



The Point



The official quarterly newsletter of the Bowhunter Rights Coalition
Fall 2005



We are a coalition of the nation's leading bowhunting organizations and communications firms that joined to combat a growing threat to bowhunting. The coalition united behind an initial U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance plan to mobilize bowhunters in defense of their sport.

We are proudly represented by our members and encourage other sportsmen to come on board.

National Members

*Bowhunter Magazine, Inc.
Bowhunting World Magazine
Bowsite.com
Intl. Bowhunting Org.
Natl. Bowhunter Ed. Fndn.
Natl. Field Archery Assn.
Pope & Young Club
Trail of the Sportsman
U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance*

Statewide Members

*IN Bowhunters Assn.
Lone Star Bowhunters Assn.
MD Bowhunter's Society
United Bowhunters of KY
WV Bowhunters Assn.
WI Bowhunters Assn.*

All Bowhunters Should Get *The Point*

The Humane Society of the United States and the Fund for Animals merged to become a mega anti-hunting organization on January 1, 2005. The organization, which will continue to be known as the Humane Society of the United States, will have over \$95 million to spend on efforts to end outdoor sports, and it has declared bowhunting a primary target.

The merger announcement has served as a wake up call. Bowhunting groups are reuniting under the Bowhunter Rights Coalition (BRC) to defeat what promises to be a powerful attack on our heritage from this monstrous anti-hunting group. To win,

we must continue to energize the vast grassroots network of bowhunters nationwide.

The U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance wants all bowhunters to get *The Point*. We provide this information so that you can keep apprised of issues that impact the sport. *The Point* provides important action alerts, bowhunting statistics and information about how to join the fight to protect your hunting heritage.

The anti's have brought the fight, now bowhunters must respond. If you are not already a BRC member, please join today. If you are, please review the information herein and encourage others to join in protecting what's right! →

New Jersey Bowhunters Want Longer Weekend Hunt

The New Jersey bowhunting community could have an extra day in the field if they make another push in support of companion bills that allow Sunday bowhunting.

Senate Bill 2475, introduced by Sen. Stephen Sweeney, D-Bridgeton, and AB 3736, introduced by Assemblyman Robert Smith, D-Turnerville, await floor votes in their respective houses in December. Each was approved in committee after New Jersey sportsmen campaigned in favor of the bills.

The U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance helped alert bowhunters about the bills and sent letters supporting Sunday bowhunting to New Jersey lawmakers.

Other groups leading the charge to gain an extra weekend hunting day include United Bowhunters of New Jersey, New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, New Jersey Outdoor Congress,

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Ladies Like Broadheads

→ According to the National Sporting Goods Association, women make up 9 percent of all bowhunters in the United States.

→ Last year, 431,000 women went bowhunting more than once.

→ The average age of female bowhunters is 41.6 years.

Restrictive Archery Bill Demonstrates Need for BRC

This year, bowhunters and archers learned a valuable lesson about the importance of a rapid response communications network when a restrictive archery bill slid through the Virginia legislature.

In March, Virginia lawmakers approved HB 2741, which allows counties to prohibit shooting a bow in heavily populated areas. The bill, introduced by Delegate John Reid, R-Richmond, advanced very quickly, allowing little time for sportsmen to educate legislators and the public about bowhunters' stellar safety record and the high ethical standards of the vast majority of archers.

Fortunately, a last minute amendment to HB 2741 added protections for bowhunters and archers. It exempts indoor shooting ranges and allows hunting on land parcels two acres and larger that are zoned for agricultural use.

The close call demonstrates the need for the Bowhunter Rights Coalition (BRC) and its rapid response sportsmen network. As the membership and momentum grow, the threat posed by bills like this can be averted. ➔

Efforts Underway to Lower Age Restrictions For New York Bowhunters

A New York bill that eases youth bowhunting restrictions has passed the Senate and awaits committee action in the Assembly.

Senate Bill 120, introduced by Sen. George D. Maziarz, R-Lockport, will reduce the minimum bowhunting age from 14 to 12 years old. It entitles youth ages 12 and over to hunt deer and bear during a special archery season as well as the regular season. The young hunters must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

Assembly Bill 1537, introduced by Assemblywoman Francine DelMonte, D-Niagara Falls, is a companion bill that awaits action in the Committee on Environmental Conservation.

Take Action! New York bowhunters should ask their senators



and assemblymen to support SB 120 and AB 1537. Explain that revising the age restriction will benefit the future of hunting. To contact your assemblyman or senator, call (518) 455-2800 or use the Legislative Action Center at www.ussportsmen.org. ➔

Bowhunters Know - It's All About the Kids

Lowering age restrictions and encouraging youth involvement in outdoor sports is critical to the future of America's hunting heritage. That is why the USSA and its partners have established the Families Afield Program.

Families Afield is being promoted across the country by the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance (USSA), National Wild Turkey Federation and the National Shooting Sports Foundation. Recent studies have shown that a properly mentored youth hunter is the safest hunter in the field, regardless of age.

Bowhunters across the nation should encourage legislators to adopt



provisions laid out by the Families Afield program that allow for lower hunting ages and encourage sportsmen to act as mentors.

For more information about Families Afield, call the USSA, (614) 888-4868. ➔

Bowhunters' Get a Handle on Hunter Harassment Headaches

Two anti's have been convicted of harassing and intimidating bowhunters.

On July 21, a jury found Frederick and Rosanne Shuger of Beverly Shores guilty of two counts of hunter harassment. Frederick was also convicted of intimidation. The couple claimed that Indiana's hunter harassment law, which is based on a draft model written by the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance, violated their rights to free speech. The prosecutor successfully argued that the First

Amendment does not give them the right to threaten sportsmen and disrupt legal hunting activities.

The Shugers were accused of harassing bowhunters by honking their horn and allowing their dog to bark in an admitted effort to disturb the deer. Frederick was accused of further confronting and threatening hunters Jeff Valovich and Jim Meyers.

Hunter harassment laws have been enacted in all 50 states and upheld in multiple court rulings. →

HSUS Targets Connecticut Bowhunt

Anti-hunters are trying to block a bowhunt proposed to reduce the deer population in a Connecticut community.

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) claims Ridgefield, Connecticut's Deer Committee "rushed to recommendations" when it suggested a bowhunt to reduce a skyrocketing deer herd on town-owned and state-owned lands. The nation's largest anti-hunting group got involved when committee member Gwen Thaxter wrote a report refuting the hunting recommendation.

The Deer Committee, appointed by the Ridgefield Board of Selectmen, compiled information about the town's deer herd from Nov. 2004 through June 2005. Its report concludes that deer overpopulation is a problem in the community and recommends the establishment of a bowhunt as a management tool. The Board has selected five representatives for a Deer Management Implementation Committee.

Tom Belote, Deer Committee co-chairman, expects the anti's to continue efforts to block the hunt.

"I expect opposition from animal rights advocates and extremists," said Belote. "They will likely try to block the implementation of committee recommendations and block the appointment of hunters to the Implementation Committee." →

BRC Spokesman Addresses Anti-Hunting Threat at Bowhunting Summits

Leading bowhunting organizations from across the nation came together twice this year to discuss a major threat to the sport - the anti-hunting movement.

U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance Senior Vice President Rick Story in April addressed representatives from major state bowhunting groups at the Bowhunting Summit in Springfield, Missouri. He explained that anti-hunters had announced intentions to target bowhunting for extinction and that the Bowhunter Rights Coalition (BRC) had been launched to counter the attack.

In August, Story spoke again at the National Bowhunting Summit in Minneapolis. He told bowhunters about the 3,100 plus animal rights groups in America that have a combined annual income of over \$300 million to spend on campaigns to ban hunting. He reiterated that a major goal of the BRC is to mobilize bowhunters in order to defeat anti-hunters at the ballot box and in the courts.

Following the meetings, several groups signed on as BRC members. If you or your club are not yet members, please visit www.bowhuntercoalition.org or call (614) 888-4868 and join today! →

Beware of Bids to Ban Bowhunting!

The Humane Society of the United States, the nation's leading anti-hunting group, calls bows and arrows "brutally inhumane weapons." The Humane Society Legislative Fund, the organization's new lobbying arm, is working to outlaw bowhunting by urging supporters to oppose the following bills:

- *New Jersey SB 2475 and AB 3736, which would allow Sunday bowhunting;*
- *New York AB 1537 & SB 120 to lower age restrictions for archery hunters.*

Sportsmen in these states should ask legislators to vote in favor of the bills.

Minnesota City Lifts 25-Year Bowhunting Ban

As Minnesota kicked off its statewide archery season, Duluth launched its first bowhunt in 25 years.

The urban hunt, established to thin the city's burgeoning deer herd, opened Sept. 17 and will continue through Dec. 31. The deer have been damaging gardens, shrubs and city forests in Duluth. This is the first bowhunt since a city-wide ban went into effect in 1980.

In May 2005, City Council members approved a bowhunt ordinance to establish the hunt. Arrowhead Bowhunters Alliance was designated to conduct the hunt.

Prospective bowhunters paid a \$20 registration fee, attended a bowhunter education course, passed a shooting proficiency test and attended an orientation session.

Duluth's hunt is patterned after metro bowhunts in the Twin Cities and Superior, Wisconsin. Those hunts have safely reduced deer herds. →

NJ Bowhunters Want Weekend Hunt (Continued from page 1)

Traditional Archers of New Jersey and numerous county federations. The extra day can be a great opportunity for sportsmen who work during the week.

Take Action! New Jersey bowhunters should ask state senators and assemblymen to support SB 2475 and AB 3736. To contact your legislators, call (609) 292-4840 or use the Legislative Action Center at www.ussportsmen.org. →

Kentucky Town May Impose Severe Archery Restrictions

Local officials are overreacting to safety concerns and might soon adopt a bow discharge policy that would heavily restrict archery target practice in a northern Kentucky town.

On Nov. 7, the Fort Mitchell City Council decided to study an ordinance recently instituted in Roswell, Georgia, which heavily restricts archery practice. City leaders are considering a plan that requires archers 18 years and over to obtain a city permit to practice their sport. Young archers would have to be supervised by a permit-holding adult, and all permits will list designated places where the sportsmen may discharge their bows.

The model that the council is reviewing also requires archers to have backstops and to stay 150 feet away from property lines.

The Fort Mitchell City Council had been considering a proposal to ban the discharge of bows within city limits, but that prohibition was tabled with a recommendation to review the new policy.

Take Action! Fort Mitchell bowhunters and archers should not be required to obtain permits to practice their sports. Further, the distance requirement treads on landowner rights and should not be imposed. Call (859) 331-1212 and leave a message for Mayor Tom Holocher and the City Council members to oppose the policy. →

WV Town Considers Bowhunt for Deer

Bowhunting tops the list of deer population control options in Ripley, West Virginia where the animals have become a nuisance.

The Ripley City Council is working with the city attorney to develop a bowhunting ordinance, but will likely be unable to pass the ordinance in time for the 2005 hunting season.

In October, Charleston, West Virginia passed an ordinance to allow bowhunting within city limits.

Take Action! Bowhunters in Ripley can call Mayor Ollie Harvey's office, (304) 372-3482, to support the development of a bowhunting ordinance. →

The U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance, Bowhunter Rights Coalition

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brc@ussportsmen.org www.bowhuntercoalition.org

I want to join the BRC today!

Individual:

Member - \$25 or more

Supporting Member - \$50 or more

Sustaining Member - \$100 or more

Club/Org/Publication/Business:

Sustaining Member - \$100 or more

Sponsor - \$250 or more

Patron - \$500 or more

Benefactor - \$1000 or more

My check for \$___ is enclosed. Check payable to U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance.

Charge donation: Visa Mastercard Am. Ex. Discover

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Signatures _____