

# The Minnesota Bowhunter

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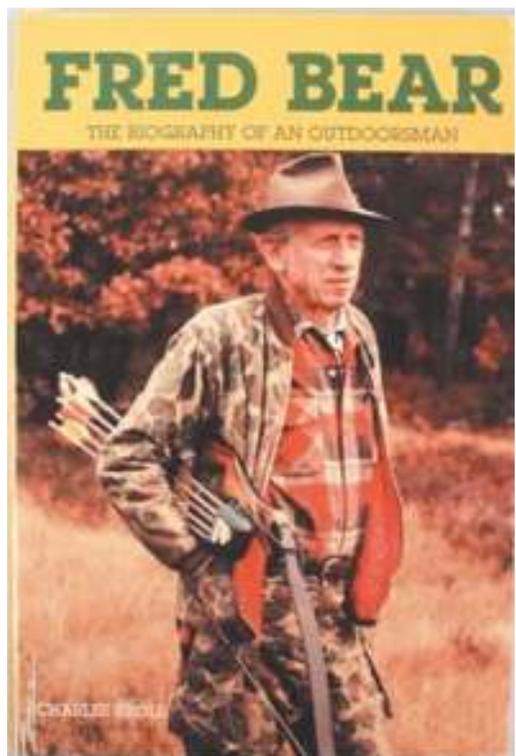
## From the President

**M**ost of us watch the news on a regular basis, and we all walk away affected in a different manner. Some of us don't understand. Some watch and are happy, and some watch and are saddened or upset. Many who are moved talk about their feelings. A smaller set of those people vow to act on those feeling to initiate change.

If you are one of those who watches and cares about bowhunting in Minnesota, you should consider joining MBI. Our group was formed in 1946 to promote and protect bowhunting in Minnesota. Its relevant.

We live in a less than perfect nation that happens to be the best place in the world to call home. And we have the ability to change that world. Bowhunting can be better in Minnesota. Drop me an email if you want to help make it happen, or better yet jump on the website and attend one of our bi weekly meetings. These meetings are something new we are going to try for awhile to see what shakes out. Watch the website and Facebook page for the whens and wheres, and I hope to see you there.

Brooks Johnson





## Time is of the Essence

This time each year I look at the calendar to plan out when I can get into my treestand. And each time, I realize how hard it's going to be. Between my work schedule, work travel, now the kids active schedules and my wife's events it's tough to find the time to sit in a treestand. While not missing out on family time. The one thing that keeps me sane is that I know I'm not the only one struggling with the schedule. Those who say they don't are few and far between. But I guess that's what make me appreciate the treestand, the woods and enjoy being in the moment in the woods because I know it's precise but thankfully not few and far between. And as you will see in the coming pages I am more and more appreciative of technology. I am fortunate to have a profession in which I work from home and to that end, work in the outdoor industry. So my typical day consists of talking hunting, fishing, sport shooting and various other outdoor activities. I have a large geography and we all know work doesn't stop just because you aren't in the office. Thus, many times I have answered emails and text messages from the treestand thanks to my smartphone. Well, that is if I sit in my stand location that gets cell signal:) However, there are the moments when I leave the phone in the truck and hit the stand because honestly the quiet, scenic and therapeutic surroundings of the woods is what I truly need.

Even though I may not get in the tree as often as I like, it doesn't mean that I don't love bowhunting any less or pay attention to the varying options before me to get in the woods even more. I live in the southern suburbs of Minneapolis, but that doesn't mean I have limited hunting options—I just have to drive a little to get to the farms I hunt. I combat a lot of this by putting in for a variety of lottery hunts. Hunts like Metro Bowhunters Resource Base (MBRB), Camp Ripley and locally the Vermillion River Management Refuge bowhunt. There are many great reasons about these hunts. The biggest for me is that it helps me (and my family) completely plan out my hunts for the fall—well, if I get drawn that is. The other reason is the drive can be a little less and the opportunity at seeing deer are increased as populations in these places are typically pretty high.

So when you are feeling like you just aren't in the stand as much as you are wanting, know that there are many of us like you. Make the most of your time in the woods and if nothing else—check MBI out on Facebook and let's chat about hunting to pass the time.

In the mean time, happy hunting, stay in touch and shoot straight.

Matt Johnson  
Editor



Turkeys in SD?

## Importance of a D-Loop

I was at VaporTrail Archery the other day and watched them tie in a D Loop. Its a simple trick everybody should know, or be able to access on their phone in case you have a problem in the field. Put some extra D Loop string in your archery pack so you can have it ready if you need it. Check out the video in the below QR code and learn the basics on tying a D Loop to your bowstring.



## Technology in Hunting

There is no doubt that Fred Bear would look at today's bowhunting world and shake his head. I never knew the man personally but I know he would shake his head at where things are today. Now I'm sure plenty of you would say there are many things in today's bowhunting world are worthy of this reaction. Well, let's just focus on technology as it has forever changed how we bowhunt, heck how we live our lives for that matter. The above piece serves as a quick reminder of how part of that has changed, If you don't already have a smartphone, chances are you will in the next year. Today's world many hunters use a phone to check the temps, wind direction and radars before heading to the treestand or ground blind. Heck, you can even download an app to give you the best times of day to see deer movement—and that's not including the multiple trail cam pics you have likely taken that were beamed from the camera to your computer or smartphone. Now I work in the digital world for my professional life and I'm a tech guy at home as well. As much as I love the technology for how it makes so many things easier—I scream at it for when it doesn't work the way I want it. But because of this technology it allows many folks like myself be able to balance that family and hunting scenario that we strive to come each fall.

Now you couple that with how the equipment we use today is made faster, stronger and more efficiently than Mr. Bears (original) bows you have to smile a big smile. Thanks to technology we have some pretty bad ass bows—recurve, traditional or compound—that has allowed so many more people get involved in archery than ever before.

So the next time you step into the woods with your rangefinder, HD glass bino's, smartphone, carbon fiber arrows, plastic fletchings, sub-4lb compound bow and the sight with high glow fiber optic threads—think about the reaction that Fred Bear would have for you should you walk up on him.



*Technology has  
forever  
changed the  
way we  
approach  
hunting*



## MBI at Game Fair 2013

MBI did “double-duty” at the Game Fair back in August. It hosted, along with Rapids Archery Club, the usual kid’s archery shoot, and once again provided attendees to the Fair the opportunity to test their trap skills with bow and arrow. But this year we ramped up the level and added more bows, in particular Genesis bows to give a little more Umph to the arrows.

Hundreds of youths shot arrows at their favorite animal targets over the two weekends. Rapids & MBI provided the guidance for the kids and as-

sisted them in launching arrows – the first time for many. The archery shoot is a fundraising event for both MBI and the Rapids club. Back again this year was MBI’s aerial target which gave folks a fun archery challenge - shooting at foam disks launched from the aerial machine using light-weight recurves & Genesis bows with flu-flu arrows. This was a big hit and drew in many people who had never shot a bow before. It was as much fun for the spectators as it was for the participants. And as you can see, age didn’t discriminate who wanted a shot. Nor as you can see below, was it just little kids shooting a bow for the first time. It was great seeing so many getting their chance to shoot for the first time.



*MBI ,Rapids  
Archery Club &  
volunteers team  
up to work the  
Game Fair  
again in 2013.*

Game Fair also provided MBI the opportunity to host a booth to meet fellow bowhunters and archers to discuss issues that affect our sport, sign up new members, and sell some merchandise. The annual MBI raffle for a Genesis bow once again was there that went to a very excited young lad. Special thanks go to Rapids Archery Club for all their hard work and to the MBI members that helped staff the event.



## Sherburne Wildlife Refuge

The Sherburne Wildlife Refuge opened in 1965. The refuge is located less than an hour north of the Twin Cities. The refuge is celebrated both for its wildlife and the extraordinary opportunities provided to visitors. The upland habitats are dynamic, ranging from grasslands to oak savanna to forest. These are interspersed with a variety of wetland and river habitats ranging from sedge meadow to deep water marsh. The refuge is designated as a state Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society. Today, visitors may still discover the excitement that might have been felt over 100 years ago, as early pioneers stepped out of the "Big Woods" and onto the edge of Minnesota's magnificent tallgrass prairie.

Wild turkey have become very abundant in the refuge, and last April, we were able to secure limited access to hunt bring both youth, and handicapped hunters into the refuge to chase spring turkeys.

My first sit in the refuge was a memorable one, with Doug Bermel taking a 2 year old tom with his crossbow - his first. (yes MBI supports the use of crossbows by the physically disabled). It was a classic turkey hunt, with lots of gobbling, and the angry striking our jake decoy before he met the broadhead. You can watch the hunt on MBI's website, [www.mnbowhunters.org](http://www.mnbowhunters.org).

Next spring I will be taking 7 lucky kids into the refuge to try and get their spring birds. These kids earned their shot, by volunteering a day at Game Fair to help us in our fundraising efforts. Wish them luck, and I thank them for their help.

If you have never visited the Refuge, come on out Saturday October 5th for the annual wildlife festival. MBI will be running a youth shoot where kids of all ages can try shooting a bow and arrow free of charge. Details are below-

Saturday, October 5 - 10:00am to 3:00pm  
Wildlife Festival - Our annual fall celebration of wildlife, featuring author, and wildlife photographer, Sparky Stensaas! Live birds, horse-drawn wagon rides, bonfire, nature crafts, bird education, wildlife discovery, Eagle's Nest Nature Store, silent auction and food. Activities are free. Events south of the Old School House on Co. Rd. 9.



*A Wildlife  
Refuge open  
to hunting.*



## Once in a Lifetime Mountain Goat Hunt

By

Earlier this summer I received a call from my cousin, Mark Nelson, with some great news. He had drawn a permit to hunt for Mountain Goats in his home state of Wyoming. In the past we had talked about what we might do if he ever drew a tag. I decided that since this would truly be a once in a lifetime hunt, that I would skip my usual trip to Wyoming to hunt Mule Deer and accompany him on his goat hunt acting as videographer, pack mule and grizzly bait. I am glad that I made that decision. On a scouting trip, Mark had located several groups of goats in his permitted area of NW Wyoming, east of Yellowstone Park and north of the town of Cody.

After meeting in Cody and getting some last minute supplies, we headed to a cabin north of Cody that Mark had permission to stay in for a couple of nights. We got settled in and planned to head out on a trailhead that lead into some rough country the next morning. We left his truck at the trailhead and made our way a mile or more through some thick cover at times. Both of us were armed with pepper spray and I also carried a .45 magnum pistol that Mark had on loan from a friend. If a grizzly suddenly charged I was ready to shoot Mark and then myself. We finally broke out of the cover and spent several hours glassing the rocky cliffs that ran along the river 1,000 ft below. Great scenery but no goats. Late that afternoon we took Mark's truck and circled around and came to the far end of the canyon. We took my 4 wheeler and traveled up a jeep trail to glass the same area from another direction. We finally spotted a Nanny and Kid on the side of a rock face. Mark had made his mind up to take only a male or Billy so we past them up. The next morning we traveled to another location on top of Bear Tooth Pass. We spotted some goats in an open meadow a mile or more off the highway but they appeared to be Nanny's and Kid's. Hiking far off the road in another direction we finally spotted a lone Billy in a remote canyon. Mark swung way around to get the wind right while I remained hidden in some rocks to give him hand signals and to video the action. As Mark was still approaching the animal, it got up and fed it's way downhill. Several other goats that we had not seen before also got up and started feeding in the canyon. By the end of the evening we had spotted 15 or so goats. Almost all of them were females with kids so we decided to try another area several miles away the next day since it was still early in the hunt.

We used a 4 wheeler to get several miles back into a remote lake and setup camp. Mark warned me that this was Grizzly country as well and had a solar powered electric fence that he setup around our tents. The fence would shock whatever touched the fence and set off an alarm as well. That afternoon he hiked to the far end of the lake and followed a river into some very rough country. The area did not allow us to see very well and we couldn't go any further because of some steep cliffs. No goats were seen so we headed back to camp through some thick pines. When we got back to camp just before dark we saw a bull moose feeding at the other end of the lake. The next morning we packed up camp and headed back to the area we had seen the goats in. My tent had lot's of ash on it from a fire north of Yellowstone National Park. We could see ash floating in the air and smell the smoke almost everywhere we were. The smoke in the air also made glassing for game difficult at times.

*I decided to skip my annual mule deer hunt to tag along on my cousin's WY mountain goat hunt.*

## Dream Goat Hunt—con't

That afternoon, Sunday August 18<sup>th</sup>, found us back on the Bear Tooth Pass. We hiked back to the canyon we had spotted goats in before. None were there so we moved around to glass the area. Later a large group came over a ridge and worked it's way into the canyon. We watched them slowly feeding toward us as we stayed hidden in the rocks. We were able to move closer when they dropped out of view. Mark spotted a nice Billy in the group that had separated himself from the others. He planned to approach him from above while I stayed back to again act as spotter and video the events. As Mark was moving in through a rocky draw a Nanny and Kid walked uphill and passed him about 20 yards away. The Billy he was after also moved uphill and across a snow field, then came toward me and bedded again on a rock shelf. Another large group ended up under a ledge further down the valley. Mark headed in that direction and came out on a ridge above them. Finally a Billy moved in just below Mark and he was able to get a 20 yard shot hitting him low in the chest. The goat ran a short distance and then bedded down. A few minutes later he got up and moved to a small rock ridge and bedded out of sight. We knew he was hit hard but these are tough animals. We circled around and came up to where we last saw him and he jumped up in front of us but then bedded again just 30 yards away. Mark eased up and put another arrow in him from 5 yards away and he had his goat. What a hunt. I was able to catch almost all the action on video. We returned to the vehicles and picked up our big packs and then went back and quartered the goat. We took the head and hide off in one piece as Mark plans to have a full body mount of this once in a lifetime trophy. Mark used a 50# Browning Recurve to take this goat. His arrows are carbon fiber tipped with 160 grain Grizzly Broadheads.

Mark was very lucky to draw a tag. The chances of getting drawn are very low and once drawn you do not get to apply again. It was well worth it to me to accompany Mark on this hunt. A hunt I will never forget. These goats are an amazing animal. Not extremely difficult to hunt but they are hard to find and hard to get to because of the remote and rough country that they live in.

Mark and —a hearty congratulations on a great trip from your MBI friends.



*“...there is a time period where they need to accept what has happened and learn how to deal with accepting help from others.”*



## First Day to the Last Day

By Kathy Strecker

It all started in 2011 while we were at the Pope and Young Convention in Rochester. One of the guys came up to me and said, "You need to find Doug and go talk to Duwane Adams about Coues Deer hunting in Arizona". They had just booked a hunt for that year with him. While we listen to Duwane talk about how he had figured out a way to be successful hunting the "Grey Ghost" over his lifetime we were sold. He said I don't have any openings until 2013 and we said, "Great, because that is the first year we don't have a hunt planned yet".

Time goes so fast and before I knew it the summer of 2013 was here. I shoot year round but I really put in the practice time this summer shooting my new Hoyt bow. We kept hearing about Coues Deer really jumping the string and I wanted to be prepared for the hunt. Doug is retired so he drove down to Arizona with all of our gear while I flew and had him pick me up at the airport in Phoenix. We drove down to Duwane's house located in a small town east of Tucson. We went and picked up our deer license and got our gear ready to go. We were able to set out a practice bale behind the motel and make sure nothing had changed on our bows.

*Great because that's the first year we don't have a hunt planned yet.*

The first morning came and the adrenaline was high like it always is for me on a new adventure. We had a light breakfast, grabbed our lunches and were in the truck heading towards the mountains. We drove so far and then we unload the Ranger, put our gear in the back and headed up the road. Their idea of a road and ours is a little bit different. We were driving up trails that you couldn't take a truck on. It was obvious that Duwane had done this a time or two. We got to the first stop and we walked in about 75 yards until we came upon the Double Bull Blind. The plan was to sit all day or until we got a deer and then give Duwane a call. We would be hunting water holes hoping for a deer to come in. My plan was to call Doug at 10:00 and 2:00 to see how things were going. We weren't sure if our radios would work since we were on opposite sides of the mountain. 10:00 came and I hadn't seen a deer yet. I called Doug to see how it was going and he said that he shot a buck 15 minutes ago and he saw it go down. What a great start to our hunt! I sat the rest of the day and only saw a doe. It started to rain about 4:00 and my first thought was, "This is not good to have rain when you are hunting a water hole".

I went out and hunted on days 2 and 3 and we had quite a bit of rain both days. It wasn't just rain there, was a lot of thunder and lightening. For some reason the thunder seems a lot louder when you are sitting up top of a mountain. During those 2 days I saw a doe, a fawn, a fox and 2 javalinas. Like I said before it doesn't work well to sit at a water hole when it is raining.



## Coues Deer—con't

On day 4 the skies cleared and I saw my first deer at 7:00. I thought, "Now this is more like it". I saw 17 deer that day and 2 of them were bucks that I was never able to get a shot at. The last doe of the day stuck around for 20 minutes giving me so many different angles for shots. It was like she was teasing me because she knew I was waiting for a buck.

Day 5 and my last day came and it was going to be another clear and warm day. I had a good feeling after seeing 17 deer the day before. 9:30 rolled around and I hadn't seen a deer. I was sitting in the same blind that Doug sat in on the 1<sup>st</sup> day when he shot his buck. At quarter to ten a doe and 2 bucks came in. The smaller of the bucks came in close and was acting all squirrely and jumping all over the place. The larger buck stayed back behind 25 yards and was quartered towards me. I needed him to give me a better angle and have the smaller buck settle down. The smaller buck finally moved off to the side behind some trees while the larger buck came in to 16 yards and stood broadside. I waited for him to move his leg forward and I drew my bow. Duwane had told me to shoot low due to the deer jumping the string. I let my arrow fly and it hit right where I was looking. The buck spun and took off running. I saw the exit hole and noticed that it was low but I still felt confident. I waited a half an hour and gave both Doug and Duwane a call. I'm not sure which of them was more excited. They showed up in an hour and I had already found my arrow. I said it went between the bush and that cactus. I can honestly say I never say cactus in Minnesota. We followed the blood trail and the deer had only gone 50 yards. What a way to end a great hunt. We took our pictures, loaded the buck and took the long way back in the Ranger. It was great to see the country on the trip down. Arizona has a lot more wild life than most of us think of and their bow season for deer starts in August. How can you go wrong? My buck's green score looks like it will make the Pope and Young Record book. If anyone were ever interested in hunting Coues deer I would highly recommend Duwane Adams at 520-358-4995.

*Congratulations Kathy and Doug from your fellow MBI members!*



*I had a good feeling after seeing 17 deer the day before.*



*Make it a kill shot. Put pressure on yourself. Convince yourself your 3D target is a 150" class 12 pointer at 17 yards and you've got one opportunity to send an arrow right through his heart.*

## A Hunter's Paradise is for sale.

Fellow member Dwayne is filled with mixed emotions as he write this piece for the MBI Newsletter. After more than 25 years hunting this fabulous property near Lanesboro, MN, it's now up for sale. Worse yet, there is no way he admittedly can afford to buy it. The owner's husband passed away a year ago and she has decided to sell and move back to Rushford where they owned and operated a Mobil gas station/store for over 35 years. About six of them bowhunted the property for turkeys and deer and became good friends with the owners. The husband's passing was a great loss.

Dwayne decided that if he can't buy it then he would really like to give MBI members an opportunity to do so. Dwayne has nothing to gain from this except feeling good about helping a friend pursue her new life. The property is listed with Weiss Realty and the agent's name is Chad Garteski and his mobile phone number is 507-269-2742. Please call Chad if you're interested.

Below is some information from the real estate posting. More information and photos can viewed at: <http://www.weisschoice.com/property.php?ID=807>



I would be willing to provide information about the hunting if you have questions. You can email me at [Dwayne.Nelson@mnbowhunters.org](mailto:Dwayne.Nelson@mnbowhunters.org) Oh, here is a game camera photo of one of the bucks this year. And YES, the plan is to remove this deer from the property before the sale! :)



## MBI MEMBERSHIPS FOR MINNESOTA ARCHERY CLUBS

In case you didn't know, MBI offer's two types of memberships for archery clubs in Minnesota – 100% Clubs and Affiliated Clubs.

**100% Clubs:** 100% Club memberships are where all members of the Club are required by the Club to belong to a state archery organization. As a 100% Club member of MBI, an individual annual MBI membership for the Club members is \$15 (\$5 less than regular members). Also, the Club is granted one seat on MBI's Board of Directors.

**Affiliated Clubs:** Affiliated Club memberships are where all members of the Club are not required to belong to a state archery organization. As an Affiliated Club member of MBI, up to five Club officers are granted one-year memberships to MBI for a total membership cost of \$75.



Although MBI's primary focus is bowhunting, MBI knows how important the Clubs are to the success of bowhunting in Minnesota. We appreciate all that the Clubs do for archery in our state. If you belong to an archery club, please consider your club becoming either a 100% Club or Affiliated Club member of MBI. Visit <http://www.mnbowhunters.org> to become a member. We welcome your support.

## ATTENTION ALL ARCHERY SHOPS!

If you're an archery shop and free advertising sounds good to you, then consider becoming an MBI Booster. MBI offers a MBI Booster membership to any business for just \$50 per year. In return, your business gets one year's worth of free advertising



on MBI's website. Your ad will consist of your logo and a link to your shop's website. For more information, please send an email to [MBIPresident@gmail.com](mailto:MBIPresident@gmail.com) or go to <http://www.mnbowhunters.org> to become a member. MBI welcomes your support.

*Free Advertising  
for MBI Booster  
Archery Shops*



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Continuing the tradition...



Minnesota Bowhunters Inc. (MBI) is a statewide organization that has been representing, protecting, and promoting bowhunting since 1946. MBI is a non-profit organization registered with the IRS as a 501(c)3 and the State of MN. As a community of bowhunters our mission is to ensure that future generations of bowhunters will be able to enjoy the great sport of bowhunting as we have. It is with dedication and commitment to that end that the current board and membership devote our time and talents. It will only be with that same dedication of new and future generations of bowhunters that we will be able to