

Alberta

2016 FALL NEWSLETTER

BOWHUNTERS' ASSOCIATION



Ice Age Oxen | Back to Back Velvet Mulies

FEATURES



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Ice Age Oxen

by
Steve MacKenzie



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Back 2 Back Mulies

by
Vanessa Wrubleski

ON THE COVER

Heather Wilson poses with her bull moose she called into 5 yards on a rainy October morning by herself. Photo by Kevin Wilson.

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Baiting Deer

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EDITORIAL

Gord Nuttall

Welcome to full color! Our media printing company contacted us informing us we could now print in full color for less cost, thanks to their new machine. Keep sending in those pictures and stories please and thanks for all the submissions to date, they are much appreciated. They look even better in full color!

We are so lucky in Alberta in terms of bowhunting big game. A handful of over the counter tags for that many species for a mere few hundred dollars can keep us busy chasing critters for 3+ months. For myself, I finally pulled one of the rare tags (archery antelope) this past September and accomplished my goal and wanting the complete decoying experience, right through the rut. Wow! Did I see some neat things and ended up folding my tag a mature buck I decoyed into twenty yards that was tending two does late in the rut. Too bad it is such a long wait for another Alberta bowhunting opportunity for Antelope. I may have to look south of the border because it is just so much fun chasing those speed goats in the wide open prairie grassland. The action was all day long, making it boring to sit in a tree for 3 hours after that, but I am sure I will get used to it again.

My Bear BR33 bow also did some damage on an antlerless moose in early October, unfortunately, it fell over in the middle of pond. A few wet hours later, I had it skinned and hanging but I do not recommend shooting those beasts in water. Besides bowhunting Alberta trying to kill a bigger buck than your last one (something Vanessa accomplished with another mulie velvet buck (see page 10), ABA members have also been busy hunting abroad, in places like Greenland for Muskox. Check out Steve Mackenzie's article on page 4 for full details of his spectacular hunt. He managed to convince me to look into going. And of course, this issue has the usual president's report and technical tips for Mark Twang. Did I mention in full color as well? In case you missed it somehow, baiting is illegal in Alberta for deer/moose, but what exactly does mean in terms of food plots and summer feed for taking pictures? Check you page 18 for more information.

Finally do not forgot to enter your game awards by the end of February, at the latest. Should be plenty of time to get the antlers/horns scored and fill out the paperwork that Ryk requires – see complete details on page 19. And last but not least, make sure you are a member before you shoot a nice buck, otherwise you are out of luck regarding the annual game awards.

Gord Nuttall



WORLD'S FOREMOST OUTFITTER



2016 Fall Edition

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

EDITORIAL & ADVERTISING

Editor & Graphic Designer: Gord Nuttall

SUBMISSIONS

ABA Newsletter welcomes input, photos and stories from its subscribers (ABA Members). For feature articles, please send one thousand words of your adventure along with three (3) high resolution digital photographs to email listed here. Your story (or photo) will be placed in the publishing queue. Send the highest resolution possible for brag board pictures.

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ICE AGE OXEN

by Steve MacKenzie

I was on my knees at the lip of a small gully leading up from a Southwest Greenland fiord when the smaller of the two bulls we were stalking left his companion and disappeared from view. The next thing I knew he came up over the top and was glaring at me from eight yards away. Muskox have been known to clock 60km/hr at top speed so there was not much chance of getting out of the way if his aggression switch was tripped.

This was an exciting start for a bow hunting trip to the world's largest island to pursue the muskox, known locally by the Greenlandic name "UMINGMAK", meaning bearded one. Muskoxen are actually more closely related to sheep and goats than to oxen. Fossil evidence shows that they lived across the Siberian and North American Arctic and from the Ural Mountains to Greenland. The ancestors of today's muskoxen came across the Bering Land Bridge to North America between 200,000 and 90,000 years ago. Various glacial events reduced the various subspecies of the muskox family in the northern hemisphere and only the arctic muskox survived in ice free areas called "glacial refugia" in the Northern Arctic Islands and Greenland. With the retreat of the glacial ice they spread through Northern Canada, Alaska and Greenland. The last European muskoxen died out in Sweden 9000 years ago and the Alaskan population was wiped out in the early 20th century but they have since been reintroduced. Today there are breeding populations in Greenland and Northern Canada.

Muskox intrigued me. Both the bulls and cows have long, curved and extremely sharp horns. They stand 4 to 5 feet high, can be up to 8 feet long and can weigh up to 900 pounds on the top end. They have little short tails which are invisible under a thick, shaggy coat of hair which almost reaches the ground. A very fine insulating wool called qiviut is shed in the spring and can be picked off the bushes where the muskox range. Muskox rut in the late summer and that's when the bulls get really rank. Calves are born 8 to 9 months later, or not at all if the winters are extreme. In our hunting area of SW Greenland, the coastal winters are milder and twin calves are common. With longer access to good forage on the sides of the fiords the herds do very well and trophy quality is excellent.

Bow hunting in Greenland has only been allowed since the first test hunts were done in 2012 on muskox and caribou. This was due solely to the efforts of our outfitter, originally a bow hunter in Scandinavia, who moved to a small village in Greenland called Arsuk and married a local woman. He demonstrated to the authorities that bow hunting was a viable means of harvesting the abundant animals on the island. A group from Bow Hunter Magazine participated in the first hunt. The harvest in his area is regulated for non-resident hunters and local meat hunters. There is no overlap of the seasons. The locals prefer the better eating cows and yearlings and the bulls just get bigger. Perfect!

Two air flights are required to get to Greenland. I went from Edmonton to Keflavik International airport in Iceland and then on to Narsarsuaq airport in Greenland where we overnighted. The next part of the adventure was a 120 mile boat ride through the many icebergs and granite islands to camp. The area is steeped in Viking history as European settlement dates back to the year 986 when Eric the Red arrived with 14 boats carrying Icelanders and Norwegians. The ruins of those early settlements can still be seen, and the other bow hunter on the trip shot his bull very close to one.

There were four hunters in camp accompanied by their spouses. Two were to be the only rifle hunters for the season and two of us were bow hunting. Day one the rifle hunters went out while we went on a boat ride to the foot of a glacier and fished for arctic char in the backdrop of a giant sheet of ice. The rifle hunters were done by one o'clock and came back to camp with stories of many muskox sightings, as well as two gigantic codfish that they jigged out of the fiord. Supper was fantastic.

The next morning we left camp in thick fog to travel to the fiord where we would hunt. We slowly entered the mouth of the long narrow fiord and hugged one shoreline. We did not know where we were or what to expect but all of a sudden through the mist we saw our first muskox standing on a rocky outcrop looking down at us! As the fog lifted we began to see groups of animals on both sides of the fiord. The guide glassed each group to locate shooter bulls that were in good locations to stalk. The terrain was perfect for spot and stalk hunting as the sides of the fiord offered good concealment with patches of low brush, bumps and swales and big boulders dotted in the mix. A coin toss was done and I was up first.

The bull muskox decided after a spell that I was not a threat to him and headed back down into the gully. I had my eyes on his travelling companion and just as I came to full draw a small bush blocked my shot and the two of them made their escape up the gully. On our way back to where the boat was anchored off shore we ran into a small herd that picked us off right away and chugged off across the side of the slope. They do have good eyesight, but their peripheral vision is poor. This is a weakness you can use in stalking up on them.

To bow hunt in Greenland you have to have a bow hunting permit from your country or evidence of bow hunter training. The draw weight for your bow must be a minimum of 60 pounds and the arrow weight must be at least 525 grains. Only fixed blade broad heads are allowed. Muskox are tough animals and a well placed arrow must be shot



higher than you would expect to get a double lung shot. Their square shaggy shape can be deceiving.

My partner Joe from New York City was up next and we boated up the fiord to try for a bull the guide had marked earlier. We anchored the boat and Joe, his wife, and the guide headed uphill for his first stalk while we catnapped in the sun at the beach. Some time later we spotted them on their way down with big smiles on their faces. They had pulled off a successful stalk on the bull and Joe had made a perfect shot. Two Inuit skimmers who were waiting offshore in their boats were radioed to come in and skin and quarter the bull. They would take the

pered that it was a bull alright but it had a broken horn. We executed the same retreat procedure and snuck off again. In short order another bull was seen above us apparently lying down in the sun on a big patch of granite. Some belly crawling brought us to the point where the guide motioned for me to crawl ahead to the last bit of shrub cover. I was to get on my knees and wait for the animal to rise and give me a broadside or slight quartering away shot.

I did as I was told and came up on my knees. Only then did I realize just how close I had crept in. I was looking at a really good bull having his siesta quartering towards me only 15 steps away. I whispered back to the guide, "he is sleeping". He motioned for me to stand up and wait. After a short time the bull stirred and soon was glaring across the short distance at the creature that had dared interrupt his nap. He stared me down to see what my move would be. This is a typical muskox

tactic when confronted at short range by predators. They will hold their ground and fight if necessary.

The standoff ended when he turned to leave and presented me with the shot I was waiting for. In a flash the arrow tipped with a vintage Bear Razor-head was buried deep in his side. He dashed off and picked up his one horned buddy along the way. At about 60 yards he went down hard and flipped over. It was done - a heart shot. My wife had heard loud snuffling and grunting along with the pounding of hoofs just above her as the pair of bulls dashed by. Soon I saw her head pop up and I gave the high five sign and signalled to come up and see the bull.

Just as she arrived I glanced over my shoulder to see a muskox come up out of a little ravine and come barrelling right at us. My wife gave a yelp

and dove behind the guide who then stepped forward with his 300 Win Mag at the ready. He shouted and shook his rifle at the muskox and got it diverted around us. That was adrenalin rush number three for the day.

The skimmers arrived in short order and were having quite a conversation as they climbed up to us. They had never seen muskox taken with a bow before and in one day two bow hunters had just done that with one arrow each. I think they expected to find the muskox sprouting arrows from all sides like a pin cushion. After a barrage of photos were taken the bull was quickly caped and quartered and we got him down to the boat in one trip.

The rest of the week was spent fishing for char from the islands near camp, hiking to freshwater lakes to try for landlocked char and generally enjoying the sunny weather, drop dead gorgeous scenery and excellent dinners of fresh fish. A muskox BBQ was held later in the week using the back straps and tenderloins from the first two bulls. The meat was tasty, but a bit chewy, as was expected for mature

meat back to their village.

Away we went across the water to the other side where we knew a bull was among a group halfway up the side of the slope. Up the incline we went with my wife bringing up the rear until the guide stopped and positioned her safely behind a big rock in a gully. As we made our way up I noted we had a steady wind downhill and slightly crossways. Small willow bushes covered our approach until the guide's hand motioned to me that we were getting close. We closed the distance and I saw two large brown masses of hair about 20 yards ahead through the willows. The guide checked them out and whispered that they were big cows so we backed downhill and proceeded across the slope till we could go up again. I was following directly behind the guide right in his boot steps when I noticed a muskox right on the other side of the nearest willow bush. Since the guide was shorter than me, he had not seen it yet. I had to poke him in the back three times with my bow to get him to stop and look. After a slow bit of glassing he whis-



bulls.

My hunt was planned a year and a half in advance and I chose Greenland for several reasons. The opportunity to travel to a remote and extremely beautiful location to try for a great trophy in the warm month of July was very appealing. I used to work in the Canadian Arctic and the thought of going back up there to be dragged behind a skidoo over miles of frozen tundra didn't hold much appeal for me or my wife Betty, who happily tagged along for the experience. To get there you must go through Iceland which is very easy and economical due to daily flights from Edmonton to Keflavik on Iceland Air. We took the opportunity to spend 2 weeks in Iceland driving around the whole island. Why not? We were already there and it is highly recommended to see that country. Weapons permits to enter Iceland are arranged by the outfitter and broad heads must be carried separately from your bow. They do check. No such procedure entering Greenland.

We flew on Air Iceland from Iceland to Narsarsuaq airport

in Greenland. This flight has to be booked way in advance. This is an interesting spot built by the American air force in 1941 to serve as a stop over point for warplanes being moved to England to fight in WWII. Over 10,000 planes landed and refueled there. It was abandoned in 1958 and later taken over and fixed up by the Danes. Greenland is an autonomous country within the Danish realm. The Danish Kroner is their currency. Three quarters of Greenland is covered by a permanent ice sheet. Greenland has been inhabited off and on for at least 4500 years by Arctic peoples whose ancestors migrated there from the Canadian arctic. Last year the population was estimated to be only 55,847.

Should you choose to go hunting there you will have the trip of a lifetime.





3D Report

Kris Skelly

The 3D season has come and gone again and that means one thing, hunting season! We first want to thank all the volunteers, committee members, sponsors and host clubs that supported our established and growing ABA bowhunter challenge format. The final shoot hosted by Brazeau Bowbenders out of Drayton Valley had a little bit of everything weather wise and some really challenging shots. The buckle shoot off

had the top twelve scores of the 3 rounds in a shoot off style where Chris Drewes and Norm Devaleriola had a tight playoff as the final two. Norm edged out Chris to win the buckle in the final shot! Jim Bows donated the championship buckle that Norm took home. We would like to recognize the shooters who will be presented with placement plaques at the annual banquet this spring in Nisku.

- Youth Female 1st-Stephanie Drewes, 2nd- Brooklyn Berge
- Youth Male 1st Adam Berge
- Experienced Female 1st Linda Hewlett, 2nd Lori Keeler, 3rd Helen Popson
- Experienced Male 1st Leonard Claffey, 2nd Al Keeler, 3rd Alf Farn
- Bow Hunter Class Male 1st Chris Drewes, 2nd Norm Devaleriola, 3rd Mitchell Payment

Also with the support of our sponsors we were able to send every participant home with a prize! We cannot thank enough the following,

Sponsors:

- Jim Bows Archery – Calgary and Edmonton
- Big Guy Outdoor Sports (Whitecourt)
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- Trophy Book Archery
- Wolverine Guns and Tackle
- Cabela's Edmonton
- Canadian Tire (South Edmonton and DV)
- T & T Archery
- North American Hunting Supply
- Wholesale Sports
- United Truck and Machine
- Ti-Ro Enterprises
- The Oilmans (Shane Jensen)
- Tammy Bilodeau
- Lamont Fish and Game Association
- Barton's Big Country Outdoors

Hope to see more of you out there next year!



Thank you for your support!



2016 ABA Bowhunter Challenge Final



Back Back VELVET MULE DEER

by Vanessa Wrubleski

The 2015 bowhunting season earned me a very respectable mulie velvet buck. I decided I would go ahead and get it shoulder mounted, as I knew I would not be shooting a nicer velvet buck any time soon, or so I thought.

Last year's success made me very excited for this year's bowhunting season! Day two of season had unfavorable weather: windy, cold and rainy. Not too long into the evening hunt, we spotted a mulie doe about 400 yards from us in a field, heading towards a small bush with a clearing just beside it. We made a plan to head down the clearing, sticking tight to the bush, so that once she crossed through the branches, she would only be a 25 yard shot. After closing the distance on the doe to 150 yards, we saw a very nice buck also heading towards the small brush. At that point our target definitely changed. The doe would live to see another day. We closed the distance even further, but by the time we were about 50 yards from the buck, and he was just about at the bush, he bedded down. We could hardly see him through the branches but knew he was still there. The wait was on. With our down time, we made a plan for if he crossed the bush into the clearing, and another for if he turned and headed back towards the field.



During our forty minute wait, I prayed he would cross to the clearing, as it would be an easy broad-side shot. But as luck would have it, the wind swirled and he stood up and faced the field. This meant I had a very narrow shooting window through branches; that is, if he stopped long enough to get a shot off. As he started walking, I steadied myself and looked only for the kill, trying not to even think about the horns. As he stopped I drew back and split my forty and fifty yard pins right on his vitals and squeezed my trigger.

When my broad head made contact, I was in shock. Even though I practice regularly at that distance; that was the first time I had ever shot an animal that far. We watched him run one hundred yards and fall over in the standing wheat field. I had never before seen an animal I shot fall over and die in sight, it was all very exciting. Once I got to put my hands on him I was blown away. His mass was far beyond what we had expected and he blew last year's buck out of the water by a mile. Excitedly I phoned my father in law to let him know we would not be mounting last year's buck after all!



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ANCHOR POINTS

Mark Twang



If you have any questions or would like to suggest a future archery topic please email: MarkTwang@canadianhuntingociety.com

Treestand Safety

Using a treestand provides bowhunters a huge advantage; however, bowhunting from an elevated position has its inherent risks that cannot be ignored. Still to this day, current research of reported treestand incidents indicate that 82% were NOT using a fall restraint system. A fall arrest system coupled with basic treestand safety principles outlined below, treestand accidents could be significantly reduced or eliminated. First things first, you need a climbing harness. At minimum, a three point harness used by rock climbers, but it's best to have a five point or



Concealed and tethered in a tree - a superb safe and advantageous bowhunt.



Falling asleep is possible - keep a tight tether but never around your neck or chin.

full body harness to prevent toppling over. The pioneers of elevated hunting used single strap belts, basically a seat belt securing the bowhunter to the tree, but these are no longer recommended. They do not allow the bowhunter enough freedom to move when secured tightly. In addition, the bowhunter can easily slip out when the belt is too loose. Ensure your climbing harness fits properly when you purchase it, either underneath or overtop of the clothes you intend to wear while bowhunting. Understand how to adjust your safety harness and test it while hanging one foot off the ground for comfort and to experience what it feels like to hang suspended in your harness, in case it should ever happen. When doing this, it is important to practice tension relief because prolonged hanging is dangerous and it could be a while before help arrives. Alternate tension between harness points to allow blood to continue flowing. The first step is owning a safety harness, but the second step is not forgetting to bring and





A haul line a must. Never carry gear when ascending or descending.

wearing it each and every time. Make a habit of not leaving the ground unless you are wearing your safety harness. Once you have ascended to the stand, the tether strap should be as short as possible, offering the bowhunter just enough movement to stand/sit and make all ethical shots possible. No additional slack should be in the tether and it should be fastened at eye level (when standing) to the tree. Never allow the tether to go under your chin or around your neck.

Once a treestand is setup, it is generally fairly simple and safe to ascend into hunting position and descend once the hunt is over. However, setting up the treestand can be the most dangerous. It is most important to wear your harness and constantly have your tether tightly secured

to the tree. Personally, once I screw in the first four pegs, I then attach my tether to the top peg and continue screwing in pegs and moving the tether upwards accordingly.

During setup, once you have ascended to your preferred height secure your tether before doing anything else. Always use a haul line to bring up any gear, including your hang-on treestand. Hang-on treestands set themselves very well without the need to stand on them. Do not ever jump on a treestand platform, either to set it or celebrate. Be familiar with the load rating of your treestand and remember you will probably be wearing and or carrying up to 30 lbs of hunting gear in addition to your body weight.

Treestand bowhunting is usually a solo activity, so the most important safety aspect is simply to tell someone you can trust with your favorite hunting spot where you are going and what time you expect to be back.

Final tips

- Always maintain three points of contact when ascending or descending to or from the treestand.
- Avoid really windy days because have you ever heard a tree fall on a calm day in the forest?
- Inspect your harness frequently for wear and/or damage.
- Never hurry and know your limitations, including fatigue, fitness and fear of heights.



Always maintain three points of contact when ascending or descending into position.

About Mark Twang

Mark Twang is an average Alberta Bowhunters Association Archer, with 20+ years of archery experience and has decided to share some of the archery technical information he has gathered over the years as a bow hunter, archery tech, competitor and coach.

Have something to brag about?

Then send a high resolution photograph of your memorable accomplishment to: gord@albertabowhunters.com

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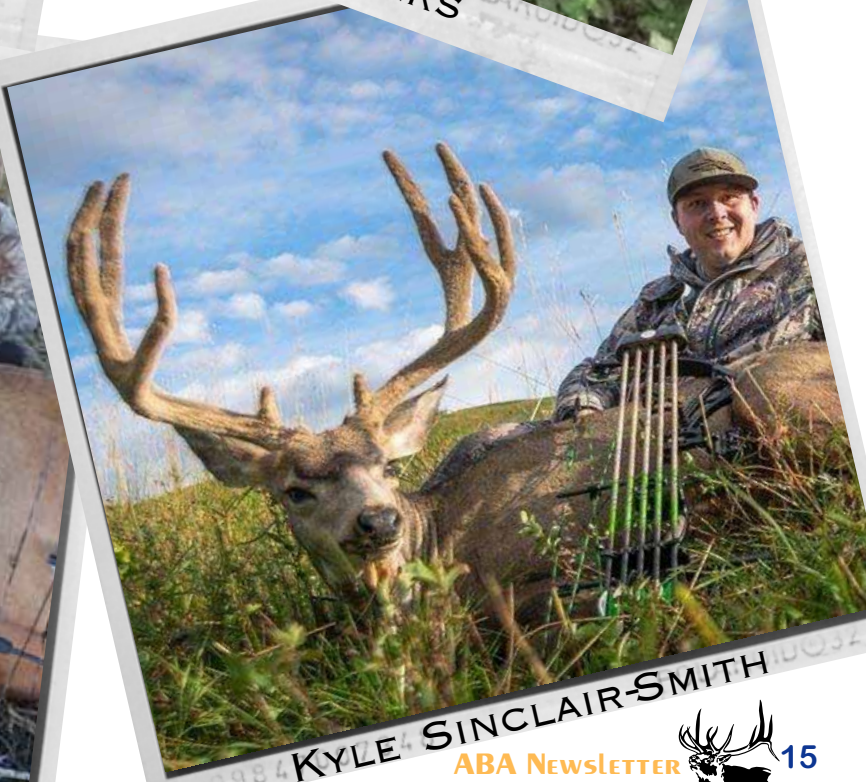
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PRESIDENTS REPORT

Brent Watson

Hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving weekend - the turkeys can breathe easy for another couple of months! In Alberta, bowhunters and hunters in general indeed need to give "Thanks" for the incredible hunting opportunities we have. We continue to be the envy of most jurisdictions in North America. But bowhunters in Alberta have certainly lost some opportunity over the last few years as we exceed our harvest share (currently set at 15% of the resident share) in some WMUs for some species and must now have the draw to hunt in the archery season. Most notably it has impacted the opportunity to bowhunt antlered mule deer in a large portion of the province - antlered moose and elk have also seen these changes but to a lesser degree. The "Archery Season Draw" proposal that we have been putting forth the last several years to FW/stakeholders would help regain some of this lost opportunity for bowhunters in the archery season - preliminary statistics show it would also increase total hunter days in the field and not impact the chances of those who participate in the general draw. This proposal is part of the ongoing "Allocation Policy Review" discussions (of which we are an active participant) and the final draft should be released by FW soon for public review and comment. Once it is, we will let everyone know through our mass email list, Facebook page, our website and through the newsletter.

We are having two days of meetings (Dec 6/7) with FW and the rest of the stakeholders of the "Alberta Game Policy Advisory Council". The first day will be a meeting of the "Allocation Policy Review" committee - FW will be presenting a draft policy based on discussions in past meetings, how they look at

the issues moving forward. There may be another meeting, may not. Depends on the discussions that day, if there are impasses/can't all agree on something, we may have another meeting or FW will make a decision and complete the draft. Once it goes through internal FW review it will be released to the AGPAC council as a whole and to the general public for review and feedback.

The second day of the meeting will be on general items and on 2017 reg change proposals. If anyone has a regulation change they feel needs to be addressed/introduced, contact our Regulations Chairman Terry (Terry@albertabowhunters.com) or myself.

I just came back from an 11 day moose hunt - taking out a friend who had the draw, trying to get a bull with his bow. We had a great tent camp set up and hunted my old stomping grounds. The "Honey Hole". A good friend and trapper partner had shown me this area about twenty years ago and it used to be magical. Moose like cattle, trails at the springs pounded wide and deep, lots of stinky rut pits and smashed bush. Lots of action with bulls grunting and cows bawling. Definitely the good old days. About five years ago we noticed grizzly bear tracks, wolf tracks. Moose numbers started to decline but there still was moose around. Last year a friend and I were drawn - I spent three weeks hunting this same general area. Grizzly bear and wolf sign was everywhere - old and fresh. In the three weeks we seen or heard twelve bulls, saw six cows and one calf. I did pass up a small bull at four steps with my longbow. Had a decent bull at eight yards but facing me and I didn't want to take a frontal shot. That was about it. In talking to the local FW biologist

last year, he confirmed what we were seeing - they had aerial surveyed this WMU the previous year and moose numbers were way down, calf numbers as well. Resident tags were reduced. I wasn't prepared for what we found this year. The first few days were on my own till Craig got into camp. I seen a small bull in a cutblock, seen a lone cow along an old road. I checked a bunch of our old spots that we hike into different areas but there wasn't much for moose tracks - old or fresh. I did see a big grizzly, fresh grizzly tracks. Lots of wolf tracks. Once Craig got into camp we did have some luck even though the weather turned and we called in two bulls up close but they didn't offer us a shot. For the next six days we had snow and rain, low cloud that acted like fog. And MUD!! We couldn't get to some of our favorite spots but did manage to walk, drive, scout and hunt an area app 20km by 10km. In those six days we seen just three fresh moose tracks. Didn't get one answer other than wolves howling back to our cow calls one evening. Seen fresh grizzly, wolf and black bear tracks, lots of coyotes. I have a meeting again with the local bio who was anxious to hear what we found this year. Certainly looks like we are at a high predator/low prey part of the cycle. Predator population crashes usually happen five years after a prey collapse - this might work for wolf populations but I am thinking the bears do not rely on moose very much and can find other things to eat. They will still be there picking off the calves. FW have said at our stakeholder meetings that "predator management will not occur to enhance big game populations unless the species becomes threatened" (as is the case for the caribou in certain regions of the province). Guess we need to look for a new



spot to bowhunt moose! The high numbers of predators in Alberta seems to be a common topic of conversation these days.

From some of the pictures circulating through social media it looks like there has been some great critters taken and lots of success. If you happen to be one of those successful hunters, send your pics and a story to Gord (Gord@albertabowhunters.com) for the newsletter. We are in desperate need of stories - are a key part of this great product and we always need more.

Make sure you get your Game Award entries into Ryk (ryk@ryk.ca) in a timely manner. Definitely before the March 1 deadline. If you think or know you qualify for the buckle or the portrait let us know asap so we can get the ball rolling on them. Kate, our artist, has an extremely busy spring coming up and will need as much lead time as possible. When you send your entry to Ryk make sure you also confirm with him that he did indeed receive it/them. If you email pictures make sure they are a small file size.

Our last raffle of the wall tent/accessories package sold at 65% - kind of caught us by surprise as we figured with such a great prize and decent odds, it would have sold out quickly. Raffles are a hard thing to figure out -- let us know what you would like to see for priz-

es, what the ticket price should be.

Long range shooting - it seems we are being inundated with TV shows, social media posts, internet forum discussions on this latest trend. It is not limited to just hunting with rifles but is showing up in bowhunting circles. Several members have expressed concern with this and have asked what the ABA position is on the issue. "The ABA has no formal position on long range shooting/hunting". We have discussed it as an exec and the issue is certainly a hot topic with many people. Every hunter (regardless of the choice of equipment they use) has to know their limitations in regards to their own abilities, their equipment, their effective range, their hunting experiences etc. BUT being one of the core values of a hunter, we need to remain cogniscent of the fact we should always make sure the top priority is a quick, humane kill of our quarry. An arrow going 300 fps shot at our prey at 60 yards takes approximately 0.6 seconds to reach that target - not compensating for a reduction in that speed over that distance. In that same 0.6 seconds an animal (deer, elk, moose, sheep, antelope, bear etc) can take several steps and put your arrow "off its mark" by a large amount resulting in a complete miss or much worse, a wounded animal. The shot may be a non-fatal flesh wound or could be a hit

that will be fatal but not make for an immediate recovery and result in a lost animal - any hunter's worse nightmare. Keep this in mind the next time you draw your bow and send an arrow on its way.

"All I could see was its neck, was the only shot I had" "He was getting ready to bolt - I had to take the shot" It seems we are hearing these kinds of things more and more frequently whether it is on TV shows or in conversations at the archery clubs, over a coffee or a beer, around a campfire at hunting camps. Not sure what the logic behind that thinking is. In either case, if you do not take the shot, are you going to be hit by lightning?? Is something bad going to happen to YOU if you do not take the shot?? Not likely. As a hunter, we are in control right up to the last millisecond when we touch the release, relax the grip on the finger tab, squeeze the trigger of the gun. Are we so bent on having to make a shot, try to get that animal at any cost that we lose sight of the bigger picture. That we owe it to our quarry to make a quick humane kill. To do the best we can as a hunter and if in doubt, wait for another time, another day.

Good luck the rest of the fall and here is hoping the snow is not here to stay!!

BAITING DEER

The Issue of Deer (Ungulate) Baiting / Food Plots

We have been attending various government and stakeholder meetings over the last 5 years and the issue of "baiting" deer (and other ungulates) with attractants, minerals, grain, salt blocks etc and the use of "food plots" has come up at quite a few of these meetings.

At every meeting we have attend-

ed, FW response is baiting for deer (or other ungulates) for the purpose of "hunting" over will never happen in Alberta - the reason being they do not want to have CWD spread more and faster than it is on its own. Other jurisdictions who currently allow baiting/have CWD in their deer herds are revisiting their stance based on concerns

from the scientific community on the relationship with baiting, concentrating deer in small areas, increase the risk of CWD transmission. Lots of resistance as one would expect from outfitters and local hunters/nature watchers who use baiting for scouting, hunting over or just like to feed and watch wildlife. Currently people

in Alberta can use “bait” to observe wildlife, set trail cameras up, etc but cannot “hunt” using bait. Thoughts from many people has suggested “either allow it for everyone or make it totally illegal” - remove the gray area - but nothing further from FW to date.

Baiting is a real thorn in the side of enforcement - you can use bait and set up trail cameras for “viewing nature” but you cannot use bait when actually hunting. Lots of gray area. Hard to prove someone put the bait out and then hunted over it. You don't have to be right over the bait in order to be charged with hunting with bait.

If you set up 1/2 mile away on a game trail leading to the bait site, you can be charged with hunting over bait. You have bait/attractant out for getting pictures but what timeline is there in stopping before you hunt in area? If there is ANY residue in ground you could be charged in hunting over bait.

The use of food plots has exploded across North America and has become an industry unto its own but many people may not be aware of the implications and legalities here in Alberta. People are planting turnips, “Biologic”, seed mixtures, etc and the reality is you can legally do that but cannot “hunt” over these

food plots. Some of these commercial seed mixtures also may contain things that are deemed to be “weeds” by the department of Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and you may be responsible for controlling them.

The following response is from an inquiry to Pat Dunford of FW on Dec 14/15 after an ABA Executive meeting. Pat is the head of FW Enforcement.

The following text (except the last paragraph which I just added) was used to reply to a recent Facebook inquiry in the use of food plots:

“The schedule to the Wildlife Act states that the following is prohibited for hunting big game or game birds: “Any bait consisting of a food attractant, including a mineral and any representation of a food attractant.” Further, it is illegal to set out, use or have in one’s possession for the purpose of hunting big game or game birds bait that consists of these substances

It is not illegal to grow a crop as a source of food for wildlife or for the purpose of attracting wildlife for a purpose other than hunting.

Depending on the circumstances, however, hunting over a food plot may constitute using or employing bait for the purpose of hunting. Our view is that hunting over a food plot created for wildlife is hunting with the use of bait and, therefore, illegal.

Fish and Wildlife Officers will continue to investigate cases of illegal baiting that are discovered or reported. Based on available evidence, each incident will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Penalties for using bait to hunt big game (other than as allowed to hunt black bear in baiting zones) under section 40(1) of the Wildlife Act are at the discretion of the courts, as there is no specified fine amount. A fine (to an individual) upon conviction can range from \$0 to \$50,000 or imprisonment of up to one year, or both, plus any creative sentencing conditions the court may choose to assign. A suspension of licence privileges of from one to five years can also be added at the discretion of the court [under section 101(2)] for a section 40(1) conviction.

ABA GAME AWARDS PROGRAM

Small Game, Big Game, Master, and Grandmaster ABA bowhunter Awards (no time limit to earn), as well as the Annual Big Game Awards program have been established for ABA members only. Applications for these awards will be accepted only if the bowhunter is an ABA member at the time the game entered is taken. Must be taken in a regulated hunting season and on a valid hunting license. All animals entered must be taken under "The P&Y Rules Of Fair Chase" (www.pope-young.org) (NOT allowed are draw lock devices, battery operated sights, bow mounted rangefinders, use of cellular trail cameras, etc.)(lighted nocks (Lumenoks) and bow mounted cameras ARE allowed). Entries must be received by March 1 in the year following when those animals were taken – NO exceptions!! For example: any ABA eligible animal taken in 2016 must be entered by March 1st of 2017 – the only exception are Cougars taken in Dec 2016 as they fall in the following Awards year (2017) to be consistent with the dates of that particular Cougar season.

SMALL GAME AWARD (CERTIFICATE)

ABA Bowhunter must take 1 species from 5 of the following 6 categories:

Rodent

Jack Rabbit
Snowshoe Hare
Cottontail Rabbit
Woodchuck
Gopher
Porcupine
Beaver
Red Squirrel

Varmint

Crow
Magpie
Pigeon
Starling
Skunk
Free ranging wild boar
Raven (private land)

Carnivore

Wolf
Coyote
Badger
Fox
Raccoon

Game Bird

Hungarian Partridge
Grouse
Ptarmigan
Merriam's Turkey
Pheasant

Migratory

Ducks
Coots
Common Snipe (Wilson's)
Geese

Fish

Species according to Fishing Regulations.
Examples:
Sucker
Lake Whitefish

For entries and any information regarding the ABA Game Awards Program contact:

Ryk Visscher
1166 68 Street NW
Edmonton, AB. T6k 3K4
780- 445-0327 (Anytime)
780-450-0386(Fax)
ryk@ryk.ca (Email)

BIG GAME AWARD (CERTIFICATE)

ABA Bowhunter must take any 3 of Alberta's 10 species (can be male or female)

Whitetail Deer
Mule Deer

Elk
Moose

Bighorn Sheep
Antelope

Black Bear
Cougar

Mountain Goat
Bison

MASTER BOWHUNTER AWARD (PERSONALIZED BUCKLE \$275 VALUE)

ABA bowhunter must take four of Alberta's 10 species and, with the exception of bears and cougars, all must be legal males (> 4" antlers, 4/5 curl, etc.). Two of the four must meet Pope & Young's minimum score. Bowhunter must have already earned a Small Game Award, and have taken at least one carnivore.

GRANDMASTER BOWHUNTER AWARD

ABA bowhunter must take six species of Pope & Young animals.

Bowhunter must have already earned a Small Game Award, and have taken at least one carnivore.

ANNUAL GAME AWARDS (GOLD, SILVER, & BRONZE PLAQUES)

ABA Bowhunter must take the largest of Alberta's species. Typical and Non-Typical species for Whitetail and Mule Deer(Dec. 1st thru Nov. 30th).

TRADITIONAL AWARD (GOLD, SILVER, & BRONZE PLAQUES)

ABA Bowhunter must take the largest percentage of P&Y minimum score of any of Alberta's ten species

LADIES AWARD (GOLD, SILVER, & BRONZE PLAQUES)

ABA Bowhunter must take the largest percentage of P&Y minimum score of any of Alberta's ten species

YOUTH AWARD (GOLD, SILVER, & BRONZE PLAQUES)

ABA Bowhunter must less than 17 years old on day animal is taken.)

ABA Bowhunter must take the largest percentage of P&Y minimum score of any of Alberta's ten species

GAME AWARDS APPLICATION FORM

Deadline March 1st

(MAKE COPIES OF THIS FORM FOR FUTURE USE, revised March 26, 2016)

BOWHUNTER (Please Print)

ANSWER THIS QUESTION, IT'S IMPORTANT! Were you an ABA member at the time this animal was taken?

Circle YES NO

ABA Memb # _____

Name: _____ Birthday (for youth entries 16 and under) _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Postal Code: _____ Phone # _____ EMAIL _____

ANIMAL

*Species: _____ **Sex _____ ***Pope & Young Score (V,NT?) _____

Taken with recurve/longbow (traditional Equipment) Yes _____ No _____

* For Small Game indicate Category / Species e.g. Rodent / Gopher

** To be male, must have 4" horns or better

*** Only official P&Y scorers can fill this in, and affidavit below; make sure scorer indicates Velvet and/or Non-Typical categories if applicable.

Date of Kill _____ Location of Kill (WMU) _____

Signature & Phone # of Witness (Verification of Bow Kill) _____

Photo of Bowhunter with Big Game animal entries are requested but not mandatory



AFFIDAVIT OF FAIR CHASE

I, _____, by my signature do declare that my animal was killed by me entirely by means of the bow and arrow, and in accordance with the "P&Y Rules of Fair Chase" (<http://www.pope-young.org/>) (NOT allowed are draw lock devices, battery operated sights, bow mounted rangefinders, use of cellular trail cameras, etc.) (lighted nocs (Lumenoks) and bow mounted cameras ARE allowed). Must be taken in a regulated hunting season and on a valid hunting license.

Signature: _____ Date: _____, 20 _____

AFFIDAVIT OF MEASURER

This affidavit shall be completed only when applying for "Annual Big Game Awards" and the "Master Bowhunter" Pope & Young Animals.

I certify that I have measured the above trophy on _____, 20 _____

at (address) _____ City _____ Province _____

and that this score, is to the best of my knowledge and belief, made in accordance with the official scoring system of the Pope & Young Club.

Witness: _____ Signature (official P&Y measurer): _____ OM# _____

Mail, Scan & Email (preferred) or Fax (last resort) all entries to Ryk Visscher at:

1166-68st NW, Edmonton, AB T6K 3K4

Email -- ryk@ryk.ca Cell 780-445-0327 Fax 780-450-0386 Call to confirm!

(DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES MARCH 1 – NO EXTENSIONS, NO EXCEPTIONS!!)



ABA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

YES! I want to protect bowhunting in Alberta!

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	DATE OF BIRTH (DD/MM/YYYY)
MAILING ADDRESS		
CITY	PROV.	P/C
HOME PHONE	EMAIL	
APPLICATION DATE	MEMBERSHIP TYPE	FEES: 1 YEAR 2 YEARS 3 YEARS
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED*	<input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE ADULT MEMBERSHIP	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35.00 <input type="checkbox"/> \$65.00 <input type="checkbox"/> \$90.00
MAIN APPLICANT: MALE <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE YOUTH MEMBERSHIP	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00 <input type="checkbox"/> \$45.00 <input type="checkbox"/> \$65.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY MEMBERSHIP	<input type="checkbox"/> \$70.00 <input type="checkbox"/> \$130.00 <input type="checkbox"/> \$190.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> LIFE MEMBERSHIP	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500.00
NAME	DATE OF BIRTH (DD/MM/YYYY)	
NAME	DATE OF BIRTH (DD/MM/YYYY)	
NAME	DATE OF BIRTH (DD/MM/YYYY)	
NAME	DATE OF BIRTH (DD/MM/YYYY)	
NAME	DATE OF BIRTH (DD/MM/YYYY)	
NAME	DATE OF BIRTH (DD/MM/YYYY)	

* To qualify for the Family Membership or Youth Membership, children must be under the age of 18 as of January 1st in the application year.
 * There must be a minimum of 3 family members in order to qualify for the family rate.

JOIN ONLINE AT
ALBERTA BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION
 WWW.BOWHUNTERS.CA
 Box 89021 McKenzie Town
 Calgary, Alberta T2Z 3W3

Keep Up the Fight to Protect and Defend Bowhunting in Alberta.

The ABA is proud to work with governmental agencies and stakeholders to improve methods that protect and sustain our wildlife resources. We are all benefited by the careful management and conservation of this rich natural heritage.



**The Voice of
 Alberta Bowhunters
 SINCE 1956**



It is not by accident that Alberta has the most envied archery season of any province in Canada. It has taken years of dedicated work by members of the Alberta Bowhunters Association to accomplish this.

www.bowhunters.ca

Some Past Accomplishments:

- Allowing the use of **Camouflage Clothing** (1969)
- Allow the use of **Aluminum Arrows** (1970)
 - **Black Bear Baiting** (1987)
- **Archery Pre-Season** province wide (1976/77)
 - **Antelope** archery season (1976/77)
 - 410 and 408 **Bighorn Sheep** season
 - **Antlerless Deer** tags in 212 and 248
 - **Antlerless Elk** tags in 212
- Archery pre-season for **Elk** (not requiring a draw)
 - **Archery-Only Areas** around Edmonton and Calgary (1975)
 - Lobby for **Sunday Hunting** in much of the province (2008-2011)
- Revamping of **Cougar Management** (2011) including a general boot license tag
- Successful lobby to **Keep Crossbows Out** of the general archery season (2011)
- Successful lobby to retain **Parkland County** as archery-only (2009)
- Successful lobby to stop further erosion of archery season by **Muzzle Loaders**
- **Standardized Start Dates** for archery (2011)
- **Earlier Start and Later End Dates to Black Bear** seasons in southern portion of the province (2011)
- Allow **Non-trophy or Trophy Antelope** to be taken in archery-only season in all antelope zones (2011)
 - Archery **Pre-season for Elk** in WMU 164-166 and 208 (2011)
 - **Hunt WMU 164** Monday to Saturday (2011)
- Allow hunting of **Red Squirrel** on private land (2011)

This is our future.



Membership... Join Now!

ABA Program Participation

The ABA is a participating member of the Alberta Game Policy Advisory Council, Hunting for Tomorrow, and attends all regulation meetings with government and stakeholders.

Benefits of Membership

Participating Member of the **Alberta Outdoor Coalition**

Participating Member of **AEP** Alberta Game Policy Advisory Council

Working with other outdoor user groups in **protecting outdoor activities**

Single voice for Bowhunters to the Provincial Government

Focus on Youth Programs

Liability Insurance for clubs and members

Promoting **International Bowhunter Educational Programs** and the National Archery in Schools Program

Annual Banquet / Convention
(Guest speakers, Awards, Draws, Raffles, Displays, Stories and Laughs!)

Quarterly Newsletter

3D Sanctioned Shoots



ABA hosts the "Bowhunter Challenge" shoot once a year.

Game Harvest Awards

Lloyd Mutter Grandmaster Award

Framed and Personalized Print



Alberta BOWHUNTERS



Your **Quarterly Newsletter** includes ABA Executive Reports, Future Events, Hunting Stories and much more!



REPORT A POACHER
www.reportapoacher.com
1-800-642-3800

Affiliated Clubs

Alberta Traditional Bowhunters Association

Sandy Hrycyk
(403) 283-3431
Sandy.Hrycyk@gmail.com

Bighorn Bowhunters Club

Leslie Cuthbertson, Airdrie
(403) 948-4004
BrentAlana@
bighornbowhuntersandarchers.com

Brazeau Bowbender Archery

Drayton Valley, Leonard Claffey
brazeaubowbenders@gmail.com

Calgary Archers Club

Calgary
Vickilynne Schleppe
vschleppe@shaw.ca

Cochrane Archery Club

Greg Gerlitz, Cochrane
(403) 280-5442
greg.gerlitz@telus.net
cochranearchery.ca

Jim-Bows Junior Archery Club

Dawn Groszko, Calgary
dgroszko@7genenergy.co

Kneehill Bowhunters & Archers

Three Hills
Shawn Kopjar
(403) 443-7315
smkopjar@gmail.com

Parkland Bowbenders Archery Club

Spruce Grove
Robert Smith
(780) 916-8065
treasurer@parklandbowbenders.ca

Sherwood Park Archery Club

Sherwood Park
Shannon Blyth
www.sparchery.ca

Southern Alberta Bowhunters Association

Lethbridge
Bruce Drewry
(403) 320-1262
bruced1@telusplanet.net

Springbrook Archers

Springbrook
Dwight Morency
dwightarcher@gmail.com

Strathmore Archery Club

Strathmore, Kevin Kempes
(403) 934-6006
kevcinkempes@shaw.ca

Vermillion River Archers

Vermillion, Ron Dixon
(780) 853-5046
tpconst@telusplanet.net

Yellowhead Arrow Launchers

Hinton
Tim Hooey
yellowheadarrowlaunchers.ca

Life Members

HONORARY

Dave Coupland (1999)
Mike Ukrainetz (1999)
Fred Walker (2000)
Court MacKid (2003)
Ryk Visscher (2004)
Mike Ukrainetz (1999)
Duane Hicks (2008)

LIFE MEMBERS

#2 Tom Foss (1998)
#3 Duane Hagman (1998)
#4 Steve Hagman (1998)
#5 Terry Hagman (1998)
#6 Des Quinn (1998)
#7 Allen Avery (1998)
#8 Archie Nesbitt (1999)
#9 Eric Ruahanan (1999)
#11 Adam Foss (1999)
#12 Cameron Foss (1999)
#13 Flint Simpson (1999)
#14 David Chorkwa (2000)
#15 Dale Collins (2000)
#16 Darryl Kublik (2001)
#17 Reg Adair (2018)
#18 Bill Gustafson (2002)
#19 Gregg Sutley (2002)

#20 Joe Winter (2002)
#21 Bob Gruszecki (2004)
#22 Robert Heuschwerlen (2006)
#23 Dale Hislop (2004)
#24 Percy Pyra (2006)
#25 Mark Demchuk (2006)
#26 David Little (2006)
#27 Cam Johnson (2007)
#28 Andy Wiese (2007)
#29 Gary Gillett (2007)
#30 Ted Hansen (2007)
#31 Vince Aiello (2007)
#32 Leon Groves (2008)
#33 Erin Wilde (2008)
#34 Dale Johnson (2008)
#35 Rob Kubicek (2008)
#36 Robert Giles (2008)
#37 Terry Brew (2008)
#38 Kelly Semple (2009)
#39 Dale Heinz (2009)
#40 Tim Sailer (2009)
#41 Bradley Wells (2009)
#42 Jim Wilsion (2006)
#43 Lance Neilson (2009)
#44 Ricardo Longoria (2009)
#45 Julie Griffiths (2010)
#46 Mark Barber (2010)
#47 Curtis Cheney (2004)
#48 Sandy Hrycyk (2010)
#49 Wayne Didyk (2010)
#50 Luke Viravec (2010)
#51 Darrin West (2004)
#52 Wes Pietz (2010)
#53 Dwayne Huggins (2006)
#54 Mike Stuart (2007)
#55 Ted Brown (2006)
#56 Kurt Lund (2010)
#57 Trevor Yurchak (2005)
#58 Gunther Tondeleir (2005)
#59 Jim Johnson (2008)
#60 Joe Mungo (2009)
#61 Hal Ziprick (2005)
#62 Tom Kampjes (2011)
#63 Daniel Wise (2007)
#64 Dave Zimmermann (2008)
#65 Jennifer Ukrainetz (2006)
#66 David Schlottko (2012)
#67 Leonard Verbaas (2012)
#68 Geordie Lund (2006)
#69 Joey Sr Busetto (2005)
#70 Dave Van Belleghem (2009)
#71 Steve Rogers (2008)
#72 Robert Bennett (2012)
#73 Mark Engstrom (2010)
#74 Chester Dodgson (2004)
#75 Derek Bruce (2008)
#76 Neil Johnson (2006)
#77 Jesse Wrubleski (2006)
#78 John Warwa (2013)
#79 Mike Wood (2006)
#80 Peter Demchuk (2009)
#81 Mackenzie Mayer (2012)
#82 Ryan Kohler (2007)
#83 Cody Sutley (2011)

#85 Jack Suggett (2013)
#86 Dane Percival (2012)
#87 Dale Grimstead (2005)
#88 Mike Cameron (2012)
#89 Sean O'Neill (2005)
#90 Jody Vegh (2006)
#91 Alan Southwood (2008)
#92 Jonathan Wrubleski (2014)
#93 Eric Moland (2014)
#94 Brandon Brown (2007)
#95 Remington Dietzen (2008)
#96 Chris Crispin (2006)
#97 Carson Toy (2008)
#98 Derald Stone (2004)
#99 Bert Frelink (2007)
#100 Dustin Wanke (2010)
#101 Ryan Bartholow (2010)
#102 Gord Nuttall (2009)
#103 Darcy Barrett (2009)
#104 Levy Groves (2004)
#105 Wilf Lehnrs (2004)
#106 Heidi Lehnrs (2007)
#107 Cody Tomke (2007)
#108 Tharen Soroka (2009)
#109 Chris Kuhl (2014)
#110 Riley Groves (2016)
#111 Corey Friesen (2005)
#112 Matt Hunter (2012)
#113 Danielle Dickson (2009)
#114 Cory Geier (2007)
#115 Thanos Natras (2016)
#116 Leanne McCabe (2016)





Harness up.

Sticker your bow.

Hang a sign for safety.

For 50 Years the Pope & Young Club has led by example. Now they are leading the way to tree stand safety. Tree stand accidents are more than personal tragedies; they are a dark cloud hanging over the entire sport of bowhunting.

Do your part to stop tree stand accidents and deaths. Put up a sign, sticker your bow, harness up and lead by example, **Hunt Smart and Hunt Safe.**

Support Project STAND (Stop Tree Stand Accidents 'n Deaths). Go to www.projectstand.net or www.nbef.org for signs, stickers, videos and other tree stand safety info and merchandise.

Fact: 83% Of All P&Y Record Book Whitetail Entries Were Taken From A Tree Stand.

Fact: Tree stand accidents kill and injure more hunters than firearms.

Fact: Most hunters believe a tree stand incident won't happen to them.

Fact: 10% - 30% of tree stand hunters will have an incident during their hunting career.

Fact: Fewer than 45% of tree stand hunters use a fall arrest device.

Fact: Tree stand accidents and deaths can be avoided.



NATIONAL BOWHUNTER EDUCATION FOUNDATION
PROJECT STAND
STOP TREE STAND ACCIDENTS 'N DEATHS

PO Box 180757 Fort Smith, AR 72918
Phone: (479) 649-9036 Fax: (479) 649-3098
info@nbef.org www.projectstand.net



Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to:
Alberta Bowhunter Association
c/o ABA Membership Director
Box 89021 Mckenzie Towne
Calgary, Alberta T2Z 3W3

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