



Sylvan Archers Newsletter

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Next board meeting is March 7th 7 PM see website for more details

President's News.....

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Presidents Corner | 1 |
| It's all about Targets | 2 |
| How Traditional are you? | 2 |
| Just for Youth | 3 |
| 3-D Updates | 3 |
| Anything Archery | 4 |

Check the website for membership information and events updates.

www.sylvanarchers.org

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PRESIDENTS NEWS & VIEWS

As I write this we have our field governor and Hunt director attending the annual OBH meeting.

There will be several proposals presented to be discussed and voted on at that meeting. OBH is trying very hard to influence the decisions the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife makes where they affect the Bowhunters. This effort hasn't yielded too much in our favor over the past few years. Perhaps it's because ODFW is so entrenched that it doesn't have to respond to it's hunters concerns any more. We are in an era of micro-management for game animals. Each year it becomes more splintered and more regulated. It makes me wonder sometimes of these people ever get out into the field.

When was the last time you went bowhunting on the East side? Have you felt that the regulations in place are fair to you? Or do they favor rifle fee hunting on private land? Think about it , and re-read the so-called Hunt Opportunities only available through the draw system. You think you have it bad; I grew up in North Eastern Oregon. There isn't a single place where families can plan on a hunt year after year. It's all down to the luck of the draw. It's obvious that the people who set the rules didn't hunt that side of the state.

We have fewer hunters each year because of a couple of things; First it is too hard for people to be allowed to hunt their favorite area on an annual basis. That shoots down the idea of an elk camp or deer camp in an area you hunt regularly and learn by heart. How are you going to start that tradition with your children

and friends if you are not allowed to enter unless you " draw" A TAG?

Secondly, look at the number of tags sold for both doe deer and cow elk. I was always taught that without the females, you don't have fawns or calves. Perhaps the new biology these folks seem to practice doesn't rely on the female of the species.

Don't get me wrong, I know that in some areas we need to reduce does and cows to enable the land to carry the rest of the herd. But I haven't seen that type of logic being used except as lip service to excuse more tags being sold **BY THE THOUSANDS! REDUCED FEMALES, REDUCED HERDS.** Perhaps they really want to get the herds down to where they can manage them from the office.

I know this is a little harsh, but sometimes we as hunters need to really think about the process we are participating in and come to some real conclusions that will affect the long run.

A good start would be for all hunters to refuse to participate in the draw process. If we need to reduce the number of does or cows by a certain percent.....then randomly assign those opportunities to all of those that purchased tags for that species. Now that would be a drawing worthwhile!

I hope that OBH can begin to pull the bowhunters together on hunting issue that are important; and I hope they will reach out to the Oregon Hunters Association and work in a coordinated manner to actually make an impression on the ODF&W.

One can always hope.....

Enough about this, we have an issue that the board has had to address. We have a rule that requires you to keep your dog on a leash at the range. We need to enforce it. We have had too many instances of loose dogs interfering with other shooters. That's a safety issue. That is why the leash rule was made over twenty years ago. Please be responsible and think of the other people. KEEP YOUR DOG ON A LEASH.

(Please refer to the [range rules and guidelines](#) you agreed to when you got your membership and keep the range safe for all.)

Thank You.

Watch the shoot calendar, we have events coming up pretty soon. Take the time to participate and have some fun.

Our hunt director will be calling a work party in April to re-set and repair the 3-d roving course.

This is the most popular course on the range. I suppose that should bring out a record number at the work party. I'll cook you another good lunch if you show up. I'm torn between doing smoke-roasted turkey or my "yet to become famous" pulled pork. Hmmm. I think maybe.....oh well, you guys can e-mail me and cast your vote on lunch. I'm just the cook, I shouldn't have to make decision too.

Enjoy yourselves folks.

ALLEN STOVER

President

It's All About Targets!

Viva Las Vegas and Viva Sylvan's own Mark Eaves! Mark took 1st place in his flight "Freestyle Unlimited" in Vegas. He shot score of 900/900 for 3 days and 72 x's. Congratulations!

Check out the OBH website for tournament results for the state indoor. Congratulations to our own newsletter contributor, Laurie Robinson who took first place and set a new state record in the traditional category. Nice work Laurie! And to our own Mike Brown who took 1st place and set a new state record in Bare Bow! Congratulations Mike!

Archery Fun Fact:

From which characteristic does the recurve bow derive its name?

Answer:

The limb, the ends curve forward.



How Traditional are you?.....

Traditional at the state tournament: Shoot like a girl

"Well, go out and recruit some competition," my coach Mike Brown said last spring when I was despairing that I had almost no women to compete against in the traditional category at the NFAA state tournaments run by the Oregon Bowhunters. I have three state championships now, between indoor and out -- and to win those I faced one woman, one time. People congratulate me on my championships, and I have to say "Yes, but..." When I tell them, they laugh.

I've been trying on the recruitment front. (Hey women, want to try it? Free mentoring! It's not that hard! Call me!)

And it warms my heart to see Syklar Atkinson, 15, of Newberg with record-breaking scores and much dedication shooting traditional at state in the young adult barebow category. She's a name to watch. And Marianne Itkin, an archery coach in Portland who sports a Sylvan Archers patch, also registered for state in

what would have been her first tournament, admitting that she was "terrified." I egged her on to enter. The morning she was to shoot at the tournament in Bend on Feb. 23, she was walking across Highway 97 to buy some Advil, slipped on ice, slammed her head into the pavement, got knocked out and got a ride in an ambulance. That's a hellish start to a tournament career, all right, but she's got grit (along with, now, a case of vertigo). I blame myself because I should have mentioned that I had ibuprofen in my hotel room.

Eleven men shot in the adult traditional category this year. Feeling cocky, seeking competition, I sort of announced at one point that my goal was to beat all the men's scores. I like the Sherwood Shoot that Sylvan Archers runs in the summer because the results are compiled regardless of gender. But the (self-imposed) pressure got to me on the first day of state this year and I missed the target entirely twice -- something that's happened just once before in five months. Archery is funny -- the more you want the high score and

the win, the more it slips away. The trick is to not care.

I was really happy, though, to see the strong men's field in traditional this year. John Wainwright of central Oregon moved to within eight minutes of an archery range and stepped up his game, big-time, to take first place. He got an exciting challenge from Steve Angius, who works at Archers Afield and first started shooting a recurve in September. Steve had one end with all five arrows in the X. John Dull of Portland came in third. All three of those guys have hit super-high scores in practice -- in the 270s for a round out of a perfect possible score of 300. It's going to be fun to see how high they can take it in future tournaments.

"It's a long path," as Mike Brown says. And when I despair of the long path for the women's competition, I cheer myself up by watching the kids compete with traditional bows. The girls are awesome.

Laurie Robinson
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Just for Youth..... with Mike Brown

Oregon Bow Hunters recently conducted a state indoor NFAA archery tournament. There are no qualifying rounds for the tournament. Therefore, first time tournament shooters are welcome to shoot. However, it is not just first time shooter's that get confused in what bow class they should register.

Mike has attached a guide on how to register for the appropriate bow class to the Archery Instruction tab on the Sylvan web site. There is a chart at the end to help you determine your bow class. How to register for the appropriate bow class at a NFAA tournament [Click Here.](#)

Sylvan archers will offer archery lesson this summer. The basic class is Mon-

day. Intermediate and advance are on Thursday evenings. Lesson are from 6:30 to 8:00. The cost is \$5:00 for non members and free for members.

Also, get your archery instructor certification. Basic Instruction is and 9 hour class on 13 April in Corvallis and 11 May in Canby. Intermediate instruction is a 9 hour class on 12 May in Canby.

See the Sylvan archers web link fliers for details. <http://www.sylvanarchers.org/instruction.htm>.

3-D updates..... With Dave Osler

We will be setting up a work party this month, to help get the range ready for our open houses coming up in April and May! Outdoor archery season is upon us and we want to have the range in tip top shape for our upcoming shoots!

Turkey season is coming soon, so ask Dave to put out a couple of turkey targets in the broadhead pit so you can practice!

Just in case you shoot your limit, feel free to donate one to the club and we can cook it up to feed the masses at the work parties!

Some of our fellow clubs have 3D shoots coming up:

May 18-19th

Annual 3D fun shoot

Ft. Yamhill State Park

Christian Bowhunters of NW OR

www.cbnwo.org

Flyers are posted at the range and on their own club websites.



Anything Archery.....

ARE YOU BEING HEARD?

There was no snow on the ground but it was bitterly cold as the sun majestically crowned that morning. Birds flitted from tree to tree in search of the meager winter rations that would sustain their very life, but did so with the exuberant thrill of one with not a care in the world. Somewhere to the East, a chipmunk barked noisily her disapproval of whatever passerby had wandered too close to her nest. The pines popped in the direct gaze of the morning sun and seemed to stretch as if coming out of a deep slumber. Though bone chillingly cold, the air was crisp and clean and carried with it no trace of the stagnation found in the city. The mild peace of the morning was broken suddenly by the crack of a limb broken under the hoof of the ruler of this land. With all the majesty and grace of a reigning king marched the commander of his herd. Followed closely by his harem, this monarch proudly placed his steps claiming his ownership on all that he saw with every advance. His antler crowned head was held high and his dark mane hung like royal garb.

I was only 12 years old as I stood next to my dad that morning and I can still remember (some two decades later) nearly every detail. My father's eyes scanned constantly and what few moves he made were cautious and calculated creating little to no impact on the world around him. I watched his every move, fascinated by the difference in his very person. In this moment, he wasn't the successful business owner, a good-humored golfer, or even the giving father and husband that everyone knew him as. No, he was a hunter! He was taking his place in the wild and his every sense was tuned to his surroundings. Then he tensed ... "There he is," he whispered. He lifted the well-worn 30-06 to his shoulder and drew a breath. With knots in my stomach I cringed and braced for the rifle's report.

A fire ignited in me that morning. A fire that has never, nor ever will be quenched. I am proud to say that I am following in my dad's footsteps. But please understand that I am not just referring to being a hunter. Though I am very proud to say I am a hunter, I am much prouder to say that I am passing on that heritage to my son and daughters! I am teaching the next generation of Whittaker's how to provide and survive. Even more than that, I am teaching them how to ensure that they will be able to pass it on to my grandchildren and beyond. I am teaching them that they MUST be heard by our elected officials because, that heritage is under fire.

Sorry ladies and gentlemen, it's time for me to get on my soapbox. I'm no historian nor am I a political expert but the writing is on the wall. Our society and the government officials that it has elected are working increasingly hard to demonize us as sportsmen and women. We are in the crosshairs now! Our hunting rights, our fishing rights, our trapping rights, even our right to bear arms are being threatened! Now without trying to influence anyone to my personal or political views I do wish to make one request. Take up the fight! We need to make our voices heard in Salem and in Washington. We cannot stand idly by as our rights and privileges as citizens of the United States of America are systematically stripped from this generation and generations to come. Write the letters to our representatives, support organizations who fight for the same things we believe in, and most important of all ... teach OUR children to do the same. If we apathetically stand by and do nothing, our heritage that has been passed on by so many fathers and mothers will die. We will suffocate in increased legislative dictation that is aimed at severely restricting our freedoms. We must not allow that to happen.

Please look into groups like Oregon Bow Hunters, Oregon Outdoor Council, Oregon Hunters Association, and the National Rifle Association. Please take the time to write to Salem and Washington and involve your children as you do. We, as men and women who are proud of passing on a heritage that we love, must be heard and must teach our children to do the same. The alternative is to do nothing allowing that heritage to pass into the catacombs of history. For our sake and for our children's sake, we must not allow that to happen.

Respectfully submitted:

Brent Whittaker

Sylvan Archer's Director of Hunting Games