



The Archer's Voice

PRESERVE, PROTECT, PROMOTE.

NORTH DAKOTA BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION



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Eye to Eye Bears



The Archer's Voice

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Steve Goroski*

Does “SCORE” really matter? Well, that might just depend on who you are talking to. Hopefully my mention of score didn’t make you think about your current credit score. To be a bit more specific, one could have recalled a score they got at a recent outdoor 3D shoot or even possibly the Pope and Young score of an antelope, whitetail, black bear, or mule deer they shot. Some people will begin a weeklong adventure with high expectations and then lower their standards as the end of the week approaches. Often hunters will pass on opportunities when they still have time and don’t want the adventure to come to an end.

How does this apply to the many opportunities to attend 3D shoots across the state and surrounding areas. I often see people having the most fun where score doesn’t seem to matter. I have attended many events like the Total Archery Challenge, and you will expect to return home with fewer arrows than you started and still have loads of fun. Some would ask why you would even go to such a shoot where there isn’t any chance of winning any money and scores don’t matter or even turned in at the event.

It seems this past August at the NDBA State Outdoor 3D, there were a lot of people which I visited with that attended the shoot yet didn’t have plans to compete or just never turned in a score card for their own personal reasons. Some of the participants at this year’s event held west of Medora in the scenic badlands of North Dakota came to enjoy the comradery of shooting with their buddies and hanging out by a campfire in the evening which is fine. Have times changed so much that there is less concern over competing for score as it seems there are many divisions with only one or two shooters.

There has been more than a share of challenges in the current decade when it comes to what individuals prefer when attending events such as the NDBA Outdoor 3D Tournament. I hear many comments in my conversations with participants: “I can’t use a range finder?” “The targets were too far for my liking. “There wasn’t an adequate backstop behind the target.” “The target was placed in the rocks, and my arrow was ruined.” “I misjudged the yardage and my arrow went sailing only to likely be found as an artifact someday.”

There has been some discussion over the past few years to eliminate the plaques which are awarded for each event as the award plaque and shipping costs have made this less feasible each year. Let me know how you feel about this and if the board should consider such changes in the coming future. Should the Outdoor 3D be seen as a Rendezvous-style event where everyone can use whatever style equipment including rangefinders where score doesn’t matter?

On the Cover:

Area 7 Rep. Gaylord Hibl with his gorgeous spring 2025 color-phase black bear. Congratulations, Gaylord!

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Presidents Report (Continued from page 2)

Although participation seems to be the same as what it has been depending on time of the summer and location, it seems more difficult each year to try grow the participation at these events as compared to some of the more popular shoots like Total Archery Challenge and Rendezvous-style events. Everyone seems to be overallocated for time and the events they can squeeze into an already busy summer before school starts and the fall hunting seasons kick off.

In closing, it was great seeing everyone at the 2025 NDBA Outdoor 3D Championship hosted by the Roughrider Archers of Dickinson. The NDBA is very appreciative having host clubs that help to promote these events and draw participants whether it be to compete in the NDBA championship or just shoot for fun. Thanks to everyone

who volunteered including the ND Chapter of the Backcountry Hunters and Anglers for making this year's event another success.

Working together to Preserve, Protect, and Promote bow hunting and archery in North Dakota. *Have a great fall hunting season! If you drew a North Dakota pronghorn tag this year, I am jealous and will likely have a long wait for my next one!!*

Steve Goroski

"The finest trophies are not always in the harvests, but in the memories of fellowship and the great outdoors."

~ Fred Bear



PRESERVE, PROTECT, and PROMOTE

by Darrell Belisle

As I write this, it's a few days before the opener of the 2025 North Dakota archery season. I'm not much one for heading out on opening day, I usually prefer to wait a couple weeks when the bugs have quieted down, before I get out. Actually, I enjoy the last few weeks of the season the most. I've had quite a bit of success sticking it out in the cold weather. Nonetheless, all summer long, I've had my eye on an area I think will produce some good bow hunting. I just might have to tough it out in the early season this year. I'll let you know how that works out.

As you are reading this, I imagine some have already sealed your tags and some are still working on theirs. I really hope the weather has cooperated to this point and provided a great fall season for all hunters. While the deer numbers in my area are still recovering from the EHD outbreak we had a few years ago, other opportunities like the pheasants are very plentiful this year.

Other than that, not much is happening with the Government and Conservation side of things. Down at the Game and Fish Office, Scott Pederson, the North Dakota Game and Fish Deputy Director joined the retired community, and his position was filled by Casey Anderson. Casey was formerly the Big Game Chief, and his spot was filled by Bill Hasse, the former second-in-charge of the Big Game de-

partment. There were a couple other position changes as well and once the dust settles there, the NDBA will schedule a visit to discuss current and future concerns we sportsmen always seem to face.

As always, many thanks to the past and present NDBA membership for providing the strength to represent the bowhunters of North Dakota; It's not always easy, but the NDBA is always ready to Preserve, Protect, and Promote the North Dakota archery opportunities we all enjoy!

Darrell Belisle



Vice President Report by Nevin Jenner



Opening day is so far away, yet it is coming so fast! I feel like summer is just getting started, but I'm also trying to start winterizing. I guess it is a little bittersweet, since our summer is so limited here in North Dakota. I really can't complain though, as Courtney and I swapped three weeks of beautiful weather here at home for cold, winter weather and short days on the South Island of New Zealand. We had an awesome experience and harvested some fantastic animals. I will save more of that story for a later issue though.

With our planned trip to New Zealand, I was disappointed that we were unable to get to any outdoor shoots before heading out. Part of that was due to the Missouri Basin Bowmen deciding to change things up with the Summer Shoot. Since we often deal with rainy weather the first week in June, the decision was made to move the shoot to early August. This nearly backfired, as you all know, we had a beautiful, dry June and it rained regularly throughout July and early August. Luckily, it did dry out during the week of the event, and we were able to get the course set. Ultimately, we had a very successful weekend with more shooters than we average with the earlier date.

While Courtney was on her annual frog gigging and bass fishing trip to Kansas with friends, I was able to make it to Minot for one day and night of the Souris Valley Bowmen's Traditional Rendezvous. It had been many years since I attended, and it was great to catch up with folks, fling some arrows and though I missed the fish-fry on Friday, the pig roast was delicious. I recommend this event to anyone who enjoys simple stick-and-string shooting and to those who are interested in trying it out. There are always bows and other equipment for sale and plenty of knowledgeable and willing folks to lend a hand.

Without fail, the shoots I would like to attend manage to overlap each other. I passed on the opportunity to attend the Montana Traditional Bowhunters event the same weekend as Souris Valley Bowmen's, even though it was held outside of Havre this year, which is not only several hours closer to me than previous locations, but also a course that I have never visited. Moving on to other events, we have wanted to attend any of Lewistown Bowhunters Association's tournaments in Montana for quite a while. We have made several friends in that area, and we will make it there one of these days. This year, their Bonanza Shoot overlapped with the

Lone Tree Archers' shoot in Sidney, Montana, which is a short drive for us. To top it off, both took place the same weekend as the 2025 Badlands Classic held in Medora by the Roughrider Archers of Dickinson.

This year, Roughrider also won the bid for the 2025 NDBA State Outdoor 3D tournament, so this was held in conjunction with the North Dakota Backcountry Hunters and Anglers' Extreme Course. Courtney and I attended, along with lots of new and old friends. This weekend is always a good time. Despite the extreme wind and on-again, off-again rain Saturday, turnout for both courses were very impressive, even if the scores were pushed lower. One highlight this year was that there is an ever-growing group of folks who camp right at the shoot with us, and given the bountiful rain this summer, there were even bonfires to gather around this year. I look forward to Medora each year and hope I dates will line up differently next year.

Looking forward, we have a light season ahead of us. I only hold an archery license here at home and Courtney has an additional whitetail hunt planned with friends back in Kansas. I will, of course, also be lending a hand to a couple of coworkers and friends who drew their North Dakota elk licenses.

Good luck to everyone in their upcoming hunts, I can't wait to hear and or read about your adventures.

Nevin Jenner



Editor Courtney and Vice President Nevin at the NDBA State Outdoor 3D Tournament in Medora hosted by the Roughrider Archers.

It's always a highlight of the summer for us!



Competition & Tournament Director Eric Buchholz

It's the time of year I start looking forward to putting the mower away and start seeing the leaves change colors...

I hope everyone was able to draw a tag or two that they applied for this year. I was fortunate to be able to visit with some of you at the NDBA State Shoot held in Medora this summer. I'd like to give a shoutout to Rough Rider Archers out of Dickinson, they did a fantastic job hosting the shoot. It was a little windy Saturday, but everyone still had big smiles on

their faces when returning from shooting the course. It's always fun to be in the badlands shooting arrows, and a shoot I always look forward to.

Rough Rider Archers always does a great job with that shoot, and I encourage everyone to put it on their annual calendars to attend. Our banquet for 2026 and State Indoor Shoot will be held in Watford City next spring. They did a great job hosting it last time, and I look forward to going back. Be on the lookout for more information as it gets closer.

Good luck to everyone this fall. I can't wait to hear stories and see photos!

Eric Buchholz

UPCOMING EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES

For more information or new listings, visit www.ndbowhunters.org and click on the 'Events' tab.



Area 1 Tate Ferrell

As the summer is coming to an end, up here in Area 1 we held our outdoor shoot in early August. The weather finally cooperated as it seems like most years it usually rains the weekend we have it. The Missouri Basin Bowmen

club did a great job prepping and getting everything ready to put on a great shoot.

With hunting season approaching, I hope everyone has gotten time to set out trail cameras or get out and do some scouting in some areas. Whether you have a moose tag, elk tag, or maybe an antelope tag, or if you're like me and just have an archery deer tag, I wish you all the best of luck this year!

Tate Ferrell

Scott Rehak with his trophy impala taken with Matlabas Game Hunters in South Africa. Scott scored this hunt on the live auction at the NDBA Rendezvous this spring. Congratulations on a beautiful impala, Scott! Thank you for sharing your success!



Area 3 Wyatt Hanson



Greetings from Area 3!

Hunting season has begun! This is the season that we practice all year for, so make the most of it! A couple friends took their bows to Minnesota after black bear. A few others I know spent Labor Day weekend in the badlands, one with an antelope tag. And I find myself getting things in order for Montana archery elk hunting.

August was a fun month for me and the family. Locally, Avery and myself went to the Turtle Mountain Archery Shoot. Then, the following weekend, the whole family made our way to the NDBA State Outdoor 3D Championship near Medora. Both courses were laid out great. The weather was perfect in the Turtle Mountains, while the State Championship had a little of every type of weather August has to offer. My brother made it over into Area 4 to Northern Lites' 40th Annual 3D shoot in Grafton and said they had a scenic course that was enjoyable.

Anyway, get out there, enjoy our great outdoors, and get a big one!

Wyatt Hanson

Area 5 Kelly Arndt



Hello, fellow bowhunters!

Our coveted archery season is finally upon us. I'm hoping you had better luck drawing tags than I did this year. But, I'm thankful our North Dakota archery deer tag is over the counter. I'd hate to have to sell my bows for some golf clubs! Speaking of bows, I just got a new one this summer. A great friend of mine named Antone gave me his first and only bow – a 1955 Bear Grizzly.

Antone turned 99 years old this year, but is still sharp as a tack. While visiting with him, he relayed many stories of bowhunting in the North Dakota badlands and Killdeer mountains as a young man. Although he never took a deer with the bow, it was obvious the bow was still very valuable to him. Antone said, "You can have it under one condition... You have to kill a deer with it!" I accepted the offer/challenge. He also gave me a box full of goodies: Wood arrows with field points and broadheads glued on, a bulk supply of turkey feathers with a homemade hot wire cutter for shaping the feathers, a deer skin back quiver and arm guard. He said, "I even have a new string for it." Inside a small envelope was a very old-(new) string. I asked him, "How old is this thing?" His reply, "Well, I probably bought that in the late 60's." I said, "I'll order a new one before I string it."

(To be continued...)

Area 5 Update:

The NDBA State Shoot in Medora hosted by Roughrider Archers had a great turnout despite the weather on Saturday. Thank you to everyone that supported the shoot. It takes a ton of effort to set this course up but it's always worth it when we have a good turnout. And thank you to all the volunteers that helped with setup and tear down. We had some new faces show up and lend a hand, and that was definitely encouraging to see.

Good luck to all of you this archery season!

Kelly Arndt

TOURNAMENT DATES



**PLEASE SEND US
YOUR DATES FOR
THE UPCOMING
TOURNAMENT
SEASON**



Area 6 Ryan Bauer



Well, here we are again trying to get ready for another archery season opener. By the time you read this we will be well into the archery season. Hopefully some of you were able to draw or get one of the coveted bow tags that you have been trying to get and finally did.

A big thank you to all that helped out with the NDBA State Outdoor Shoot in Medora – it is always a can't-miss shoot when they put it on out there. Well, maybe Saturday with the wind was just a little questionable... Geez, I guess just a different kind of fun.

As we all know, bowhunting is more than just a sport – it is a tradition usually shared with many family and friends which connects one with the bow, arrow and nature.

With all the time that is involved with getting your gear, archery equipment and other things ready it's nice when one can capture some of the moments while preserving memories. Pictures that one takes of such adventures can tell a story that words alone cannot. Try taking different photos capturing candid moments, action shots while tracking, and trophy poses along with photos of the landscape and terrain you are in. Pictures like those will add a lot more to your story than just a grip and grin shot.

Some things to remember while taking photos of your hunts are when photographing your game make sure the animal is respectfully posed. Clean up any visible blood, position animal with legs tucked under the body if possible, avoid graphic photos and such as this shows your amount of respect for the animal and promotes ethical hunting. Pose with pictures of your game while being behind the animal and comfortable not sticking your arms straight out trying to make it appear twice as big. By adding different angles to your pictures such as low angles, wide angles or straight on photos they all shed a different feel and depth to your photos. The best time of day to take outdoor pictures is the early morning hours or later afternoon when the lighting is softer and please do not shade the subject's face with a cap brim.

You can never take too many pictures. With all the time one spends on the hunts, take a little extra time to document your journey and not just the ending to the story. Photographing hunts is not just about taking trophy pictures, it is about honoring the animal, experience and the tradition.

See you all out and about, and shoot straight!

Ryan Bauer



We want to hear from YOU! What's your story?! Successful or not, send your archery stories and hunt/trophy photos to:

info@ndbowhunters.org, or courtney.wilhelm@rocketmail.com



Area 7 Gaylord Hibl



Here we are, and as I write this update there are only a few weeks before the end of August. Most bowhunters are looking forward to hunting deer, pronghorn, fall bear and if you were lucky to draw a once in a lifetime tag, hopefully being able to fill it with archery equipment. I wish everyone the best of luck, whatever animal you may be chasing with bow and arrow.

In May, Chase and I traveled to Manitoba black bear hunting. This was a first for both of us and we had a great time. I was lucky enough to fill my tag with a nice cinnamon boar on my second night in the stand. Chase did get an opportunity to get a shot on a nice bear. He thought he hit it and we search hard to find blood but could not find anything. Later in the week it showed up on the trail camera, so it was a relief to know that there was not a wounded bear lying somewhere in the wood. He hunted the rest of the week but with no success as the weather had changed and there was a full moon the rest of the time we were in Canada. Needless to say, I was the only one to get a bear during this week of hunting with the outfitter.

This summer I passed on going to a Total Archery Challenge (TAC) event and participated in more shoots in North Dakota. I would have liked done more, but there is always next year. I participated in some ACA shoots which follow guidelines set forth by NFAA. These shoots take up a weekend and the 3D shoot was hosted at Souris Valley Bowmen in Minot. The field rounds were in Bismarck and hosted at Nishu, which wrapped up ACA's season. The field round was interesting and was the first that I have ever shot one. If you do not shoot a target in the right order you could end up with a zero, and this was a learning experience – especially with target ranging from around 10 feet to 80 yards, if I remember right.

I made it to Souris Valley Bowmen's traditional shoot again this year. Chase and I had a great time and got to visit with a lot of people that I don't see too often. Once again, the fish fry on Friday and the hog feed Saturday are always delicious. The volunteers that help with this shoot always do such a great job to make everyone feel welcome. Maybe one of these years I will camp the weekend.

Another shoot that stood out was Roughrider archery club hosting the NDBA State 3D shoot that was set up west of Medora. They put a lot of work in hauling out and placing targets. The standard course that was setup for the state tournament was challenging enough, and it helps that the targets are from 10 to 50 yards. They also had an extreme course, and although we did start to shoot this course, after a few targets in, it became apparent that this was not a course I needed to shoot. It is possible to walk up on target which I would do but there was not a decent back stop to stop any arrows on some of the targets. If an arrow misses the target, I would prefer to hit a backstop that wrecks my arrow than to have to go behind a target and look for an arrow that may be impossible to find or not even recoverable. I never want to leave an arrow and if it is destroyed, at least I can dispose of it properly.

There is not much else to report about here in the Jamestown area other than college students will be showing up at University of Jamestown. Their shooting sports program will begin, and it will be nice to meet some of the new students that shoot archery. It's great that colleges provide an opportunity for students to shoot archery. I have been seeing more of these students at some of the archery tournaments. There are some that will shoot the 3Ds with their compound and then grab their traditional bow and shoot the course again.

May you shoots be true this fall!!!

Gaylord Hibl



Area 8 Paul Speral



Here we go again. Another bow season is here as you read this.

Summer went fast, but fall seems to go faster. I finally made it to Minot for their 10th annual Traditional Shoot. I'm sorry I missed the first nine. Beautiful range, great set up, and gracious hosts. The fish fry and pig roast were amazing. Thanks to those who slaved over the hot coals and deep fryers. Even if you don't shoot traditional you would have a good time borrowing a stick bow and going up to enjoy a fantastic weekend. The highlight was the competitive milk carton shoot. Lots of cheering, some good-natured heckling, and an all-around good time. The campground socializing, visiting with friends, old and new, topped off the weekend. Mark it on your calendars.

The only other shoot I made it to was the Fertile, Minnesota 3D Shoot in August. It competes with the Three Rivers Shoot near Hankinson, but for those in eastern North Dakota, you can easily make both in one weekend. Great terrain and course layouts.

I'm just catching up on some old business; the Fargo urban hunt last fall resulted in 37 deer taken. As more hunters gain experience hunting these urban deer, success improves. This year's hunt is looking promising as I have seen more fawns on the landscape and I would expect hunters to do well. Hopefully we get another mild winter and we can start to see whitetails recover more quickly. It has been a tough few years. Habitat continues to disappear. That will be difficult to replace.

For those who've already filled tags, congratulations. Send in a picture or two and write up your adventure and send to Courtney. While you are at it, sign up a new member or three. Stay after it, shoot straight, keep 'em sharp, and above all, enjoy the journey.

plan your next great adventure. See you at the shoots

Paul Speral




Our Tiaki Promise

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The NDBA is currently seeking a dedicated and knowledgeable individual to fill the role of Government & Conservation Director. Darrell Belisle expressed an interest some time ago in stepping down after this past 2025 ND Legislative session. This position is ideal for someone passionate about bowhunting and committed to promoting ethical practices, habitat conservation, and responsible wildlife management.

The ideal candidate will have a strong desire and understanding of state regulations related to hunting and conservation and will serve as a key liaison between the bowhunting community and North Dakota Game & Fish agency. We're looking for someone who can advocate effectively for bowhunters' interests while working collaboratively with conservation partners and regulatory bodies to protect and preserve our natural resources for future generations.

If you are interested in talking more about this opportunity and the future of bowhunting in the state of North Dakota, let's have a conversation and talk about what your desires and qualifications are to meet our needs. Contact Steve Goroski by phone (701) 391-2665 or email at bowhuntnd@gmail.com.

SUMMER FUN



Area 3 Rep. Wyatt Hanson got the whole family out and involved in summer 3D shoots across the state! Looks like fun was had by all!

SUMMER FUN



President Steve Goroski's pup, Willow, even attended some outdoor 3D shoots this summer!



Editor Courtney Jenner found some sheds that were missed in the spring...



Making some adjustments... ..



Member Scott Rehak had an adventure in South Africa with Matlabas Game Hunters!

Editor's Adventures by Courtney Jenner



Summer seems to have flown by, faster and faster each year... Archery season is upon us once again!

Last fall, I was hindered by pericarditis that set in out-of-the-blue while on a camping trip in the North Dakota badlands, just as the rut was kicking off. I was plagued with wicked chest pain like nothing I had ever experienced before, the symptoms, to my research, somewhat mimic those of a heart attack. It was certainly an initial scare, and an incredible discouragement as the rut crept closer. Yet, I attempted to make the best of the situation, still hunting every chance I felt able, right up until the bitter end in early January when the temperatures plunged well below freezing. Looking back, some of my outings may have been against better judgement, as I always paid the price in the following days suffering from my weakened immune system.

It was difficult for me to sit back and stay home throughout my favorite time to hunt, including most of November and the entirety of the rut action, and unfortunately, I also missed my husband's successful harvest of a respectable mule deer buck with his recurve bow. It was his first deer with his trad bow and I was heartbroken that I hadn't been there to share the excitement. But, I was able to help with the work that followed – the task of de-boning and prepping the meat when he arrived home that cold November day. Although my dad is no longer with me here on earth, he left me with the skillset of preparing my own wild game, and most importantly, his prized sausage recipe. I take great pride in processing my own meat, and even more so in using my dad's recipe that he spent nearly a decade perfecting to his satisfaction.

Now this season I am unfortunately dealing with nerve pain in my right arm and shoulder. My dominant arm, of course... To my dismay, my shoulder issues set in just as Nevin and I were embarking on our hunting trip to New Zealand, bringing only our bows along. This certainly put a damper on my mood and my hunt, but I made the best of it. It was primarily Nevin's hunt, as he had won the trip and I had hunted New Zealand (successfully, and with archery equipment) two years prior, I had vowed to take the backseat on this excursion.

As much as it has pained me — my ego, that is — I've swallowed my pride and decreased my poundage to a manageable level, which also involved re-sighting my bow. I've worked so hard to build strength in the years past since I first picked up a bow, its discouraging to feel that I'm going backwards. But, despite the setback, I am still within legal poundage to bowhunt, and that alone makes my heart happy.

As the summer flew by, I continued to prepare for archery season by attending a couple of local outdoor 3D archery shoots. I had to give myself some grace and listen to my body as I navigated the healing process with my shoulder. (This is not something I'm good at, as I generally push myself too hard and am often left dealing with the aftermath.) This season, I have my North Dakota archery tag here in my home state, and I was lucky enough to also draw an archery whitetail tag in the Butler County region of Kansas, where some very close friends live that I already visit every summer. I've heard Butler County produces some phenomenal whitetails, so I'm

looking forward to the opportunities that may present themselves. Regardless of the outcome, I know I will have a wonderful time in the whitetail woods.

I may not be where I want to this archery season, but I'm giving it my best shot. I remain positive that I will heal and regain my strength and get back to where I used to be. Honestly, the older I get, the more I simply enjoy just being outside, soaking up the great outdoors. I love camping and think I can honestly say I sleep better in a tent than in my own bed anymore. (I think Nevin can attest to that...) I enjoy listening to the sounds of nature – the crickets and the coyotes – cleansing my mind and lulling me to sleep. Of course, there is the glassing for deer and taking all the photos I can. (And taking an occasional nap in the late-morning sun.) The list goes on and on. I especially enjoy picking up the bleached sheds that I missed during the spring. More often than not, they serve as a 'participation trophy,' if you will.

On another positive note, I am excited to announce that I am now also a feature writer for 'The Adventurous Bowwomen' section in Pope and Young's 'Ethic' magazine. It was a great honor to meet Editor Steve Ashley himself at the 34th Biennial Convention earlier this year in Glendale, Arizona, and being asked to be a contributing writer sent my spirits over the moon. So, if you are a P&Y member and enjoy following my adventures, you will be seeing a bit more of me in the upcoming issues. And as you will also read in Scott Rehak's update, Pope & Young will now be accepting javelina into the record books! (If you haven't hunted javelina, put it on your bucket list – the desert offers a nice break from the North Dakota cold and those little critters were just made to bowhunt!)

As you enter this archery season, please take a moment to slow down and pause, as long as you wish, to take in the great outdoors – from the sunrise sights to the sweet smells of sagebrush and cedar, the breeze bristling your hair, the warming sun on your face. Be thankful you're able to be out here. To me, it's not about the success, it's not about bragging rights or big buck contests, it's not about social media hype. It's ultimately about enjoying the great outdoors and making memories with friends and family. I hope none of you ever forget that!

Until next time, stay wild!

Courtney Jenner



Eye to Eye Bears

by Paul Sperial



Rain had been falling for a couple hours. Bears make little noise anyway, so I was not expecting to hear one coming. I was relaxed in my seat, but I was also carefully surveying the thick cover, moving only my eyes. Left, right, middle. Slowly back and forth.

If it hadn't been so cold I probably could have dozed off. Probably not. Six hours in the woods is always six hours well-spent.

My eyes were searching straight ahead behind the bait when something big and black came into my right in my peripheral vision. He was within fifteen yards and moved like smoke. When that doesn't spike the adrenaline, I quit. He crossed in front of me toward the bait a scant seven yards away. He was beautiful. He hesitated near the bait but didn't stop. This was the first week of June and the rut was heating up. Often the boars will just cruise the baits smelling for sows. He headed up the trail we had walked in on. A fresh pile of bear scat held his attention as he sniffed and licked it. Sow or rival?

He turned and headed back toward the bait. Given the chance I would take the first good shot offered. He walked past the

bait headed back where he came from. He stopped just five yards away but severely front-quartering. He was very impressive from this perspective. Did I mention I was on the ground? I was ready but still no shot. If he continued back to the entrance trail it would be to my right and I'd have to pivot hard and the cover might not have allowed a shot anyway. It's amazing how much you can process in the few seconds in which all this happens. Luck was on my side as he pivoted back toward the bait. He stopped and over 50 years of experience took over. My longbow bent effortlessly as I hit my anchor, and the arrow was a blur as it crossed the 20 feet of tension-filled air between me and the bear.

We were in the far north woods of Saskatchewan in search of bears. Black bears are fascinating. The bears this far north have little or no contact with humans for 48 weeks of the year. The stunted pines this far north don't lend themselves well to the use of treestands, so we hunt from the ground. It is a great perspective and being eye to eye is amazing. A healthy respect and knowledge of their body language is helpful in staying out of trouble and under control. It's not for everyone, but I love it. This was the third year the five of us had made the 16-hour trek from Fargo.

I've had some interesting encounters over these few years. Just last year I had a curious sow at the bait. Like they almost always do, she knew I was there. She finally decided to come and investigate. She came from in front and slowly worked her way slowly around behind me. I didn't want to break the spell, so I only moved my eyes as she moved behind. Soon I could hear her to my left and rolled my eyes left. She was close, but how close would she get? My lunch was on the ground under my left arm. I figured this was her motivation. I was wrong. She carefully stuck her head through the pine branches and put her nose on my elbow totally ignoring the food only inches under her nose. Wow! This was awesome. There was no sniffing up and down, only the soft touch. I can only guess at her motivation to come to me, but curiosity is at the top of my list. Was I the first human encounter she ever had? I will never know, but this will stand out as one of my greatest hunting memories.

On this hunt I ended with six encounters under five yards. Others experienced much the same. While this far north doesn't carry as many bears as parts further south, it offers



Paul's eye-to-eye-ground blind at 20 feet.

this unique opportunity to share their world eye to eye.

The rain was the kind that doesn't affect you until you realize you're wet. It started a couple hours earlier and fortunately, I had set up a tree umbrella shortly after it started and covered my legs with my rain pants like a blanket. It didn't seem necessary at the time, but now everything else was wet.

The temperature hung in the low 40s but I remained mostly comfortable. I was protected from the breeze by the small copse of evergreens where I had set up my chair. The bait was a scant seven yards in front of me and I was looking forward to close encounters. I arrived at this bait about 11:00 a.m. with plans to sit until about 8:00 or so.

The trip to the bait almost didn't happen. As my guide and I carefully approached, a very nice boar, already on the bait, noticed us and started our way to investigate. Like I said, they don't see humans most of the year. I quickly put an arrow on the string and got ready. This was a good boar. He didn't appear overly aggressive but wanted to see what we were and if we were a threat. He stopped a couple times but always continued toward us. He was soon in my very conservative bow range.

Then he was just fifteen feet away, but always head-on. He lost his nerve and spun away, stopping at 20 yards behind some trees. He circled a bit but finally walked off. I smiled at my guide and figured I'd see the bear again. Fast forward six hours and the boar had yet to return. I did have sow in with some unusual coloring on her face and ears. After 45 nervous minutes she left. I snuggled down into my jacket and quietly waited to see what else might unfold. I was in that daydream, contemplative state of mind that keeps me still and helps pass time.

The earlier boar had departed to the northeast and I spent a lot of time watching there. That is when the apparition appeared from the southwest and this story began. Even though the adventure was point-blank, I was conscious of carefully picking a spot on the featureless side of pure black. I'm not sure I've ever made a better shot. The concentration and control we fight so hard to maintain but often fail to do, seemed effortless. True instinctive shooting is like that when done right. I saw the spot and the arrow went there.

I had brought along an old-school string tracker that I've used with good effect on bears and feral hogs in the past. When the rain started, I'd brought it into play. Thick cover, rain and bears can be a trailing nightmare. It worked perfectly, but in the end was unnecessary. Seconds after the shot the string stopped moving and shortly after I heard a faint death moan. It

was only thick cover and terrain that prevented me from seeing him fall. He made it 38 steps. I knew it was a good bear, but they are notorious for ground shrinkage. (I was with a good friend and experienced hunter when we walked up to his bear at the end of a blood trail and his first words were, "That's not the bear I shot.")

As I followed the short trail to the bear there was no shrinkage. He was bigger than I'd thought. It happened once before on another bear, as he was larger than I judged as well. That is a great feeling because I never want to find a bear I didn't shoot. I've misjudged bears in the past and I have no doubt I'll do it again. I've also decided that when that happens, I will appreciate the size of the adventure much more than the size of the bear. They deserve too much respect to only be measured in inches and pounds. This was a mature boar and just what our outfitter targets. He respects the resource and works to maintain it. I InReached the guide then waited until pick up time. I admired the boar's perfect coat and hoped he had sired many offspring.



Tagged out!

The rest of our week was great as we went four for five on great bears including one that would potentially make all time Boone and Crockett. He was a true giant. We also got to enjoy a June 7th snowfall as two-to-three inches blanketed the bear woods. The week overall had been cold, but the hunting made up for it. The north woods of Saskatchewan fed our souls and

satisfied our appetite for adventure. We heard the mournful howl of wolves, and the haunting cry of loons. We all experienced the beauty of the bears and got to see them as few have. I will hunt bears from treestands again someday. But on this hunt, I cherish the opportunity to be up close and eye to eye.

Paul Sperl



June tracking snow.



No ground shrinkage on this great bear! Congratulations, Paul!

Pope and Young Update by Scott Rehak

While returning from a recent trip to Africa, I was visiting with Marty Liesener about the how easy to was to pack and transport needed equipment to Africa and back. I took the trip with a double (compound) bow case, borrowed from Kent Reiersen and my day pack. In the bow case, I had two Bear T/D bows, a #52 and a #47, both were 56" in length. I had two tubes of Grizzly Sticks, along with 21 Maasai 200 grain broadheads and three field points. Along with spare strings (stretched and nocked) for each bow, nock points, nocks, rug rests, replacement latch for Bear T/D, nock pliers, bow square, extra bow stringer, flashlight and headlamp. I also had an extra two sets of clothing: vest, light down jacket and brimmed hat, in addition to miscellaneous gear. All this, along with the bow case, weighed 49 pounds. My day pack contained what I needed for traveling along with my low-top hunting boots and camp shoes.

I can't imagine what it would be like to travel to Africa in 1925. That's what Saxton Pope and Art Young did in February of that year. It culminated with Art Young shooting a lion on August 8th... Six months later! Marty and I had a one-hour, 2-hour and a 15 ½ hour flight to get to Johannesburg, South Africa. Pope and Young took a ship – days, weeks or months – just getting there. The hunt lasted four months in what is now Kenya and Uganda. The equipment list must have been incredible, the number of bows, arrows, broadheads, clothing and gear for six months. Along with the lion, they shot numerous African game including wildebeest, eland, waterbuck, reedbuck, and Thompson's gazelle, as well as geese, rabbits, hyrax, and guinea hens – enough meat to feed the camp for the entire trip. What an adventure for sure!

Fred Bear made multiple trips to Africa also, and he did fly – not at 650 MPH, but he did fly. Again, all the gear,



cameras and supporting crew must have been overwhelming to someone who made the trip with just a double bow case. He also shot multiple animals, culminating with shooting an elephant and killing him with one shot. Most of Fred's hunts can be found on the internet, YouTube or on DVDs.

If you're interested in an African hunt, there are numerous NDBA members that have made the trip. All would be able to give you reliable advice on where to start your adventure.

The latest news from the Pope & Young Club:

The 2027 convention will be held April 8th through 10th in Little Rock, Arkansas. If this interests you, become a member and join our ever-increasing group that attends these conventions every two years.

Another announcement is that Pope & Young is now accepting javelina into the record books. If you've harvested a javelina, still have the skull and want to have it scored to be entered, contact the numerous Official Measurers in North Dakota or surrounding states. Official Measurers can be located on the P&Y official website.

Good luck to everyone this fall! When you're successful, please share photos and stories via *The Archer's Voice*.

Keep 'em straight, keep 'em sharp!

Scott Rehak



NORTH DAKOTA BOWHUNTERS FOUNDATION

The NDBA Bowhunters Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)3 Foundation organized exclusively for charitable, scientific and educational purposes. The purpose of the organization is to provide funding for activities which advance the sport of archery, promote the cause of education, encourage community betterment, and assist people to learn more about Archery and Bowhunting in North Dakota.

WHY GIVE TO THE FOUNDATION?

- To preserve, promote, and protect the archery and bowhunting heritage in North Dakota.
- To promote youth archery and bowhunting activities like the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP).
- To support bowhunter education.
- Conservation and habitat.
- To advance and support local archery organizations and facilities for all of North Dakota.

HOW CAN I GIVE TO THE FOUNDATION?

- Make a gift of cash.
- Memorial gifts.
- Designate the Foundation as a full or partial beneficiary on an IRA, life insurance, or annuity.
- Donate goods, real estate, or other investment assets.
- Remember the Foundation in your will.
- Make a donation online.

If you prefer to mail your donation, download our donation form, print it out, fill it in, then mail it to:

NDBA
PO Box 374
Bismarck, ND 58502



NDBA Foundation Board of Directors

President: Steve Rehak
(701) 572-8098
srehak@wil.midco.net

Vice President: Jeff Grewe
(701) 237-9422
Jeffrey.grewe@axa-advisors.com

Secretary: Gary Simonson
(701) 729-5993
nodakarcher@gmail.com

Treasurer: Kent Reiersen
(701) 572-2200
lawhuntr@gmail.com

Directors: Courtney Jenner
(701) 799-4049
courtney.wilhelm@rocketmail.com

The application for the NDBA Foundation grant can be found at www.ndbowhunters.org/resources.

NDBA Big Game award applies to ANY big game harvested with a bow

There has been some misunderstanding about our NDBA Big game award patch. We want everyone who, while following fair chase standards, has harvested any big game animal in any location. This is not meant to be a contest for large antlered big game. It is meant to recognize the significant effort and skill it takes to harvest any big game animal with a bow. Think how great it would be to see all the photos of game that was harvested over the last year by NDBA members being played on a slide show. It would include kids with first deer, experienced hunters with a doe they harvested, moose, elk, antelope – bucks and does alike. While we all like big horns the fact is that many of us harvest does, cows and small bucks and bulls and we need to recognize that feat. We need to keep the focus on the fun and enjoyment of the hunt not just the quest for big horns. So please send in your big game application for each and every big game animal you have harvested the past year. For multiple animals of the same species you will receive a big game patch award with mention of the additional animals of that species. We would really appreciate a digital photo be sent with the application. Let's see a bunch of those applications and photos come in.

North Dakota Bowhunters Association Big Game Award Application

Name: _____ Address: _____
(please print)
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Species Taken: _____
Sex: _____ Date Killed: _____ Locality: _____

Have you received or applied for an NDBA award or a big game patch for this species for the calendar year in which this animal was taken? YES NO

AFFIDAVIT

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION GIVEN IS TRUE AND CORRECT AND THAT THIS ANIMAL WAS TAKEN UNDER THE RULES OF FAIR CHASE.

Signature

Date

Rules of Fair Chase

Any animal taken under any of the following circumstances **shall not be considered** taken under the Rules of Fair Chase:

- 1. Helpless in or because of deep snow
- 2. Helpless in water
- 3. Helpless on ice
- 4. Helpless in a trap
- 5. While confined behind inescapable fences, such as game farms, etc.
- 6. In defiance or violation of game laws or out of season
- 7. By "Jack Lighting" or shining at night
- 8. From any powered vehicle or powered boat
- 9. Any other method considered unsportsmanlike by NDBA, or the Pope & Young Club.

Send application to: NDBA · PO Box 374 · Bismarck, ND 58502

**Application must be postmarked before February 15
Scores/documentation must be attached to Application**

YOU MUST BE A CURRENT MEMBER AND A MEMBER IN THE YEAR THE ANIMAL WAS TAKEN.

North Dakota Bowhunters Association "Once In A Lifetime" Award Application

Name: _____ Address: _____
 (please print)

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Sex: _____ Date Killed: _____ Locality: _____

Have you received or applied for an NDBA award or a big game patch for this species for the calendar year in which this animal was taken? YES NO

Species Taken: Moose Elk Bighorn Sheep

AFFIDAVIT

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION GIVEN IS TRUE AND CORRECT AND THAT THIS ANIMAL WAS TAKEN UNDER THE RULES OF FAIR CHASE.

Signature _____ Date _____

Rules of Fair Chase

Any animal taken under any of the following circumstances **shall not be considered** taken under the Rules of Fair Chase:

1. Helpless in or because of deep snow
2. Helpless in water
3. Helpless on ice
4. Helpless in a trap
5. While confined behind inescapable fences, such as game farms, etc.
6. In defiance or violation of game laws or out of season
7. By "Jack Lighting" or shining at night
8. From any powered vehicle or powered boat
9. Any other method considered unsportsmanlike by NDBA, NFAA, or the Pope & Young Club.

Send application to: NDBA · PO Box 374 · Bismarck, ND 58502

**Application must be postmarked before February 15
 Scores/documentation must be attached to Application**

YOU MUST BE A CURRENT MEMBER AND A MEMBER IN THE YEAR THE ANIMAL WAS TAKEN.



Grant Request/Application [Applications deadline is June 1]

NDBA Bowhunter's Foundation guidelines for grant requests

A. Monies appropriated shall be limited to projects that help preserve, protect and promote North Dakota's archery and bowhunting heritage including:

1. Archery equipment for youth archery programs
2. Materials to promote bowhunting
3. Acquiring property for clubs (land, 3-d targets, etc.)
4. Improving club property (land and/or buildings)
5. Any other programs, materials or equipment which promotes archery

B. Qualifications for appropriation of monies:

1. Must be an organization related to outdoor promotion and demonstrate the capability to carry out the proposed project
2. Need not be a 501C3 type entity but the project must not be for profit, but reasonable participation fees may be charged.

C. Process for requesting monies:

1. Submit an application upon a form approved by NDBA Foundation board of directors
2. Upon approval of the application for funds:
 - a. The funds must be used within one year of the funds being allocated.
 - b. Present an itemized bill or copy of bill showing items purchased for reimbursement within 12 months of the date the grant is approved.

D. Applications will be considered and granted in the sole discretion of the NDBA Bowhunter's Foundation Board of Directors.

E. Applications and supporting documents must be returned to: NDBA Bowhunter's Foundation, PO Box 374, Bismarck, ND 58502; Telephone: 701.222.3499.

Applicant Organization (Legal Name):	_____
Charter Date:	_____
Street Address:	_____
City/State/ZIP:	_____
Phone:	_____

E-mail:	_____
Web Site if any:	_____
President or Executive Director:	_____
Number of Members:	_____
Annual Budget:	_____
Organization's Major Funding Source(s):	

Organization's Geographical Focus:	

Program/Project Information related to this Grant Application/Request:

Program/Project Title: _____

Amount of this request: _____

Total Budget for this Program/Project: _____

Other funding sources: _____

Program/project time period: _____

Will program/project receive matching funds: _____

Grant Request contact person: _____

Title: _____

Email: _____

Direct Phone: _____

Brief description of the Program/Project _____

Brief description of who will benefit from the Program/Project:

Type of Grant Request: (check all that apply)

- Capital Endowment Annual/Recurring
 One-time Program/Project Operating Start-up

The undersigned hereby certify that the information contained in this Grant Application/Request is correct to the best of our knowledge. We understand that our acceptance of a grant requires our submission of the itemized costs and receipts for the completion of the program or project.

<hr/>	<hr/>
Signature of Authorized Grant Requestor	Date

Attachments

Please attach/enclose the follow items, labeling each with the appropriate letter and number to correspond with the items as listed below. If an item is not attached/enclosed, explain the reason.

Organization:

- O-1. Summary Budget for current fiscal year. Show major revenue and expense categories; in particular, significant sources of revenue including grant commitments and anticipated grants from other sources.
- O-2. Names and addresses of governing board members.

Program/Project related to this Grant Application/Request:

- P-1. Description of the Program/Project, including problem or issue being addressed, specific goals/objectives, measurements (how success will be determined), timeline, geographical focus, and number of children that will be impacted or affected. Not to exceed one page.
- P-2. Program/Project Budget, including revenues if any and expenses. If funding sources in addition to the requested grant are in place or being sought, please specify.
- P-3. Publicity. While publicity of the NDBA Bowhunter's Foundation and its grant is not necessary for a grant to be made, the Foundation is interested in knowing what could/would be done to promote the program/project, the grant and the Foundation's involvement to create greater awareness of the Foundation. Examples of publicity might include acknowledgement on a web site, at special events, in a news release, and in a newsletter or other publications.

NDBA Scholarship

Applicant Name: _____

Mailing Address (through May): _____

Mailing Address (June-August): _____

Telephone (through May): _____ Telephone (June-August): _____

Email: _____

Name of Hometown Newspaper: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Address: _____

Current Grade: _____ Projected Graduation Date: _____

Grade Point Average: _____ Class Position (numerical position out of total number): _____

College/University expected to attend: _____

Have you been accepted to above college/university? _____

Year and month studies expected to start: _____ Major intended to pursue: _____

Are you a senior in High School or currently enrolled in an institution of higher education? Y or N

If so, what school are you currently attending/enrolled in?

Are you a current member of NDBA? Y or N How long have you been a NDBA member? _____

(Name – if under a family member first and last): _____

Please attach a separate sheet for the following:

1. What extra-curricular and co-curricular activities (school, community, church, etc.) have you participated in?

NDBA Scholarship

2. What is your objective in going to college/trade school?
 3. Write a paragraph revealing what you consider important basic facts to help a beginner archer?
 4. In what ways could you help promote archery in the future? Describe your participation within NDBA in the past.
 5. Please enclose a shooter's resume or use the space below (additional pages are acceptable) to tell us:
 - How you started in archery and when?
 - Awards you have won.
 - Top scores you have shot in various rounds/archery disciplines (3-D, field, 300, etc.)
 - Your participation in NDBA tournaments.
 - Your participation in NDBA events.
 - Your hunting experiences within archery.
 - Your future objectives in archery.
- Attached to this scholarship, include one academic and one personal character reference.

My signature assures that all materials offered within this scholarship application is accurate and correct.

Applicant's Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Application deadline: February 15.

Mail to:

NDBA

Attn: Scholarship Committee

PO Box 374

Bismarck, ND 58502

Amount of scholarship award is \$500.



North Dakota Bowhunters Association State Club Charter Agreement

Club Name: _____

Club Mailing Address: _____

Upon being chartered and affiliated with the North Dakota Bowhunters Association, we hereby agree to support the principles of and abide by the rules, regulations, procedures and policies adopted by the North Dakota Bowhunters Association.

An Archery Club having a minimum of five (5) members belonging to the NDBA may be chartered

**PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE ALL INFORMATION
NEEDED BELOW:**

**LIST A MINIMUM OF 5 MEMBERS IN YOUR
CLUB THAT ARE CURRENT NDBA MEMBERS**

President	
phone	
email	
Secretary	
phone	
email	
Club Website	

The NDBA Charter fee of \$50 must accompany this application

Amount enclosed _____

Signed _____

Date _____

Position _____

**Return with payment to :
NDBA / PO Box 374 / Bismarck, ND / 58502**

2025 Chartered Clubs

Area 1

Missouri Basin Bowmen
Box 305
Williston, ND 58802-0305
www.missouribasinbowmen.com

McKenzie County Sportsman's Club
2306 121X Ave. NW
Watford City, ND 58854

Area 2

Souris Valley Bowmen
Box 1562
Minot, ND 58702
www.freewebs.com/sourisvalleybowmen

Velva Wildlife Club
4320 Trappers Lane #17
Velva, ND 58790
(701) 240-3690

Area 3

Turtle Mountain Archery Club
502 Shepherd's Hill Drive
St. John, ND 58369
(701) 244-5225
www.shretreat.org

Area 5

Roughrider Archers
Box 1942
Dickinson, ND 58602
(701) 227-0810
www.roughriderarcher.com

Area 6

Buffalo Valley Archers
1122 Expansion Dr.
Hazen, ND 58545

Nishu Bowmen
Box 509
Bismarck, ND 58502-0509
www.nishubowmen.com

Oliver County Archers
Box 1174
Center, ND 58530
(701) 226-1860

Area 8

Sandhills Archery Club
3001 Charyl Ave. NW
West Fargo,
ND 58078



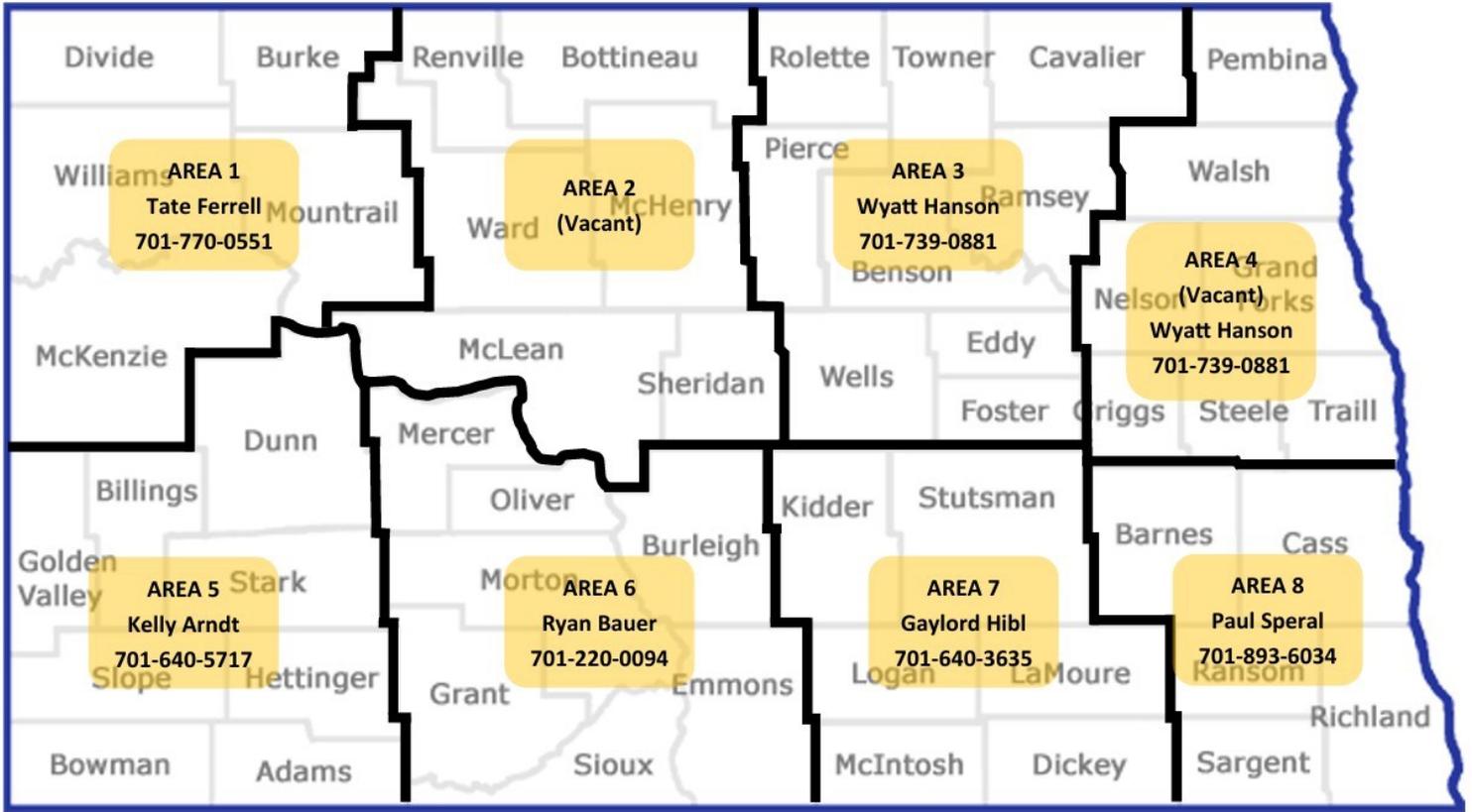
MEMBERSHIP
Join the ranks of those working for the betterment of our North Dakota Archery and Bowhunting Opportunities. Your membership is extremely valued.

Affiliated Archery Clubs:

Please send a flyer of your shoot dates for our calendar and we will do our best to promote your event! Flyers can be sent to:
northdakotabowhunters@gmail.com.



The North Dakota Bowhunters Association
Area Distribution Map



Please remember that all submitted photos of animals must be tagged in accordance with state regulations where the animal was harvested. Trophy photos are not limited to hunts within North Dakota.

***Note: Tagging requirements are not consistent across all states and provinces.**

The next issue of “*The Archers Voice*” is coming up and we would love to have your archery stories and pictures to share!

We are also looking for your hunting stories — and it doesn’t have to be a long masterpiece. We can even help iron it out if it’s rough around the edges!

Please send articles and photos to northdakotabowhunters@gmail.com.

North Dakota Bowhunters Association
Box 374
Bismarck, ND 58502-0374

Remember to change your address if you have moved so you continue to receive The Archer's Voice in the mail!

Preserve, Protect, and Promote

The NDBA is a group of dedicated archers working to improve and protect the rights and privileges of bowhunters and to promote and expand the sport of archery in North Dakota.

