

TRADITIONAL
ARCHERS

NEW JERSEY

Traditional Archers of New Jersey



"Protecting the Future by Preserving the Past"

Off the Shelf

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Winter2008

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**Traditional Archers of New Jersey, Inc.****OFF THE SHELF**

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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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| | |
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| Summer Issue | May 1 |
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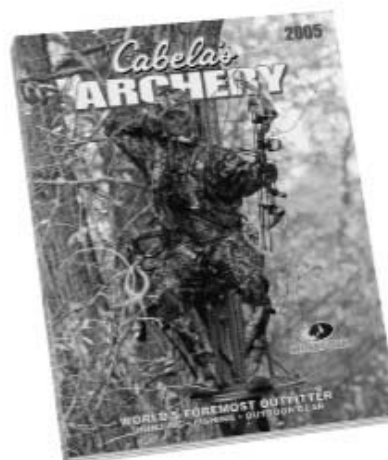


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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

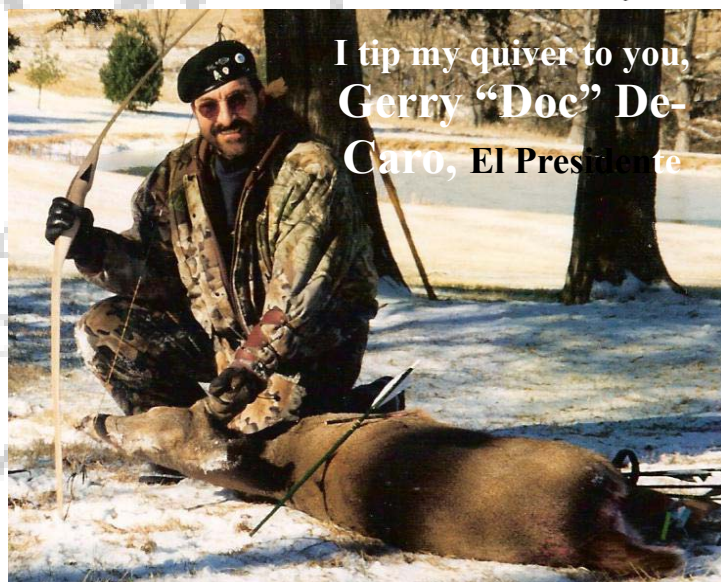
During the past two years, the TANJ has continued to make alliances with many NJ archery and outdoor organizations. The Monmouth County Federation, The New Jersey Outdoor Alliance, United Bowhunters of New Jersey, Wa-Xo-Be Archery Club, Black Knight Bowbenders & the Bent Creek 3D Range to name a few. I hope that our membership can take a moment and cast a ballot for those that will be running for the 2009-2010 term. If anyone would like to step up and become a Council member for 2009-2010 please send Karen Bartolini an email with your qualifications and we will bring your name up at our next TANJ Board meeting.

In the past two years our TANJ "Archery in the Schools" program which I helped spearhead now includes two schools and we are now working on a third. They are the Middletown South High School and the Rumson County Day School. Both schools now have archery available to all students during their normal gym classes. It has now become so popular that the Rumson Middle School is now offering it as an after school program on Fridays. They are presently looking for an archery instructor for the winter session. I would like to thank Chris Beling, a NASP level 3 instructor, who has taught the last fall session at Rumson. What an outstanding job he has done. He helped me make this the success it has become. We have also co-sponsored in the last two years along with our sister organization the UBNJ the Oxford Middle School Archery Team which has competed in the NASP (National Archery in the Schools Program) National Championship in Kentucky and twice came back Champions.

Next year for the first time TANJ will have a booth at the **26th Annual Garden State Outdoor Show**. This event will take place **Thursday Jan 8th – Sunday January 11, 2009**. We will need volunteers to step up and represent our TANJ organization. This will give TANJ great exposure and hopefully attract new members since last year over 10,000 people attended this show. **Please send either Jorge Coppen or myself an email on the dates & time that you can attend and help us out so we can make our work schedule for the 4 days of the event.**

Please mark your calendars for the **5th Annual New Jersey Bowhunters Game Dinner** which will be held on Saturday **February 28th**. Tickets are now on sale and see the ad in this newsletter. Don't wait—tickets will make a great Christmas stocking stuffer gift for your family and friends.

May God bless you and your families in this Holiday Season!



TANJ Deer Hunt—October 11, 2008

Thanks to **Jim Ellis, Huntmaster Coordinator** TANJ hunters enjoyed a terrific TANJ deer drive near the Delaware water gap on October 11. Lots of deer & bear were pushed to the stand hunters. It was a great day! Some 15 hunters participated. Hopefully, more members can take part of a winter deer drive!



TANJ thanks **Paul Winans, BKB President** and the Black Knight Bowbenders for the arrows used during this event above. I asked Paul if he could help us when I first spoke with the girl scouts back in July and as usual he said BKB would love to help - take whatever you need! This all started with Sara Flohr who contacted Phil Muller who then passed me her kind email asking for help many months ago.

Gerry "Doc" DeCaro, El Presidente



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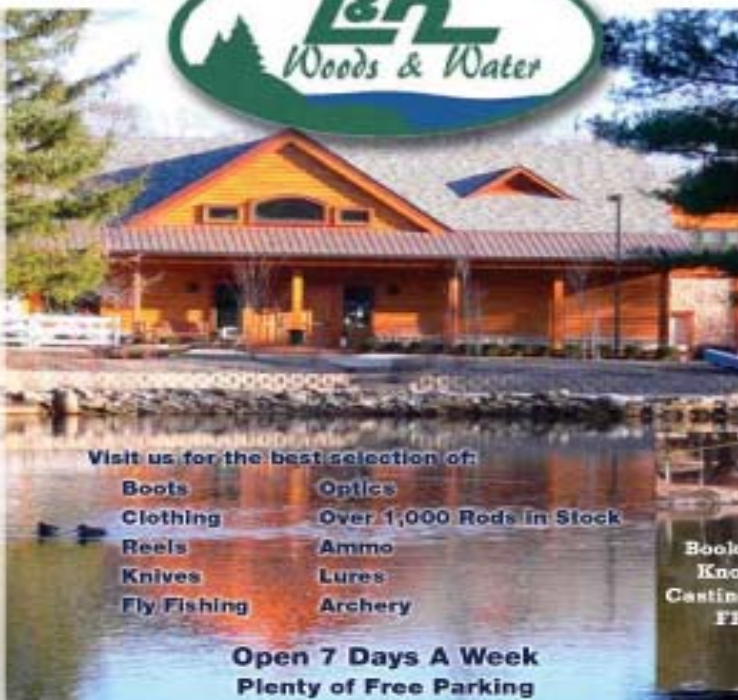


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L&H welcomes back fly-fishing legend Lefty Kreh!

Saturday, April 26
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Sunday, April 27

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TANJ's PHOTO-ADVENTURES

It's Bear Season!





Girl Scouts

Girl Scouts of Central & Southern NJ, Inc.
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Mary E. Connell
CEO

October 7, 2008

Mr. Gerry DeCaro
President
Traditional Archers of New Jersey
20 Spruce Drive
Middletown, NJ 07748

Dear Mr. DeCaro:

Please accept my sincere thanks for your assistance and the loan of the archery equipment for the archery event at the Nottingham Service Unit Camporee being held on October 10-12 at Oak Spring Camp.

Support such as yours means a great deal to our Council and the 27,000 girls in 9+ counties which we serve. Age-progressive activities enable girls from diverse backgrounds to develop leadership, explore interest areas, learn the value of community service, and learn positive decision making skills. Your kind donation enables us to offer opportunities which these girls may not otherwise have.

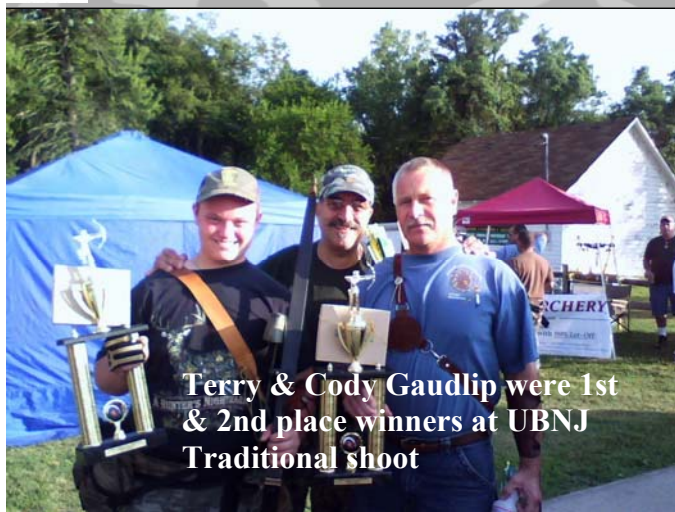
Thank you again for your support of Girl Scouting.

Sincerely,

Mary E. Connell
CEO



TANJ Shoot Event memories —2008



Terry & Cody Gaudlip were 1st & 2nd place winners at UBNJ Traditional shoot



Wa-Xo-Be White-Tale Fever Shoot



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First Bear Hunt

BY Ron Ellison



Bear hunting was right there on top of my "bucket list". It was something always hanging around in the back of my mind. I'd talk to bow hunting friends

who had been there, done that and had very exciting stories to share. Some with very impressive stuffed bears too. Most of my bow hunting years have been in the pursuit of white tail deer until about five years ago. The TANJ had their first hog hunt and I got in on the action. It was a thrill and I've been on seven hog hunts since. Now I'm looking for bear.

A good friend of mine, Brian Peters, shared a similar interest in bear hunting. Neither of us had ever bear hunted before and so we talked about it and started to put a plan together. Right about that same time a golden opportunity popped up. The TANJ-UBNJ game dinner was coming up and we got news about a Maine bear outfitter who had donated a hunt to be auctioned off at the dinner. The stipulation was that the winner of the hunt must bring a full paying friend. Perfect! The full price was \$1700. so we decided to go for broke. It was an end of summer hunt, the first week of September, and we were committed to go.

The night of the game dinner I was pretty nervous and excited. I had never bid at an auction before. When the bear hunt bidding started I was the first one with his hand up – and it kept going up after each over bid. So much that half the time I didn't even know how much the bid was at. As long as I didn't go over \$1700. I'd be OK. Finally I heard the auctioneer saying "going once, going twice, sold for

\$975. PHEW!!! Thank God that's over. Now the realization sunk in. Brian and me are going bear hunting, yahoo!!

I thought the summer would drag on forever, but surprisingly it went by pretty fast as summers usually do anymore. Not to wish the summer away, but I was eager to go bear hunting. I was doing all my homework trying to figure out what to bring or not. I called the outfitter, Frank Perkowsky of Bear Lane Outfitters. He was very encouraging about the hunt, but I soon realized while talking to him that I would have to bring everything I own. The weather could be from 40 to 90 degrees. It may be wet or dry. This place is almost 500 miles from home so you need to be prepared. I had long johns and heavy shirts as well as short-sleeved shirts and pants. I had two bows, Brian had two bows, and we each brought a cooler. We had our own tree stand if needed. For months we were shooting arrows at 3D bear targets. Brian shot out two center cores. We might not come home with a bear, but it would not be because we missed. WE WERE READY FOR BEAR.

We were leaving Sunday morning and returning the following Sunday. 4:30 a.m. I'm on my way to pick up Brian. 5:30 we are heading to Maine. No traffic and smooth sailing all the way. We found the camp OK and unpacked our gear into our own little cottage. It had two separate bedrooms and a sitting room. A covered front porch made everything just right.

We met with Frank, the owner, and his two guides, Charley and Ted. Good down to earth guys. They certainly made our hunt more enjoyable. There were eight other hunters in camp. Two compound bow hunters and the rest were firearm hunters. We would all have to shoot our weapons at Frank's range the next day. Frank and his guides want to make sure everyone could hit their target – especially two traditional bow hunters.

Well the next day after breakfast it was off to Frank's range four miles away. There was a tree stand 10-12 yards from a 3D black bear. Brian and I each took our turn shooting about a dozen arrows each. When it was all over Frank had a big smile on his face. He said you boys are going out with me tonight. You're ready for bear. Brian and I already knew that, and we were starting to impress Frank. I can't say the



same for all those firearm shooters. A couple needed a little more practice.

It's Monday afternoon about 2:30 and everyone is ready to go out hunting. Frank has about 50 baited stands and each week his hunters start out on fresh stands unvisited that year. Brian, me and two other hunters set out with Frank. He took each of us to our stands and rebaited the barrel which is a 55 gallon drum standing upright with a 1 foot diameter hole in it for the bait. It's tied to a tree so the bears don't roll it a mile away. I had a good shooting lane to the drum, but those Maine woods are thick so visibility is poor otherwise. Wow! This was just terrific to be out here bear hunting.

The weather was great. A little bit on the warm side but it was comfortable and the bugs weren't bad. I used a mosquito net if I started getting pestered and I never did use my thermocell I bought for this trip. A great afternoon but no bears showed up at my stand. During the afternoon I did hear several gunshots and as it turned out one of the hunters with Brian and me shot a 150 lb. bear. Good start. The other shot was by a young teenage girl who was here with her father. She had three bears come in and shot at the biggest one. Unfortunately she missed. We all know that feeling. This was only day one and plenty of time left. There were a few other bear sightings but no shots.

Day two and at 2:30 we were off to our stands again. When Frank and I went into my stand it was obvious that bears had been there. The bait drum was knocked over and the bait was gone. I was absolutely thrilled. I quickly got into my tree stand while Frank rebaited my drum. As Frank left me he said "be ready, you never know when a bear might come in". I was on full alert.

The afternoon was somewhat uneventful. Red squirrels were trying to keep me entertained, and I was happy to have them around. They scampered here and there and were stealing some of my bear bait. Then late in the day I heard something. A branch snapped. That's no squirrel. I waited and listened. Then I heard what sounded like a dog shaking water off himself. I knew right then that a bear was close by. Next I could hear him breathing. My adrenaline was skyrocketing. There he is. He slowly walked across behind the drum. He never looked at it but stopped 10

yards past it. Now he turned around, came back past the drum again and sat down. This has already made my trip. I'm watching him, not moving an inch and all of a sudden he is up and running. Now I'm not disappointed because I know that bears may do just that, for no apparent reason, and then they return. Unless of course they run off because a bigger bear is coming in. Well that was exactly what happened. Here comes another bear, he circles in to the bait drum and then heads straight toward me. He's on the trail me and Frank came in on and if he keeps coming I'm going to have a 10 ft. shot. Of course he stops short behind some ground brush, growls and does the 50-yard dash in a split second. If you think you might be able to outrun a bear, forget about it. I've never seen a deer clear out of an area that fast. Well now I think surely I'm busted. He must have scented me, but to my surprise he circles again and comes back to the bait drum. He wants to eat and I'm just waiting for an opportunity. The problem was he was always facing me. He would grab some food, turn, and run off. Daylight was fading and finally I gave up on having a shot that day. He stayed around till after dark and I had to get down and go meet the truck, so I rubbed the tree and made some noise hoping not to give my position away or the fact that a hunter was right here. I was truly thrilled and excited. Tomorrow would be another day.

That afternoon there were no bears' shot. A few sightings but no opportunities. We still had most of the week left and I felt very confident. I'll be patient, I'll wait, I am just enjoying the whole experience. Brian has not seen a bear yet but his enthusiasm is up and we are both very hopeful about getting a bear.

The next afternoon at 2:30 we are on the rode again. I can't wait to get on the stand. After having two bears come in the day before, I just know good things are going to happen. It's another nice afternoon, weather wise, and I'm just sitting comfortably with my bow at easy reach. The squirrels are back and stealing some more of the bear bait. My mind wanders a bit but I'm always listening and panning the area. The only area I really have good visibility is straight back beyond the bait drum. I could see about 60-70 yards.. I really felt good about a bear



coming in, it was just a matter of when. Everything was just perfect. I felt good, relaxed and generally at peace with the world. And then I saw the bear. I was glancing up from the bait drum and there he is strolling down "Bear Lane". I didn't move an inch. I'm watching silently as he approaches the bait drum. While he passes behind a tree I quietly stand and grab my bow at the same time. I've been waiting for this moment and I'm ready. When I think back to that time I can't believe how calm I was. The adrenalin was high, I was excited, but I was also in control. I watched as he approached the drum on the right side. He was a little nervous and he would grab some food on the ground in front of the drum and run off. I watched him repeat this for about 15 mins.. Since he would come in facing me I had no shot. Finally he came back and laid down next to the drum facing me. After a few minutes he stood up and started circling the drum to the other side. This is it. He's coming around and he's passing in front of the drum. He's quartering. No hesitation. I draw, anchor and release. Whack!! A good hit. He runs off as quick as he can but it's all over. A few seconds later I hear his death moan. I know he's mine. I sit down again and realize I'm trembling a bit. A million thoughts are running through my head. I did it. I just shot my first bear. I'll come down off this cloud soon.

We all had walkie-talkies and I turned mine on and called Frank. I told him I shot a bear. He asked if I heard the moan. I said yes. He said 'I'm on my way'. I waited forever for Frank to arrive. He had to go get his dog and a bear cart. He wants you to wait for him because he doesn't want to take any chances that the bear is still alive and attacks you. You never know. Well I did know but I waited anyway. We found the bear about 50-60 yards from where I shot him. Picture perfect. Such a great feeling of satisfaction. I feel honored and I stroke the bear caringly. I feel at peace within. Now to the work of getting the bear to the truck. Frank did most of the work. I felt guilty but he seemed as happy as I was. What a great day.

The next day we skinned and butchered my bear. He weighed in at 125lbs.. Not a bruiser, but he was mine. My first bear. Brian once again hadn't seen a bear. This did not diminish his enthusiasm. He still felt confident and I was rooting for him. That afternoon at 2:30 everyone was ready to head out again except me

and Don, who got his bear the first night. That's the price you pay when you get your bear, your left behind to wait for the other hunters to return.

I spent the afternoon straitening up my gear at the cabin. I packed a few things I would not need anymore. About 5 o'clock I saw Don and his wife, who had come along to see a bit of Maine and relax. They were sitting in front of their cabin having a cold beer and a glass of wine. They were also monitoring their walkie-talkie and waved me over to join them. It was nice to just sit awhile without a care in the world. We all had a few things in common since we were all from N.J. and conversation was easy. Then the walkie-talkie came alive. It was Brian. My heart skipped a few beats when we heard him say 'Frank, I shot a bear, I think he's down'. Well Don, his wife and me were all cheering and high fiving. This was great news. I could hardly believe it. Double Success.

When Brian got back to camp I was about as excited for him as I was when I got my own bear. Two stick bow hunters from N.J. were shining bright. Congratulations were going around. Brian had another picture perfect shot. His bear went about 50-60 yards and it was all over. This was certainly the icing on the cake. For me this was another great hunting trip I'll remember forever.

Watch out Colorado Elk

Ron Ellison

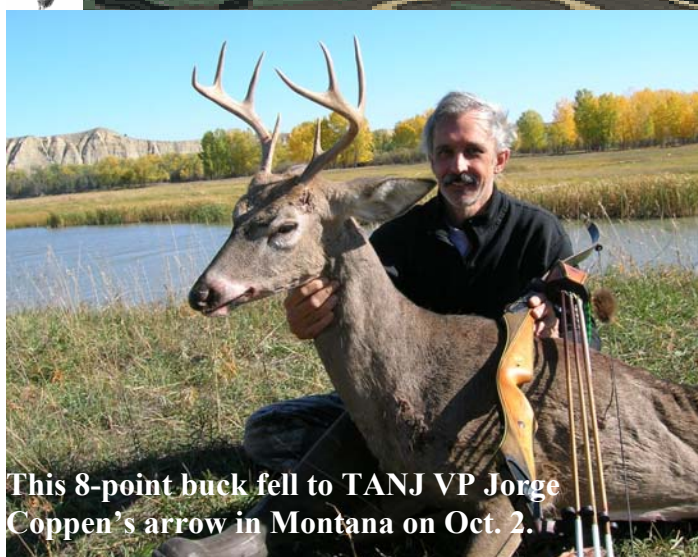
P.S—Anyone interested in a late summer Maine bear hunt can contact Frank Perkowsky of Bear Lane Guide Service at 207-263-6965





TANJ's PHOTO-ADVENTURES

TANJ Traditional Harvests - 2008



This 8-point buck fell to TANJ VP Jorge Coppen's arrow in Montana on Oct. 2.



John DeCore took this fine 5 X 5 bull elk with his longbow in Colorado.



Kate Pachuta takes a fine doe for her 1st deer!



Peter Lemasson harvested this mature doe in Sussex, NJ on October 8 at 6 pm.



Ron Ziolkowski harvested this nice buck in 2008.



Sal Patti took this deer on Nov. 4 at 15 yards with a self bow and a birch shaft



John Hoinowski with his Wyoming "speed goat"



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TO: GERRY DECARO
PRESIDENT OF
THE TRADITIONAL ARCHERS OF NJ

9/18/08

Thank you for your untiring efforts in support of our Archery Youth "Hunt of a Lifetime" here in New Jersey. Please accept this donation of \$250.00 to Traditional Archers to aid your work in this outstanding program.

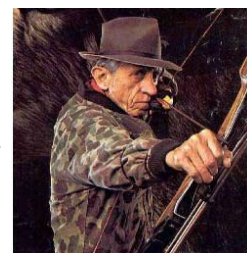
The Gut Yankers
Classic Bowmen / Current times

A downed animal is most certainly the object of a hunting trip, but it becomes an anticlimax when compared to the many other pleasures of the hunt. A period of remorse is in order. Perhaps a few words of forgiveness for having taken a life. After this there is self-satisfaction for having accomplished a successful stalk and made a good shot.

But a hunt based only on trophies taken falls far short of what the ultimate goal should be. I have known many hunters who, returning empty-handed, have had nothing to say of the enjoyment of time spent in nature's outdoors.

Fred Bear

(Excerpted from *Fred Bear's Field Notes: The Adventures of Fred Bear*, 1976).





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FALL 04

**Rich Lopez interviews Al Reader -PART II**

Q(19) Can you fill us in on the Crystalite Kodiaks of those same years? What is their story?

A(19) Fred Bear was the greatest of all innovators and with constant pressure to compete with other major bow makers, he constantly tried new designs and materials in his bows. By the late 1950's companies like Hoyt, Wing, Black Widow, Damon Howatt were not only making great shooting bows, but many of their models were works of art made from the highest grade select woods and materials. To compete, one new concept Fred tried was clear fiberglass. I believe that Fred was the first to test and use clear glass. I have an early 1958 Kodiak test bow made by Bear. I am not aware of any clear glass bows made prior to this. The test bow lead to the production of the Chrystalite (clear glass) Kodiak model bows in 1959. Urac glue was used on Bear bows at the time. When cured this glue was not clear but hazy. Several tests were run on difference glue formulations and finally one was selected that cured clear. The bows then went into a hurried production. After several months of delay they were boxed and shipped to waiting dealers. The model was doomed to disaster for Fred and Bear Archery. The new glue compound was clear but did not adhere well to the zebra wood limb cores. One Bear dealer I spoke to several years later told me he had 15 Chrystalites arrive just days after they were made. All 15 were delaminated in the boxes on arrival. I know that some of these bows are still used and may never break. Many can be seen today with light spots under the glass at the fade outs. The spots are separation of the glue and wood core. They are far too valuable to risk shooting and should not be used. SHOOTER BEWARE!!!

Q(20) I remember back in the late 80's you and I went up to the now defunct Society of Traditional Bowmen in Connecticut to display your Kodiaks/Super Kodiaks, and Fred Bear Kodiak take-downs. That was a blast for me. Do you still attend conventions and such with your displays?

A(20) Now that I have finally retired I am getting back on line. I have a display planned here in NJ at the traditional Whittingham Archery Rendezvous in April. In June I will be have a very large display at the Compton Traditional Archers gathering in Michigan. My displays are not just some bows and arrows. They are, in fact, a mobile museum displaying and promoting the history of traditional archery as well as pioneers like Fred Bear as others who legalized bow hunting for all of us to enjoy today.

Q(21) I recall you shoot lefty. However, in the beginning you shot righty. You taught me to shoot lefty when I had target panic issues. Can you elaborate on your righty to lefty transition?



**Al meeting with Fred Bear in his Gainesville, FL office.
The bond was complete!**

A(21) I am right handed and shot that way for many years. I was, from the beginning, a very quick shooter, similar to Howard Hill's style. Nearly all my shooting was hunting or stump shooting. I did a lot of practice on aerial and moving targets. Later on I became president of the school archery club and joined the NFAA (National Field Archery Association) where I tried to shoot target archery. I did well for a while but found it difficult to shoot with discipline and hold a full draw. Later in the 1970's I tried the new Bear Archery Alaskan compound with sights at 65#'s. This high tech equipment subconsciously put pressure on me to excel. It wasn't too long before I developed the dreaded target panic. I no longer could hold on a target and became a snap shooter. When I shot a foot over a buck's back at eight yards, I reached the breaking point. I switched over to left hand shooting and was determined to do it with control. In a short time I trained my eyes to see the correct sight picture and shot nearly as good lefty, but never be as quickly as I did righty.

Q(22) Of the rare Bears that you have acquired over the years, what do you consider the rarest of the rare?

A(22) I am very fortunate to have some very rare bows, and I am indebted to many collecting friends for locating some of these bows. There are several that I can think of but will only mention two. There were over 36,000 Bear Super Kodiak models made and I have the very 1st one, #7Z1 made in December 1966. I also have the 1st production wood handle Bear take-down bow, #A-1000. There were many Bear models that were first in type and design. The first is the "Needle in the Haystack". Finding a "First" is extreme collecting and the highest challenge for any collector.

Q(23) In your opinion what bows would you recommend a beginner to start out on?

A(23) Most beginning collectors should start with a bow they



might be familiar with and above all one they can afford. Many collectors I know collect the bow model they first started to hunt with. Others collect one of each model made in the year they were born. Trying to get one of each year of production of a favorite model makes for great collecting. A very good friend who was born in 1967 decided to collect one of each Bear hunting model made that year. This quest lasted 10 years. He just recently finished the hunt by finding the last model.

Q(15) Your knowledge is so extensive that I am sure that information has to be documented somewhere. Have you ever thought of writing a book on the Bear bows and collecting?

A(15) This issue is extremely important to me. I have spent countless hours for many years writing and taping facts and figures with several of the original Michigan Bear Archery employees and continue to do so. I have much of this material written down, but there is much in my memory too. I have always been open and available with any details I am certain of. I have had some of my research printed in articles or included in other articles written and published by collector friends. I have a few more articles to complete. After that I plan to start a book on the Grayling Bear Archery bows.

Q(16) What is the one piece of advice you would give a new bow collector to aid him/her on their new hobby?

A(16) Without a doubt, quality is far more important than the number bows or for that matter in any collection. One good condition, rare bow is a better investment than five average bows. You need to set a goal. Keep the goal possible, affordable and within reason. Pick a favorite model or bow maker and try to assemble a collection over a period of time. BE PATIENT! Your favorite could be one of each year of a certain model or one of each model of bow made the year you were

born. Non-bow items are fun and collectible as well.

Q(17) You are known for being one of the foremost authorities on Bear Archery and their bows. Do you have any cool stories to share with regard to the man himself, Fred Bear? I know that you have met him several times.

A(17) In 1977 I had planned a week's vacation to Grayling, Michigan to visit the Bear plant, museum

and hopefully meet Fred Bear himself. While I was there I unexpectedly bumped into Fred while going through the door to the museum. Although Fred and I had not met before, Fred knew me as the crazy collector in New Jersey who owned hundreds of his bows. Fred spent much of the afternoon showing me all of the proto-types and each year of his Kodiak model and its progression through the years. I was almost speechless and in total awe of the man.

I arrived home and placed all my Kodiaks on the floor. I decided right then to get what I needed in order to have one of each year. It became evident that I needed to learn to identify all of them. Thanks to Fred I then became a serious collector. I now have one of each year of production for 10 models of Grayling Bear Archery bows.

Q(18) What is all the hype on the 1959 and 1960 Bear Kodiaks? They appear as the "holy grails" of bow collecting on the chat sites.

A(18) I know that I induced some of this extreme interest in these classic Kodiaks. As mentioned earlier, I had gotten into the 1959 Kodiaks in the early 1960's. Through the years my intense desire and search for these models, along with my exposure in the collecting circles, brought the model into the limelight. Some prominent collecting friends decided to see what these bows were about. What is it about these models that Al is so intent on and wants so desperately? It was like a snowball rolling down hill. Before long every serious collector had to have one. Even without all this hype, the 1959-60 leather grip Kodiak, although not the quickest or highest quality model ever, is in my opinion, the most classic leather grip shootable bow.

Q(24) You and I both are guitarists. I know you have been playing for years and have been collecting them as well as your bows. I believe the Paul Reed Smith guitars have been your favorites. Can you give us a brief history about your passion with guitars?

A(24) I started playing the guitar when I was fifteen. I could not afford an amp but figured out how to wire a jack into the back of my parent's stereo console. I played every day after school until my mother came home. I got some chord books and played to records and by the mid 1960's I was playing rock in a small band for school dances, parties and was having a great time. The guitars are similar in history to my bow collecting. Their materials and craftsmanship are above the rest. I play and collect guitars to this day, but not as extensively as bows.

Q(25) How did you locate bows in the early days before Ebay and the sort?

A(25) Prior to Ebay I would place ads in papers, write hundreds of letters and make telephone calls. I would travel as time and expense allowed to all the major bow shoots to find good



Al with a "modified" 1968 Super Kodiak:



bows. I also had to buy and sell bows to help finance this collection addiction. I seldom came home from a good bow shoot with less than a dozen bows. Some were for my collection and some for stock. When the compound bow became popular in the 1970's and later, I found a few large dealers going out of business or selling off their stock of recurves. I would buy the whole deal, whatever I could afford, even if I had to borrow money. Many bows were new and are still part of my collection today. Ebay has leveled the playing field. You can find good bows on auction but it takes top dollar nowadays to get one.

Q(26) I remember having \$300 phone bills back in the day. Do you think the fun and camaraderie of bow collecting was compromised by sites like Ebay and other auction sites?

A(26) I have often told other collectors that it took me a thousand letters, phone calls and hours of overtime to assemble my collection. This was before Ebay. Now we have Ebay and other internet sites to locate bows and collectors. I believe Ebay to be a great collector's tool. You can find items there that can't be located any other way. I have met some great people and collectors that I might not have met otherwise. In addition, it is still very easy to find some good bows at garage sales, flea markets, etc. at prices well below retail value. These purchases can then be sold on Ebay and any profits realized can go towards a specific bow for your collection. Ebay is a terrific tool for researching both bow information and values. EBAY RULES!

Q(27) I understand you retired last year. What did you do for a living prior to retiring? What are your plans for the future?

A(27) Early on I was hired by a printing company and joined the local union which provided overtime jobs, good benefits and the option for early retirement. Later on the forced overtime deprived me the opportunity to hunt and continue with my specific interests....but I stuck to it and retired last April. My wife, Nina also retired and we plan a move to the Pennsylvania country area. I plan to revive my promotion of traditional archery history through my bow displays and will continue writing articles.

Q(28) Over the last 10 years I have seen some of your personal shooter bows "modified" or "put through the grinder"...so to speak. What gave you the idea to re-shape those bows, what qualifies a bow to be given your "special touch", and what do you do to modify the bows?

A(28) Fred Bear "never" shot a factory design Bear Bow. He cut his arrow shelf on the bow down so the arrow was on his hand. All of his bows were cut this way and have a very thin grip. When we shoot totally instinctive, the arrow, bow hand and sight window all become part of the sight picture. They are all in our peripheral vision. The closer the arrow is to the hand the tighter the sight picture becomes. About twenty years ago I got an early Bear Super Kodiak that had a poor finish and some sight holes. I decided to custom shape it free form and cut the shelf down three eighths of an inch and thinned and contoured

the grip. At Bear Archery this was called "Fred's Grip". Immediately I was shooting this bow better than my factory bows. I have re-worked approximately 40 bows for my friends and myself. I never re-work any bow that is in good to excellent original condition, but rather seek ones with holes or a poor condition. My friends have found these bows to be their favorites and continue to shoot them.

Q(29) If you were to transport yourself back in time...what period in history would it be?...and would you be working for Bear? LOL

A(29) No doubt if I were anywhere near Michigan and the Bear plant I would have been in research and development or the bow department or to some extent. The 1950's and 1960's were some of the best years for everyone. Life was simple with far less complication than today.

Q(30) Where do you see collecting in the next 20 years?

A(30) Collecting worldwide is very strong and should continue for several more years. However, beyond twenty years is troubling to me. The average age of collectors and hunters has risen each year with most serious collectors now over 50 years old. We continue to lose farms and rural areas to real estate and over population. The younger generation gets less exposure to hunting and country life. Bow collecting and hunting is only a small part of the ever bigger gun hunting and gun ownership issues. We now have some game commissions infiltrated with anti-hunters. We continue to lose shooting ranges and preserves because of population, encroachment, noise pollution and the like. Century old shooting preservasions have been shut down. Lead shot bans and other unnecessary firearm laws have all had a negative impact on future hunting. I read some years ago that there were more than 55 million gun owners in the United States and half as many hunters. Yet there are just over 3 million members in the NRA. Hunting's future will be determined by the number of firearm and bow hunters that decide to take an active role in supporting the pro-hunting organizations and legislators. As for myself, I have been a NRA member for 42 years and life member since 1970.

Q(31) I know you love stump shooting and do it often. You also play a war game with your bow friends. Can you comment on this?

A(31) From the very beginning my friends and I would go stump shooting. We would go all day and loose and break many arrows. I still continue to this day to stump shoot with my hunting buddies. The winner of the last target would pick the next target trying to make it as difficult as possible by selecting a knot in the tree or perhaps a crotch in a tree. At the end of the day we would head back to camp with our broken point arrows. That's when the "Game of War" would begin. We would all start with an equal number of arrows, usually 2 or 3. We would shoot in turn with the first player shooting his arrow into the ground. The second shooter's mission was to



shoot and break the first arrow and render it un-shootable. The more players, the more arrows each player would have to choose from, and hopefully take out 2 of the opponents arrows in a single shot. No distance rules apply. You can get as close to your opponents arrows as you want. When a player had no shootable arrows left he was out of the game, and the player with the last shootable arrow wins the game. I've had thousands of war games with my buds and can't wait till we get together again!!



*The stockings were hung
By the chimney with "care"
With hopes that St. Nick
Will soon fill them with "bear"
Good Holiday to*

Al's humor at Christmas:

Q(32) In closing I would like to thank you for the many years of friendship, camaraderie and education. Any final thoughts?

A(32) Whether it be antique cars, guitars, guns, knives or bows, all are very collectible. Far more important than these material items are the friends you make along the way. Collectibles can be found and bought, they come and go. Good friends are forever. I met most of my close hunting friends

through my life of collecting. The bows by themselves have little value without friends and collectors to share them with.

Bonus Question:
Am I in your will?

Bonus Answer:
Only time will tell!



Al, Rich Lopez and former VP of Bear Archery Bill Krenz at Denton Hill
Circa 1998



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**TANJ 2009 OFFICER ELECTION NOMINEES****PRESIDENT****GERRY "DOC" DECARO (incumbent)**

I wish to thank the Traditional Archers of New Jersey's membership for the last two years while I carried the honor of serving as your President. It was so gratifying that I hope to serve another term as your President and continue the healthy growth we have enjoyed as an organization. So, I will be running for a second two-year term as President and I hope that our membership can take a moment and cast a ballot for those that will be running for the 2009-2010 officer positions.

During the past two years the TANJ continued to make alliances with many archery and outdoor organizations here in New Jersey. The Monmouth County Federation, The New Jersey Outdoor Alliance, United Bowhunters of New Jersey, Wa-Xo-Be Archery Club, Black Knight Bowbenders & the Bent Creek 3D Range to name a few. Every month I attend their meetings representing TANJ.

If anyone would like to step up and become a TANJ Council member for 2009-2010 we certainly need the energy of some dedicated members to help your officers carry the load over the next two years. Please send Karen Bartolini an email message containing your contact information and your interests and qualifications and we will subsequently bring your name up at the following TANJ Board meeting.



Let's keep the heritage of traditional archery growing strong in New Jersey. Let's keep the banner waving at your TANJ events and let's continue to put energy into recruiting the youth that represents our future.

VICE-PRESIDENT**JORGE L. COPPEN (incumbent)**

Thank you for allowing me to serve the TANJ the last two years. I still have some gas in the tank so I'm going for two more years. Thanks to our members, we've seen continued membership growth in the past two years...NUMBERS DO NOT LIE! New ideas are building to stimulate new growth and to re-energize the stickbow masses of New Jersey.

Some folks might say a guy living in Maryland should not serve as VP since he cannot provide the needed support to the President. I have tried to work hard to serve as your Vice President, your TANJ Newsletter Editor, your TANJ website materials manager, your TANJ photographer at the annual NJ Bowhunter's Game Dinner, TANJ hunts, and at the Whittingham shoot. I've arranged several TANJ hunts (*and 8 openings still exist for this February's hog hunt in Arcadia, FL—Join us!*). I worked to enhance TANJ spirit & unity by designing New TANJ Jackets to make us look like a real team. You will be the judge as to whether these qualify as support.

My next project is bringing back a custom TANJ traditional arm guard with either TANJ logo of your choice stamped on it. We can personalize it with your name or initials...See the sample below...

If re-elected, I would simply continue to support the TANJ in our quest to maintain a premier traditional archery organization in New Jersey, and I vow to keep up the pace in serving New Jersey's traditional archers as we forge ahead!





TANJ 2009 OFFICER ELECTION NOMINEES

SECRETARY

KAREN BARTOLINI (incumbent)

Karen Bartolini provided excellent service to the Traditional Archers of New Jersey over the past two years, not only in the capacity of Secretary for the TANJ Board of Directors but also by helping out at TANJ-sponsored traditional archery shoot events, by operating the TANJ booth and selling T-shirts and recruiting members and she is always a big help every year at the annual the New Jersey Bowhunters Game Dinner.

**TREASURER**

No Candidates
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**My Friend Al**By *Brian Peters*

This article is dedicated to "*My Friend Al*" or to give you a clue—one of the four founding members of **The Traditional Archers of New Jersey**, Al Reader!

Being a Fred Bear aficionado, Al Reader has always been the go-to guy and resident expert on Bear Archery (...not to mention his "*holy grail*" collection of Bear bows and memorabilia that he graciously displayed at Whittingham this year)! His knowledge is second to none and he has been an awesome resource for me and he is always willing to answer a question or impart his knowledge.

The first couple of times I met Al was at our annual meeting at Whittingham and a bond quickly formed. His booth last year was incredible and was just a great representation of our past and why we are where we are today.

It was this year that Al, knowing my passion for 1959 Kodiaks presented me with an original 1959 Bear chisel head Bear Razorhead and a sharpening hone that he had personally made for me. This was his way of showing his generosity for a favor I had done for him. I made a promise to Al that I would put my Wensel Woodsmans away for my first deer in New Jersey this year. As luck would have it, on my second Saturday of the 2008 season, the opportunity presented itself and the razor-sharp '59 Bear Razorhead did its job...and my deer only went about 50 yards after a well placed shot.

On a final note, I also found that Al and I share a common interest in golf and although we did not get a round in this year, I do have a tentative date with "*My Friend Al*" on January 1, 2009 to play a round of golf together to start the New Year off.





☐ President.....
☐ Vice-President..... Jorge
☐ Secretary.....
☐ Gerry DeCaro
☐ Coppen OR
☐ Karen Bartolini OR



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Treasurer..... OR

Members in good standing (dues paid in 2008) may vote by filling out and sending this ballot to:

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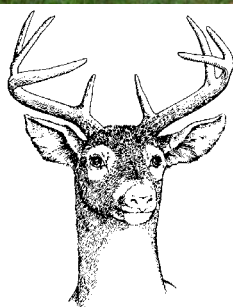
Zack with his 1st deer.



Ten year old Zack Muller makes a perfect shot and a pass-through with a 1969 Bear Kodiak Hunter (35#) and carbon arrow tipped with a 200 grain Razorcap...twenty minutes into his **first** big game hunting season!



Zack with his 2nd deer.



Zack with his 3rd deer.

...a 4 point buck!



Eric Peters with his first deer...



...Eric used a Bear recurve...

...Look out, Fred Bear!!



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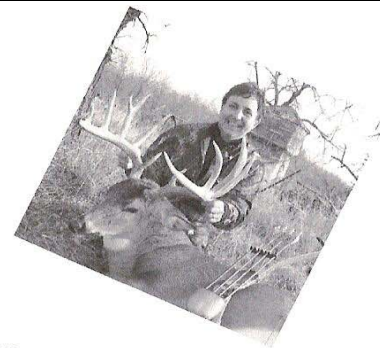
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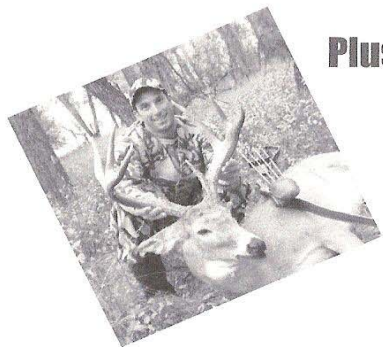


Gettin Stickbow Close

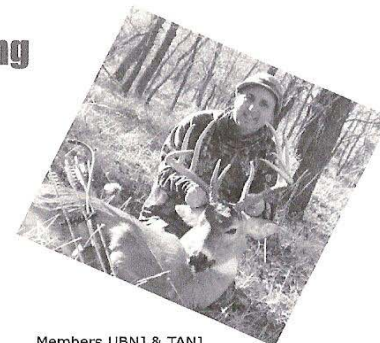
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Venison Recipes:

Sesame Antelope

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 1/2 lb. Antelope steak (boneless 3/4" thick)
- Seasoned salt
- 2 to 3 Tbsp. margarine
- 2 Tbsp. sesame seeds
- 1 can (4 oz.) mild diced chilies (drained)
- 1 can (4 oz.) button mushrooms (drained)
- 3 cups water (reserve 1/2 cup)
- 2 1/2 tsp. instant beef bouillon
- 2 to 3 drops hot pepper sauce (to taste)
- 3 Tbsp. cornstarch

Remove all fat from antelope steaks. Sprinkle meat with a little seasoned salt. Slice steak, against the grain, into thin slices (partially frozen antelope is easier to slice).

In a skillet, melt one tablespoon of margarine and brown antelope strips. Add one tablespoon of margarine and brown sesame seeds. Add one table spoon of margarine, chilies and mushrooms and stir-fry for two minutes.

Add 2 1/2 cups of water, bouillon and hot sauce. Turn down heat and simmer for 15 minutes. Stir occasionally and keep water level at 2 1/2 cups.

Combine cornstarch and 1/2 cup water and pour slowly into simmering mixture. Stir constantly as mixture thickens. Serves 4. Serve over chow mein noodles or with hot rice.



Wild Adventures! Heed the Call of the Wild!

TANJ Members are invited to contribute hunting adventure articles in this new column. Share your exciting tales with other members....From those far-away remote places to the those thrilling adventures out back behind the house!

Six to eight hundred words and a good photo or two to fill a page in **YOUR TANJ Newsletter**.

Let's see what New Jersey's traditional bowhunters have to share to get the blood pumping in all of us while we wait for opening day!

Please send your article & photos to

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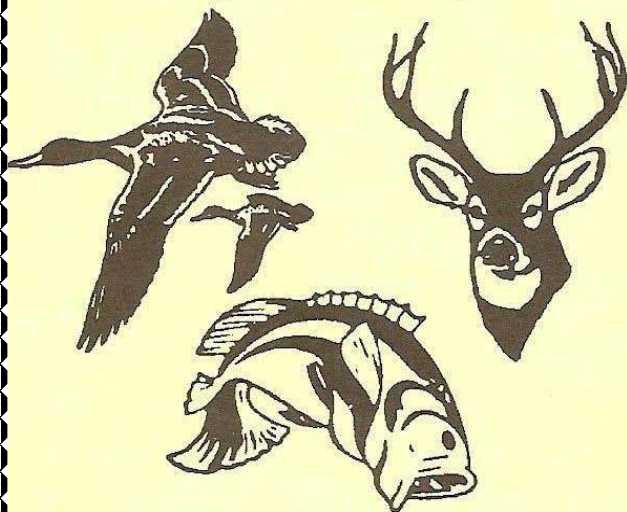
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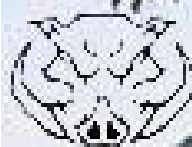
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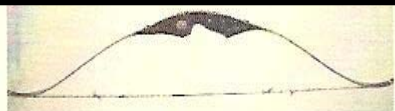


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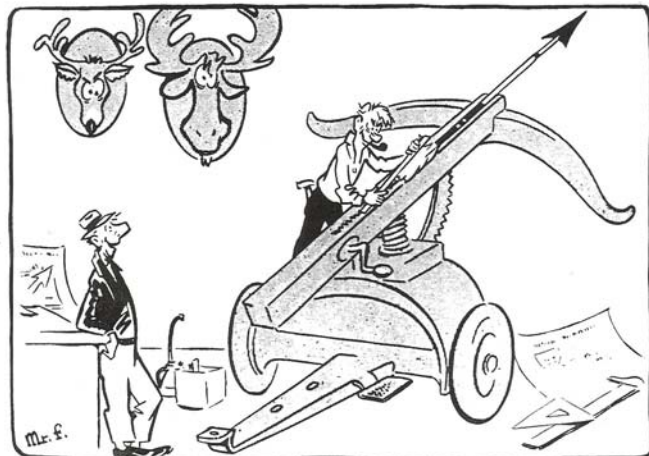
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FIREARMS-AMMUNITION-RELOADING
CAMPING-CLOTHING-FOOTWEAR
HANDGUN TRAINING COURSE
INDOOR FIREARMS RANGE

Mon-Fri 9am-10pm Sat-Sun 9am-6pm
NJ & PA Hunting & Fishing Licenses
LAW ENFORCEMENT EQUIPMENT & UNIFORMS



BULLETIN BOARD

[Free Classifieds for TANJ Members]



"I HEAR YOU'RE GOING AFTER KODIAK THIS YEAR, ED."

Traditional Archers of New Jersey

IT WAS OUR HERITAGE, AND IT IS AGAIN!



PROUD
CORPORATE
SPONSORS
OF THE
PHYSICALLY
CHALLENGED
BOWHUNTERS
OF AMERICA

FOR SALE

Custom built log-sided year-round home in **Andes, Delaware county, the heart of the Catskill mountains in New York**. Surrounded by thousands of acres of state land and close to excellent stream, lake and reservoir fishing this is a perfect home or camp for the sportsman. Eight rooms, 3-4 bedrooms, two full baths, fireplace and cathedral ceilings, wood stove in the recreation room, 40-foot covered porch with views. On 4.5 acres with year round access. **WALK to excellent hunting for deer, bear, turkey etc.** Visit at www.catskillbyowner.com listing # R-125 or call Joel M. Riotto at 201-768-4447 for information and to inspect.

FOR SALE

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.

Call Joel M. Riotto at 201-768-4447

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).



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

