



Traditional Archers of New Jersey

EST. MAY 21, 1992



"Protecting the Future by Preserving the Past"

Off the Shelf

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Summer2009

www.tradnj.com

**Traditional Archers of New Jersey, Inc.***Off the Shelf*

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Traditional Archers of New Jersey, Inc.
Jorge L. Coppen, Editor
6208 Honeycomb Ct.
Sykesville, MD 21784
(410) 842-5991
E-mail: jlcoppen@comcast.net

TANJ Webmaster
Rob DiStefano
e-mail: rfd@rfd.cc

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TANJ OFFICERS**PRESIDENT**

Gerry F. DeCaro
20 Spruce Drive
Middletown, NJ 07748
(732) 957-1960
dadocman47@verizon.net

VICE PRESIDENT

Jorge L. Coppen
6208 Honeycomb Ct.
Sykesville, MD 21784
(410) 842-5991
jlcoppen@comcast.net

SECRETARY

Karen Bartolini
123 South Hope Chapel Rd.
Jackson, NJ 08527
(732) 276-7149
karuba730@aol.com

TREASURER

Vacant

SHOOT COORDINATORS

Kevin Grella
1880 Whitesville Rd.
Toms River, NJ 08755
(908) 623-6882
toys4me9@aol.com

Jim Farley
2334 Holly Rd.
Forked River, NJ 08731
(609) 693-7212

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

Ron Ellison
539 Oaktree Lane
Jackson, NJ 08527
(732) -928-7074
ronbonj@aol.com

TANJ COUNCIL

Brian Peters
5 Mint Leaf Drive
Hamilton Square, NJ 08690
(609) -586-3680
bripete@optonline.net

Frank Zsenak
75 Valley Rd.
Lambertville, NJ 08530
(609) 737-7340
Frankzsk@comcast.net

Paul Winans
26 Southport Drive
Howell, NJ 07731
(609) 730-1147
CRKD_Arrow@juno.com

Terry Gaudlip
527 E. Veterans Hwy.
Jackson, NJ 08527
(732) 928-2668
taji13@aol.com

Ron Ellison
539 Oaktree Lane
Jackson, NJ 08527
(732) 928-7074
ronbonj@aol.com

Pola Galie
PO Box 56
Waretown, NJ 08758
(609) 698-7231
pola.galie@gmail.com

Al Klenk
2 Skunktown Lane
Blairstown, NJ 07825
klenk5@earthlink.net

Kevin Grella
1880 Whitesville Rd.
Toms River, NJ 08755
(908) 623-6882
toys4me9@aol.com

Jim Farley
2334 Holly Rd.
Forked River, NJ 08731
(609) 693-7212

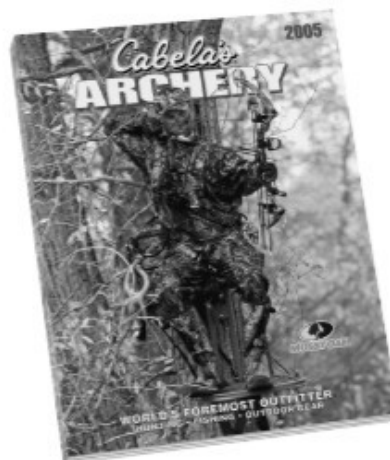


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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A few weeks ago, the Appalachian Bowmen of Sussex County hosted their 17th Annual Whittingham Traditional Archery Rendezvous. As in the past, it is still one of the premier events in the Tri-State Area. Steve Carey and his club ran another outstanding event. This year, they broke their attendance record and there was great weather all weekend. Steve told me many that attended this year decided to camp out instead of making it only a one day event. During the weekend you could see the Appalachian Bowmen working nonstop to ensure everyone enjoyed themselves. Many people do not realize how many days it takes just to clear the fields and cut lanes which are done usually weeks before the event. I told Steve, at the end of the weekend, that some TANJ members told me that they would like to help out next year to clear the fields & lanes and when they have a work party planned, please email me so I can see who can come and help. He greatly appreciated that.

Our 16th Annual Saturday TANJ meeting was "standing room only" and many issues were brought up and voted on. Awards were given out to those TANJ members who went above and beyond the call of duty for the club. Since our meeting, we sent donation checks to The Oxford Central School Archery Team, North Jersey Spinal Navigators, Physically Challenged Bowhunters of America & the North American Bowhunters Coalition. We also sent a Silver sponsorship donation to the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance (NJOA), a grass roots organization. We showed our deep appreciation for all their work they have done in representing the N.J. outdoor sportsman community of bowhunters, fisherman, boaters and trappers. Thanks to their hard work Gov. Corzine signed the Sunday Bowhunting bill into Law. The NJOA along with the UBNJ were the backbone behind the passage of the bill. Past UBNJ President Jack Spoto and current President Brian "Bacs" Dolobacs first introduced the bill five years ago when "Bacs" served as the UBNJ Legislative Representative and it was their dream to have Sunday Bowhunting for all to enjoy in New Jersey.

We had our 1st Annual Texas-Wack-Um contest (which came to me one sleepless night) during the weekend and it was ran by TANJ council member Al Klenk. His son-in law Jeff Strauss & his daughter Jennifer of Allegheny Mountain Bow Co. donated a one of a kind cus-

tom made Mountain Bow just for this event. It was a 62", 51#@28" Mountain Bow with Prickly Pear Limbs. We had archers flinging hundreds of shafts at playing cards all weekend so that their name would be entered in a raffle for the grand prize. Most of the monies generated during this shoot were donated to the North Jersey Spinal Navigators Wheelchair Archery Team. The winner of the bow was Tom Conroy who just joined the TANJ on Sunday morning and took three shots at the cards and scored all 3 times.

We also hosted the Denton Hill Eagle Eye where if you hit a 1" orange dot on a 3-D deer at 15 yds. you then qualify to attend their ETAR Championships at Denton Hill in July. This is the first time we had no one qualify but we raised \$116 for their PBS youth event. I also made a call to ETAR to see if TANJ can have a table and am waiting for a call. I would like to thank Ron Ellison and Joe Serrano for their time and effort on running that event for us again this year. TANJ will run an "Eagle Eye" at our Knock-A-Block at Bent Creek in June and at the "Last Man Standing" at Black Knights in July so if you want to qualify, come on down.

On Saturday night we had our 3rd Annual TANJ "Pig Out" and again had 100+ in attendance from TANJ and the Appalachian Bowmen attended with their families. Later we invited all the campers to help finish off the Pulled Pork & Pasta. We had our dinner catered this year by K&D Island Café owned by Dennis Grella. His brother Kevin is our shoot coordinator and volunteered to run the event. We had enough Pulled Pork, Chicken, Pasta in addition to Salad, Beans & Potato Salad to feed Robin Hood and all of Sherwood Forest for a month. TANJ members manned the grill along side of Kevin, Terry & Cody. I thank Dennis, Don, Joe & Jim for stepping up during the night and preparing the feast that was to come.

We had many compliments about the food that night and on Sunday so we decided to book K&D for next year. Next year we will make sure everyone knows before hand and we will have signs along the trail to direct you where it will be held. We are also thinking of having two sittings, one for members (free) and one for non members for a small fee. So please mark your calendars for next year and invite your friends to join TANJ and all you will need is a chair and drink of choice and join us at the



TANJ 4th Annual "Pig Out"!

Back in March, TANJ was involved in supporting the new public Archery Range being built in Clark, N.J., The Oak Ridge Archery Range. Kevin Grella and John Farley attended and represented TANJ and the motion was voted on and passed. We must also recognize Mike Tully TANJ member, and representative of the "Gut Yankers", who helped lead the charge on this public range and has been in Clark watching and helping guide the township on what the range should look like and most of all making it safe for all to shoot. You will be able to shoot out to 80 meters when it opens in July and must first sign up for a permit and bring your own target butt.

On Saturday May 2nd, TANJ along with UBNJ, Black Knights, WaXoBe Club, SFAA, Monmouth County Federation & NJOA hosted a Youth Archery Day at L&H Woods and Water in Wall Township. Over 66 kids and their families attended and we had a record turnout of 21 volunteers that came to help instruct the kids. The volunteers, all from the above organizations, started to teach at 8:30 a.m. and did not stop until 3 p.m. without a break, even in the pouring rain. Trophies, Medals, Ribbons and Pins were given out to the kids along with door prizes throughout the day.

On Saturday June 13th, we have our 1st Annual Traditional Knock-A-Block Muzzy type shoot which will be hosted at Bent Creek. Aldo Bonacasta will be running this event and anyone wishing to know more about this fun-filled event please call Aldo at (609) 597-7639. You can also go to our website at (www.tradnj.com), Bent Creeks or Tradgang websites to see the flyer. If you never shot at one of these block-type shoots, please come and see what all the fun is about. You will need Judo points! Bring your friends, it's a blast!

We now have long sleeve, black, mock turtle neck TANJ shirts. They have a 14" arrow going down the left sleeve and a bowhunter at full draw on the back with our club name plus "TANJ" over a small arrow on the chest. They are cool looking and we hope that you will wear one at your next 3-D event or hunt. So please purchase one and help support TANJ and what we do.

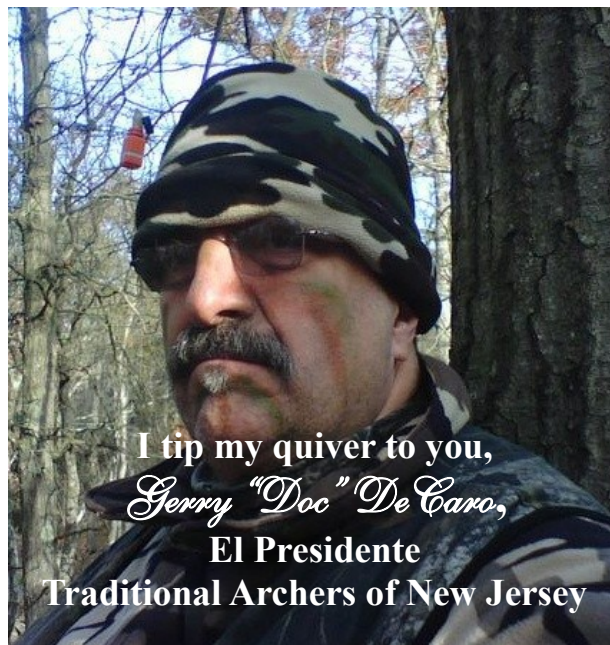
As many of you know we lost a TANJ member Chet Vacca and he will be missed by all of us that enjoyed

shooting with him for many years. At 3-D shoots Chet (Skinny) would bet that you could not make any of his crazy shots between forked trees, around huge boulders, under tree trunks, standing on one leg, down steep inclines, up slate rock walls all of us trying to hit the 3-D target and as always no one could. We always all came back with many bent and broken arrows. Many local sporting shops loved when we went out shooting for the day with Chet and always came to buy new shafts the next day. Chet we will miss you dearly and you saying before the shot *"Bet you can't hit the target for a \$1 .00 but have to shoot at it this way."*

TANJ is looking for a TANJ Treasurer and a Merchandise Director and if you think you are qualified please send an email to your TANJ Council so that we may review. During the Whittingham weekend, Darlene Maschino was a great help working at our TANJ Table along with other members and we would like to thank them all.

In closing I would like to thank my wife Marilyn and my children Charles and Jamie who have been very patient with me for not being around for the last seven years on many weekends & weekdays. First serving as your Shoot Coordinator and now President but they know where TANJ stands in my heart.

Nuff Said,
El Presidente
Gerry "Doc" DeCaro





A Letter from NJ Hall of Famer



Irene Bowers

2009 Archery Hall of Fame Inductee

THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH!!!

I do hope you will indulge me for just a bit as I try to put into words what's on my heart after attending the NJ Bowhunter's Game Dinner this past February 28th when I was given the honor of being inducted into the UBNJ-TANJ Hall Of Fame. Humbled and overwhelmed sums up the feelings that went through me when I was presented with this honor, but it's far more than that and "thank yous" are in order.

First and foremost, I thank our Dear Lord for blessing me with the eyes to see the beauty in His creations and for the talent and ability to recreate it in all forms of mediums. Then I thank all of you men, women and children who have made my 27 year career one that I can truly say I love.

ALL of you have played a part in every picture I may draw or paint—every carving—no matter what the medium I choose to work with. I don't think that you realize how eloquent you are when you describe your communion with nature and the outdoors. You're the ones who put the pictures in my mind.

You might think that you're relating your hunt, but I hear much more than that. You set the mood, time of day, weather conditions, your awareness of all that surrounds you and what's going on inside of your head as you anticipate all of the possibilities. You also reveal your heart and your love and appreciation of nature right down to the chickadee that decides to perch on your gun barrel. I could not do what I do if I didn't know the subjects I portray and all of you have played a big part of understanding the total picture and I thank you for that!

When I say that I know the subjects I portray, I have to thank Leonard Lee Rue III and my husband Reg for their "critiques" and neither of them ever worried about sparing my feelings. Both are the finest naturalists I know. In the early 80's, Len was giving a presentation down at our kids school and I went to see it. After the presentation I got up the nerve to speak with him and mentioned that I painted a little bit and that I had painted one of his pictures of a fawn—on velvet no less. To my great surprise he said, "Where do you live?" I told him and he looked at his watch and said, "OK, I get through here at 4pm—I'll be up to see it then!" Needless to say I was thrilled, but then the enormity of Leonard Lee

Rue III coming to my house to see a velvet painting of one of his pictures hit me and I started to quake in my shoes. What in the world had I done?

Well, Len came up and I shook, but he saw something in that painting and so began the mentor/friendship that lasts to this day. He invited us up and told me to take whatever photos I wanted for reference. He also asked that I would bring my work for him to see and critique. When we went up





for those critiques, I added a new dimension to the shaking. I now learned how to sweat bricks! Proportion was the most important factor. The deer's antlers whether whitetail, muley or elk, the snout of a fox, coyote or wolf—proportion made the difference in art.

He said, *"You can tell a dedicated wildlife artist who knows the animal from one who paints just to paint by looking at the picture and immediately knowing the species because of the correct proportion. And if there's a pimple, defect of any sort—show it if it's there—draw it, that's what makes it real!"*

When I finally got good enough, Len encouraged me to turn professional and get my work out there. I was told early on by one very well known art critic in Philadelphia that I should never sign my full name on the paintings, only my last name. I asked why and he told me very matter-of-factly that I am a woman and men won't buy a nature painting because women didn't know anything about hunting or nature.

Another art critic told me that *"Anyone can draw what they can see"*. So I said, *"Tell me, if I were to put the foxes' eyes in it's tail, would that be considered good art?"* *"Absolutely!"* he said.

The magazine rejection slips were piled high and my husband said that if he'd gotten rejected as many times as I did, he would probably have to go hide in the closet. But I persisted.

I was also told not to give my work away and my response to that was that I was so glad that the clubs, federations, banquets wanted my work and if it helped them, I was more than okay with that because then you, the very people I wanted to connect with would see my work. That's what started this 27-year career that has been such an honor and blessing to me. And I still have that velvet fawn!

I've also had the pleasure of watching your children grow. One file drawer holds drawings from so many of your children who are now young adults. It was great to see the amount of young families at the din-

ner and I commend all of you parents and grandparents for instilling the thrill of the hunt, the love of nature and the importance of family.

I leave you with this: The only formal education I've ever received was basic art in grammar and high school. The result of everything I create is because of God blessing me with the ability to see and pass on to you the beauty of His creation. Von Goethe wrote "Nature is the living, visible garment of God." How true. For the honor bestowed upon me, my heartfelt thanks and God Bless You All!

Irene V. Bowers



See Irene Bower's advertisement for
Bowers Art Studio
on page 28
or visit www.bowersartstudio.com/



**Traditional Archers
of
New Jersey**

Protecting the future by Preserving the Past





TANJ CABIN-FEVER 2009





TANJ 2009 SHOOT SCHEDULE

TANJ SUMMERTIME SHOOTING FUN!

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

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

Vendors welcome no charge for tables - Archery Equipment only!!

A kind donation of equipment towards a door prize is appreciated!



**Saturday, June 13th, 1st Annual TANJ
Nock-a-Block Event at Bent Creek Pre-
serve Allentown, NJ.**

**Contact: Aldo Bonacasta (609) 597-7639
www.bentcreekpreserve.net**



**Sunday- July 12th-TANJ/BKB Last Man
Standing at Noon, Black Knights -
Perrineville Road, Jackson, NJ
www.blackknightbowbenders.com**



**Sunday -Sept 13th- 8th Annual White-Tale
Fever-3-D at WaXoBe, Major Rd. Monmouth
Junction, NJ www.waxobe.com**

1ST ANNUAL TANJ KNOCK-A-BLOCK AT BENT CREEK 3D ARCHERY

SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2009

MUST CHECK-IN BY 8:00AM

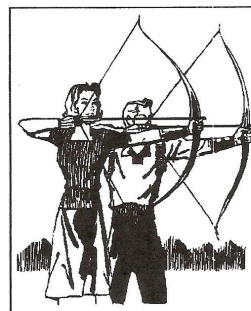
SHOOT STARTS AT 8:30AM

GRASSHOPPER OR JUDO POINTS ONLY

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

NO REGISTRATION AFTER MAY 20, 2009

PRIMITIVE
CAMPING
IS AVAILABLE



RAIN OR
SHINE

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL
BENT CREEK 609-259-9501 OR
ALDO BONACASTA AT 609-713-0871
WWW.BENTCREEKPRESERVE.NET

DOC'S TRADITIONAL TIPS:

How to pick wood arrow shaftting:

The way to tell what spine of arrow you need is if you are shooting a center-shot bow (recurve or longbow) you add 5# to the weight of the bow at the poundage that is written on your bow at 28" (if you are shooting a selfbow—just ignore adding that 5#). Then if you draw over 28", add 3-5 # per inch over the 28" marked on your bow. Add those two together plus the poundage marked on the bow and there is the spine weight you need!





Chet Vacca

In Memory of a TANJ
Traditional Brother of the Bow



Traditional Archers
of
New Jersey

Protecting the Future by Preserving the Past



Bucks County Fish and Game Club

23 Taylor Ave. Doylestown, PA 18901, PA

Invites you to celebrate Chet Vacca's life

Chet Vacca Commemorative Shoot

SUNDAY - July 19th, 2009

Shoot and Swap meet proceeds go to Chet Vacca's wife, Joanne.
\$10 shoot fee - A great opportunity to remember our good friend
40 Rhinehart targets! - Visit <http://bcfg.org/> for address & directions
Contacts: "Doc" (267) 231-8031; rsatterfield@comcast.net
or George Scocchi (267) 505-0625



Chester D. Vacca Jr. of Holland passed away Saturday, April 4, 2009. He was 59. He was the beloved husband of Joanne Vacca for 38 years. He is also survived by his two sons, Michael & James. Chet was a resident of Holland, PA for the past 21 years. As we all know, Chet loved the outdoors and looked forward to bowhunting in the traditional way and was quite successful. One of his favorite pastimes was shooting one of his many bows at the 3-D shoots along with many of his friends. He was a loyal member of the Langhorne Rod & Gun Club & the Traditional Archers of New Jersey for many years. Here we pay homage to a brother of the TANJ.

Archer's Prayer

Lord, Keep me safe, for I return to my Family. Keep my sight clear, my arms steady...And my arrows true to their target. Keep my skills high, as my target deserves a swift end Lord, I gather for my Family. Keep me strong Lord, as I take life for my Family's life. Let me have warmth when it is cold, coolness in the desert heat...And light in the darkness. Keep my prey strong and alert, as I deserve contest Lord, Keep me safe, for I return to my Life with you...By Idaho Pete



Tributes to a good friend and brother



Many years ago I was invited to attend my first Pennsylvania 3-D shoot at Chet's Langhorne Club. During the day, Chet or George would make a \$1.00 bet on almost every shot. Robin Hood couldn't make half these crazy shots. It made a fun day out and we always came back laughing over some of the shots and sometimes one of us would return from the course holding pieces of broken shafts, usually me. Chet would comment on how nice my arrows looked, especially the dip & matching banana fletching. He would say "Doc, how long does it take you to make these babies?" I answered "Weeks." He then replied "I'd hate to lose one!" He then turned to George and Mel and said "They're so pretty and look they all match. These New Jersey guys really have pretty arrows." I thought nothing about it but I should have known better. Well, after a day of shooting I returned to my truck and noticed one arrow was missing from my back quiver. "Oh well, I thought to myself, I must have lost it over at one of the targets. Damn!"

George & Chet called me up a few weeks later and invited me out another Sunday. After the morning shoot was over we went for a quick bite to eat at his clubhouse. Chet noticed one or two more of my arrows missing as we were having coffee. I thought "What the heck was going on?" I watched all my shots. I did miss a few targets like everyone else but thought we always found them...but why does this only happened when I shot with the "Three Amigos" (George, Chet & Mel)? Hmmm, maybe it was the pressure of shooting with some veteran PA. traditional guys. I guessed they knew their club's range better than me. I would return home and spend the rest of that Sunday afternoon crafting a few more arrows. Well a year passed and I was invited out to join them again. We met and proceeded to shoot the course as always for a day of fun. I was standing next to Chet and just missed a 3-D Ram Reinhart target twice shooting just under the Ram both times. (It was a very long uphill shot to start with but George and Chet wanted to shoot another 15 yards further back). As I

was reaching for my third arrow Chet said "Doc wait try one of my arrows, its super fast arrow that's spined for your longbow and a good looker too?" As I reached over to take the arrow I stared at it for a few seconds because it looked very familiar. I looked back at Chet and he had a smile from ear to ear. I said "Wait, this is mine!" Chet then replied in heartbeat, "How about this arrow, or this one, or this puppy?" In total he handed me 5-6 of my arrows that I thought I lost to the "Arrow Gods" from the previous year before. Chet was taking them out of my quiver as I was walking in front of him on the range. I will never forget the smile on Chet's face as he walked away humming one of his favorite Doo-Wop songs down the trail wearing his brown hat to the next 3-D target. He got me good again!

Chet is probably making a \$1.00 bet right now in Heaven with one of the Angels trying to get some white left wing feathers off one of his wings. You will be missed dearly and I will love you always along with your Brothers and Sisters of TANJ

Serry "Doc" DeCaro, TANJ President

Here is a tribute from George Scocchi:

This is a tough assignment...so hard to think about things. Must be a million. Will do my best. My friend Chet..."Fatty" or "Skinny" as most close friends called him...mostly "Fatty" in a friendly sort of way. That was the usual topic of conversation in car rides to a shoot or wherever. Usually started with..."I'm disgusted! I'm too heavy. Don't know what to do", etc. Well. It's not that any one of us ever lacked advice for him. There were a million diet tips and suggestions. All fell on deaf ears. My favorite was..."I got it!" I would always say, "All I have to do is get a release form signed by your wife and I can handcuff you up to a lolly column down in my basement!" and Chet would answer "But not during the bowhunting season!" "I can bring you bread and water for about 4 months and I guarantee you will lose 100 pounds! Of course you'll be snoring most of the time and wake up the whole neighborhood and then someone would call the PA State Troopers about



strange noises coming from my basement.” That was always good for a chuckle but again...no dice. I say all this about him being heavy and we should take note but also to give an example of how he lived his life...To the fullest! No way was getting overweight going to stand in the way of enjoying himself or that next pizza. He didn't care as long as he was having a good time. Eating, shooting the bow, enjoying the company of friends and so on. That's what he lived for. Nothing was more important. This may sound selfish or self-centered but Chet was far from it because at the same time, he could not do any of these things without the company of a friend. Apart from all the fun, he also enjoyed being generous. He was always giving something away. I can't remember how much stuff he gave away to me and many of his friends. If they are reading this they know it is true. It gave him pleasure to give and see others enjoy and also appreciate him. I think that was important to him. Whoever was at the viewing and funeral can attest to the incredible amount of people whose lives he touched. The funeral procession of cars stretched over 10 miles. All the heart-warming stories of things I never knew about that he did for others. There are also a million funny stories that would probably take up a book's worth too. But, it's like jokes. They come to you when you start telling them and hear others.

One thing for sure is that all those who shot the bow with him can back me up - There was always a “bet”...bet you \$1.00 you can't hit that dot, or bet you \$1.00 you can't hit that deer's nose. Or, see if you can hit the ear on the 3-D deer but where the black mark was about 1/4 " to the right and 2 " up. He would go on and on. The bet was always \$1.00 or something stupid of course and we would always take that stupid bet. He lost most of the time...Now we all want to know how we are gonna collect on all those \$1.00 bets? Chet had a tough time on the courses as you all know because of his knees. He felt bad about it but WE all always had to pull his arrows and bitched about it: “When are you going to fix those knees!?” “When you do, you will be pulling OUR arrows for years to come.”

Well. We can forget about collecting on that one too now. Chet is gone. I would pull his arrows forever and more if I could bring him back. He will be sorely

missed by all his friends and the amazing amount of people he touched. I'm going to miss you. Chet. I love you like a Brother.

George Scocchi

•

Here is a few words from Mel Watts who was a dear friend and always attended 3-D shoots along with George Scocchi and Chet:

You would never see one without the other! Against the advice of several people, I decided to go to Denton Hill with Chet one year. I reserved a room and away we went. After shooting all day (he could walk the course back then] and eating, Chet and I finally got back to the room at the hotel we were staying at. I should have taken the advice of many friends that stayed with Chet in the past!! I never heard anyone snore [in any position] as loudly as he did. Around midnight, I asked for his truck keys to go sleep in the truck. The second night was a repeat of the first; Chet sleeping and me wide awake. Finally Sunday morning came and we started home. We weren't 10 miles from Denton Hill when he began weaving and closing his eyes. I told him to pull over, and now! If you guess that I drove all the way back and Chet slept again, you are right!!! God love you Always, *Mel Watts*

•

This Tribute was from Jim and Marcia Rebuck for J&M Traditions: (Jim Rebuck makes among the finest custom-made arrows crafted today. Chet would always purchase his custom-made shafts from Jim for many years. This was Jim's tribute after seeing the hundreds upon hundreds of family and friends that came to pay last respects at his wake).

“This is truly a wonderful tribute to a great man. I'm sure he would have been surprised to see the amount of people that he touched while being here. It's a tribute to anyone, and surely hope our lives have touched even a small portion of this amount of lives when we leave this earth. It's a goal for all to achieve!”

**Love & Prayers, Jim & Marcia Rebuck
J&M Traditions**



WA-XO-BE!



Mike Tulley, Spokesman of the "Gut Yankers" says "We love you TANJ Guys!"



Ron Ziolkowski and Kate Pachuta enjoy a break from shooting at Wa-Xo-Be.





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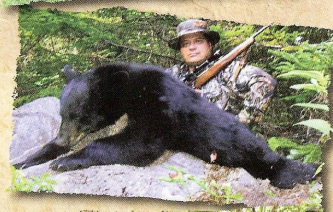
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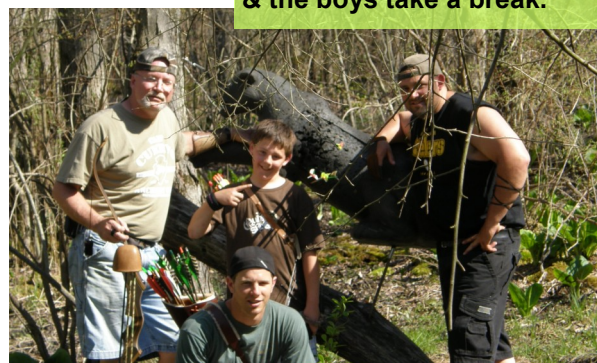
Whittingham!



L to R: Terry Gaudlip, Kevin Grella, Doc DeCaro & Dennis Souky all cookin' up grub!



Let's see...there's 4 of us and I see 4 trays...Dare we ?



Don Mamchur, Kevin Grella & the boys take a break.



Chow line was worth the wait!



Frank Z is always first in line for free grub...what's on the spit, pilgrim!?!



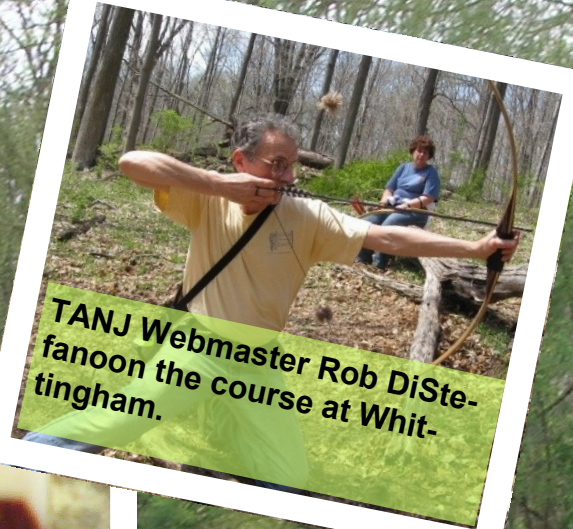
Relaxing after a stressful day of shooting all day long... :) !



Whittingham!



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TANJ Webmaster Rob DiStefano
on the course at Whittingham.



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this coin to TANJ for
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Inscription on donated
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Thanks



Other side of coin pre-
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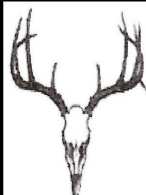
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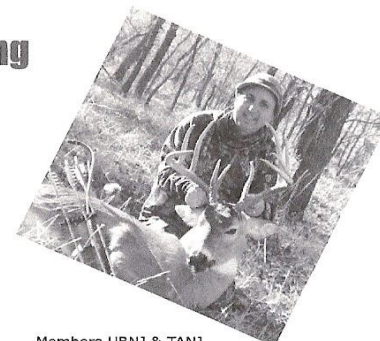
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Members UBNJ & TANJ



First TANJ Pheasant Hunt 2009

By **Ron Ellison**

It was a beautiful morning. The sun was shining and after all the cold weather we were having, it was warming up very nicely. What a perfect day for a pheasant hunt. This was also my first ever pheasant hunt. We had eight club members participating - a few less than usual - but a great bunch of guys. We had Brian Peters of course, who organizes the hunt every year. He had his son Eric along and Phil Muller with his son Zack. These guys would make up one group who would work a large field with a guide and bird dog. Then there was Bruce Garahan, Jim Ellis with his son Jim and myself. We would work a second field with a guide and bird dog. We also had an added advantage because Bruce had brought his bird dog along. Bruce had his son along too, but at nine years old he was not hunting. He did however have his father's video camera and was doing a good job of getting the hunt on film.

Since this was my first pheasant hunt, I just followed what everyone else was doing. When we would see one of the dogs go on point we would all get up close behind the dog and let the guide or the dog flush the bird out which would then take flight. Now is when you had to be alert and fast. I already knew it was not going to be easy shooting a pheasant out of the air but, WOW, what a thrill when that bird goes up and you draw and shoot in a split second.

Most of the time you will probably miss but it would still bring a smile to my face just watching that bird fly away and then very gracefully glide back down into the field or the nearby woods. The action was pretty good, we had a lot of birds go up, and we were all having a great time.

About an hour and a half into the hunt we finally got our first and second birds. We were working a woodlot we had seen some birds fly into earlier and our guide's dog went on point. Everyone got into position and when the bird flushed Jim Sr. immediately shot him. Now the dog grabbed the bird and it looked to me like he broke away and the next thing it's running right for me. As it got close the bird took to the air so I drew my bow, and "whack", shot it right down. Now Bruce's dog grabbed a hold of the bird. Then I find out that this is not Jim's bird but a second bird that had been hiding in the bushes and we both have a bird. Yahoo! My first pheasant. What a thrill and sense of accomplishment. It is such a good feeling that comes over you. This is certainly the icing on top of the cake.

The rest of the morning we put up a few more birds and Bruce had a picture perfect shot on a nice cock bird. The whole experience was just awesome and we will all have fond memories that will last forever.

Around 12:00 noon the hunt was over and we all drove back to the club house where we had met earlier to start the hunt. Brian, Phil and the boys were already there and they too had had a great morning. They had five birds to show for it and congratulations were going around. This was my first pheasant hunt and I can tell you it will not be my last. I'm already thinking about next year.

I would like to mention before ending this story that this is a TANJ pheasant hunt that any member of the club can join in on a first-come-first-served basis.

Brian Peters has done an excellent job putting this hunt together every year and has all the information posted in our newsletter prior to the hunt. Do you want to read about it or do you want to live it?

TANJ Membership Director
Ron Ellison used a 55 pound Black Widow recurve bow and a Kustom King wood shaft tipped with a Game Nabber head to take his first Pheasant!





Venison Recipes:

Smothered Sheep Steaks

INGREDIENTS:

4 Sheep steaks
1/2 cup flour
1/2 tsp. thyme
1/2 tsp. dry mustard
1/2 tsp. garlic powder
1/4 tsp. pepper
2 tbsp. margarine
2 cups water
1 tbsp. instant chicken bouillon
1 4 oz. can sliced mushrooms (drained)
2 tbsp. cornstarch
1/2 cup milk

Remove fat and bone from sheep steaks and discard. Cut steaks into serving-size pieces. Combine flour, thyme, mustard, garlic and pepper and mix thoroughly. Pound flour mixture into both sides of the steaks using meat pounder or the edge of a heavy saucer. Pound until meat is 1/4 inch thick. In a skillet, heat margarine and cook meat until well browned on both sides. Add water, bouillon and mushrooms. Cover and simmer for one hour or until meat is tender. Turn meat often during cooking time and keep liquid level at about 2 cups (add water as needed). When meat is done, remove to serving bowl and keep warm. Mix cornstarch in milk and stir into skillet to make a gravy. Stir until it thickens a little, pour over meat and serve. Serves 4 to 6.



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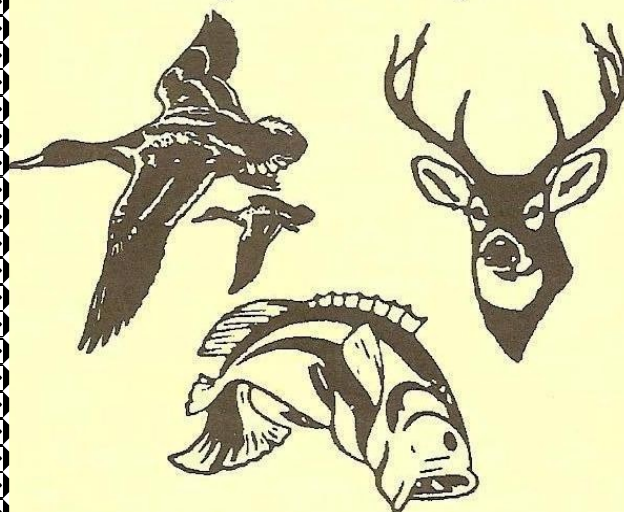
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Kind Donations

Our own TANJ "Gut Yankers" group (Mike Tully and friends) kindly donated a Bear Kids bow to the TANJ and that item was sold at the NJ Bowhunters Game Dinner for \$100. Our sister organization, the UBNJ, added \$170 to the pot. The TANJ added \$230 for a grand total of \$500 we donated towards the North Jersey Navigators.

The North Jersey Navigators are handicap kids bound to wheel chairs that have been shooting Archery at WaXoBe every Saturday afternoon and compete in many other Sporting event tournaments. The North Jersey Navigators are planning to send some of their kids to Switzerland, July 15-19, 2009. to compete in the International Archery tournament later this year.

TANJ held a novelty shoot (TANJ "Texas-Wack-Em") at Whittingham and 75% of those proceeds were allocated to the Navigators to sponsor their participation in this overseas event. Please read the letter to TANJ attached below!

Gerry "Doc" DeCaro

Doc,

Thanks for your support via the bow sale at the UBNJ/TANJ Game Dinner for the benefit of our organization, the North Jersey Navigators. Our mission is to develop, implement and coordinate special programs to help children with disabilities increase their mobility skills, competencies, social skills, self-esteem, and activity levels. Also, to inspire children with disabilities to increase participation in physical activities. Our program is comprised of a wide range of recreational and adaptive/wheelchair sports designed to develop and enhance the mobility skills and athletic skills of children with disabilities. We apply a fun-filled and competitive approach to teaching/coaching children and junior athletes with disabilities several meaningful adaptive/wheelchair sports including archery, track, field, swimming, table tennis and road racing. The skills and confidence

the members acquire are very rewarding making our program a great success. We do everything—develop, implement and coordinate programs to help increase children's mobility skills and activity levels in a fun, safe and rewarding environment instilling positive habits that will last a lifetime. Adaptive/wheelchair sports help develop motor skill competencies, teamwork, social skills, independence, higher self-esteem, personal challenges, strategy, and inspire children/junior athletes with disabilities to achieve increased participation in physical activities. One goal is to build a solid organization and to liaison with other groups, from both private and public sectors, to further adaptive/wheelchair sports for children and youth athletes with disabilities.

Our liaison with organizations like **Wa-Xo-Be Archery Club** has positively impacted our organization; Wa-Xo-Be has been extremely generous and supportive to us since we partnered with them 18 months ago. I contacted Wa-Xo-Be in October 2007 looking for an indoor wheelchair accessible Archery range and looking for archery instructors that were willing to teach the members of the Navigators; Ken and Russ quickly assembled a team of experienced archers to provide one-on-one instruction to the Navigators members....and the rest is history.

We trained for eight months in preparation for the 2008 National Junior Disability Championships (NJDC) and it paid off as the Navigators qualified for the NJDC archery event and most of the Navigators placed 1st in Archery and broke five national archery records at the NJDC. The Wa-Xo-Be Wheelchair Archery Program has been so successful that **Wheelchair Sports USA** is using it as a model for other wheelchair sports teams around the country that wish to start archery program.

Every year the Navigators compete in five competition events including two regional qualifying events. The season culminates in July at the annual NJDC which takes place in a different state every year. The 2009 NJDC will take place in St. Peters, Missouri, July 25 – August 2, 2009. Our goal for this year is to have eight athletes qualified for the 2009 NJDC; to encourage our athletes to continue training, partici-



pating and excelling in adaptive/wheelchair sports. Each athlete must meet the personal challenge of qualifying for at least nine events for the NJDC.

Recently, three athletes and two members of the coaching staff from the Navigators were selected as members of the **Jr. Team USA** that will participate at the **2009 IWAS in Switzerland, July 15-19, 2009**. Major events that are national and world-wide in scope are increasingly more attractive to spectators, sponsors and the media. This opportunity will provide a unique experience for junior disabled athletes and all participants alike. These events alone will cost the North Jersey Navigators some \$74,000. Expenses include registration fees, uniforms, lodging, meals, airfare, transportation and the purchasing of new equipment. In support of our mission to enhance the lives of children with physical disabilities, we feel these events not only benefit the athletes, coaches, and family members who will participate; but it will also touch the lives of our community who play a significant role in our success. Our volunteer staff actively seeks funding to help cover expenses for these events and to continue expanding our special adaptive/wheelchair sports programs and support existing adaptive programs.

Thanks for visiting us at WaXoBe! Ken Bagala, WaXoBe Past-President & his club has been very supportive and had great things to say about the Traditional Archers of New Jersey and what they are all about.

The North Jersey Navigators is registered with the State of New Jersey and qualifies under the IRS tax code section 501(c)(3). All donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowable under the law. Your help, support and generosity would be greatly appreciated. Please feel free to contact us at 201-435-1688 if you have any questions or need additional information.

P.S: Let me know if you know of any college scholarships that the members of our organization can apply for. In addition anything that TANJ can do to support the **Wa-Xo-Be Wheelchair Archery Program** and the **North Jersey Navigators** would be greatly appreciated! See you this Saturday!



MEMBER PROFILE

Ron Ellison

In Winter 2005 Ron Ellison of Jackson, NJ had stepped up and joined TANJ Council as an active member. By Spring of 2007 he had stepped up once again to assume the responsibilities of TANJ Membership Director. In this role, Ron has offered many excellent ideas to streamline and improve annual member recruitment. Always quick to help out, Ron soon offered to help me, your TANJ newsletter editor with the printing and mailing of the TANJ newsletter each quarter without fail. Ron also helps Doc handle the Treasury position until we replace the treasurer.

Ron initially joined the ranks of the TANJ in order to build friendships with like-minded traditional archers and to meet good folks to travel with on hunting adventures. Primarily a traditional bowhunter, Ron is a familiar face at the annual TANJ Hog Hunts in Arcadia, Florida and this year he also attended his first TANJ Pheasant hunt in the spring (see **his article about his first pheasant hunt on page 21**).

Ron was the winner of Last Man Standing in 2004! But Ron also enjoys the camaraderie of TANJ shoots, especially the annual Whittingham Traditional Archery Rendezvous in Newton, NJ hosted by the Appalachian Bowmen of Sussex County.

It's been a privilege to sit at TANJ Council meetings with Ron Ellison and discuss issues and plans to enhance the TANJ experience for its membership.





THE NORTH JERSEY NAVIGATORS



TANJ Members & Friends:

Yesterday, I was invited to **WaXoBe Archery** Indoor Range in South Brunswick to help the **North Jersey Navigators** prepare for their upcoming 2009 Archery Tournaments. While I was there I handed Head Coach Jim Cuevas three TANJ donation checks. One from the Bear Youth Bow Silent Auction from our 2009 NJ Bowhunters Game Dinner, the other two checks were from UBNJ & TANJ, respectively to make a total of \$500!

What a thrill to watch these kids, some with challenging disabilities, having a ball shooting their bows. The Navigators compete out to 80 meters at outdoor archery competitions during the year in the US and some are now going overseas in June. Above are pictures from my visit. The group photo consists of the Navigators with their bows, coaches and parents in the background. Names of the Navigators, front row (L to R): Jeremy Tantsits, Crystal Orihuela. Back Row (L to R): Gianfranco Iannotta, Raymond Martin, Emmanuel Cespedes, Jim Cuevas.

The other pictures feature Ken Bagala, Past President of WaXoBe coaching one of the kids and as you can see from the pics the enjoyment of his student scoring a hit on the target. The members of WaXoBe have done an outstanding job hosting and teaching the Navigators for the last two years. Their practices are held every Saturday at their Indoor range and in total there are 12 kids on the Archery team which practice at Wa-Xo-Be every Saturday from 12 PM – 3 PM. Please feel free to join them anytime!

Gerry "Doc" DeCaro

President, Traditional Archers of New Jersey
UBNJ Council • Youth Event Coordinator





LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Three cheers for **Jim Ellis Sr.** who has followed his son, Jim Jr. in becoming a **Life Member of TANJ**. Jim has been a member in good standing since 2004. He is an avid archer and bowhunter. He recently participated in TANJ's 8th annual pheasant hunt and was successful in bringing home a nice cock bird. In the past year, Jim has organized two deer drives up along the Delaware River in Worthington State Park. These drives are absolutely a great time. Besides seeing deer you will very likely see bears, coyotes, turkeys and many other animals. These drives are open to any TANJ member who wants to participate. Any future hunts will be posted in our newsletter.

Thanks Jim, for your membership and contributions to TANJ!

Ron Ellison, Membership Director



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and friends.

With Deepest Sympathy,
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the family of

Chet Vacca

Chet passed away suddenly
He was a member of TANJ.
May you be remembered
well by family
and friends.

With Deepest Sympathy,
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MONMOUTH COUNTY YOUTH ARCHERY DAY!





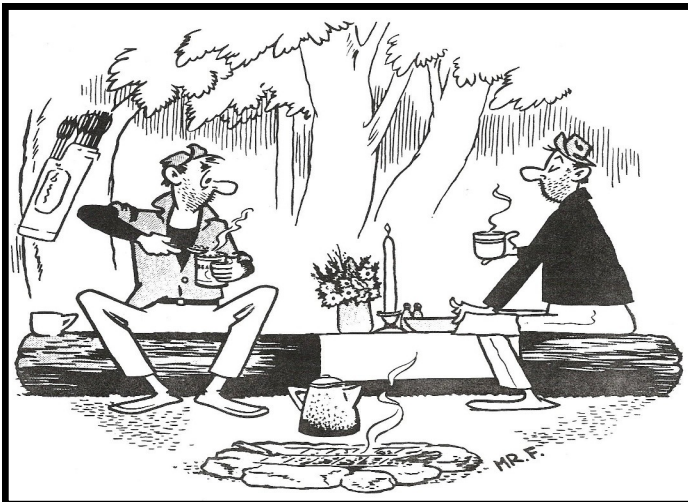
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BEARS, BEARS, EVERYWHERE BEARS MY FIRST BEAR

By Mike "MGM" Luster

Shooting a bear, has been a dream of mine since I first started shooting a bow when I was fourteen years old. And I wanted to do it with traditional equipment.

Gary Castle, my business partner and my best friend, had an invite to hunt bears from an associate that he works with. I don't want to give his full name other than "Ed". Ed has one of the best locations in New York State to hunt Black Bears. Officials at the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) said Ed has been too lucky a hunter to have harvested three bears in four years. So, the DEC investigated him to see if he was baiting. Baiting bears is illegal in the state of New York.

The DEC found out that Ed was within the law and they said that many hunter's, in the area were illegally baiting. Ed uses scents only to harvest his bears. The stand that I would be hunting would be where eight bears had been shot, if I got one from that stand. I don't know of that many deer hunters that could harvest eight bucks from one stand in five years. This is what, I surely would call, a honey hole! I'm sure you would agree that it doesn't get any better than this.

Ed harvested three bears, from this stand. Lucas, his son, shot two bears in two seasons, back-to-back. Ed's cousin shot one and my friend Gary shot one. Seven bears from one stand. Who could top those stats? A DEC official said to Ed, *"You have some of the best property, for black bear hunting. Swamps run into that area and they connect to one another. Bears funnel directly through the 17 acres that you own. It's a natural sort of migration route for*

bears." If you saw how populated this area is with people, you wouldn't think it. You would say *"There is no way, bears could live here, with all the noise."* But, the bears are there and there are a lot of them!

The DEC also told Ed that the more bears he takes, the easier he makes their jobs. There are a lot of bear problems in this area. Bears are breaking into houses, damaging bird feeders, and are killing pets. The DEC said *"Ed, keep shooting them, one less bear a year we don't have to deal with."*

Gary asked Ed, if I could hunt for bear on his property after Gary shot a nice 165-pounder on opening day of the New York 2008 season. Ed only knew me from our *Butt Out Field Dressing Tool*. Ed, said, *"You bet Mike can hunt here."* You see, Gary gave Ed a *Butt Out Tool* a year back. Ed liked it. Gary and I do get a lot of invites from our *Butt Out Field Dressing Tool*. Who would have ever thought!

On October 24th I bought a bear license with my New York big game hunting license for the first time in over 30 years.

At 1:00 pm on that afternoon I met Gary and we drove to Ed's place. Gary introduced me to Ed, a real nice down-to-earth guy. I thanked him for inviting me and giving me the opportunity to try to harvest a black bear. Ed, said, *"I'm happy to do it, only because Gary is your friend and mine."* How many hunters would do that. Think about it - Would you give up your best stand to a total stranger you never met before?

At 2:00 pm that afternoon I shot a few practice arrows at a deer target. Then Gary walked me to the stand that I'd be hunting. It was only 200 yards from Ed's home. I was in the stand by 2:30 pm.

Gary, sprayed scent all around the ground 15 yards from my stand. In this stand there was a spray bottle with vanilla scent. Gary told me to spray a few pumps in the air over my head every 15 minutes or



so. Seeing all the bear sign as we came in, deer hunting was out of the question...I was after bear!

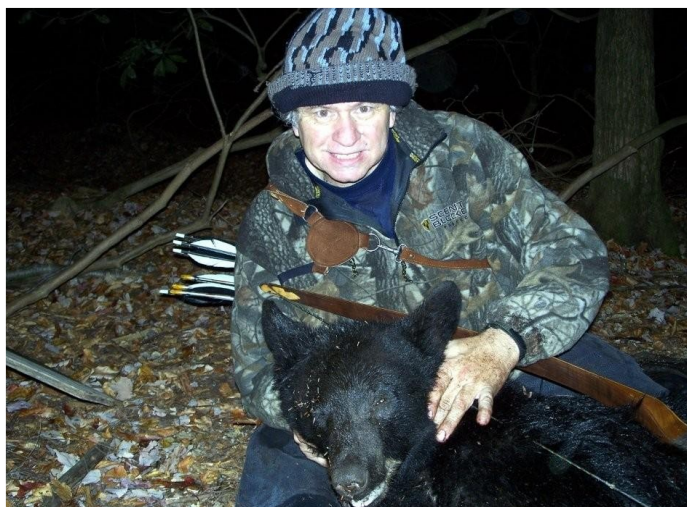
At 4:40 pm I heard what I thought sounded like claws of a bear climbing down a tree. I kept looking behind me, hoping to catch movement of a bear coming into my stand. A few minutes passed. After not seeing anything, I started to turn my head back to the trail in front of my stand. I caught movement of something black out of my right eye. It was a bear. He was 10 yards to my right coming down the trail when I saw him. I never heard him coming, even with all the dry leaves on the ground. Bears are that quite.

The bear came in ever so slowly. He would raise his head putting his nose up to check to air. He then moved in until he was in line with my stand. He kept sniffing the leaves that Gary had sprayed with scent. I had to move to get into position to shoot. The bear looked in my direction not knowing, what I was. I had to wait a few minutes until he stretched his front leg out for a shot. He looked at the ground again and moved backwards a little, extending his leg out. That's when I drew my longbow and anchored just behind the front shoulders, picking a spot. The release was on the money. I sent a 140-grain Magnus two-blade broadhead and my arrow double-lunged him. I could see the arrow shaft sticking out on both sides of his body as he went off in a galloping run. Then everything went silent.

At 5:00 pm I called Gary on my cell phone. Gary was deer hunting a few hundred yards away. When he answered I said "Gary, I just shot a bear." He ask me if it was a big one. I said "He's a bear. I didn't ask him to step on a scale. I think he might go 175." Gary said, "That's about the same time I shot my bear."

Gary and I had a hard time finding my bear. It took us two and a half hours to find him. He didn't give up much blood. I was the first one to spot him. I was very excited that I'd just shot my first black bear, and I did it with a longbow! He ran about eighty yards before he went down. He was smaller than I thought, a 130-pound male. After congratulations and "high fives", we took some pictures.

I was ask by Ed to come back next year to try my luck at some of the bigger bears that they had around. I've seen the pictures from Ed's trail cameras. There are still more good black bears out there. I thanked Ed again for his invitation and for getting me my bear.



After many years of hunting one of my dreams of shooting a black bear with a traditional bow came true. I'm having dreams already about next year. Maybe I'll have another chance for one of the big ones I saw on the camera. We'll see!

Maybe you can try your luck at bear hunting. Put it on your

"Bucket List." I see bears almost every year or so when I go hunting out west. In New Jersey, where the season is now closed, I've seen eleven bears on three weekends when scouting for deer and turkeys in the northwestern part of the state.



Til next time, go West or bear hunting. You cannot afford not too!



MGM, Mike Luster used a 66" 53 pound custom Art Fisher longbow and a carbon extreme terminator shaft with a 140-grain Magnus two-blade broadhead.





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Traditional Archers of New Jersey

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Dale Dye left handed custom 62" recurve, 61 lbs. at 29". The limbs are Red Elm under clear glass. The handle is Cocobolo with laminations of Osage Orange and African Vermillion. This bow is in excellent condition. Asking \$490.00.

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TANJ Logo Patch!!!

Members send check made out to TANJ to Gerry "Doc" DeCaro. Remit \$5.00 [includes "MEMBER" hash] for members - \$10.00 for non-members! See pg. 2 for Doc's home address.





Traditional Archers of New Jersey

Protecting the Future by Preserving the Past



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

