



THE UNITED BOWHUNTER

SUMMER 2011



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE UNITED BOWHUNTERS OF MISSOURI



From the Laptop

Brian Peterson,
President UBM

Are we having fun yet? Seems like we just did this writing exercise last week and here it is May already and time for the next issue of *The United Bowhunter*—time really does fly! You all missed a great Texas javelina hunt. My apologies that the newsletter announcement for the hunt was timed so close to the actual date, but the information was well advertised at the Festival and it seemed that the high fuel prices were the major deterrent to most interested parties. Regardless, it was a fun time—maybe next year?

In the meanwhile, there's been much ado in the political fields: The crossbow (AKA "gun-like weapon") scare at the Conservation Federation of Missouri meetings, the current back-door constitutional attack of Missouri's Conservation Commission by the state legislature and the NRA of all people (the SB300 bill boondoggle—look it up, it's real). While it's easy to sit back and say that it might not really affect us, if successful, it could

change the way Missouri creates its wildlife regulations, and could therefore inevitably lead to the end of bowhunting as we know it. Yes, the suits will probably take care of it, and the courts will likely rule in favor of Missouri's constitution, but the threats are still out there and coming more frequently. I'm certainly not suggesting we all become political activists, but simply to be aware of our political climate and voice our opinions to our representatives. Food for thought, fellow voter.....

With that in mind, elections for your Board of Directors are coming up shortly—look for your ballots with your Rendezvous registration mailing. Vote carefully and please return your ballots in a timely manner.

See you in Hermann in June at the Rendezvous (if not sooner). Get out and enjoy the spring floods (27" of rain in the past 2 weeks here in Cedar creek). Surely the carp will be rolling somewhere!

Brian Peterson

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Experience Archery Day in Columbia, Missouri

UBM Members, District 4 needs your help! The local archery club in Columbia has been challenged by the City of Columbia to hold an archery event that would be open to the public. The City is prepared to build a large archery facility in the area if they see a good turnout to this event and get a positive response from the public. The City is wanting to see how the community reacts to a larger archery presence and to get a feel for how big an archery "complex" would need to be in order to provide plenty of opportunities for Columbia residents. With NASP starting this year in Columbia public schools, this is the perfect opportunity to try to rally community support for archery as a safe and fun family activity.

The local club is teaming up with local archery stores and manufacturers reps, other clubs in Mid-Missouri and the MDC to hold this "Day At The Range" at one of the City parks. From 8:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. that day the public will be welcome to come out to the park and shoot a 3D course, static range, novelty shoots, bowfishing and a kids "balloon shoot". This will be an "Archery Introduction" to the community to get those that currently shoot, out shooting that day and those that are curious or have questions/fears to come and explore archery.

We are also going to use this opportunity to raise funds to buy more targets for the current small range and more kids bows and arrows to support local youth archery programs. There will be a concession stand and bathrooms at this event in addition to the kids playground and fishing lake on the property to make this a great family day activity.

If any UBM members can help the Columbia Area Archers with this event, they would truly be grateful. The new facility the club is hoping to have the City build will be large enough for future UBM events and will be open to public use since it will be a City owned property.

I think that this would be a perfect fit for the UBM and what we stand for as the United Bowhunters of Missouri. Bring your bow and plenty of arrows, you are more than welcome and encouraged to shoot at this event. We will need a few folks to take some turns helping some of the kids with shooting balloons and maybe making PVC bows.

I hope to see lots of UBM members and their families at this event. If you have any questions, feel free to give me a call.

Joe Pendergrass
 C: 573.368.1402

See the "Ad" on the top of the next page.

Check out - www.unitedbowhunters.com

Experience Archery Day

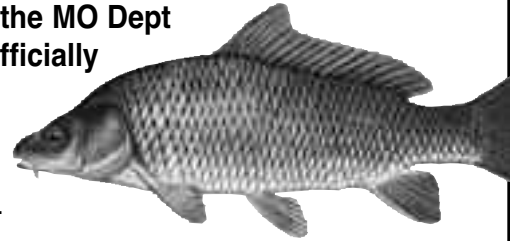
Join the Columbia Area Archers at American Legion Park in Columbia, MO for a day of archery activities.

This is a chance for all ages and experience levels to get outside and discover archery opportunities in Mid-Missouri. Static target shooting, 3D targets, bowfishing, novelty shoots and even kid's shooting. Archery equipment will be available for loan at youth events. Bring your gear and be ready for the upcoming fall archery season.

Price: FREE up to \$20.00 depending on activities.

When: Sat., Aug. 13, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

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Gar, Shortnose - 13 lbs. 0 oz.

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Gar, Spotted - 9 lbs. 2 oz.

Redhorse, Black - 9 lbs. 13 oz.

Redhorse, Golden - 10 lbs. 15 oz.

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Redhorse, Shorthead - OPEN

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Hey, This Turkey Tastes Like Plastic!

I was down at my farm in northern Shannon County the first week of turkey season, trying to get all my hunting done before the monsoons set in. The weather was decent the first couple of days, the birds were gobbling well, and I figured my chances of getting a tom were at least better than even.

On the ridge that forms the western border of our lower field, I had heard several gobblers the first morning of the season. But I was loath to go up there after them because that ridge is as steep as a horse's face and I know that once I ascended its summit, the blasted birds would just be somewhere else. So I stuck to the low-hanging fruit, as it were, on the first day and played with the gobblers below the tree line.

Well, that strategy didn't work out the way I had hoped it would, so well before daylight on the second morning I found myself climbing Little Everest with high hopes that this morning would be the one where I would claim victory. I stopped a couple of times on the way up to change out oxygen bottles but once I got above the condors and the airplanes, the terrain flattened out a little and I didn't have to worry so much about slipping and falling to my death.

Unfortunately, once I got to the top, the wind was blowing so hard that the turkeys would have had to have vice-grips for toenails in order to stay in the trees and one would have had to have been right overhead in order for me to hear it gobble. I diligently stuck it out for a couple of hours anyway but only heard one bird singing. Due to the changing winds, though, I could not accurately course his whereabouts so I decided to climb down and chase turkeys elsewhere.

Towards about mid-morning, though, I was having no luck with the lowland birds either so I started back up the

mountainside to see if I could find the tom I had heard that morning. The winds had dropped below 30 mph (Dad's weather radio calls that "breezy") so I thought I might have a chance at locating him. I got back up there about 10:30, had myself an MRE and a quick puff on the O-2, and then started setting up for my deadly ambush.

There is an old skid trail that runs just about the entire spine of that ridge and it is a favored spot for toms to strut in. I put my decoys, Gertrude and Jimmy, out on a high spot in that trail, got off in the brush about 15 yards, and went through my first series of calling. Nothing answered my championship love sonnet so immediately figured that the old crafty devil was gonna come in silent. I hunkered down to wait with my eyes peeled for any sort of motion.

Sure enough, not 15 minutes had gone by and I caught some movement to my left coming up the trail. But it wasn't a turkey, it was young coyote coming in to try and get himself a turkey dinner! He was slinking up at a pretty good pace and then locked 'er up about 30 feet away from my clueless decoys. He went on complete alert then and started sniffing the air around him. I figured he would wind me, or get my scent off the decoys, but, no; instead he drops down onto his belly and begins stealthily sneaking the rest of the way in to his prey.

It's now all I can do to keep from laughing out loud at this sight. You know how a pup will stretch his neck waay out to sniff you when he is unsure? Well, that's what this coyote is doing as he's closing in on my decoys. I'm thinking the whole time that this would make great video but my camera is tucked safely in the bottom of my vest and there's no way I can get it out without spooking this dog. So I silently watch as Wiley slithers, stops, and slithers again.

The coyote is about two feet away from my hen decoy when he gets ready for his final move. His belly is on the ground and his neck now resembles that of a giraffe's. He can almost touch the decoy with his little black nose! I know he must be thinking, "Man, I am like a coyote ninja! I've just snuck up on these wary birds and they don't even know I exist!" With one last back end wiggle, he leaps at the imitation hen and grabs her skillfully by the neck.

That's when all hell breaks loose! I like using those inflatable decoys by Cherokee Sports and when Mr. Coyote's sharp teeth sink into Gerty's neck, she immediately started deflating. Boy, he did not like that! In the blink of an eye, he quickly decided that 1) plastic decoys do not taste good and 2) he needed to be anywhere else than where he was at that present time. Doing a mid-air 180, ole Wiley ran off back the way he came and I don't think he stopped till he reached the county line.

The good news is, Gertrude was repaired and is now air-tight and in service once again. Jimmy was a little put out that the coyote didn't even look at him but he'll get over it. That's one of the things I love about hunting, you never know what you're gonna see when you're out enjoying the great outdoors!



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Why Not All Traditional?

That's the question I've been asking myself lately. I've even brought it up among a few other UBM members, and, as of right this second, no one has come up with a good reason why not. Mostly they just laugh and warn me of all the grief I'll get for bringing it up, but then again, no one has a reason why not. So lately, I've been trying my best to think up a reason why not. Same thing. I don't know of one reason. What would be the harm. I brought it up a few years ago on the UBM website and got lots of replies, some threats, but no good reason why not. Here is the one and only answer that somewhat surfaced, but no one came out and said who. We will lose members. Who would we lose? And more important then who, is why? Why would we lose anyone. We lose folks now and we haven't changed a thing. Now I know if I had a magic wand, and determined that tomorrow UBM would be a traditional club, by my special powers alone, some would quit. (If I had a magic wand, I would put UBM matters a little farther down the list of things to use it on) But what could we gain, if by majority, we decided that UBM should become a traditional club? For one, we could be recognized in Traditional Bowhunter Magazine. I know some of you are saying so what. I used to think the same thing. However, I'm seeing Traditional Bowhunter more and more in lots of small towns all over the place and seeing more and more traditional clubs listed in the magazine. Would it help or hurt our club to get a few, maybe quite a few more traditional bowhunters seeing that we exist. I can't tell you how many times I have run into a traditional bowhunter who had no idea we existed. TBM gets itself into a lot more places in our state than we do. How has our new membership applications been lately? I don't know for sure, but I think our membership as a whole is down. What would we have to change about our club if we did? Well, I guess we would have to just have traditional style bowyers and suppliers attend our events. Oh wait, we already do. We would probably have to be more careful at our events that we just talked traditional talk and maybe just

discuss arrow making, bow building, different ways to shoot instinctive, etc... Oh Oh, we already do. We could no longer campaign and push our way around the bowhunting community and demand that the compound bow and modern equipment be banned in the state of Missouri. Oh Oh, we never did. Soooooooooooooo, we shoot traditional, (walks like a duck) we talk traditional, (quacks like a duck) but we are not a traditional club. (WE ARE A CHICKEN) Why not take the stand?

Now, I'm fully aware that we have some members that shoot modern equipment during hunting season. What about them? Cut off a limb? (Body limb. I'd never deface a longbow or recurve) Make them wear a funny hat and walk backwards? Or, treat them like our friends? Join them around a fire and have a meal with them? Talk bowhunting. Oh, what the hell, that's what we do already. Last Friday I was with five or six UBMs shooting bows and shooting the bull like usual and we were joined by a guy who shoots modern equipment. Now this is a guy who at one time was and maybe still is a member of UBM and has been at our Rendezvous more than once, and he had absolutely no idea we were not a traditional club. And so do many others. Why not make UBM a traditional club and use the title to promote and support the sport of traditional archery? I don't build and shoot traditional bows to offend or alienate anyone, and I don't know of anyone that does. I offend in other ways but that's not one of them. Are we scared to stand for something? Are you embarrassed that you shoot a longbow? Don't you think it would be a good idea to say what we are and then use that to bring other people to enjoy the aspect of bowhunting that we all love? It doesn't have to be a good or bad thing. How many of us are avid bowhunters, but

still belong to the NRA, even with the crap the NRA has pulled lately? Can you use a compound and belong to a traditional club at the same time? I don't know why not. That would be like saying you support the Boy Scouts but won't buy Girl Scouts cookies. I cannot think of one person who is a member of the United Bowhunters of Missouri that does not in some way, shape or form, support traditional bowhunting. If you are, well, I won't go there. Someone else can tell you.

I know this is going to rub a few, and I think very few the wrong way. But think about it? I look at all the people who changed the world by standing for something. Not that becoming a traditional club will change anything world wide, but we will be standing for "something". I was once told, if you don't stand for something, you stand for nothing. Maybe that standing for nothing has been one of the reasons we have become a little stagnate. This year is 25 years. Maybe a little shake up will keep us on top of our game the next 25. Think about it.

Dennis Voss

And Now The Counter Point

In the 25 years that this organization has been in existence I am sure that the debate of traditional only has been a hot topic from time to time. In the past 9 years that I have been coming to events and 8 years as a member I have witnessed numerous conversations that as heated as they may be, both parties go away with a slap on the back and a hug around the neck. The passion that flows from the veins of men and women in this great organization goes a little deeper than a love for stick and

string. I think of it as more of a brotherhood of folks that love the out-of-doors and everything in it. How many of us are also members of the Conservation Federation of Missouri, NWTF, DU or RMEF?

I will start with the most basic of questions . . . *What does traditional mean?* Is it only a primitive bent stick with a make shift string from sinew or wound fiber cordage? Should the bows of early 1700's England be allowed in that category with their horn nocks and linen strings? We should probably include the equipment that started in the early 1900's that were made with the use of power tools on pre-shaped forms to allow consistency in production. The implantation of fiberglass in the 1940's strengthened bows, made them faster and lighter. That is something we want to keep for sure, so we will include that in our growing list of what is traditional. Fast-forward to today, custom bowyers and fortune 500 companies are both designing "traditional bows" with modern equipment and materials such as milled titanium risers and carbon-fiber limbs. We have target bows that have interchangeable limbs to meet the need of the archer or a particular event her or she may be in that day. Those archers may use a sighting devise made from composite materials that would allow that competitor to send arrows down range with amazing accuracy having an advantage over non-sighted equipment. What does the future hold for "traditional archery"? Should we hurry and make the cut off now before anything new can be of a benefit to us as archers.

What would be the harm . . . probably nothing. Most folks in the UBM already shoot "traditional equipment". Most have shot "modern" archery equipment over the years, making the transition back to a simpler style for different reasons. Most in the UBM are in this organization because they love archery and love the people that are involved. Some no longer shoot but still maintain membership.

What would be the gain . . . probably nothing . . . For the life of me can't find a gain in this decision. What is the benefit of being recognized by Traditional Bowhunter Magazine. If we are looking for circulation numbers for advertising our events then it

would only make scents to advertise in Bowhunting Magazine or Bowhunter World, for those have true reaching power to get in front of archers. The later two publications are in both small towns and large cities. If we are looking for respect from other trad organizations then maybe we are looking for love in all the wrong places.

I live in Columbia, a city of over 100,000 people. I can give you the names of 15 archers in Boone County that shoot traditional equipment and 9 of those are members of the UBM or another active club. I can also give you the names of 50 archers that shoot modern archery equipment and about 6 of those shooters are part of archery organizations that support their sport. What does that show us, that it's about the people that support the organization that is what makes the difference, not what they shoot. The UBM has a good demographic in both the state and in the organization. Missouri Bow Hunters (MBH) doesn't have many more members than the UBM, which would have to be discouraging to them considering the tens of thousands of archers in the state.

If we are not ashamed of our "traditional ways" then we should be out there at 3D shoots enjoying our sport, not standing in the shadows because they don't have a traditional class for us to participate in. Or maybe hosting more traditional shoots ourselves. We should be shooting side by side with other archers, answering their questions if they have any. When I go to a shoot, I take my bow with training wheels and a couple of my trad bows and I shoot both at the event. I can be an ambassador for the UBM to the modern equipment shooter by being friendly and offering one of my bows for them to shoot, showing them that they can transition between both with not too much trouble. Also, I believe that traditional archery makes ME a better modern archery shooter and modern archery make ME a better traditional archer.

Why not make UBM a traditional club and use the title to promote and support the sport of traditional archery? - Would we then denounce NASP and all the good that program has done with modern archery equipment? Then ask for the government to force those administrators to purchase

traditional equipment so we can have equal time. Would we stop being bowhunting instructors unless they promised to never pick up a bow with more than one string?

Don't you think it would be a good idea to say "what" we are and then use that to bring other people to enjoy the aspect of bowhunting that we all love? - What are we? The last time I looked at my lifetime membership card it read, "United Bowhunters of Missouri".

The point of archers around the state not knowing anything about the UBM or what we do is what we should be focusing on as a collective. As district reps, how many district events have we scheduled to promote the club? How many flyers or brochures in archery shops have we passed out. As individual members, how many memberships have we paid for buddies so they would get the publication and schedules to stay on top of current archery news in our state and the threats against us. How many neighbor kids have we drug to the rendezvous? How many more events could we hold to make sure that members from around the state can at least make one or two things without driving 3-4 hours. How many "Share the Harvest" drives have we done to make sure that families get fed. More activities=more active members.

Standing for something. When someone asks me to tell them more about the UBM, here is what I say. "The UBM is an opportunity for you, the bowhunter, to be involved in the sport of archery while sharing your love of what archery is, to people from all over the state. The UBM will stand up for you as an archer and help protect your rights, no matter how many phone calls to senators we have to make, letters we have to write or dollars we need to spend to counter-act those trying to take your liberties away. From target shooters to stump shooters, and from elk hunters to bunny thumpers, we ALL enjoy archery and want others to do the same. . . . and oh yea, most guys shoot traditional because they have moved past the "kill" or the latest bells and whistles."

Joe Pendergrass



Rendezvous

June 24, 25, 26 at Hermann, MO

(Hermann Rod & Gun Club - 1.5 miles South of town on Hwy 19).

Barbeque meal catered by Pigs Gone Wild this year on Saturday evening. 3D courses, vendors, Hunt of a Lifetime shoots, kids activities, Friday night coon shoot, fun for everyone.

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Calendar of Events

June

Bowfishing Tourny in Columbia, MO - 06/18/2011
Rendezvous in Hermann, MO - 06/24-26/2011
Frog season starts, 06/30/2011

July

MOJAM in Marshall, MO - 07/14-17/2011

August

Deaf Camp in Osceola, MO - 08/6-7/2011
Discover Archery Day in Columbia, MO - 08/13/2011

September

Opening Day of Archery Season - 09/15/2011

October

Rabbit season starts, 10/01/2011
Frog season closes, 10/31/2011

November

Archery Season Closes - 10/11/2011
Firearms Deer Season Opens - 10/12/2011

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And Then There Was One . . .

Brian Peterson, UBM

The 5th annual Sierra Blanca Texas Javelina Hunt started innocuously enough, with over 30 UBM hunters at one point interested in attending. When it came down to time to leave, it seemed nearly impossible to find someone to go with me. Near-record fuel prices and a lackluster economy this year had most opting for the security of home rather than making the 1,200 mile trip to south Texas. Understandable, but disappointing. Come Hell or high water, I was going.



And make the trip I did, glad that outfitter Kent Ostrem and owner Joe Tammen agreed to let me come on alone. This was my fourth trip to the ranch, and while I missed having company in camp, it was a treat to have the ranch to myself. Right off the bat, I had 9 javelina come in on me, although these seemed smaller than usual. After dinking around with them until dark and passing several good opportunities at close shots, I headed back to camp with my observations. Kent suggested the possibility that the mature females might be denned up with young (or that I was seriously misjudging their size).

This possibility was quickly disproved as my next encounter with javelina included several very large females at 5 yards. As I settled in on the closest and largest, I went down through my mental checklist. All systems “Go”, but somehow I managed to miss the part about making sure my arrow clears the dense greasewood bush that I was crouched behind. As my arrow veered off course and struck the javelina harmlessly in the neck, I marveled that my heavy homemade broadhead (the same ones that shattered bone on deer and coyotes earlier this year) hadn’t done more damage. Sick as I was at the shot, I was sure the javelina was only slightly more pissed than usual with nothing more than a crick in her neck and an attitude adjustment to match.

Bouncing around the ranch, I had close encounters and good stalking opportunities during the next several days, but wasn’t anxious to just fling arrows for the sake of putting wood in the air—looking for just the right shot with my Osage self bow/homemade arrow combination. This opportunity finally presented itself with 10



minutes left in the hunt as a small group of larger javies came in to water. Tucked safely behind my H.I.P.S. blind and a cedar tree, I waited for the perfect shot—slightly quartering away at 15 yards. The hit looked good, behind the shoulder, albeit a tad high, but still well within the 8-ring on the McKenzie 3D target. Hindsight being 20/20, I should have run after her “just in case”, because as luck would have it, as I tracked her at dark, I saw her across the dry wash standing just out of range trying to snap at my arrow.

As anyone who has hunted javelina will attest, they have some pretty oddly placed (and tiny) vitals, and while the target manufacturers may insist I killed my pig (or at least scored well with my shot), mother nature evidently had other plans for my pig. Kent and I scoured the area the next morning but found no sign whatsoever.



While my performance with the bow and arrow may have been lackluster, I certainly had a great hunt, with plenty of hiking, spot & stalk opportunities and several quality chances at animals. 38 javelina, fox, bobcat, jackrabbit, and mule deer rounded out the scorecard, and some pretty spectacular sunrises and sunsets made for a truly worthwhile experience. Keep next March in mind and I hope to share some of my little slice of paradise with you.

Vice President's Report

by Darren Haverstick



Summer 2011

The first thing I want to do in this report is apologize to Joe Pendergrass for getting it in late. Every year, about the third

week in April, all my good sense and sensibility goes right out the window as I become consumed with the desire to kill a wild turkey. It's a good thing that there are no birthdays or anniversaries in my family during this three weeks of insanity because I would skip right over them like I did the newsletter deadline. Fortunately, turkey season is all but a painful, bitter memory now and I can resume a somewhat normal existence. I know it's not a good excuse, Joe, but it's all I have.

The business of the UBM continues along its normal course and there are a couple of issues that require participation from you members. Elections to the UBM board are coming up very soon and we have three positions that are up for re-election. By the time you read this, it will already be too late to run for one of these spots but there will still be time to vote. I urge all of you to fill in your ballots and mail them in as soon as possible.

The second thing I need to hear from you all about is the 2012 Festival. Yes, I know that is several months away but plans are already being made to put it together. One of the things I would like to get some feedback on is the Festival's location. We are currently being courted by a hotel at the Lake of the Ozarks to move our

venue there; possibly for 2013. I don't have many details at this time but what is your opinion on this? The other thing I need from you is suggestions for seminar topics during the day. I'm trying to line up some big-name archers to talk to us but I'm not having much luck so far. So if you have any ideas for speakers, skills to share, etc. please contact me as soon as possible so I can start working on the details. No idea is silly or trivial so don't be afraid to speak up.

Lastly, I want to encourage all of you to attend the UBM Rendezvous on 6/24-6/26 in Hermann, MO. It's a great time to visit with other members, shoot your bows a lot, and just enjoy the heat and humidity of a typical Missouri summer. This year's Rendezvous will follow the usual format but I am trying to line up a speaker to entertain us during the middle of the day. We will have the can raffles again in the evening so try to think of something to donate for that and Pigs Gone Wild will be our caterers this year so plan on getting a belly-full of great barbequed vittles. Don't worry about bringing any ticks or copperheads with you. I understand there will be plenty for all at the facility.

Well, that's it, folks. I hope you all have a great summer and if any of you would like private lessons on how to miss fish and pretend that you meant to, don't hesitate to give me a holler.

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