow Contest at the 2018 UBI Banquet

Recall that the UBI sponsored a self-bow building workshop last summer taught by Bernard Swank where seven bows were made by seven members. To recognize the accomplishment of making a working self-bow, we will have a contest at the banquet that may or may not involve proficiency shooting, depending on the accommodations at the hotel.

Please bring one self-bow that you made yourself sometime during your archery career and 3 arrows with field points (arrows themselves are not part of the contest). Register for the contest at the meeting, where you will receive a unique identifying number and further instructions. The winner will receive a new Osage Bowmen back quiver or equivalent. Peter Tarcha, Organizer. 847-356-7382h, 224-436-9483c, cozzi216@comcast.net.



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## Director's Report - Bob Mayo

I hope all UBI members had a very enjoyable and successful 2017-18 hunting season. My wife Jan and I had a great time at the UBI Region 3 hunt at Eagle Creek State Park in October. Ron and Karen Hayford always do a great job putting together that event. The Saturday night dinner was outstanding. Although little harm was done to any wildlife, everyone was seeing deer and enjoyed the good weather.

I have made several one day hunting trips to Clinton Lake this season, and it seemed like I didn't see quite as many deer as I usually do. I didn't see any turkeys there this year. I also did not see as many hunters as usual, and I saw no crossbow hunters there.

Jan and I spent several days down in southern Illinois, at the Pine Hills area. We met our good friend and fellow UBI member, Jim Pyles from Missouri, and enjoyed several days of hunting, camping and enjoying Jim's delicious homemade venison stew. We saw just a few other hunters at the campground, couple of them had crossbows, but didn't see any out in the woods.

I was hunting with a Black Widow longbow that I won in a raffle at the UBI banquet several years ago. I was also using a Shaggie Suit that I won in a raffle last year at the UBI banquet. I'll have to try to keep my winning streak going, by investing in a few tickets for some of the raffles at this year's banquet.

Speaking of the UBI banquet, I hope everyone has their tickets and reservations already. It's not too late if you don't. This year's banquet is shaping up to be a really good event. The facility, Northfield Inn, is really nice with clean, well-maintained, up to date rooms. The seminars that are scheduled, promise to be very informative and interesting. The banquet dinner is always great, and the keynote speaker this year may be one of the best we've had for a few years. You will be able to buy most of your bow hunting necessities in the vendor room, which will be open all day long. I always have a great time in the vendor room enjoying the UBI members hunting stories and photos. We hope all UBI members will attend the afternoon membership meeting. You will be able to learn what's going on in the UBI, and we always want to hear the members suggestions on how we can make the UBI an even better organization. I hope to see you all there.

Bob Mayo  
(815) 692-6263  
ace@acearcherytackle.com



**Newsletter Editor**

**Wanted!**

**Contact Any UBI Board Member**



# Directors Report - Peter Tarcha

I hope that you have been active and successful in pursuit of the Whitetail and other legal critters and said creatures have been abundant. The IDNR CPOs have certainly been active and successful this deer season issuing more than 1800 citations and warnings. In addition to the routine enforcement, IDNA had a task force that concentrated on out-of-state poachers. I was made aware of this from an e-mail by Elmer Service that was forwarded to me by Jim Ellis. From it I learned that the task force's efforts generated 66 cases, from which there were 153 citations issued, 41 warnings, and 41 mounts seized because of the illegal harvest of deer. There was a picture published in the paper that showed dozens of illegally harvested mounts along with the CPO's involved with the arrests. We are reluctant to print the picture in the newsletter because there are likely copyright and permissions issues we rather avoid; however, you can view the picture at the link: <http://www.dailyzone.net/news/illinois-dnr-issues-153-citations-on-investigative-case-focused-on-non-resident-hunters/>.

Chief Enforcement Director Gutierrez has agreed once again to confer with his staff and identify CPOs that they feel are good candidates for our UBI Conservation Police Officer of the Year award. There should be a lot of diligent, outstanding CPO's that qualify this year, and in fact I just received their recommendations as I write this Director's report. I will forward this information to the Conservation Committee and we will soon reach a decision on the award winner.

There is a great resource on the IDNR website useful for following very recent announcements and deer harvest data. It is <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/news>. I could not find a direct link to it from the deer hunting pages or other IDNR pages, but if you have a IDNR site page up, delete everything after ".gov" and add "/news" and it gets you there.

At the "/news" site IDNR provided harvest information on the "Broadheaded Projectile Season" formally known to us and currently listed as the Archery Season, and the Muzzleloader Season as of December 10, 2017. As of the 10th, 52,650 deer were taken with broad-headed projectiles in 2017 vs. 48,228 in 2016, a 9.2% increase. Can we say that crossbows increased the kill? No, not at this time. There are other factors that need to be considered such as the legal bowhunting during the gun season in 2017 and weather conditions. In addition, there were 3700 taken by muzzleloader in 2017 vs 3308 in 2016 as of the 10th, an 11.8% increase. Shotgun was 80,021 vs 79,559. So there was an increase in deer harvest with all weapons, except for the atlatl, where a season is yet to be approved in Illinois. Perhaps this is something the NRA lobbyists can work on in the future in concert with the atlatl manufacturers who may want to advertise in one of NRA's magazines, e.g., American Hunter.

I want to thank board member Jason Farr for giving some of us a DOPE SLAP, in the last issue of our newsletter, on the placement of tree stands for bowhunting. Yes, the deer can be funneled and do take the the path of least resistance when they travel, even after they have been shot. Thinking back I have marveled that I saw a

lot of deer from certain stands, but they never came within bow range. It did not matter if I grunted, rattled, or farted. These stands either need to be moved, enhanced with transit barriers, or used for firearm hunting and picture taking only. Fortunately I was successful this year with the bow, but not from one of these "firearm" stands.

Discussions by me with CPOs from Lake County and Committee member, Mark Stotler (Bloomington, IL), with his CPO contact indicated that better optics would further enable them in their jobs. They prefer thermal imagers with recording capability over night vision optics, since the images can be used in court.

All objects emit thermal radiation in the infra-red. Animals and humans are usually warmer than the environment, so the radiation emanating from them is higher energy and stands out well against cooler backgrounds. Through vendor contacts provided to me by Lt. Danner, Director of IDNR Enforcement Procurement, we have identified a hand-held thermal imager that would be appropriate for CPO's and is reasonably priced for us to potentially purchase, using the State of IL discount and our tax exempt status. It would be useful in the brush during daylight or low light for locating trespassing poachers in tree stands, wounded or recently killed game, and blood trails at night. Its useful detection range is 600 yards. The unit has a camera and video recording capability useful for evidence gathering. The UBI Conservation Committee has unanimously approved the purchase of one of these units for donation to IDNR, pending budget approval and now Board approval.

Regarding the upcoming banquet on March 3, 2018, please contact any of your sources that have given the the past or may support us now with item donations that we can use in the raffles and auction. If you have a self-bow that you made yourself, bring it along with some arrows because we may have a self-bow contest and display of the handiwork.

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**DEALER INQUIRIES WELCOME**

# Directors Report - Jason Farr

Dear Traditional Bowhunters,

Depending on Newsletter delivery, by the time you read this, you may have just attended, or are planning on attending our banquet March 3<sup>rd</sup> in Springfield. Like last year I'd strongly encourage and recommend everyone to attend and participate. It takes allot of planning from our board as well as our past board members to help coordinate all the days speakers and events. The Banquets success however, doesn't just depend on the officers & board. Every one of us has the ability to contribute in some way. All of us have gear we no longer use or hunting cloths and apparel that no longer fit. Bring it and donate it for the raffle. Every little bit helps our organization. If you have any questions, suggestions, or ideas please call me at 309-221-3352. I'm always happy to hear from a fellow UBI member. Your help in any way can make Our Banquet event an even greater success.

March not only brings our Banquet, but also begins a very special time of the year for myself. Shed Hunting Season! I don't know if it's an age or a maturity thing, but I'm starting to enjoy finding a bucks shed antlers as much as actually harvesting him. It always make me happy to pick up antlers from a deer I saw numerous times during the summer, chased through the fall, and finally when he drops his antlers each winter or early spring. Several years ago I actually rattled in and killed a deer using own his antlers from the year before. That was a unique experience I which made for cherished memories.

Several outdoor writers have wrote all about their opinions on "How to Find Shed Horns", but much like bowhunting just being there is the key. I have found them in every location imaginable. I've found antlers stuck in trees, hung up in fences, and laying in fence lines. I've even had a buck drop a horn in my yard. One time I slammed on the breaks while driving down a country road at 35 miles an hour to see one fifty yards out in a picked corn field. That takes good eyes, as well as the ability to multi-task, as I was deeply focused on my wife telling me about her day, our daughter and something about what's for supper. Jenny's story about that event may have a slightly different take?

I once read that looking where deer predictably jump fences is a good place to look. As deer land they jar their body, often times dislodging their loose antlers. Whitetails spend allot of time in their winter beds, so of course these places should never go unlooked. Most of my finds come around late season food sources and grassy waterways which drain them. Waterways? Yes, believe it or not, deer will often lay down throughout the night in unconventional places to digest food they consumed earlier in the evening. Another theory I have comes from your dog with a chew toy. Like a dog, when a coyote finds an antler, he carries it away to a safe place and lays down with it for a while to work it over. Speaking of dogs, now the craze is training dogs to find sheds. I'm not a dog guy so I kind of feel it would rob me of the hunting / learning experience. Speaking of shortcuts, I won't forget to mention there are now manufactured antler traps and again I'd have to ask myself what I really learned while using a trap or a dog. To each their own I guess. Kind of takes the romance out of the experience.

The number one reason why shed hunting appeals to me is because it's a perfect time of year to scout for next season. Again, I don't have the credentials to give anyone hunting advice, but in my opinion, the shed hunting tactics I employ during the month of "MARCH - KILLS NOVEMBER WHITETAILS"! After the snows are gone and before the spring green up is the ultimate time of year to learn about what and why things happen in the timber. March's barren landscape shows all the past season's deer activity and provides answers to many questions. Why deer did what they did during the hunting season, revealing clues to how you need to prepare for next year.

Like our Annual Banquet, Shed Antler Hunting is something we can all participate in. Be a student of the landscape where deer live and possibly learn something useful for next year's season. A little leg work in March equals success in November.

On a final note, if I personally can't be in the woods, I'd like to be with likeminded people who share the same enthusiasm for the wild places we love. Looking forward to seeing you at our March 3<sup>rd</sup> UBI Banquet in Springfield. I think we have some great speakers lined up and a fantastic event scheduled.

"A Bowhunter"

Jason Farr



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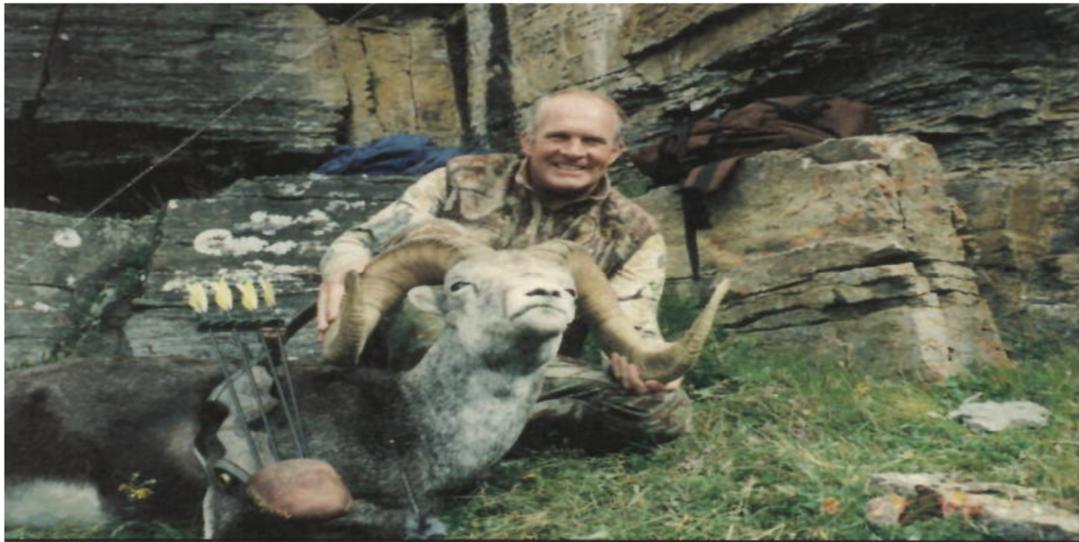
**Annual Banquet**

**Saturday March 3**

At the Northfield Inn and Conference Center  
3280 Northfield Drive, Springfield, IL 62702

*Featuring Guest Speaker*

**Rick Duggan**



The United Bowhunters of Illinois welcomes Rick Duggan as the keynote for our 2018 banquet. Rick grew up in Wisconsin where he credits his father for getting him and his brother interested in hunting. His early hunting interests included small game and deer. Eventually Rick moved to Colorado and forged a friendship with bowyer Keith Chastain. He has hunted with recurves made by Chastain ever since. Rick killed his first big game animal – a mule deer, with a bow in Colorado. His passion for bowhunting led him to establish the goal to take all 28 species of North American game animals. Two decades later Rick became the first person to ever complete a traditional Super Slam. Join Rick at the United Bowhunters of Illinois' annual banquet as he shares the details of this memorable journey.

**For more information or to be a vendor at our banquet please feel free to call or email:**

Jason Farr, [jasonfarr36@gmail.com](mailto:jasonfarr36@gmail.com) (309) 221-3352

## Schedule of Events - Banquet 2018

9:00 am - Banquet Hall and Hospitality Room Opens

10:00 am - Jason Wesbrock seminar – Alternative Aiming Methods.

11:00 am - Rick Duggan Seminar

12:00 pm - Lunch

1:00 pm - Gene Hall and Kevin Bishop - Bowhunting Related Paraphernalia.

2:00 pm - Membership Meeting.

3:00 pm - Bucket Raffle Drawing.

6:30 pm - Banquet Doors Open.

## Treasurer's Report - Jim Ellis

Date	Check Number	Pay To	For	Credit	Debit	Balance
9-19-17			Beginning 4th Quarter Balance			\$8942.40
10-25-17	1055	Randy Beasley	dues over payment		\$15.00	\$8937.40
10-30-17	1056	Mike Wiltse	reimbursement for 2017 fall news-letter		\$597.44	\$8339.96
11/3/2017	deposit		membership dues	\$140.00		\$8479.96
11/20/2017	deposit		membership dues	\$35.00		\$8504.96
		CASH ON HAND				
12-10-17	cash		T-shirt sale	\$14.00		
12-13-17	cash		T-shirt mailing to Randy Beasley		\$7.20	\$6.80
12-19-17		UBI SAVING BALANCE				\$1002.92
					TOTAL	\$9514.68



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# Then & Now - Pat Cebuhar

Then & Now

The Fifth Edition –

In the business world, being more efficient lends itself to being more successful. But is being 5 Times more Efficient at deer hunting, really more Successful? Guess it depends on how you define success in deer hunting. Ask yourself how do You measure Your success afield? If success to you means, kill as many deer as fast as you can, with least amount of effort, then yes, maybe so. Or is success to you measured in the overall hunting experience, the chosen method, or in other words the way you hunt? If you're reading this then you supposedly chose the traditional path of bowhunting. You supposedly accepted self-imposed limitations. In doing so efficiency isn't the benchmark of success, even though your chosen equipment, in the right hands can be very effective.

In days of old we wanted to be better woodsmen which lead to becoming better hunters. Today that thought seems to have shifted, and most, including some traditional folks fall into the trap of wanting to be more efficient killers rather than better woodsmen & overall hunters. The unending quest for more or better killing tools transcends across all methods of hunting. More and more frequently I see new stuff that makes me wonder what the hell are we thinking? One of the latest things I saw was in a "traditional archery" supplier catalog, it was what they called a "Stone Age" screw in broadhead, designed to mount on your modern arrow! I ain't sorry, that strikes me as funny, and in my opinion there's just something wrong with that combination. The ultimate irony would be a Stone Age point on one end and a light bulb on the other end? It's time to Stop and Think about the choices we make.

The New Wave. Today does it seem that deer hunters have turned into Deer Trappers? Today tactics seem different. Instead of finding the natural concentration of deer populations, natural food sources, natural corridors of travel leading to natural pinch points, natural scrapes, etc. hunters are creating all of them. Setting up a trap if you will, manipulating the landscape, and therefore manipulating the deer to lure them to a very effective & efficient ambush site. Admittedly this method requires a tremendous amount of off season effort, knowledge of deer behavior, wind and terrain. To some degree with limitations, this is OK. More people however take this to extremes and although legal, sometimes it seems a little over the top of the ethical bar. It's like I mentioned before in the first edition, regarding duck hunters, it's legal to flood a cornfield but illegal to take corn to existing water. So no matter which came first the water or the food isn't the end results is pretty much the same? So the question is, how much deer habitant manipulation is enough or acceptable. Know when to say when? Just something to think about. Maybe it's just me but doesn't it seem odd that in a State where deer baiting is illegal that every sporting goods store has at least one whole isle of "irresistible" deer groceries? All of which are guaranteed at a 99% success rate at attracting big bucks? Seems like there wouldn't / shouldn't be a market for those products in States where it ain't legal?

I know I mentioned Deer Fortresses before too, but there's a new twist. These store bought shooting shacks are going up all over the place lately. Seems like every small town watering hole, farm store, & sporting goods store has a few deer forts setting outside for sale. Now, the latest craze is mounting either type atop hayracks or gravity wagons, making them a portable snipers lair overlooking a crop field or food plot, with mowed paths leading directly by. All these deer fortresses are just plain ugly, an insult to nature's beauty. Can't say the deer stands of old were any prettier but at least they were small, & made with only a few scrap boards. For lack of a better definition the later metal portable stands are at least not as obvious and obnoxious from a distance. Those type of stands are an improvement in safety as well as damage caused to the trees over the old boards nailed in trees. I'll give them that.

I've often wondered what impressions these new deer forts make on the non-hunters, as they go for a Sunday drive? A drive for no other reason, than to just to enjoy the fall and all of Fall's colorful beauty. It's like going to see nature's wonderful artwork, only to find it obstructed by a high rise building protruding in the middle of it.



Some of these bigger deer fortresses are more of a cabin on stilts, complete with all the amenities of your home. I can't help but feel sorry for, & think of how much of the "Outdoor Experience" these folks are missing. A very sad part of it is they don't even realize what they are missing. Think about this. Now a days, this is how they start out the kids hunting, shielding them from the cold, snow, wind or rain. Is that what we really want to teach them? Tucked away in a hunting fort? Where they are warm, sleeping or playing on the phone, ipad or some electronic device, only waking them up to pull the trigger? They totally miss out on learning to suck it up, learning to deal with it, or maybe even survive it. With a generation learning and starting out like this, what will the following generation be like? These current youngsters will be the ones passing on the tradition they experienced? They will pass on exactly what they experienced & learned. Some of the very best, most impressionable memories of many hunts were the direct result of Mother Nature's grace or her unforgiving wrath. Those deer fortresses may be efficient & effective, but I just don't have much of a desire to experience the hunt from an "outhouse on stilts"!

Turkey blinds albeit of similar intent, get it, ("in tent"), are about my limit. I have a hard time staying put in a blind very long. I feel blind, I can't see like I can from a treestand. Turkey blinds have had the same successful effect for turkey hunters as deer stands have had for the success of deer hunters.

So let's put it all together painting an ugly picture. Today we see a Mobil Deer Fortress overlooking a food plot, baited with bags of come over here deer, deer cocaine lollypops, etc. The solar powered Fortress supports the electronic wireless satellite surveillance cameras hooked to the phone, laptop or ipad and all the creature comfort amenities. The Fortress is occupied by a group of trained deer assassins equipped with crossguns mounted on tripods with high powered laser scopes. A screw in stone point mounted on a carbon bolt with a light bulb on the other end as a tracer. Their mission, wack & stack as fast as you can, they are pressed for time to get to their next scheduled deer drop stop.

A final thought is a quote from my long time hunting buddy who just returned from a Colorado traditional bowhunt for elk.

"That was the Best Unsuccessful Hunt I've ever had." That says a lot. There's a lot of character in that short statement.



# Region 1 Report - Denny Hayford

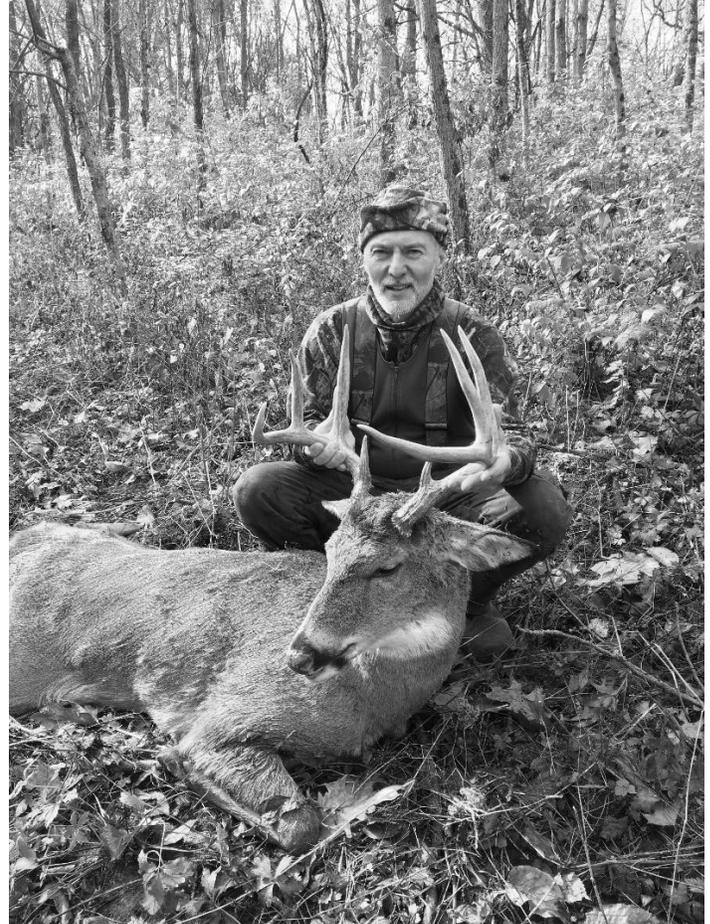
Region 1 Spring Stump Shoot 2018

Looking forward to seeing as many of you as can make it to the Region 1 Stump Shoot this year. It will be Saturday April 21 but you can come on Friday and stay through Sunday. We have about 20 3-D targets set out, room for lots of camping and a great time. I hope to have flyers at the banquet.

Deer Season 2017

As another Illinois deer season comes to a close I was guardedly encouraged by the deer I saw during the season and what is still showing up on the trail cams. The property behind mine changed hands this summer and that appears to be a good thing for the section I'm in. The new owner contacted me just before season started and we have had great communications not only about what we are seeing but how to improve the area. I stopped shooting does about 5 years ago and he appears to be like minded in that respect. He even came over to help me recover my deer. He seemed to be mildly impressed that a 66 year old man can harvest a nice buck with a 53# recurve. Yes, I'm working on making a convert out of him but I think it will take a while.

Season started out very slow with the trail cams confirming that the deer are moving mostly at night. Before the trail cams we used this as our excuse for not seeing anything and come to find out we weren't just making excuses! As season progressed to that magical time of the year when even the wisest buck can't stay in bed all day, I watched 2 bucks move toward a creek crossing that I had always suspected being for men only. For those of you that attend the stump shoot its' were the big black boar was down by the small creek last year. Anne helped me move a ladder stand to a large walnut about 12 yards from the crossing and a little behind it as the creek bends there. The next morning I was rewarded with two bucks and a doe coming through the area but not my crossing. Here again by 8:30 all deer movement ceased. By now I had designated this as a morning only stand so as not to over hunt it. The wind has to be out of the SE, S, or SW for greatest confidence. The second time I sat it a good 8 pt came right down through the creek bed presenting a perfect shot at about 15 yards. Everything went perfect as my arrow hit the ground 4 inches behind the front leg and 2 inches below the chest (perfect for the deer that is).



After checking for blood and searching for the other half of my arrow I returned to my stand with 10 inches of muddy broadhead and shaft that he had broken off at ground level with his back leg as he exited the area. About 40 minutes later a much larger 8 pt came in but after catching the buck's and my scent cautiously exited but never seemed aware of my position. Four bucks in two outings from that stand. Confidence was building while target practiced continued.

The third morning a small 6 pt came through behind me early but in spite of crossing my wind he never even looked my way. Around an hour later this 8 pt appeared following the same creek crossing trail as the lucky first 8 pt had. As he came up out of the creek bed there is overhanging honeysuckle that allows me to stand up for the shot. He saw the movement but continued without much hesitation. As he stepped from behind an 8 inch cherry I drew. He looked directly up at me and time passed, a lot of it when you are at full draw with a 53# bow. My muscles were saying let it down but my mind was saying NO WAY. Finally his head lowered and he took another step as the Tuffhead did its' work. Did I mention how much I love hunting with traditional gear.

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For what it's worth

So I get this call from my brother Ron and he tells me he's got a bow for me to get to Tim Nuss. Tim had purchased it from John Krohn and oh by the way, Tim asked if you could make a new string for it. For those of you that know me you know that I've made a few, what could be the big deal. This bow is a Howard Hill Big 5 weighting in a 111 pounds. I don't make many of those kinds of strings. Making the string was not nearly as big a concern as how I was going to brace the bow afterwards. As the story goes the last time an attempt was made it involved 3 men, a broken bow stringer, and some damage to appendages. I'm happy to report that it now has a string on it but I will need to try the first string I made as it is a little shorter. The first one settled out at 6.5 in brace which was exactly right but continued to stretch to 4.25. I was told that it could stretch up to "4" inches once it was on the bow and that was a true statement. Oh, how did I string it? That involved myself, 2 other very strong young men, a 6x6 post, two rubber boat rollers, and our pastor was helping and praying that no one would be maned or killed.

Hoping everyone had a safe and Merry Christmas and New Year! Looking forward to seeing you at the banquet in March and the stump shoot in April.

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

Best Regards,

Denny Hayford

Region 1 Representative

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## 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; bow-fishing; 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.

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## Region 2 Report - Dan Forystek

In this Northeast region of the state for the past two years we have had record rain in the area that I now hunt. I put an end to it by planting eleven trees and a food plot. It worked. It has not rained since or so it seems. The painstaking task of watering by hauling water by hand is working, I think. Somehow the food plot seeds germinated without rain and are growing in soil that is poor. Neighboring hunters are seeing big bucks I hear, however where I am they are camera shy. We have does and fawns so we hope those fellas will show up when they feel the need for a date. The unbearable mosquitoes are gone with the drought for now making it a pleasure to be out there again. The future looks bright in the area.

Of the three members in this region that did not renew that I attempted to contact Ray Koehler was the only to respond. Ray recently had open heart surgery and will renew when he is back on his feet again. We wish him the best and a quick recovery. We all look forward to seeing his great art work continue.

I wish all of you the best of luck in this season and please share your success in the field with a photo sent to Michael.

The Northeast part of our state is not famous for big bucks and it could be that word spreads out of control with cell phones these days but there have been some true monsters killed, as luck would have it, all around the land that I hunt. Not only were the mature bucks camera shy the few that did show up were all at night. I've come to the conclusion that I am not a trophy hunter however I did pass on a button buck. My son claims I'm getting soft in old age. Nothing new at the end of the season around here the deer seem to look at the woods as a very dangerous place to be.

As for the squirrels, I spent a good deal of time looking for arrows and had a ball doing it.

I hope you all had a rewarding season.

Dan Forystek

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## Region 4 Report - Gilbert Best

Happy New Year From Region 4!

The Fall has been a strange season; no rain, snow, cold or deer. I can't understand the State deer report of "right where it should be" when where used to be an abundance of deer sightings I see fewer and fewer deer. It must be all the new houses that seem to be popping up near my land and less and less regulations on ATV's.

I am venting a bit but another child from the next town, was killed on an ATV, right before Christmas. This seems to be a normal event in our area and I am tired of it. I really do not understand why these vehicles do not have more age restrictions on them. People need to act responsible and not allow young children to use them. Children are not capable of handling a machine that can quickly get out of control with the change of a terrain in a blink of an eye.

With the holidays and hunting season past us my eyes are focused on the banquet. Please help is by making a small donation to place in a bucket raffle or on the raffle table or donate something that could be auctioned off. Check out the sale racks and you can find some really great items to share with the group.

On a final note when a computer crashes you don't know what you have until it's gone and I mean everything is gone. So if you can email your addresses so I can refill my address book I would greatly appreciate it.

Take care and see you at the banquet!

Gilbert



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# Region 5 Report - Randy Beasley

The day I learned to fly .....

Well on November 7, 2017, it happened. That was the day I took flight. It was not exactly like the Wright Brothers, but I can now understand how excited they must have been on their famous day.

On this day, I was deer hunting and a doe walked past my tree stand, but I could not shoot at her because some tree limbs on the next tree over from my tree stand.

These tree limbs were too far away to reach by hand and my pole saw was seven miles away. What to do what to do? I thought that if I could just lasso these limbs with my bow pull up rope, I could pull them close enough to cut with my folding saw. Take a moment to picture this and remembering the old Redneck line "Hold my beer and watch this." After several attempts, I was able to lasso the limbs and begin pulling them close to where I could grab them. However, these limbs were actually dead, and they broke free from the tree, I lost my balance and was instantly flying. At that moment, there was no do over, nothing to grab to keep me on the tree stand, I was going to fly. This flying business can be very exciting and fun, but scary too. If I had not been tethered to the tree with a safety vest and "life line rope" including a Prusik knot, I might not be writing this story to you. I flew or more accurately sailed one-fourth the way around the tree onto my climbing sticks. I climbed back onto the tree stand and sat down on the seat and determined that I was very lucky to be wearing a safety harness and that it worked as intended. If I had not been wearing the harness, I am certain that I would have been a very broken hunter on the ground at that very moment waiting to be carried out of the woods.

On November 7, I did not know that I would have a chapter 2 to this story, but on November 27, just 20 days later, I was in the same stand early in the morning when I heard deer in the woods behind my tree. The day before I had scouted and determined that this tree stand provided the best opportunity to harvest a deer. Based on past experience in this woods, the deer normally come through later in the morning perhaps nine AM and sometimes as late as ten AM. Today, it was just six-thirty AM and two deer were behind me. They had already or would cross exactly where I had walked to get to my stand, and they were somewhat downwind when I first heard them. I had to try something to get them to come my direction or I would likely never get a shot. I grunted twice hard on the grunt call and was very surprised to see the deer begin walking toward the trail that I had cut around the bedding area directly in front of the stand. The buck was walking to a ground scrape that was just past and upwind of the tree stand on the far side of the lane. When the deer was broadside, I drew, aimed, and released at the walking deer. Everything seemed to slow down to slow motion. While I did not notice any reaction by the deer, I could clearly see the arrow in flight the entire way – not a blur or just picking up the fletching, I saw the entire arrow flight and was conscious that the arrow was only flying about one-half speed. I did not hear the release, the hit, or the deer even walking off. I did not hear the string tracker feed out the string. I saw the

arrow sticking out of his back while he walked off about 40 yards and then he was on the ground. I did not hear him fall, but I was aware that the string was no longer feeding out of the string tracker on my bow. I raised my binoculars and looked close to see if the deer was standing or lying down. He was down with his belly facing me. I waited some time before I lowered my bow and removed the string tracker. I still do not know how that arrow hit this deer in the back. The deer was broadside when I released my arrow, and I did not even see the deer turn, let alone duck, jump or even tense up. However, the deer had turned 90 degrees after I shot. If he had not turned 90 degrees, my arrow would never have met up with this deer.



I have to ask Santa for a new safety harness as you only get one fall per harness and I have had mine.

Please always use a safety harness whenever you climb a tree and for stands you hunt more than once, a "life line" is very cheap insurance and keeps you attached all the way up and down the tree.

Randy Beasley  
Region 5 representative  
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## Region 3 Report - Ron Hayford

The Region 3 Eagle Creek Rendezvous was well attended again this year. we had about 50 people camp or make an appearance during the three day event. Actually some campers came as early as Tuesday and a few stayed on into the next week. October is the perfect time of year for camping. Add to that the activities, camaraderie, and campfires, and the fall Rendezvous becomes a memorable event. We would like to thank Joe Furlong and Bob Mayo for donating door prizes for drawing at the Saturday evening potluck. We appreciate all who continue to support our event. We hope you had as good a time as we did.

The Region 3 Common Grounds Coffee Club is still meeting every Wednesday at noon in Mattoon. Today was bitterly cold, so instead of shooting our bows, we solved most of the world's problems. If you are ever in the area on a Wednesday, and want to shoot bows or solve problems with old guys, stop by the Common Grounds Coffee Shop. We would love to see you.

The next big UBI gathering will be the banquet, which is always a good time with informative seminars and a notable keynote speaker. The president and board of directors work hard to make this a great event. The best way for the members to thank them for their efforts is to attend the banquet.



If you have never tried deer decoys you might give it some thought. With the new lower bow weight regulations this year Karen decided to try deer hunting. She wasn't comfortable shooting from a tree stand, so we tried a pop-up blind. It seemed to work better, but its hard to hide them from a wary deer. So we decided to try the decoy as a distraction away from the blind. Bingo! The first evening we set out the decoy she got a shot at a respectable distance of around 20 yards. The shot was close, but not quite enough. The next morning in the same location, again she got a good chance at around 20 yards. Another clean miss, but still she got to experience the heart pounding thrill of a chance at a deer at close range. This decoy thing seems to work, but there is a learning curve to how best to set it out. I haven't gotten the set up figured out , but it does draw their attention toward the decoy and away from the waiting hunter.

Congratulations to all who had a successful deer season this fall. I am looking forward to seeing some fellow bowhunters at the banquet.



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# Controlled Burn Training at the Morton Arboretum 2018

Remember Cody Considine from the Illinois Nature Conservancy spoke at our banquet last year. He highlighted the importance of controlled burning for reducing invasive species on open land. UBI members who own property may wish to take advantage of these two day training sessions. The information below was taken from the Morton Arboretum website:

Chicago Wilderness will offer three winter sessions of the Midwest Ecological Prescription Burn Crew Member Training class. Based on the National Wildfire Coordinating Group's (NWCG) S-130 and S-190 courses, this training covers the basics of such topics as fire behavior, controlled burn techniques, and smoke management. The objective is to provide participants with the background necessary to safely participate on the crew of a controlled burn.

Please be aware that although the training is accepted by many of the natural resource management agencies in the CW region as the minimum training required for a participant on a burn crew, it does not carry the official NWCG certification. This class can be taken as a component of the Woodland Stewardship Program in natural areas management.

Notes: Ages 18+. Limit 60

## SCHEDULE AND LOCATION:

Two days: Saturday, February 24, and Sunday, February 25; Thursday, March 1, and Friday, March 2; or Thursday, March 15, and Friday, March 16, 2018, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Section A: Saturday, February 24, and Sunday, February 25, Cudahy Room

Section B: Thursday, March 1, and Friday, March 2, Sycamore Room

Section C: Thursday, March 15, and Friday, March 16, Arbor Room

## FEES AND ADMISSION:

Nonmembers: Fees include admission to the Arboretum.

Fee: \$75

Look for more information on the Arboretum website. Their phone number is 630-968-0074.

Register: <http://www.mortonarb.org/courses/chicago-wilderness-burn-crew-training-0>

Located 25 miles west of Chicago, The Morton Arboretum—4100 Illinois Route 53 in Lisle, IL 60532—is just west of Interstate 355 and north of I-88 on Illinois Route 53 (sometimes known as Lincoln Avenue or Lincoln Highway).



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<p>Terry Moore Bowyer</p>  <p>Jeff Scherer Bowyer</p> <p><b>618-697-1885</b> PO Box 241 Jonesboro IL 62952 E-mail: Stotlerarchery@gmail.com • Website: www.stotlerarchery.com</p>	 <p>6112 W. Grand Ave Gurnee, IL 60031</p>	 <p>Steve Savage &gt; 541.688.0493</p> <p>PO Box 662, Jefferson, Oregon 97352 www.surewoodshafts.com &gt; surewoodshafts@hotmail.com</p>
		



#### **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**

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#### **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**

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#### **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**