

TRADITIONAL
ARCHERS



Traditional Archers of New Jersey



"Protecting the Future by Preserving the Past"

Off the Shelf

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Summer 2008

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Traditional Archers of New Jersey, Inc.

NEWSLETTER

The **Traditional Archers of New Jersey, Inc.** Newsletter is published four times each year and distributed to its membership, friends and supporters. This printed material may not be used without written permission.

To receive your subscription, fill out your membership application on the back and mail to the address on the bottom left of the application.

Members are invited to submit news items, photos, articles, comments, etc. to the editor of **Traditional Archers of New Jersey, Inc.:**

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Advertising Rates [per issue]:

1/8 page.....\$15.00
1/4 page.....\$20.00
1/2 page.....\$40.00
Full page.....\$80.00

And...Advertisement in a fifth issue **FREE** with one year (4 issues) prepaid!

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

Spring Issue	February 1
Summer Issue	May 1
Fall Issue	August 1
Winter Issue	November 1

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SUMMER 2008



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As you read this, the **16th Annual Whittingham Traditional Archery Rendezvous** will have come and gone once again with great success and camaraderie. I wish to thank the Appalachian Bowmen who again opened their arms and hearts to us and helped make the TANJ what it is today. During this year's Whittingham Rendezvous weekend your TANJ Council and fellow TANJ members worked tirelessly to make this our most successful year yet. We had our Annual Hogs Gone Wild Pig Roast which was free to all TANJ members and was attended by over 100 members. I would like to thank Brain Peters for a job well done. Our Vice President Jorge Coppen and new TANJ Council member Al Klenk were at the helm manning the TANJ table the entire weekend where we sold over 5 dozen of our new logo sweatshirts along with T-Shirts, patches, window decals and new TANJ hat pins. The sweatshirts were designed and their sales managed by Karen Bartolini, our Secretary, who did an outstanding job. For those of you that could not attend and would like one of these cool looking TANJ Logo sweatshirts, Karen's contact information is on page 2 of this newsletter, under TANJ Officers. She can help you purchase one before it's too late. We have a limited quantity and they are going fast so send her an email and order yours today. They come in either a crew neck style or with a hood and we have green or sandstone colors.

Our annual TANJ meeting was standing room only and was attended by various guests from many different clubs and as always was one that you should not have missed. Please make plans to attend next year and let your voice be heard and join us at our TANJ campsite. By Sunday afternoon we had 28 members renew their membership and 23 new members joined our organization.

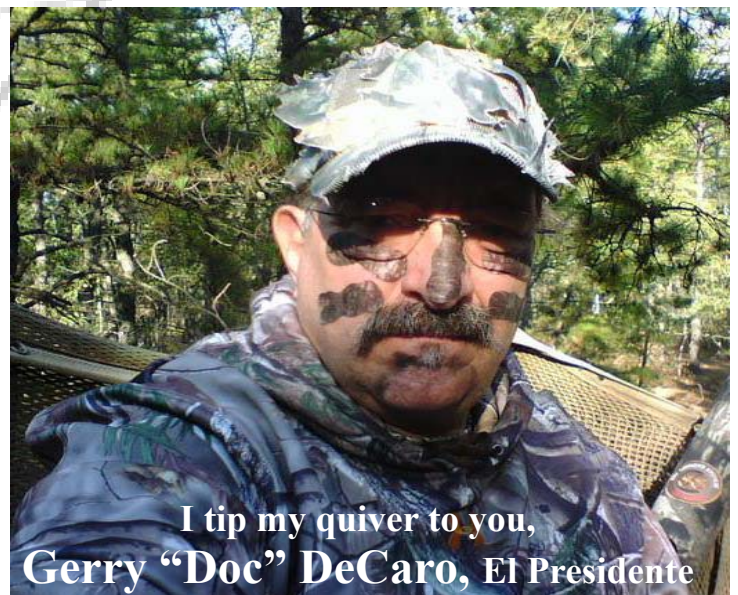
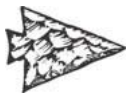
It's also **TANJ's 16th Anniversary**. In May 1992, four Traditional Archers responded to their friends request and started the Traditional Archers of New Jersey. The charter members were Donald Ferraro, George Louis, Al Reader and Joel Riotto. Look at what we have become! We are now the only nationally-recognized traditional archery organization in the state of New Jersey.

Did you know that the TANJ, along with our sister Organization, the UNBJ, helped sponsor the **Oxford School Youth Archery Team of NJ**? They traveled to Kentucky the first weekend in May to defend their title and represent New Jersey in the "National Archery in the Schools Program" Youth Archery Competition.

TANJ/UNBJ sponsored their custom made yellow team shirts and both of our logo patches were sewn on their sleeves for all to see. They returned with many championship awards and broke a few shooting records and won some school scholarships. This sponsorship along with the many other charitable sponsorships could not have been possible without your continued support of our yearly events. If you have not attended the Annual **New Jersey Bowhunter's Game Dinner**, one of our TANJ bowhunts or one of our many 3D shoots, please try to—it's your club - see what everyone is talking about. We have a special "**TANJ Deer Hunt**" this fall on **October 11**. Please contact Jim Ellis Sr. (see page 13), who will coordinate this event. We hope to make this another TANJ Annual Event.

Some of our 3-D & youth-oriented events that are coming up are: June 8th "**Arrows on a Half Shell**" in Waretown N.J., June 15th **Bent Creek Bender Fathers Day Shoot** in Allentown N.J. or the June 21st **Monmouth County Youth Archery Day** which will be held at L&H Woods and Water in Wall Township to name a few. We need your help at all our events so step up and volunteer your time. Please send your email to **Tom Eccles** our Shoot Coordinator and we hope to see you soon. Don't forget family & friends are always welcome!

Special Note: If you have not paid your dues please do so and help support your club. The quarterly TANJ Newsletter alone is worth the \$15 yearly dues. If you owe back dues please call and talk to our Membership Director Ron Ellison who can always work out some kind of arrangement. We want you to stay a TANJ member!



I tip my quiver to you,
Gerry "Doc" DeCaro, El Presidente



I met the following author back in 1960 during my first year of High School. I was a just inducted in the Boy Scouts Order of the Arrow "Shu Shu Ga" Lodge back in Boro Park, Brooklyn. I located an indoor archery club called Comanche Bowmen and I was dying to learn how to shoot the bow and arrow. My father drove me there one Sunday and I met a gentle giant of a man named Jerry Balzano. He introduced me to the traditional way and until this day we are still friends. Many years have passed since then and many arrows shot out of both our bows side by side. Jerry and I were both inducted as Life Members in Comanche Bowmen which since had closed their doors.

In all my years I have never met anyone more dedicated to the sport of Traditional Archery and Bow Hunting and because of him the fire still burns bright in me. Jerry only hunts with a recurve never a gun and his poundage on any of his bows I can't even pull back to this day. He still shoots his custom made cedar shafts with White 4" left helical and swears by their speed every time we shoot. DOC

Cedar Shaft Harvest by Jerry Balzano

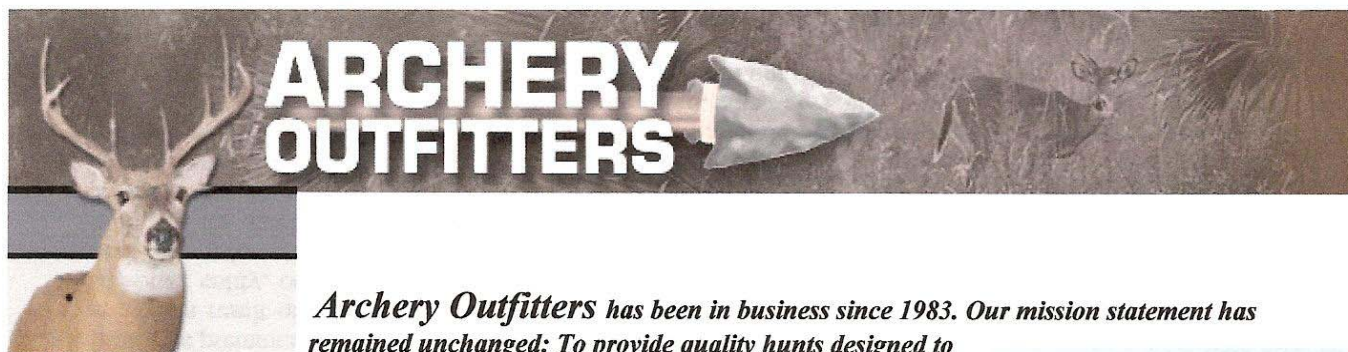
On Oct 10, 2007 I made plans to go bowhunting with my son John and my nephew Billy in Pine Bush, N.Y. for the opening day of the New York's 2007 bowhunting season. That morning, before I left I, called my friend Gerry DeCaro and wanted to wish him a belated 60th birthday greeting. When we spoke he was excited about his traditional harvest on his birthday with his new Osage 50" Risen Son bow. He told me "Jerry, it was a running shot at 22 yards and quartering away" within 15 minutes of walking to his ground blind. I then laughed and stated "Gerry, oh excuse me "Doc", that deer must have committed suicide after he saw who shot him with a tiny bow, carbon arrows and all the expense Cabela's camo...ha!" Anyway back to the story - He wished me luck and told me if I harvested a deer to write a story and he would love to have it in his TANJ newsletter. Before we ended our conversation he asked me if I was still hunting with my cedar shafts and old dimple green Fred Bear Broadheads or did I finally switch to aluminum or carbon or heard about Razorcaps? I laughed and told him I will never shoot anything but wood and my Bear razorheads and then told him about our plans to hunt NY opening day and he wished me luck.

I left for my trip and was just as excited as the first time I ever held a bow in my hand. We arrived at our camp and the next day the boys went to put up their tree stands and I was off to build a ground blind out of natural material that I found and scout for deer sign. We spoke about our hunting plans that night and went to bed. The next morning we were up at 5:30 AM. We had our coffee John and Billy were off to their tree stands and me to my ground blind that overlooked a field



where I saw good deer sign and a few rubs and scrapes. My blind was 25 feet into the wood line and I just settled in waiting for daylight. At about 6:30 I spotted a deer walking in the field with its head down. I could not tell if it was buck or doe but it was working its way towards me. I then spotted its antlers and I then started to make some low bleats on my deer call. It finally lifted his head and stopped and was quartering away from me. I got down on both my knees and drew back my Schafer Silvertip 58# recurve with my wood shaft. As I felt the white nock touch my lips, just as many times in practice, I waited a few seconds and released and saw my Bear broadhead blade on its way to his rib cage. The white fletching of my arrow buried into his rib cage and passed through the deer which then hunched up and slowly walked away. I waited until 8:45AM so I would not disturb the hunting for my son and nephew and was just as excited as my first harvest. I then went to look for my 525 grain wood arrow and to see if I can find my trophy. By that time Billy & John came over to me with an ATV to help me look for my deer. We looked in the field for about 20 minutes following a good blood trail when Billy yelled "Uncle Jerry I found it, wow nice rack." My deer went only 60 yards from where I shot it. They could not believe that I harvested a deer at 47 yards and recounted the distance a couple of times just to make sure. They both knew I shoot whenever I can and I always use the same equipment and always practice every chance I get even up to this day. As always it is watching my arrow fly to its target that always provides satisfaction to me and is why I love the "Traditional Way". We can follow the flight of our Arrows!





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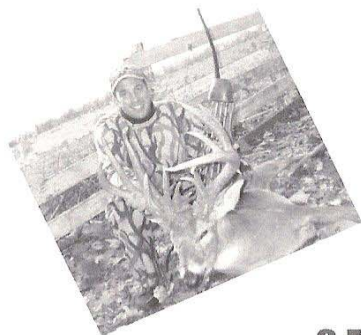
Georgia Archery Hunts - Classic South Georgia hunting with a 5 deer limit.

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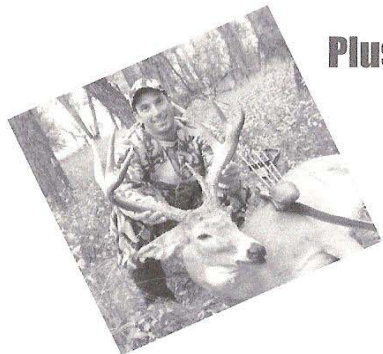


Gettin Stickbow Close

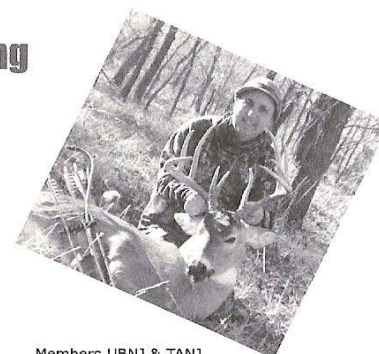
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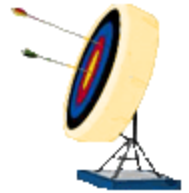


TANJ's PHOTO-ADVENTURES





TANJ 2008 SHOOT SCHEDULE



ALL TANJ SHOOT EVENTS ARE ALWAYS 3D SHOTS AND ALWAYS SHOOT & SWAP EVENTS!

This is a great time to sell or barter your old archery equipment!

All vendors welcome anytime at no charge for tables - Archery Equipment only!!

A kind donation of equipment towards a door prize at our events would be appreciated!



TRADITIONAL ARCHERS OF NEW JERSEY - SUMMER TIME SHOOTING FUN!

DATE CHANGE FOR BENT CREEK SHOOT* SEE BELOW!!! (Changed from June 22 to June 15)

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Sun. June 8 | <i>Arrows on the Half Shell</i> 3D Shoot + Knock-a-Block Range with a Crab/Seafood Cake/Clam Bake to follow - Lighthouse Center, Waretown, NJ (609) 698-7231 |
| Sun., June 15* | <i>Bent Creek Burner</i> , Bent Creek Preserve 3-D & Knock-a-Block Range, Allentown, N.J. |
| Sun., July 6 | <i>Annual Summer Sizzler</i> 3D - BLACK KNIGHTS Jackson, NJ |
| Sun., July 13 | <i>Annual Big Foot "Last Man Standing- Traditional"</i> - BLACK KNIGHTS Jackson, NJ |
| Sat.-Sun Aug 23-24 | UBNJ Annual Bowhunters Jamboree - Assunpink WMA (Camping!) |
| Sun., Sep. 14 | <i>Annual "White-Tale Fever"</i> 3D - WA-XO-BE South Brunswick, NJ |
| Sun., Sep. 21 | "Hunt of a Lifetime Shoot"/Hunters Helping the Hungry - BLACK KNIGHTS
sponsored by TANJ & UBNJ - SFAA All proceeds from this shoot will go to these 2 charities.
Vendors welcome—Contact Gerry "Doc" DeCaro (See page 2) |

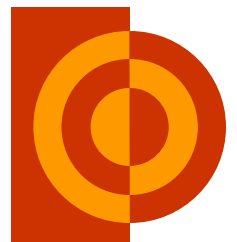
NOTE: For 3d Shoots on **June 8, June 22** please also bring flu-flu arrows w/ judos or blunts for knock-a-block course



Starting Thursday, May 1 Black Knight Range open
Thursday Nights

Open to All TANJ Members & Guests - \$2.00

Bring food and Drinks until Thursday, Sept. 4, 2008



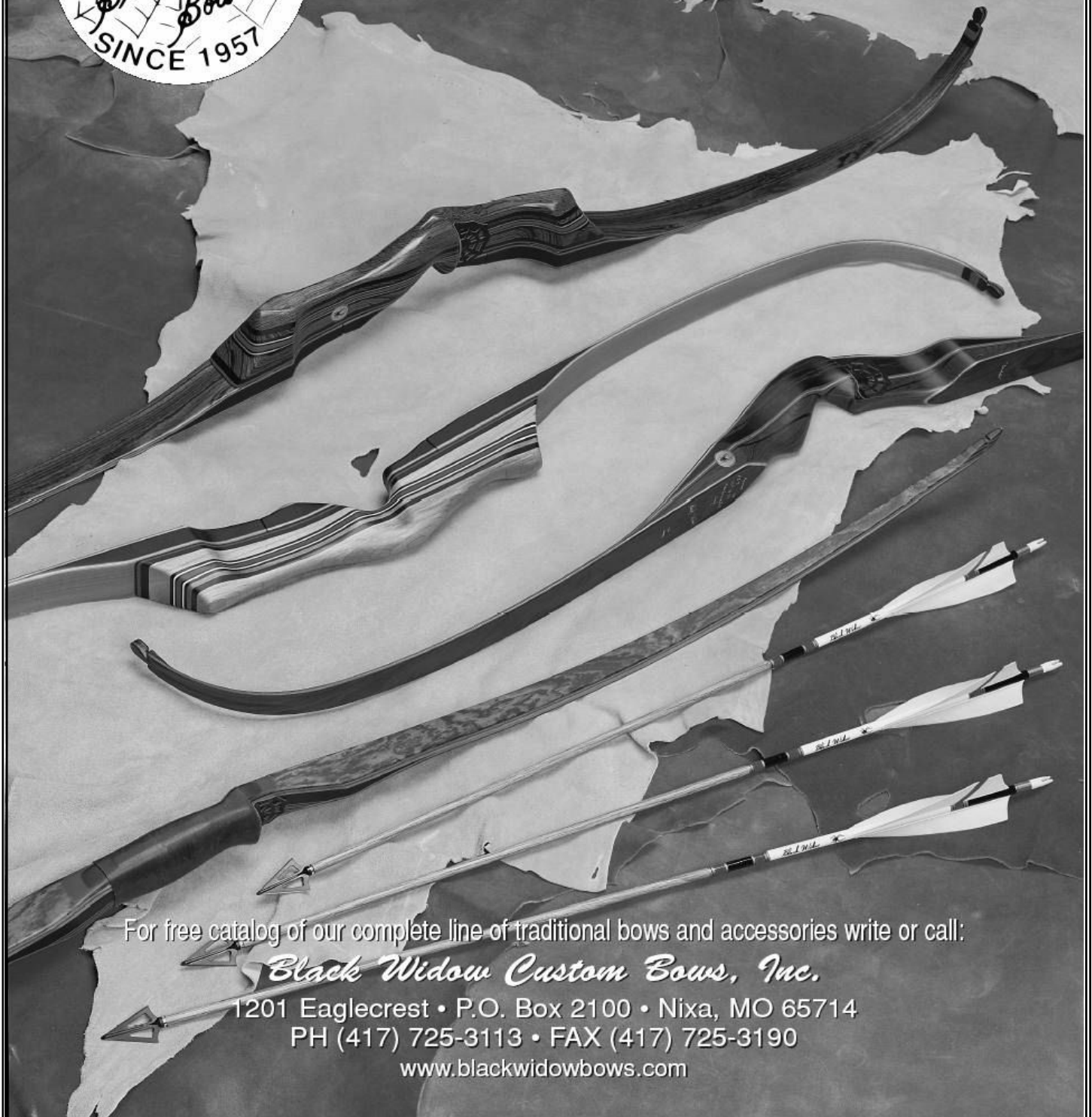


TRADITIONAL ARCHERS of *New Jersey*

SUMMER 2008



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TANJ's PHOTO-ADVENTURES

WHITTINGHAM TRADITIONAL ARCHERY RENDEZVOUS — 2008





THE \$40 SPIKE

By Steve Stivaly

I weaved my way through the crowd at the 3rd annual TANJ/UBNJ Bowhunters Game Dinner with a new toy in my hand. A BEAUTIFUL HOMEMADE TAKE-DOWN SELF BOW WITH A STINGRAY GRIP. When I made it back to my table and passed it around to everyone I got a few questions like “What’s the draw weight?” “What’s the grip made of?” and “What the heck are you going to do with that thing?” I answered the third question first. “I think it would be cool to take it out in the woods and maybe kill a deer with it.” “You ain’t huntin’ with that.” Kenny Krum said. I replied, “Yeah, I think it would fun.” “No way” said Wayne Krum. Then I threw down the gauntlet. “You wanna bet?” So we agreed and they each bet me \$20 that I couldn’t kill a deer with it this season.

After the dinner we ended up back at my house as usual. With a target pulled up close to the back deck Kenny strung up the new bow and I grabbed some woodies that I had in the basement. I took the first shots with it and I liked it from the start! We passed it around and everyone took a couple of shots. It was a great way to end a fun night.

After finding wood arrows that matched the bow I was surprised how well it shot. I spent a lot of time shooting the bow through the spring and into the summer, including a few 3-D shoots. I started to feel

very comfortable with it, but hunting season was fast approaching and I needed to get serious and back to my trusty Widow. The season went very well. Being a part-time video producer we captured some great hunts on film this year, so I decided that after we returned from our Kansas hunt I would pick up the selfbow again and see if I could get a shot with it and maybe win a little dough.

My first time in the woods with it I had a few close calls but the deer wouldn’t come in to my limited range with this bow, 10-12 yards, and 15 would be max. All morning I thought I was going to get a chance the first time out with it, but it didn’t happen. Still a very exciting morning.

The second time out with it I went to my honey-hole stand. It’s a place that I go just to relax and enjoy the outdoors. No cameras - just one stand in a pin oak surrounded by tall brown swamp grass. To the North about 200 yards away is an oak flat where the deer feed and the turkeys roost. On the south side of the stand a stream quietly meanders through. From my perch I can see the mallards fly in and feed, and a couple of the local red fox hunt for mice along the stream side and you forget that you are a couple hundred yards from the rest of the world and all of the fast-paced do-it-yesterday mentality.

I settled in comfortably in my hang-on-stand and melted into the scene to watch the evening’s events. The ducks were the first of the wildlife to arrive and as usual they cruised through the slow moving water looking in my direction. Somehow it always seems like they know I’m there no matter how still I am.

About an hour later I noticed nine hen turkeys creep along the bottom of the oak flat to the North scratching up some acorns before they hit the roost. I hadn’t seen a deer yet and I was enjoying the afternoon so much I did not care.

At 4:05pm at the far west end of the oak flat I could see deer legs. Picking up my binoculars I could see that it was a small buck. He was working his way



south directly toward the stream stopping to feed along the way. My evening was made, lots of wildlife and complete solitude.

When the buck reached the stream side I figured he would cross the water and be gone for the night. I had nothing to lose so I picked up my grunt call and gave him four soft grunts. Much to my surprise he responded immediately, heading directly to me. I quickly reached for my selfbow. I

felt no pressure. The freezer was looking good and if he gave me the shot I was looking for I would be ready. He came closer and closer looking for the source of the grunts. He took a path toward the stream and I thought it was over.

Then all of a sudden he turned again directly to me. As he approached he stopped about 17 or 18 yards and hooked an existing rub and started working it. Then he turned south again and I could have taken an 18 yard shot but it was just too far. Then for no reason he turned east and walked along the stream.

Seven or eight steps later he came into a huge opening at 15 yards and I decided it was time. I smoothly drew the bow back and when I came to anchor I gave him a sharp bleat to stop him. I didn't even hear the bow go off and neither did he, but the shot was on its way. I watched in disbelief as the slow-moving white-fletched wooden shaft tipped with a woodsman broadhead found its mark. The young buck barely flinched as the arrow passed completely



through his near lung and the center of his heart. He took a hop to the west and the red blood poured to the white snow and he took his last few steps.

My jaw hit the ground and I was beside myself, amazed at how the afternoon unfolded. I had just had the perfect hunting experience. To date, I have had an extremely fortunate bowhunting career and have harvested some exceptional bucks but I have never been more proud at any other time. bowhunting trophies and accomplishments are very personal and I felt very blessed at that moment. Who knew God's country could be just a couple hundred yards behind your house in New Jersey?



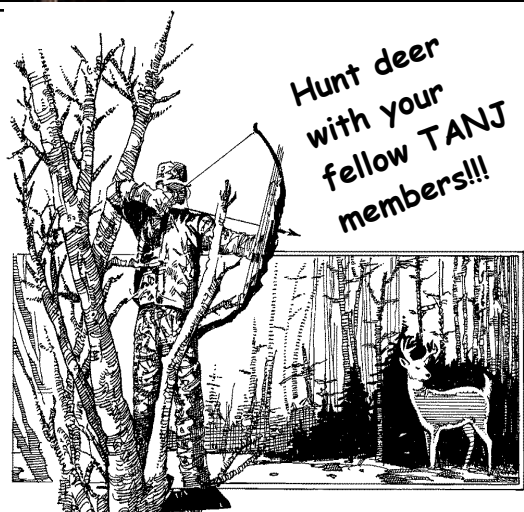
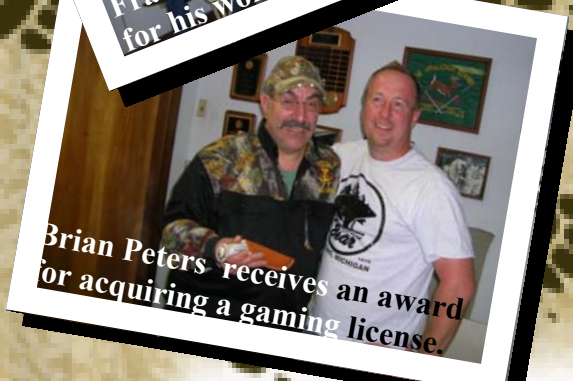
Steve Stivaly used a 50lb. 64" Osage Selfbow and a 45-50lb spined cedar arrow fletched all white with a Wensel Woodsman at the business end.





TANJ's PHOTO-ADVENTURES

TANJ AWARDS



Hunt deer with your fellow TANJ members!!!

TANJ DEER HUNT!

DELAWARE RECREATION AREA
October 11, 2008



Bring lunch and a compass and be ready for a fun-filled day!

All youngsters are welcome. It will be a most educating day in the "deer woods". Dress light and wear good walking shoes. It will be a day of deer drives, action and fun.

Directions and all other information will be discussed upon calling...

JIM ELLIS: (570) 476-6431





Carl Casper finally gave up one of his secrets on how to dye feathers that look just like splices in his own hand writing and drawings!

A Personal Touch

Some time ago I read an article about dying feathers with Rit Dye and being the curious person that I am, I figured why not. My first attempt was to dye as many feathers as I could fit into the pot of hot water with the dye color of my choice. I was quite pleased with the results, but then my curiosity got the best of me, why dye the whole feather? I borrowed one of my wife's canning jars, filled it about $\frac{3}{4}$'s of the way to the top with water then put it in a pot partially filled with water on the stove, Fig.#1. I brought the water to a low boil then added the dye to the water in the jar, next I took a clothes pin, the type with a spring in it, clipped it on the back of the feather 1" from the end then dipped it in the dye solution, Fig.#2. I now had a feather with a white tracer on the back, Fig.#3. The back of the feather could also be dyed with any color of your choice. One of the commercial feather companies now offers a multi color combination which is also possible for the individual to do. I later modified a plastic bag clip to provide a more constant dip depth. I also replaced the canning jar with a large mouth pickle jar. After dipping the feathers I place them on paper towels to dry. Let the feathers dry completely before trying to fletch with them. While this may not take the place of splicing feathers it still adds a personal touch.

Carl Casper "TANJ/UBNJ man!"

FIG.#1

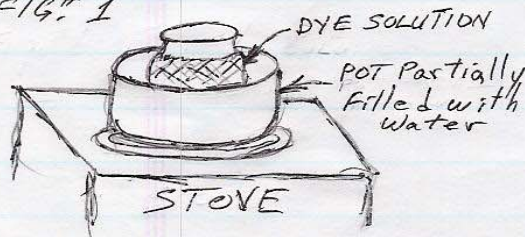
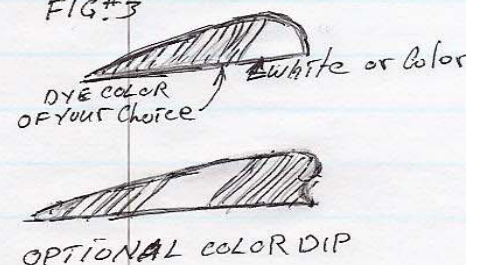


FIG.#2



FIG.#3





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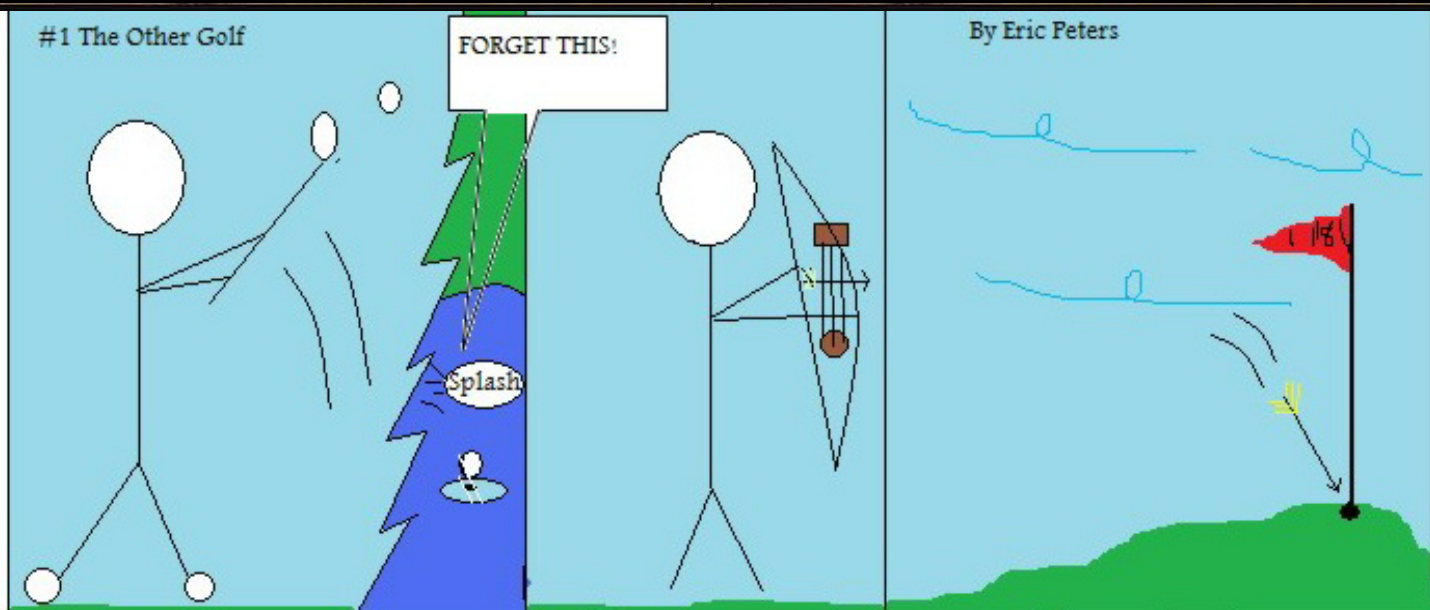
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2008 HUNT PACKAGE PRICING

Hunt Types	Fully-Guided	Semi-Guided
5 Day Archery Rut Hunt	\$2800	\$2400
5 Day Archery Hunt (Oct.)	\$2200	\$1800
Firearm Hunts	\$2800	\$2400
Late Muzzle Loader Hunt	\$2200	\$1800
Iowa Muzzle Loader Hunt	\$2800	\$2400
Combination Hunt*	\$4000	\$3400
Adding Additional Hunting Days	\$350	\$350
Turkey Hunts (2 Day Minimum)	\$300/Day	\$300/Day
Full Season Hunts Available	Call for Pricing	

* Combination Hunt - 4 Days of Archery & Any Firearm Season

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- \$750 deposit along with a booking agreement is required to book any hunt. (Booking agreement is available at www.xtreme-hunts.com)
- Cancellation Policy: Deposit is applied to the next year's hunt unless permits are not available.
- Lodging is included with each hunt.
- Meals are available for an additional fee.





Bowyer's Nook



When Are Archers Like Squirrels?

By Stim Wilcox

Well, one way we're like squirrels is the way so many of us stash away staves for making wooden bows, in our cellars or attics. Are these for rainy days, or snowy evenings? And how many future staves are at least in our minds, or our intentions?

A few days ago, at the 2008 Whittingham archery shoot, I mentioned the stashing of staves phenomenon to Jorge Coppen, our newsletter editor. He immediately said he'd talked with two stave stashers so far at the shoot. Over the last few years I've been struck by how many archers I've talked with who held glass-laminated bows in their hands, who commented that they had some staves at home, often for several years. The aim of this article is to encourage the rendering of stashed staves into shooting bows. The conclusion I arrive at is: here's a great occasion to have your cake and eat it too.

How many reasons might I pose for hesitating to render that stave unto a bow?

It's easy to name a few, such as

- "not enough time", "I'll wait until a better time" – funny thing, we all seem to find time for the things we're really want to do. Priorities, priorities.....

- "don't want to ruin an expensive stave" – easy to solve: start with small local saplings or branches, gain expertise before approaching that high-quality stave.

- "don't have the know how" – we all know there are several books/articles as well as bow classes available. Help is just around the corner.

- "I want the stave to transform into a perfect bow" – perhaps you might lower your expectations a mite? For the first bow or two, perhaps? Is the perfectionist in you keeping you from starting? How many of us make the perfect bow the first time? Not me, anyway. Still haven't, come to think.....

- "(secretly) what will my buddies think, since selfbows have the reputation of performing poorly compared to

glass-laminated bows." -- First, if your buddies don't admire you for your creative effort, they may not actually be buddies; and second, as I elaborated in the first article in this series, selfbows can perform neck and neck with glass-laminated bows.

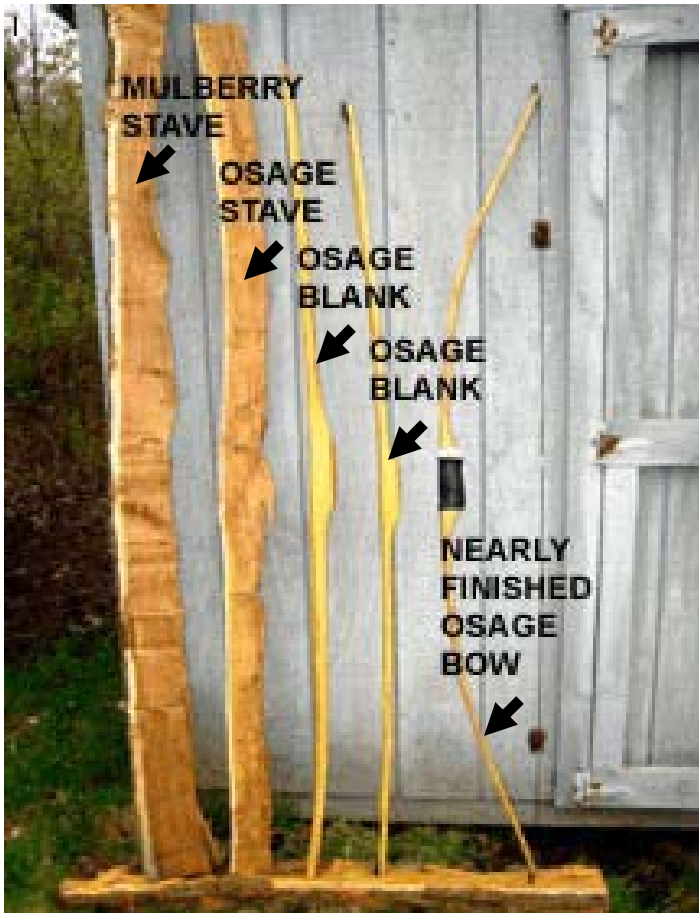
-and so on.

You wouldn't be reading this article if you weren't a bit crazy. The good kind of crazy. Traditional archers tend to have rather special characteristics, and one of them is a certain boldness and persistence, both of which I think are necessary for making bows. But all the boldness in the world can be stifled by fear that your bow won't live up to your expectations. My wife, Betty Jean, had a teacher who told her students, about making clay pots: "Don't let a pot become too precious." At least in beginning to make wooden bows, the principle holds true – don't let a bow become too precious. I've screwed up a number of bows, and broken several, in the process of learning. After all, if you don't push the wood, how do you know what you *can't* do with it? But there **IS** something truly precious here, and that's the knowledge you gain.

What's the worst possible consequence of screwing up a bow in the making? Or, alas, breaking a precious budding bow? Mysterious answer: You start making another. Making bows should be a hobby, wherein time is irrelevant and the effort is only for your own satisfaction. Plus, nowadays, most people spend about the same for one or two tankfuls of gas as for a good stave.

All this is aside from the fun of harvesting your own staves. I get as much of a kick in hunting for good trees for staves as for any other hunting I do. Fortunately, we're all surrounded by bow woods. Almost any hardwood and many softwoods will make a good bow. There is comfort in buying and shooting a commercial glass-laminated bow. Making a selfbow tends to involve more uncertainty and unpredictability, although designing and refining glass bows is also fraught with experimentation and uncertainty. If comfort is your game, choose comfort. However -- why not have both comfort (a glass bow) and bold adventure (make selfbows)?

If you have a yen for more adventure, for more exploration and creativity in the realm of archery, consider dusting off one of those staves and just going ahead with it. Making bows is like so many things in life, as expressed long ago by John Buchan about fly fishing: "... the pursuit of that which is elusive, but obtainable, an infinite series of occasions for hope". The joy of creating a bow out of wood is a magic thing to experience. It doesn't have to be the world's greatest bow. What counts is what you put into it. Figure 1 shows the transformation. It's like watching a beautiful butterfly emerge from a chrysalis.



It's easier to make a bow than most people seem to think, and each bow is an occasion for hope. Also, making bows is like the dreadful potato chip dilemma – who in all the history of the world has been known to eat only one potato chip? The bow-making horizon always beckons.

So..... how do you just go ahead with it? I'm in a quandary here. These articles aren't meant to be "how to" articles. I've written a whole book for that, and teach classes regularly now, aside from all the other people who have done and do that. Instead, the reason for this article is to make you itch a bit to just go ahead with it. It's the ancient dilemma – the first step is the hardest. After that, you wonder why you waited so long. You don't need many tools, really. The main tool you'll need is patience. *Wanting* more tools does become a problem after a while, but that's a bridge to cross later on.

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How many tools do I mean? Well, a minimal but adequate set would be patience, a hatchet (or maybe a bandsaw?) to remove the bulk of wood, a drawknife for most of the rest of the bulk, a half round rasp to get the limb and handle shapes resolved, a rattail rasp and/or rattail file for the arrow window, a small rattail file for the nocks, a scraper, a sanding block with cork glued to the bottom, and sandpaper - 80, 150, and 320 grits will do. Also a finish, such as Tru Oil™. Most home shops that deal with wood projects will already have all of these tools except maybe a drawknife. None of them cost very much (although, a bandsaw...).

Now then, friend: here's the real skinny. I've been teaching bow classes for two years now, and have learned that some people know relatively little about some tools. For example, they definitely know what a rasp is, check. Has handle and metal bar with sharp teeth, check. Normally used with both hands, check. Used by pushing said bar with sharp metal teeth down the bow limb, oops. "Um, let's try pushing the rasp at a 45 degree angle **ACROSS** the grain of the bow limb, not down the limb **WITH** the grain, s'il vous plait." "OK, OK, I'll do it, I'll do it. Damn boot camp instructor."

Consider practicing on scrap wood first with your tools before tackling that hopefully not-so-precious stave. I suspect that inadequate knowledge of how to use the tools one possesses has led myriads of aspiring bowyers down the slippery trail toward that 40 lb bow rather than the desired 55 lb bow. One would do well to consider the advice one is proffering one.

Thus, if you shoot a glass bow, keep on shooting it. But there's no reason you can't have that cake plus also make and shoot a bow made from one of those staves squirreled away in your cellar or your mind.

The horizon beckons.



Stim Wilcox is a biology professor at The State University of New York at Binghamton (Binghamton University). He is a dedicated (and direly afflicted) bowyer, and the author of a forthcoming book on making selfbows, "The Art Of Making Selfbows". He makes custom selfbows, offers bowmaking classes, and welcomes comments and questions. His email is , and his address is RR5, Box 171, Montrose, PA 18801.





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A conversation with a non-hunter

By Jorge L. Coppen, TANJ Vice President

I recently had a conversation with a non-hunter that led to a discussion of hobbies. So, obviously bowhunting came up when I was asked what my favorite pursuits were. I told her about an elk hunting adventure I had been on in Montana.

She replied with the following: *"You went on an Elk Hunt! Do you mean you were going to kill, or just photograph? I'm not a vegan & I do enjoy a good steak now & then, but the thought of killing an animal for "sport" turns my stomach... I can barely bring myself to squish a bug without remorse... Please tell me you didn't go & shoot anything more than a camera at them?"*

Uh-oh...here it comes...the explanation...Well, I'll try to explain as briefly as I can. First, I offer no apology for what I do when I hunt wild animals. I have pondered this for many years. You see, I am a proud hunter-conservationist. Yes, I harvest game just like our ancestors - yours and mine - did for millions of years. It amuses me that modern "civilized" people are so divorced from nature that they completely misunderstand the natural cycle of predator and prey - life and death in nature, our origins. It is everyone's heritage. Ignore it if you will. Human cultures all derived from a hunter-gatherer natural lifestyle. In the study of anthropology you will find our roots as hunter-gatherers.

So, please remember that "the scared hunt" is not "sport", as you referred to it but a way of life. To call it "sport" is to demean it. Hunters love, cherish and respect animals more than any animal rights activist does and I can prove it! Why would I choose a career as a Wildlife Biologist? Because I am a brutal man who likes to kill things? Not hardly. I love, respect and feel reverence for wild animals and give them more honor than most non-hunters. People go out to dinner, and order steak or chicken and ask each other *"How's your meal?" ... "Good, and how's yours?" ... "Great lobster!"* Then they change the subject and give no more honor or thought to the animal that died for them so they could eat out on a Friday night! The city-dweller life corrupts humans into an ignorance about participating in nature. Frankly, your comment that you "enjoy a good steak now & then" amounts to the ultimate hypocrisy. Not trying to be rude here, just honest. Your "steak" had to die just like mine did. Only one difference...By killing it myself, the gravity of what I have done makes me cherish that meat more than you might. Enjoy your dinner, but give it some thanks. When I sit down to a meal of wild game I recall the adventure, the beauty of the turning leaves, the sound of the forest, the whispering wind in the pines, the smell of autumn, the adrenaline, the contemplation, the sleekness of the deer, the beautiful birds flitting around me, the thrill of watching a majestic buck trot by me

just out of range.

On the rare chance I get to kill a deer, I understand the gravity of what I have done. Certainly, I do feel some remorse for the animal but then I quietly honor it...and celebrate. Truth is, my animal dies in mere seconds. This death is truly more humane than other forms of natural death...starvation, predation or diseases. As a biologist, I have seen the ugliness of a painfully slow natural death often enough. Hunters as a group are responsible for saving more wildlife and habitat than any animal rights group who spend their cash paying lawyers and bombing restaurants. We hunters have "footed the bill" for saving them. Some animal rights groups are listed as domestic terrorist groups by the FBI (e.g., Animal Liberation Front), are against pet ownership, against drinking milk, and advise people to release their dogs and cats to nature....domesticated animals would die out there, or would chase deer & kill poor wild birds right in their nests! Why is it acceptable for wolves to eat a deer, or for an eagle to take a fish, or for a bobcat to take a rabbit or for an owl to take a mouse and eat...but I cannot participate in nature because I am "civilized"?

How diseased modern life is...It is more acceptable to show violence on the big screen and allow cuss words on the TV...but not hunters in the woods being natural predators!

The act of taking an animal's life is not for everyone. But I take a life only when I commit to fully honor the animal with 1.) a humane kill brought by a well-placed shot to the best of my abilities and 2.) then eat the natural meat that was given to me or donate it.

Again, no apology offered. It is the healthiest food on earth. I remain proud and honored to participate in the age-old pursuit that allowed neolithic humans to flourish to what we are today...but at least contemplate these truths I shared with you. Long live the beautiful elk, deer and antelope. Long live the Alaskan bull moose! They are lucky that hunter-conservationists that conserve their habitat are around to save the last wild ground that is left!





TANJ's PHOTO-ADVENTURES

Break-n-Wood



South Side Middle School Rockville Centre, LI drove 68 miles to attend the Annual TANJ "Break-n-Wood" Traditional Shoot held at WaXoBe, South Brunswick, NJ.

Ken Bagala, President and his WaXoBe club did an outstanding job during the day with kids & their parents. Afterwards, they enjoyed a good lunch!



REFLECTIONS OF THE PAST - KEEP THEM ALIVE

By Michael "MGM" Luster

As we get older, we reflect on all the things we have done in the past. In 1959, I was a young boy of eight and lived in a New York City apartment building in a neighborhood where the movie *Streets Of The Bronx* was made. Actor Robert DeNero played a bus driver. I actually lived one building from the bar where it was filmed. I was a city boy way far from where I could've ever learned about the sport of archery. And there was no place to shoot a bow & arrow.

My School, PS 103, was planning a school trip to Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus. There, I met the famous clown Emit Kelly who handed me a snake balloon, only to have it zip away when he tried to hand it to me. It flew out of my fingers as he let go of the untied end.

It was the first time I was ever at a circus and I loved it. I was walking outside after the big show where all the games of chance were. When I came up to a booth that had crossbows. I was real excited to see them. I asked the man who was running the booth if I could shoot and he said "*Sure Sonny.*" It was 6 shots for 25 cents. The crossbow was too heavy a draw weight for me to pull back and the man had to help me load it after every shot. I spent a whole dollar and the man gave me six more bolts to shoot for free. It felt great shooting for the first time. I was hooked and I wanted to learn more about archery.

It wasn't too long after the circus, my family moved to the Soundview Projects in the Bronx. Soundview Park was right outside my window. The park was 350+ acres. It looked like the plains of the old west. Rolling hills. In fact, they filmed a portion of a western movie there because it look so much like the western plains of the west. I don't remember what movie it was. Could you ever imagine filming a western in the Bronx, New York City. We had the Bronx river that ran 8,000+ feet along the park. It was a great place to fish for flounder. We would of-

ten shoot rats with our slingshots along the river at low tide. Soundview Park was pure paradise for a nine-year-old boy living in New York City.

One day a friend showed me how to make a bow out of sumac bush. We'd used butcher cord for our bow-string. We made arrows out of dried sunflower stalks and we would split the ends and put cut out triangles of Cardboard to make a fletching in place of real feathers for our arrows. We would tie them with thread to hold the "feather" in place. We had a great time shooting - sometimes all day, every chance we would get. My mother always knew where I was. I always knew I had to be home before dark for supper or go hungry. My parents were always set in that way.

One day My cousin Arthur Loria asked me if I wanted to go with him and his friend to this place where they had batting cages and a golf driving range. He said they even had archery there. I was game after he said that. I wasn't in to hitting a baseball nor was I interested in swinging a golf club. When we arrived, my cousin and his friend went over to the batting cage. I watched but did not try. I wanted to get over to the archery range. I said to my cousin, "*I'm going over to the archery range and meet you later.*"

I had to find the guy so I could shoot. He told me it was 15 shots for 25 cents. If you broke a balloon you got two free arrows to shoot again. Well, I picked the best arrows I could shoot. There weren't many good ones. The range was 15 yards. I picked up this Taffy Pearson Bow and started shooting. I started breaking balloons. After the third round, the attendant just said to me "*Kid, I be over there. Just blow up your own balloons and shoot.*" My Cousin and his friend joined me a short time later. We all shot for three hours and our fingers were all blistered. All for 25 cents. That's how many balloons I broke that afternoon. Enough that the three of us could shoot for three hours. I really had the archery fever now! And my cousin was getting into it too.

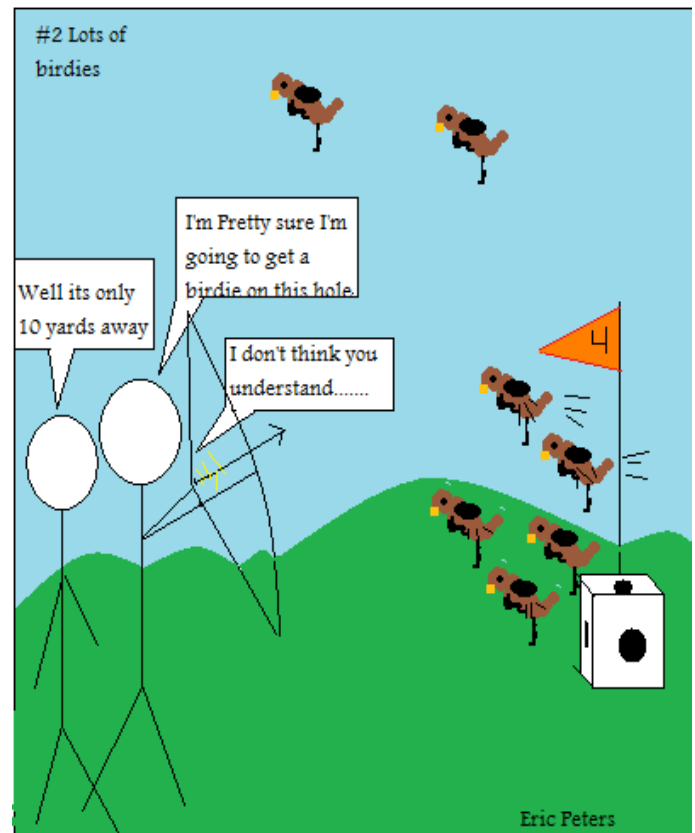
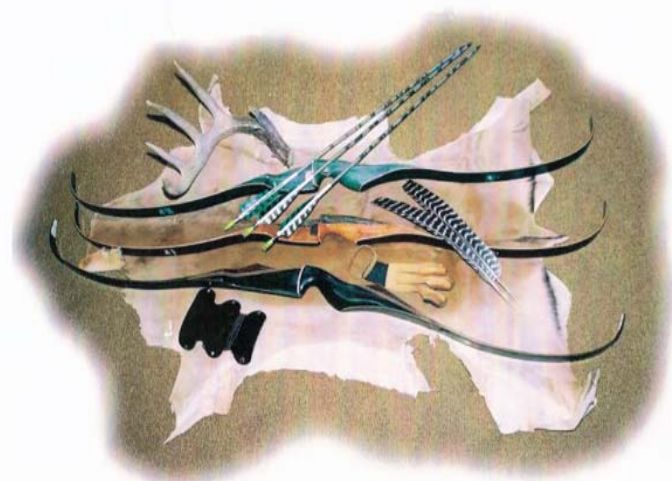


When Christmas rolled around that year, my mother and father asked me what I wanted for Christmas. I said I wanted a bow & arrow. Santa Claus was good to me and I was the only kid too get a Bushmaster 45# recurve - a lot a bow for a small 70 lb. boy. But, I managed to shoot it almost every day I had a chance to. I shot a lot of Arrows that first year.

To buy extra arrows to shoot, I'd work in a pet shop on weekends scraping pigeon cages to get money to buy arrows. I would also make money selling balloons outside the entrance of the Bronx Zoo. I even carried groceries for people from the store to their apartments. You see, it's sometimes good to reflect on the past. I only hope to pass these stories to my children and grandchildren. Maybe they will also have good memorable stories to tell of their past to their children and grandchildren.

The seeds of the future are in your hands. Remember your children will be picking your nursing home. Be good to your children. Teach them archery. I guarantee they will keep your stories alive. They even maybe pick a good nursing home for you when you're old and your memories are fading. Keep them alive. Reflect on them. Pass it on.

'Til Next Time, Like I always say...Go out west hunting! You can't afford not to!



Eric Peters

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TANJ's PHOTO-ADVENTURES

2008 —TANJ PHEASANT HUNT





First Time Pheasant

By Eric Peters

Nothing beats plinking arrows at pheasants on a nice, cool spring morning with your dad and the guys. Except one where your friend doesn't get sick halfway through and has to go home with nothing or one where you didn't go through three arrow points in the same day. But still, I had the time of my life, and I got my first two kills under my belt.

The day started off like any other hunting trip, with a pork roll sandwich. And as we hopped into the car, it had not occurred to me while being with so many, just walking around with my friends in the field, that this might be my first shot at killing a pheasant or anything. On my first few deer hunts, I still regret only looking as a magnificent buck meandered on by in my kill zone by my stand. I was too awestruck to even take a shot, what a bad case of buck fever! I was sure on this hunt that I wouldn't do this again.

When we got into the fields later on in the morning, we were all ready to go. After a lot of walking, and a few missed shots, we came upon a wounded pheasant probably with a broken wing. The adults told me that I could



shoot it and with a well-aimed shot to the chest, I had gotten my first kill. A few close shots later, I shot a pheasant right out of the sky. That made my second pheasant of the day. Then we went back and laid the birds out, and took a few pictures.

All in all, this was one of my best hunting experiences. I also got to spend time with my dad and have some fun. Even better though, was dinner that night; the pheasant tasted great. It was even better knowing that the time that I spent shooting discs in the air, and practicing with my Fred Bear bow and flu-flu arrows had made me a better hunter and shooter. This experience also made me realize that what makes hunting such a great sport is spending time with people, not killing something.

Eric Peters used a Bear Grizzly recurve and a flu-flu arrow to harvest his first two pheasants.





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Venison Recipes:

Cordon Blue Grouse (Grouse Rolls)

INGREDIENTS:

2 grouse breasts (boned)
2 eggs (beaten)
1 brick Philadelphia brand cr  m cheese
Toothpicks
Flour
Bread crumbs

Preheat oven to 300  F

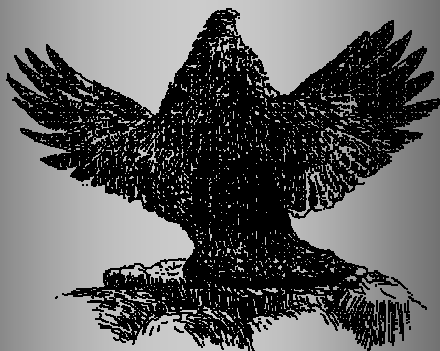
Remove grouse breast from bone and pound it flat.

Place one-eighth of a brick of Philadelphia brand cr  me cheese and roll it up shut. Lock this roll in place with a toothpick.

Roll this in flour and dip the roll in a beaten egg dip.

Next, roll this in bread crumbs.

Bake in oven slowly for one hour or until well browned.



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are asked to please contact Ron Ellison, TANJ Membership Director at 732-600-2207 or email at ronbonj@aol.com to update your information so you can get your newsletter and TANJ updates in a timely fashion!



TANJ's membership period is a calendar year from January to December. This means that regardless of what month you joined, your next dues payment would be the next January. When the Spring newsletter is sent to all members, we include a dues reminder with a self-addressed envelope for your convenience. For all members in good standing, which is any member paid up to date, your new membership card is also included. You should print your full name on top, sign the bottom and keep it. Your membership dues cost is \$15. The 4 newsletters we send out to each member costs about \$12. That's almost all of your dues money just for the newsletter. At the 2008 annual meeting last April at the Whittingham shoot we had a total of 302 members of which only 140 were paid up to date. So, if you are not paid up, please send in your payment, it will be greatly appreciated.

Ron Ellison, Membership Director

MEMBER PROFILE

BRIAN PETERS

...As I emerged from the darkness there was my friend and fellow traditional bowhunter Brian Peters, offering instant congratulations for the success of a fellow bowhunter...

Brian Peters is a passionate traditional archer with an abundance of generosity, patience and heart. As TANJ Vice-President (2003-2006), he brought enthusiasm, leadership and motivation to the members of our organization. He served as the TANJ's Membership Director at the same time and organized our member contact list into an electronic format used to this day. He organized the first TANJ Pheasant Hunt and led the gang into its 6th annual hunt again this year. He accomplished an important feat in getting our TANJ gaming permit, allowing us to truly become a model charitable organization. Brian also participates actively in the NJ Bowhunters Game Dinner Committee. Yes...he's a key member for the TANJ in accomplishing its mission: *"To perpetuate the true spirit of archery, to bond people with a mutual love for the traditional philosophy. To actively promote and protect quality bowhunting and to perpetuate fair chase and ethical bowhunting in New Jersey."*

Somehow, Brian finds a way to balance his active role in the TANJ with his work and family, his first priority. He is blessed by a family that includes his charming wife, Teresa and his two wonderful kids: daughter Rachel and son Eric ...both budding traditional bowhunters! **Thanks, Brian!**







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Send color combo, style code # (#J755 or #J756), first name, your correct size order and a **check or money order made out to Twisted Stitches for \$82.00** and your shipping address to:

Twisted Stitches; 2871 Jones Bridge Rd.; Mt. Morris, NY 14510



Port Authority Crew Jacket (# J755)	Port Authority Warmup Jacket (# J756)
Color combinations	Color combinations
Black/ Black/ Black Black/ Grey Heather/ Black Dark Navy/ Grey Heather/ Dark Navy Hunter/ Grey Heather/ Hunter Royal/ Dark Navy/ Dark Navy	Black/ Light Oxford Bright Navy/ Light Oxford Hunter/ Light Oxford Maroon/ Light Oxford Royal/ Light Oxford



TANJ Youth Jacket

Same logo options as with adult-sized TANJ jackets (see above)!

Sizes: Youth S (6-8), Youth M (10-12),
Youth L (14-16), Youth XL (18-20)

Colors: Maroon, Black, Forest Green, Imperial Blue, Navy, Red

Order your TANJ Jacket today. **Price:** \$82.00 (includes shipping)!

Send check or money order made out to Twisted Stitches for \$82.00 and your shipping address to:

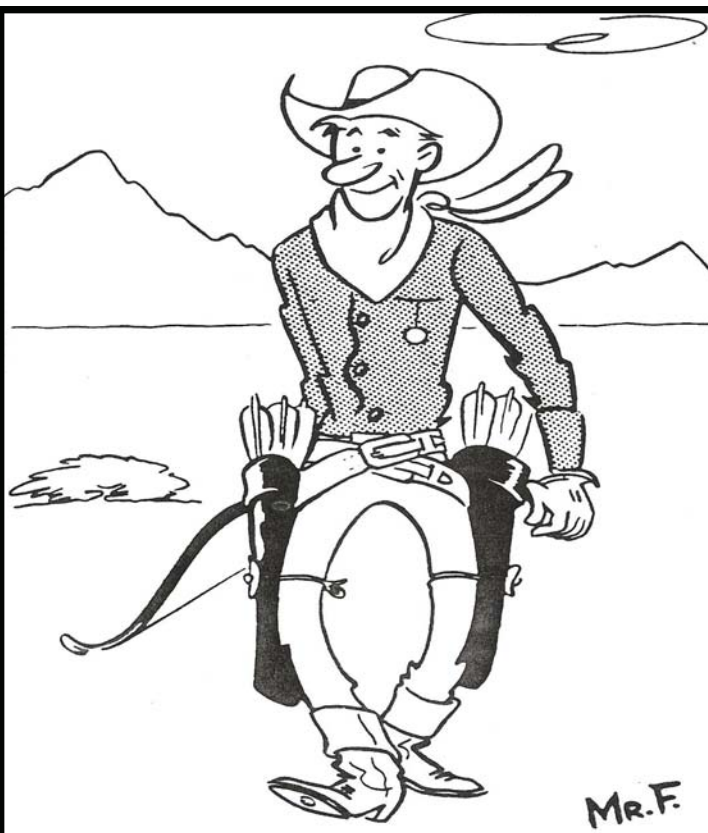
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY TANJ!



**TANJ turned SWEET 16 on
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John B. Carber, Jr.
mobile 215 499 4970



BULLETIN BOARD

[Free Classifieds for TANJ Members]



DUES ARE DUE!

If you have not yet paid your dues for 2008 please do so immediately. Please mail your check, in the amount of \$15.00, to **Ron Ellison 539 Oaktree Lane, Jackson, NJ 08527**. Thank You!

ARTICLES & PHOTOS NEEDED!

We need photos and short stories as well as how-to articles and important news articles. Articles do

Traditional Archers of New Jersey



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TANJ T-SHIRTS

Our TANJ T-Shirts can be
purchased at any of our events
(Sizes = S, M, L, XL)

\$15.00 for members

\$18.00 for non-members

2XL add \$2.00

3XL add \$3.00



Get your TANJ Logo patch!!!

Order one now by sending a check made out to TANJ to Gerry "Doc" DeCaro. Patches sell for \$6.00 plus \$1.00 for "MEMBER" hash for members - \$10.00 for non-members)! Send check or money order to Doc's home address (see page 2 for address).

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Before filling out this application, please read TANJ's purpose, below, and be sure you agree with it and understand it. To better help represent our members, we ask that you please consider filling in the optional information. Please type or print clearly and keep a copy of your application. Dues must be submitted with your application. TANJ reserves the right to deny membership to, or expel from the organization, individuals who jeopardize the goal of the organization.

Membership in the United Bowhunters of New Jersey is not required, but we strongly encourage you to join.

THE PURPOSE OF TANJ is to perpetuate the true spirit of archery, to bond people with a mutual love for the traditional philosophy. In pursuit of this ideal, all TANJ functions shall be limited to the use of longbows and recurves ONLY.

OBJECTIVES: To actively promote and protect quality bowhunting, and to perpetuate fair chase (as defined by Pope & Young Club) and ethical bowhunting in New Jersey.

Name _____ Age _____ Date _____
Street Address _____ E-mail _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Home Phone _____

Other Bowhunting Organizations you Belong To _____

Ever Convicted of a New Jersey Game Violation? ☐ YES ☐ NO If so, What and When [explain] _____

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN TANJ, PLEASE CHECK AT LEAST ONE COMMITTEE:

☐ Membership ☐ Publication ☐ Standards ☐ Shoots/events ☐ DNR/Legislative ☐ Education

PLEASE CHECK ANY SPECIAL INTERESTS, TALENTS, EXPERIENCES, OR SERVICES YOU HAVE WHICH MAY HELP YOU SERVE ON A COMMITTEE:

☐ Home Computer ☐ Legal/Legislative Knowledge ☐ Organizational Skills ☐ Writing Experience ☐ Promotional Skills
☐ Public Speaking Experience ☐ Fund Raising Experience ☐ Design/Art Skills ☐ Bowhunter Education Experience
☐ Printing/Publishing Experience ☐ Other Experience _____

Annual Membership Fee = Individual: \$15.00, Junior (under 16) = \$5.00, Family: \$30.00 [non-pro-rated and due in January of each year]
TANJ LIFE MEMBER: \$250.00

Send Application and Fee to:

Ron Ellison - c/o Traditional Archers of New Jersey - 539 Oaktree Lane - Jackson, NJ 08527