

Alberta

2020 FALL NEWSLETTER

BOWHUNTERS

ASSOCIATION



Da'Rona Bear | Big Brown Down

FEATURES



4



Da'Rona Bear

by
Ron Brown



8



Big Brown Down

by
Derek Estabrook

ON THE COVER

Heather Wilson with a bowzone whitetail buck from this past November.

IN EVERY ISSUE

12  Anchor Points

14  Brag board

16  President's Report

21  Life Members

Plus

17  Banquet Cancellation

19  Stay Safe!

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EDITORIAL

Gord Nuttall

Another fall hunting season has come to a close. Without question more memories were formed, stories of the missed opportunities created and of course celebrations for those who managed to fold their tag(s). For anyone that has incurred any sort of health issues, I am sure they can relate to never taking things for granted. In addition, coming home safe is the most important result when embarking on a day in the field. Just check out what happened to Adam (page 19) while isolating himself in a hunting blind this past fall. For myself, I was attempting to fill my ewe tag this past fall, and had a set back due to health reasons. It was an important reminder that my health is most important. Sure, ewe tags take more than half a decade to draw, but that is nothing in the grand scheme of your life. Things are better now, but I'm still unable to drive and had to miss out on trapping season. Friends have been helping me when needed so it's great to have that support network. If you have been thinking of anything on your bucket list - don't wait! If 2020 has taught us anything is that unexpected things happen so go on that hunt you've always wanted, draw that tag you have more than enough priority points for or mentor somebody new in the field that's always asked about hunting. The point is, life moves fast, sometimes too fast so get out there while you can to slow down to our roots and don't take any day for granted.

This issue contains a couple black bear features written by Ron Brown (page 4) and Derek Estabrook (page 8). Our how-to article in this edition relates to mentoring those in the field, give it a read on page 12. Unfortunately, there will be no banquet again this year (see page 17). Finally, Alberta Land and Parks is seeking public input regarding recreational land use (page 18). Be sure to follow the link and provide your input to help shape the future.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Gord Nuttall



2020 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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DA'RONA

by Ron Brown

Well 2020, it's been different, with the onset of Covid 19 it appeared that I was going to have some extra time on my hands this spring and although I'd been baiting bears for many years I didn't always hunt them unless I saw a bear that peaked my interest instead often mentoring a youth bow hunter or allowing a friend to sit my spot so the effort wasn't wasted.

I've been running this bait site for about 12 years now and had set it up in the days before I had a quad so it's actually quite close to a county road and I've always walked my bait in. Which brings us to 2020, baiting got started quite late with the snow not leaving as early as other years in the west central Alberta region and the beginning of Covid 19.

I had the bait in by April 9th or 10th and had my first 2020 bear in on the 13th, a small bear that showed up with still a foot or more of snow on the ground. With that things were off and I had my first "shooter" bear show up on the 18th, he was a dandy all of 6' but totally nocturnal at this point. So I sweetened the bait up and started a 30-gallon plastic popcorn barrel which was on a tether to go along with the meat scraps and oats 45-gallon drum which was chained to the tree to remain upright. The bears loved that tethered barrel which they'd roll around to get the bacon grease and icing sugar slathered popcorn to fall out of the small holes. With the late snow it was also a hard year to get beaver carcasses to entice the big fella into the daylight. He continued to show himself occasionally but still never in the daylight/shooting hours. I started to sit the bait around April 23rd or 24th and had my first encounter with the three limping bear that I would eventually harvest on April 26th. He labored his way in noisily with one front leg held up off the ground in a hopping three-legged gait. He growled from behind the bait to inform the smaller bears at the site that he was on route and that they needed to clear the way for him, he was a grumpy fella and I assessed him and knew he wasn't the big fella but still looked hard at him and felt a little bit sad about how hard his life must be. So when he got into a spot where I had a chance to draw I thought I'd take him. He stopped under a spruce tree about 6 yards north of the barrel and I drew and waited for him to get clear of the tree limbs that covered his vitals. He hopped out and I settled the pin and let it fly, my 390 grain fixed blade tipped arrow was gone in a flash and the bear let out a yowl and skidded on his chest for about 15 yards until he regained his footing and was able to take off, I heard the brush snapping as he went across the small drainage in front of my bait site. I waited 20 or so minutes and got down and checked my arrow, it had some blood on the white fletches and I felt reasonably confident in the shot. I



BEAR



dug out my roll of blue flagging tape to mark the trail and started tracking him, which was much more difficult than I'd hoped, and I had gone over a hundred yards and an hour's time when I started to lose tracking light. Opting to back out and come back in the morning to find him. I brought along a buddy and we set out following the blue ribbon and basically, we came to a snow patch where the bear had lay down for some time as there were some blood stains in a shaded snow covered area. We lost the blood shortly after and started a grid search which we did for another couple hours with no sign of the bear. I came back later that evening listening and looking for bird sign hopeful to still find him, feeling quite badly and wondering what might have happened to cause the now obvious poor shot. The next day after not finding the bear I decided to check my bow and re-tune. I found that my arrows were hitting about 6" low and 6" left. Closer inspection of the arrow fletch I noticed curling and began to investigate the issue. After a bit of troubleshooting I noticed that I had a drop away rest failure due to the rest drive cable sliding up the bow cable from its anchor point. I adjusted it and tied it back in, taking some shots to confirm everything was back in order. Based on the distance and consistency of the failed shots I deduced that the arrow had likely hit the bear forward of the leg and may have only sliced the skin in the front of his legs and chest. I was surely disappointed in myself and the shot, deducting that while carrying in bait, my pack and my bow in an effort to take everything in with a single walk in trip I'd likely inadvertently rubbed the bow cable against my pack or a pail of bait and pushed the rest cable up the bow cable moving it from its required location for the drop away to function properly.

I stayed out of the stand for a week or so only going in to check cameras and re-bait and a few days later the bear made his way back in cautiously and only in the dark and avoiding the other big bears that were also coming around. There was another bait site that was moved in close a couple years earlier and I'd contacted the two fella's that were running the site on Facebook and they also had the same bears showing up. I started sitting again after seeing and feeling some relief that the bear had indeed recovered and noticed one day that he accompanied two other smaller bears in during daylight hours. I sat a few times with only the smaller bears coming in and no new or existing target bears coming in while I was in stand.

On May the 28th I was sitting and had a smaller bear coming in and acting a bit tentative coming in briefly and not staying longer than it would take to grab a bit of bait and move out of sight, the bush had begun to green up and visibility was beginning to be affected further out from the bait now. There was a familiar sound of a huffing growl on the bear trail behind and to my right and I saw "Limpy" the same bear with the same crippled gait now slowly making



his way into the bait site. He was not overly cautious as he had been now a month or so later and may have been motivated by the smaller bear that may have been a smaller rival boar or female that was in or almost in season.

He followed the same trail and exact route pausing under the spruce tree again, this time for much longer, I'd drawn my bow and cannot say for exactly how long I'd held but had considered letting down when he stutters stepped out and I settled the pin and let it go he again took off with a yowl in a very similar fashion, I heard him crash through the brush and drainage and a few snaps later I heard a coughing sound and then silence. I gave him about 25 minutes and lowered my bow and pack walking over to the arrow seeing the blood on the fletches and shaft where it was imbedded in the soft ground under the spruce tree. The blood trail was much better but he still managed to make it about 75 yards and I found him expired just off the game trail along the far side of the drainage. It was once again almost dark and I took a couple of pictures before heading back to the truck opting to pull him out in the morning as there was some other bears now clanging the barrels across from the downed bear and not wanting to have an unwanted bad encounter in the dark. I was very grateful that things went as planned on this day.

The next morning, I brought in a buddy to assist with the retrieval and we skinned the bear noticing the frozen wrist joint and very long hair growth from his lame foot. It was evident that he had not been able or using the leg for quite some time. We packed out the head/hide and took the back straps and hams.

Once I got home I caped him out and proceeded to boil his skull to get a quick green score on him and have to admit I was a bit concerned as although his head was quite wide, I was worried about his nose which appeared short when compared to the width. I also noticed that many of the bears lower front teeth were snapped off in the jaw bone, I attribute this to his being unable to run and perhaps skidding along the ground in panic and hitting his face on roots and debris as he attempted escape from danger and perhaps even my bait site after the two encounters I'd had with him.

I had made an arrangement with my wife whom after many years of lonely spring evenings, not being able to park the car and being assaulted by the aroma of rotting meat and dead beavers emanating from our garage for going on well over 10 years, that if I shot my P&Y bear I'd (finally) be done baiting. The estimated score was over 18" so I was able to cautiously let my loving wife know that her suffering might be over, but it was unofficial so be aware that it could go either way.

After waiting the required 60-day drying period I'd arranged for an official score and was elated with finding out that he would meet the required P&Y minimum and my wife was in the other room when Mr. Verbaas passed on the good news, she let out a little whoop! Not sure who was actually happier with the P&Y score.





BIG BROWN DOWN

by Derek Estabrook

As an avid hunter who has never made bear hunting a primary focus, I decided to start my 2019 hunting season with a new challenge: to harvest my first spring black bear over bait. I am fortunate enough to have multiple friends who have successfully bear hunted in the past that were able to provide me valuable information on techniques, bait choices, and other tips to start my own bait and produce. As the season changed into spring, and ice fishing season came to a close, I began searching for places I could place my bait. I was talking to my buddy Dustin about locations when he offered me a spot I could take over as he hadn't used it in a while (which I later came to realize why he hadn't used it anymore). Knowing I now had a place to set my barrel, I began my search for bulk bait: classic oats, bacon grease, and honey. Another friend of mine who happens to be a local guide was getting ready to place his upcoming "treat" order, so I was able to get a quick order in with him and was now ready to go!

As the excitement built and I was eager to start my bait, waiting for the snow to melt seemed to take longer than the duration of our long Alberta winters. April 3, 2019 finally came and Dustin took me to the site where we were able to start our baits (this was also the day I came to find out why he hadn't used the location he told me I could take over). Getting to where my bait barrel would be was at the bottom of a dirty ravine and would prove to be no easy task. With sacs of bait over our shoulders and a small wet skiff of snow on the ground, we were slipping, falling and sliding down this hill (which was quite comical for the bystand-

ers). I knew this would be no easy task from here on out to simply quad to the bait and stock it. Adding a rolling barrel, and a beaver strung from a tree 10' off the ground, it was time to wait to see what would come to the dinner table. On the way out after setting the bait, we decided to take



the long way around the field knowing it was shed season. As if I wasn't already on a high from getting my first bait going, I spotted what appeared to be a shed in the middle of the field. When we drove up to the shed in the side by side, not only did we find out it was actually a shed, but it was a matching set of BIG elk sheds! Being it was my first bear bait, and first set of elk sheds, I was having a great day! Once the weather began to warm up and the bears started to manifest themselves, I noticed the bait was being hit and the beaver was gone. I was so excited to rebait the barrel and check the trail camera to see what I was bringing in - just as anyone is who checks their trail cameras! The anticipation didn't let me down one bit as the first couple of pictures revealed a monster black bear reaching up for the beaver. Now knowing I 100% have a shooter on my bait, I was even more excited and couldn't wait to get out there and sit. In the next week, there were more photos

of him in the early morning before shooting time, and a couple of him during legal shooting. It was reassuring this bear was regularly hitting the bait, although I had to control my excitement for a week to get back in the stand as I was off to Dominican Republic. Once I returned home from my vacation, the first thing I did was rebait the barrel and check the cameras - but the big bear hadn't been seen for a few days. On May 9th, Dustin had caught a picture of him on his camera at 7pm at his bait a couple miles away. He sent me the picture and not only was he a very big boar, he was a chocolate colour as well! That was one of my goals: a colour phased bear, and he was a GIANT. As if I wasn't excited already, I was even more excited now and couldn't wait to get back into the stand in 2 days.

May 9th came, I was in my stand early in the morning hoping to catch him coming in like he has previously been doing. As the morning sun rose and the forest began to come to life, it wasn't long before couple small bears worked their way to the bait. The sheer beauty of a bear and having one mere feet away from you will get your heart going! Although there was lots of activity, the big boar I was after did not show up that day. I couldn't hunt for a couple more days and was back in the stand on May 12th. I sat both morning and night with small bear after small bear appearing and was getting a little discouraged. My next sit I was going to go try my luck at another bait I had set, and let Dustin's better half, Jodi (who was almost due with their first child), sit in my current location. The other bait I had set up was showing another big black bear coming in often, although Jodi wasn't feeling well so I decided I'll sit my original stand one more night and grab a few things I had left in the stand. It was the night of May 13th, I had a bottle of vanilla extract and I sprayed the whole area - that was one of the best smelling sits ever! Not seeing the bear on my bait in the evening, and knowing he was at Dustin's bait not long ago, my hopes weren't too high for the big brown. After an hour or so, I looked up to find a bear in the distance sitting on the trail -- I grabbed my binoculars to try and see through the bushes, it only took me a second to realize that the bear was brown!

The bear sat on the trail for a good 10 minutes before it



slowly started working its way towards the bait. He ended up crossing paths with another decent sized black bear, where he put a full-on charge and chased the bear out of the area. The big brown would smell, then take a few steps, smell some more and take a few more steps, making his way to the tree I had sprayed the vanilla on and was licking it. After stepping over a downed tree, he had made his final 50 yards into the bait. I was shaking like a leaf at this point and could hear my heart pounding so loud I thought for sure the bear could hear it too. I come to a full draw and all I saw was brown in my sight, I pulled my eyes away from the sight and refocused on him. Just as I was about to touch my arrow off, he moved a few feet and then stopped. I released my arrow - it hit him dead on and passed right through. The bear turned and ran down the path he just came from for about 50 yards where I watched him tip over. At that point I was shaking and filled with adrenaline and excitement. It took a few moments but once I calmed myself down, I sent a text to Dustin who was a couple of miles away hunting: "BIG BROWN IS DOWN!". I climbed out of the ravine and met Dustin who assisted me in recovering the absolute giant. When we first laid eyes on him, we both agreed the trail camera pictures didn't do him any justice as to the sheer size of this bear.

Dustin made a phone call to Jodi and she, like a trooper (as in had the baby the next morning kind of trooper), brought the side by side out to us to try and get the bear out of the bottom of the ravine. It couldn't have been better timing once we hauled the bear out of the bush, and took some field shots of this brute, the sun had set and the sky had turned black.

The bear taped out at 7'4", 491 lbs and a green score of 20 2/8 and 19 14/16 skull after a 60-day drying period. He is an absolute giant in which I highly doubt I will ever get another as big as him again. This experience has not only provided me the opportunity to successfully meet my goal of hunting a black bear over bait, but has led to a newfound passion of mine with many more years of spring bear hunting to look forward to. BIG thanks to Cody, Jodi and Dustin for everything!







ANCHOR POINTS

Mark Twang



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

Who is going to fill their shoes?



This series of articles started out to share some technical knowledge that I have learned from others over the years of bow hunting and target archery. Last article I mentioned mentorship and shared some stories of times spent with my two mentors One-shot and Gar-ee (pronounced Gar like the fish and then the long e) The origin of that nickname I did not tell the story of but it was from stories Gar-ee would tell about his mentor and that's how his mentor (who was Scottish) would pronounce his name.

Since the last article Gar-ee has passed on. Gar-ee's real name is Gary Allen Foster. Before he passed, I was able to read him the last article. He laughed and remembered with fondness the stories and great times we had out in the field in the pursuit of game. Gary was a true outdoorsman and as such I learned so much from him. While I learned lots from many others too but one of Gary's many gifts was the ability to tell a story. He could keep my friends and I enthralled telling us stories of the past. Many of these stories were about his mentors and their exploits. I pass these stories on as well because it helps reinforce our hunting heritage.

Mentors are very important. When I began bow-hunting I tried to get Gary into bowhunting but he never did. However, he joined me on many successful bow-hunts. He was my good luck charm. In one day with him I harvested a hybrid whitetail buck, a black bear, a coyote, and a mule deer buck all with my bow. It was an incredibly beautiful September

day that I will never forget.

As time went on and I moved away every time I went hunting, I often phoned Gary and he always wanted to know the story of the hunt. This was the trophy in Gary's mind, and he taught me every hunt successful or not has a story we can enjoy or learn from. With this all being said I will now tell the story of Molly the moose, and there is a lot of learning in this story for myself. It is part of why I am so equipment focused and have a healthy respect for moose.

Gar-ee and One-shot set out on this adventure joined by myself and my little brother in pursuit of some moose meat to fill the freezer. Gar-ee and One-shot had cow moose draws and off we went on a foggy November morning to one of our favorite spots where our quarry resided. As we approached; out of the fog in the distance, we could make out some moose cows, calves, and bulls. One moose we had named Molly was a dry cow we were after and we could see her. We had seen her for many years and this year she did not have a calf, so we decided to harvest her for the freezer. As we approached there was a discussion between One-Shot and Gar-ee about when they would shoot and discussed how far away she was. One-shot thought it was too far but Gar-ee felt she was in range of his mighty 300. One-shot trusted Gar-ee's judgement after many successful hunts so Gary got into a rifleman sit took his time sighted carefully and squeezed the trigger... Down went Molly and the story after that should be almost finished but it had only begun.

Molly decided that she would gut up again and went into a small strip of bush. We went down to the scene and it was as far as one shot thought but there was lots of blood sign that was sprayed around on the snow. The fog had made it hard to judge the distance accurately, so we waited a bit and Gar-ee my brother and I covered the strip of bush and One-shot went into the bush to follow Molly.

One shot went into the bush and up jumped Molly and she turned and was trotting away out of the bush. One shot did not have a clear shot and so he continued following her to push her out into our waiting rifles. As One shot was walking behind her he was thinking how he was moving her towards



where we could access her easily with the vehicle. However, Molly again changed the narrative. As she realized she was being pushed out she turned laid her ears back and charged One-shot...

Before I go any further I have to add that one shot was so used to only shooting once he rarely ever had to jack a second round in quick succession and the bolt retainer clip on his rifle was not working properly and the result was one could completely remove the bolt from the rifle when putting in a second round. I offered many times to fix his rifle (named The-old Gurl)he said it was fine as he never needed a second shot. His own legend had gone to his head.

As Molly was quickly approaching One-shot raised "The old gurl" and the loudest click ever was made. (A lesson I heard once from Gar-ee was "the two loudest noises in the world is a click when a bang is expected and a bang when a click is expected.") One shot in his awareness carefully pulled his bolt back the normal requisite distance to eject a spent round however because this dud round still had the bullet One-shot did not pull it back far enough and re-inserted the dud round (luckily he did not jam) Molly was very close and he raised the rifle and "CLICK" again. Fortunately in a tense situation One shot stayed calm, lowered his rifle looked down and carefully ejected the spent round, pushed bolt ahead inserting second round from magazine, started to raise the rifle and there was no time to aim he pointed at Molly's head as she was extremely close and pulled the trigger, Molly halted, shuddered and fell at One shot's feet. Looking later at his tracks in the snow and Molly we calculate the barrel has inches from her and there was powder speckling around the bullet hole. While technically it still was only one shot I still refer to this as the second time I ever seen one shot have to work the bolt for a follow up.

I approached after I heard the shot ring out and knew we had a job to do. As I approached, I saw wide eyes, in a very white face contrasting with black hair and whiskers and One-shot shaking in response to the adrenaline and the close call.

This story has lots of learning in it. Molly was the largest cow moose I have ever seen. She fed our family for 4 seasons. I immediately fixed the bolt retainer clip and gave the action a very thorough cleaning and lubrication. That rifle is still used by One-shot today.

Gary told George (One-Shot) that there could have been a tragedy and felt terrible that the round he reloaded failed to fire. Upon cleaning the action and examining the rifle Gary also determined that the lack of maintenance may have also been a contributing factor in the misfire too. Ever since then I have become very equipment conscious whether it be rifle, bow, reloading etc. I have become very



detail conscious. Because One-shot ran so few rounds through the rifle he thought it didn't need much attention, so we all learned that day. I also learned that a Moose is one of our most dangerous animals.

Going back further into the story I also learned fog can make us misjudge distance. The initial shot had hit low and struck Molly in the front leg muscle and had sprayed because as she stepped blood would spray from her leg and the snow exaggerated the amount and turned the blood pink which looked like a lung hit. This was also why One shot survived as well as her mobility was slightly impaired when she charged.

On the ride back home the discussion between George and Gary was one that my brother and I learned from.

Over the years we have lost many mentors, friends, fellow bowhunters and as we get older this will continue to happen. We have many people who have mentored others and we keep them alive through the stories, teachings, and memories.

In the title I posed a question from a country song. I improvised a few words...

Who's gonna fill their shoes?

Who's gonna stand that tall?

Who's gonna share their wisdom through their hunting stories too?

Who's gonna give their heart and soul

To get to me and you?

Lord I wonder, who's gonna fill their shoes?

The answer is you and me. Please share your stories and lets get people off the video games and out into the field.

In memory of Gary Allen Foster, and all the others that have left their memories like John Wiun, Al Rauch, Al WoolRidge, Mel Corbett, Bill Mackie, Ron and Marcy Mack, and so many others.

It would be nice to make a "gone hunting" book of remembrance for that people could send pictures of their mentors to.

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

BRAG



CAROL TAYLOR



GORD NUTTALL



KYLE SINCLAIR-SMITH



CARTER THOMPSON

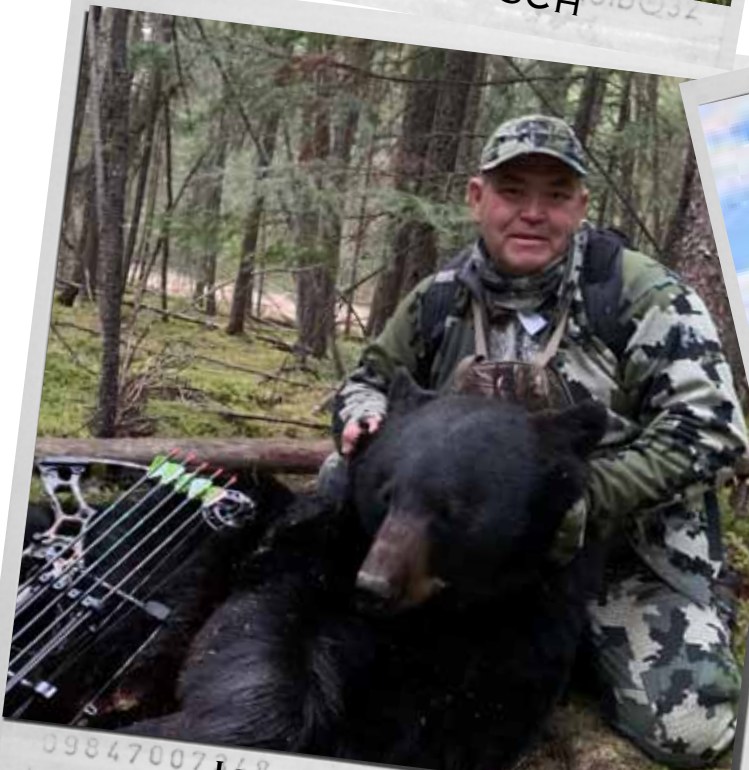
BOARD



SHERLYN INDENBOSCH



BRENT WATSON



JOHN HENINGER



RILEY GROVES





PRESIDENTS REPORT

Brent Watson

Outside of some late season draw hunts, most of the hunting seasons have closed. Hopefully you had some success and put meat in the freezer and maybe even had to make a trip to your taxidermist. From some of the pictures and stories circulating through social media and the like, some incredible critters have been taken. Including a pending Pope & Young world record non-typical elk by a lucky Alberta bowhunter.

The statistics show an incredible increase in hunting draw applications, hunting licenses sold, bow-hunting permits sold over the same in 2019. People had the time this summer and fall (many suggest the CERB payments contributed to that) and people want to make sure they have meat in the freezer. Not relying on stores to supply that need. Many new hunters. More hunters on the landscape help in many ways – increased revenues from license sales to maintain programs for agencies like the Alberta Conservation Association; dollars spent in gear and equipment, gas, lodging, etc; making hunters more relevant to government and decision makers. But we have been hearing of lots of issues as well – many areas of the province report

a huge increase of hunters that led to conflicts within the hunter ranks, increased enforcement issues, landowner complaints. Hopefully the pluses outweigh the negatives.

At the ABA, we have been working on the Game Awards Program Review and things are pretty much completed. Our own “ABA Rules of Fair Chase”. A consolidation of all the “Entry Requirements” into one document so everyone knows what the requirements are. Some edits to the “Entry Form” to make it easier for everyone who enters and in the processing of those entries. We have a detailed review process if we have a questionable entry.

We have been doing some more review work on the “Bylaws” and were hoping to have the proposed changes from last year that we couldn’t vote on and the few from this year, presented to membership and voted on at the 2021 AGM. Guess we will play that by ear and see if that is a possibility.

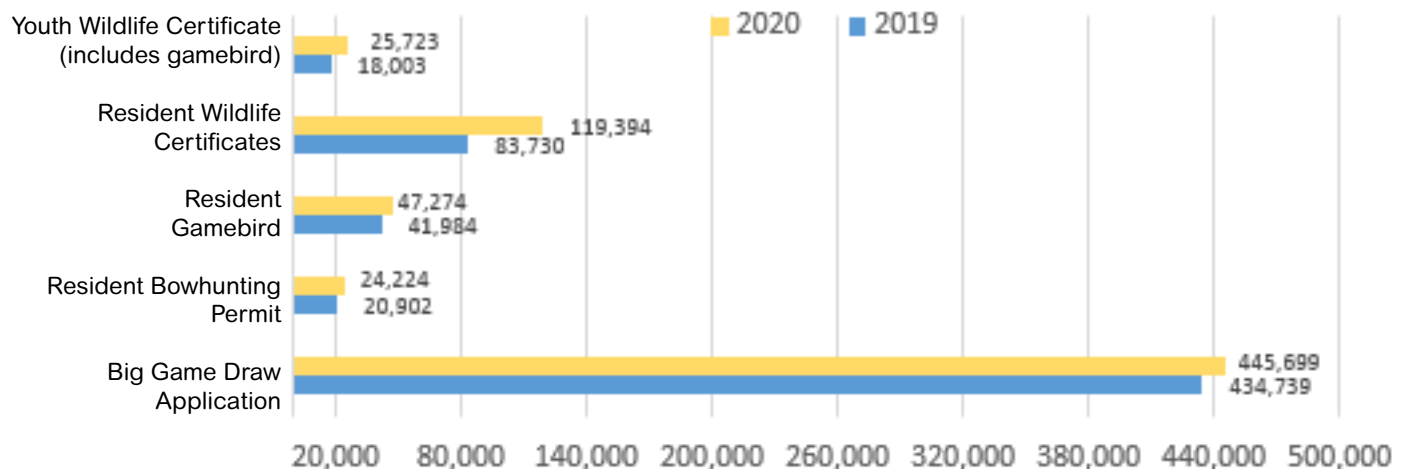
We have several exec members attending (“virtually”) meetings with other stakeholders and government on a number of items. Mule deer and bighorn sheep primarily.

Hopefully another AGPAC (Alberta Game Policy Advisory Council) before Christmas. Board meetings of the Alberta Conservation Association.

We continue to send out mass emails on ABA news, issues out there, feedback needed etc. The newsletter is now “electronic” and available on the website. Since the inaugural issue several months ago, we have gotten very positive feedback. Good to hear. Going from print to electronic saves the ABA a great deal of money and many other groups/organizations are doing the same.

As the COVID issues play out and we adjust to the strategies and rules, hopefully we are closer to the end than the beginning. The ABA has adapted as have other groups. We will continue to let membership know through our website, mass email, Facebook and Instagram pages as to what is going on, what things we need feedback on, what lies ahead.

Stay safe and if you have any questions, thoughts or comments don’t hesitate to contact me at any time.



ABA COMMITTEES

Over the last few months, ABA representatives have been attending various meetings with other stakeholder and government people to work on the issues and concerns surrounding the Minister's Mule Deer Management Plan Review and the Bighorn Sheep Consultation Process. Bringing things up to date to address the current population status, harvesting strategies, diseases, predation, access issues, habitat concerns, etc etc.

Our meetings going forward will be focused on these concepts and consolidating things (especially for the mule deer management plan review). We **NEED** to hear your thoughts and ideas on **anything** related to mule deer or bighorn sheep – what the population looks like where you live or hunt, what you see when you are out hunting, what your expectations are when you hunt mule deer or sheep. Anything at all would be appreciated.

Contact any of your committee members:

Mule Deer

Terry@albertabowhunters.com
Brent@albertabowhunters.com

Bighorn sheep

Terry@albertabowhunters.com
Dan@albertabowhunters.com
Ray@albertabowhunters.com

More meetings are scheduled for mid Dec for the mule deer and more coming for the sheep.

ABA Regulation Change/Bowhunting Opportunity Committee

In May of this year, we established a committee (under the Regulations Chairman) to assist in the processes that the ABA works with government and other stakeholders on, in identifying issues with the current hunting regulations that may be in need of changes, as well as possible ways to increase bowhunting opportunities. This committee's main goal is to generate ideas for regulation change, anything that increases bowhunting opportunities and the focus of this committee is to action those ideas and keep the process moving. We are looking for ideas and help on this committee from the general membership – contact the Committee chair Cam Foss Camf@albertabowhunters.com if you would like to help out or got a regulation you think needs changing. Very important stuff.

BANQUET

At our Dec 15 Executive Meeting we made a motion to cancel the 2021 AGM/Banquet. Given the developments and uncertainty revolving around the COVID issue, it was an easy decision to make. The next banquet is scheduled for March 26 2022 in Calgary. Plans are to return to Nisku in 2023.

Make sure you still make your Game Award Entries as normal. We will be giving out awards as usual and are hoping to put together a video presentation showcasing the lucky winners. More details will follow.

The AGM also will be cancelled and the bylaw

changes that we would have proposed to be voted on will be carried over to the 2022 AGM. As per Society's protocol, the elections for the positions to be voted on (President, Regulations Director, Secretary, North Director, Traditional Director, Newsletter) will be carried over to the 2022 AGM as well. The person's in those positions currently will be asked if they will be willing to carry through this next year.

Hopefully things start to settle and we can all get together in 2022!!

RECREATIONAL LAND SURVEY

Alberta Environment and Parks is looking for the public's feedback to help shape the future of sustainable recreational Crown land use. This [link](#) will take you to a survey and needs to be submitted by January 15, 2021.

From the AEP website:

Overview

We are gathering ideas from Albertans to ensure outdoor recreation on Crown land is funded and managed sustainably, now and into the future.

We are also looking for input on ways to strengthen and build successful partnerships, which have an important role in providing recreation experiences and opportunities.

Many existing policies for Crown land were drafted with the intention that specific areas only have one use. In fact, Crown land includes public lands, parks and protected areas, it encompasses approximately 60% of the province and is now used for multiple purposes and Crown land policies need to reflect these changes.

- This engagement is part of Alberta's Crown Land Vision to:
- make the land-use system clear and understandable
- support sustainable funding and partnerships for recreation
- focus on outcomes and reducing red tape

IN APPRECIATION - JACK KEMPF

Many of you know Jack – lots of us have one or more of his custom built traditional bows. Jack has been a huge supporter of the ABA for as long as any of us can remember. He has donated one of his custom bows to our annual banquet for many years and his bows are our biggest banquet fundraiser!! This past year we had to cancel the banquet because of COVID and we used Jack's bow in a raffle that raised a great deal of funds for the ABA.

We wanted to think of another way to show our appreciation to Jack and all that he has done for the ABA. We had a custom buckle made up (the same format used in our Game Awards Program) with the ABA logo in the middle and the words "IN APPRECIATION" "JACK KEMPF" – looks great!!

The plan was to present it to Jack at the next banquet but with all the uncertainty going on we decided to give it to him now and do something "official" when we are allowed.

If you are talking to Jack, make sure you thank him for all he has done in supporting the ABA and thus, our efforts in maintaining/expanding bowhunting opportunities.



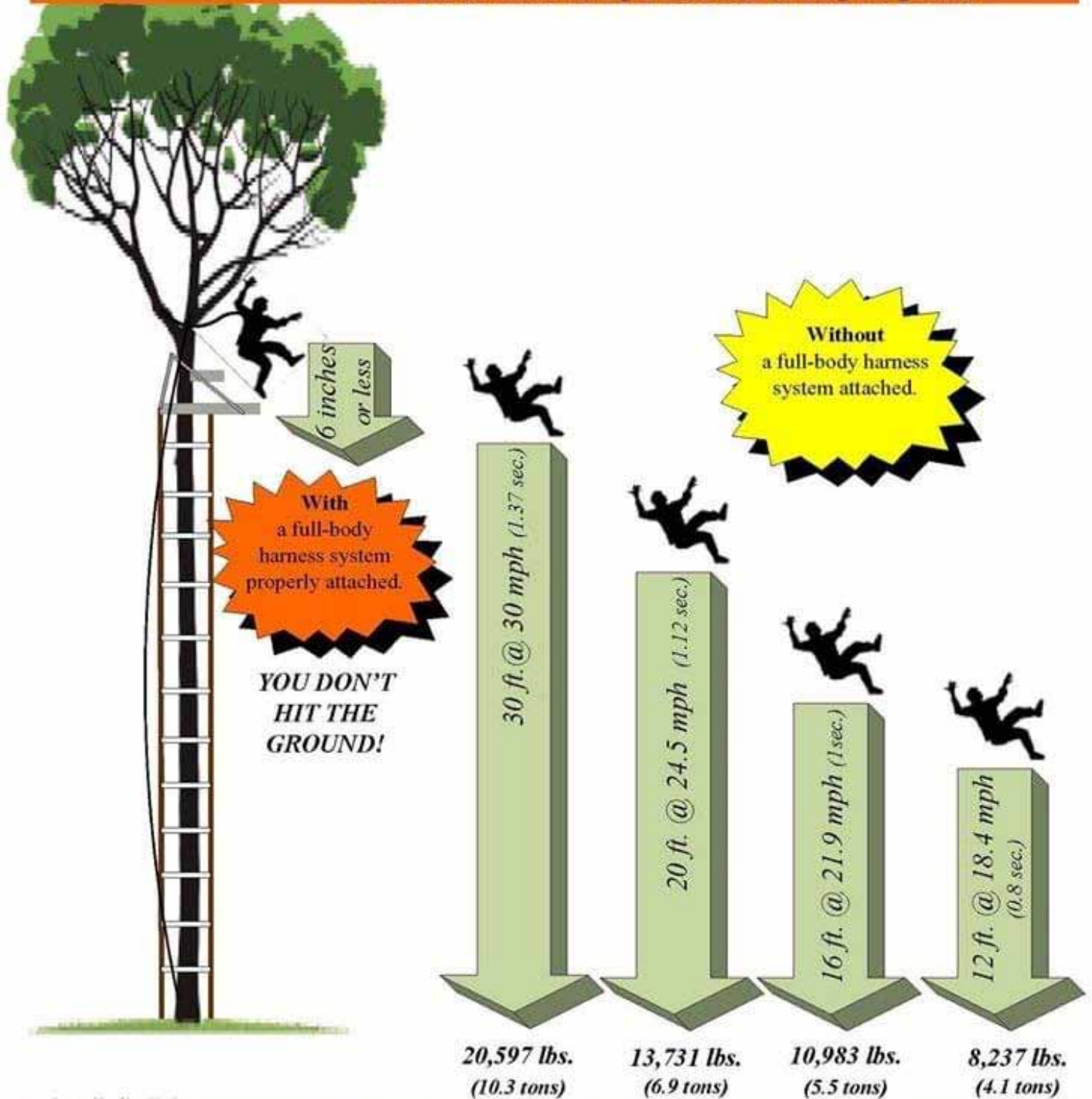
Adam was hunting out of a blind one day in the high winds, gusting to 85 kph. He heard a tree crack and got out of the chair to look out the window and this tree came down on the blind and landed on the chair. The seat of the chair held the tree off the ground and he was able to open the zipper and crawl out of the blind. No buck, but still his lucky day. Coming home empty handed is second to coming home safe!



How Hard will you Hit the Ground?

You Choose . . .

(Ex. 180 lb. hunter falling at 32.1 ft/s² striking the ground)



Connected 100% of the time.

Always use a full-body harness and a life-line or lineman's belt.

Affiliated Clubs

Alberta Traditional Bowhunters Association

Calgary
Mitchell Elser | (403) 238-5989
mjelser@shaw.ca

Bighorn Bowhunters Club

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

Brazeau Bowbender Archery

Drayton Valley
Desiree Janzen
brazeaubowbenders@gmail.com

Cochrane Archers Club

Cochrane
Kate Hogg | (403) 280-5442
norm2hogg@gmail.com

Game Country Archers

Grande Prairie
Mike Welsh | (780) 532-4418
gamecountryarchers@gmail.com

Jim-Bows Junior Archery Club

Calgary
Dawn Groszko/Martin Kuczaj
dgroszko@shaw.ca

Kneehill Bowhunters & Archers

Trochu
Eldon Samson | (587) 579-0327
eksam@persona.ca

Parkland Bowbenders Archery Club

Spruce Grove | Janet Normand
memberships@parklandbowbenders.ca

Southern Alberta Bowhunters Association

Lethbridge
Tim Lysyk | (403) 381-1796
timlysyk@gmail.com

Strathmore Archery Club

Strathmore
Eric Martin | (403) 325-0624
membership@strathmorearcheryclub.ca

Springbrook Archers

Springbrook
Donna Morency | (403) 573-4451

Sherwood Park Archery Club

Sherwood Park
Doug Bowes
www.sparchery.ca

Vermillion River Archers

Vermillion
Tim Pardely
(780) 853-5046
tpconst@telusplanet.net

Woodland Archers

Whitcourt
Ron Brown
brown.ron@spartancontrols.com

Yellowhead Arrow Launchers

Hinton
Rita Hooley
yellowheadarrowlaunchers@gmail.com

Life Members

HONORARY

Ryk Visscher (1998)
Mike Ukrainetz (1999)
Dave Coupland (1999)
Court MacKid (2003)
Jack Kempf (2006)
Duane Hicks (2008)
Fred Walker (2008)
Brent Watson (2018)

LIFE MEMBERS

#1 Ryk Visscher (1998)
#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 Ruahanen (1999)
#10 Mike Ukrainetz (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 (2002)
#18 Bill Gustafson (2002)
#19 Gregg Sutley (2002)
#20 Joe Winter (2002)
#21 Bob Gruszecki (2004)
#23 Dale Hislop (2004)
#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 (2009)
#43 Lance Neilson (2009)
#44 Ricardo Longoria (2009)
#45 Julie Griffiths (2010)
#46 Mark Barber (2010)
#47 Curtis Cheney (2010)
#48 Sandy Hrycyk (2010)
#49 Wayne Didyk (2010)
#50 Luke Viravec (2010)
#51 Darrin West (2010)
#52 Wes Pietz (2010)
#53 Dwayne Huggins (2010)
#54 Mike Stuart (2010)
#55 Ted Brown (2010)
#56 Kurt Lund (2010)
#57 Trevor Yurchak (2010)
#58 Gunther Tondeleir (2010)
#59 Jim Johnson (2011)
#60 Joe Mungo (2011)
#61 Hal Ziprick (2011)
#62 Tom Kampjes (2011)
#63 Daniel Wise (2011)
#64 Dave Zimmermann (2011)
#65 Jennifer Ukrainetz (2011)
#66 David Schlottke (2012)
#67 Leonard Verbaas (2012)
#68 Geordie Lund (2012)
#69 Joey Sr Busetto (2012)
#70 Dave Van Belleghem (2012)
#71 Steve Rogers (2012)
#72 Robert Bennett (2012)
#73 Mark Engstrom (2012)
#74 Chester Dodgson (2012)
#75 Derek Bruce (2013)
#76 Neil Johnson (2013)
#77 Jesse Wrubleski (2013)
#78 John Warwa (2013)
#79 Mike Wood (2013)
#80 Peter Demchuk (2013)
#81 Mackenzie Mayer (2013)

#82 Ryan Kohler (2013)
#83 Cody Sutley (2013)
#84 Randy Repas (2013)
#85 Jack Suggett (2013)
#86 Dane Percival (2013)
#87 Dale Grimstead (2014)
#88 Mike Cameron (2014)
#89 Sean O'Neill (2014)
#90 Jody Vegh (2014)
#91 Alan Southwood (2014)
#92 Jonathan Wrubleski (2014)
#93 Eric Moland (2014)
#94 Brandon Brown (2014)
#95 Remington Dietzen (2015)
#96 Chris Crispin (2015)
#97 Carson Toy (2015)
#98 Derald Stone (2015)
#99 Bert Frelink (2015)
#100 Dustin Wanke (2015)
#101 Ryan Bartholow (2015)
#102 Gord Nuttall (2015)
#103 Darcy Barrett (2015)
#104 Levy Groves (2015)
#105 Wilf Lehnars (2015)
#106 Heidi Lehnars (2015)
#107 Cody Tomke (2015)
#108 Tharen Soroka (2016)
#109 Chris Kuhl (2016)
#110 Riley Groves (2016)
#111 Corey Friesen (2016)
#112 Matt Hunter (2016)
#113 Danielle Dickson (2016)
#114 Cory Geier (2016)
#115 Thanos Natras (2016)
#116 Leanne McCabe (2016)
#117 Leighton Hauck (2017)
#118 Tara Normand (2017)
#119 John Moriarity (2017)
#120 Jerid Waselick (2017)
#121 Derrick Smith (2017)
#122 Greg Gerlitz (2017)
#123 Katie Lund (2017)
#124 Darcy Fletcher (2017)
#125 Will ZoBell (2018)
#126 Dale Foster (2018)
#127 Gerald Anderson (2018)

#128 Jason Hayes (2018)
#129 Evan Zahacy (2018)
#130 Don Collins (2018)
#131 Logan Johnson (2018)
#132 Lucas Chernoff (2018)
#133 M Bruce Chernoff (2018)
#134 Steve Ecklund (2018)
#135 Kyle Sinclair-Smith (2018)
#136 Shane Jensen (2018)
#137 David Gerber (2018)
#138 Clint Taylor (2018)
#139 Ray Melom (2018)
#140 Kristofer Skelly (2018)
#141 Stephane Titley (2018)
#142 Riley Warwa (2019)
#151 Chris Smograd (2019)
#144 Dwayne Van Schaick (2019)
#145 Darryl Polowaniuk (2019)
#146 Damon Polowaniuk (2019)
#147 Luca Pizzal (2019)
#148 Frank Noska (2019)
#149 Clayton Schoepp (2019)
#150 Dean Kirkeby (2019)
#151 Jeff Squires (2019)
#152 Olin Lund (2019)
#153 Jamie Arnett (2019)
#154 Mark Fletcher (2019)
#155 Dean MacArthur (2019)
#156 Sean Furlong (2019)
#157 Levi Leary (2019)
#158 Norm Hogg (2010)
#159 Steven Taylor (2020)
#160 Dallas Kaiser (2020)
#161 Justine MacFadyen (2020)
#162 Tom Arnett (2020)
#163 Tracy Reed (2020)
#164 Lindsay McQuaid (2020)
#165 Jonah Prevost (2020)
#166 Ken Hesse (2020)
#167 Kyrán Iwaskow (2020)
#168 Zachary Tychkowsky (2020)
#169 Matt Ferguson (2020)
#170 Geoff Brotherton (2020)

