

The
South Dakota

May 2020



Bowhunter

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On the Front: Justin Kubesh, Lake Vermillion, turkey

On the Back: Jocelyn Haak, 11, first archery rabbit



Editor's Note

Mike McKnight

The first column I ever wrote as President of SDBI had to do with change. I think the quote I used then was one of a business colleague to the effect that “change is never good”. I didn’t subscribe to that then and I still don’t today but Lord knows we have had some change in the past few months.

First, on a personal level I retired from the practice of law effective April 1. That was a change I needed to make for several reasons none of which would interest anyone but it needed to be done and I am quite happy having done so. I am not completely just sitting around chewing my cud as I started my own business acting as a mediator - helping people resolve all kinds of disputes on their own in a manner that is more efficient than heading to court.

Second, the coronavirus has caused a lot of change for everyone most of which is not so good. As an individual in the high risk category living in Sioux Falls I have hunkered down and other than to go walk/run have not left my house since March 11. Fun times. My best laid plans before the plague hit was to spend the first week of my “retirement” chasing turkeys out west and in the hills. I was excited to be a part of a PBS hunt with former SDBI Board Member Mark Viehweg and others from around the country. Those plans ended in a viral induced heap along with all my other turkey hunting plans at least for the time being. It could be worse. This will end and life will go forward.

On a positive note I have used the time stuck at home to work on my shooting technique, organize and re-organize my hunting pack and tie a bunch of flies that I hope to use this summer when the plague finally recedes. Life is still pretty good.

We have a fair amount of material this edition and some nice pictures to share. Enjoy!

Play hard and have fun!

Next deadline to submit articles or pictures is August 1

Email articles, photos, want ads, cartoons, and letters
for newsletter submission to :
Mike McKnight
msmcknight2912@gmail.com



General Membership Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2020

South Dakota Bowhunters Inc. *2020 General Membership Meeting Minutes*

Feb 15, 2020

I. Call to order

The General Membership meeting of the South Dakota Bowhunters was called to order by President Jim Twamley and began at 4:00pm on Feb 15, 2020 at the annual convention at the Masonic Lodge in Mitchell SD.

II. Roll call

Jim Twamley (President), Wyatt Skelton (Vice President), Ryan Biel (Treasurer), Dana Rogers (Secretary), Garin Haak, John Meyen, Jake Leibke, Tim Pravecek and Ed Hiller were all present.

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Minutes of the last board meeting (teleconference) were reviewed on the subjects of the 2020 Convention Speaker and SD GFP commission NR archery proposal.

IV. Financial Report:

- a) Treasurer Ryan Biel reported that SDBI has \$7,048.68 in Checking and \$11,318.51 in Savings.
- b) Finance report – The finances were audited by Meaghan Biel and are available to the membership for review upon request.

V. Old Business

GFP Hospitality Night

- a) Bob Barden had led this effort for many years but has retired after the last one in Feb 2019. A request to have a replacement step forward was sent by Bob to the board.
- b) Discussion ensued about the interest of SDBI in continuing this hospitality night and the benefits of the interaction with GFP commissioners. Do we want to keep it going, if so, someone needs to step forward and take on the challenge of setting it up?
- c) Craig Oberle motioned to keep it going as it's very beneficial to our cause and interests. Tyler Pierce seconded the motion and it passed. Trevor Davis offered to act as the point of contact with assistance from the board and others that know how it works with meat and catering in the Governor's Inn. Jim Twamley discussed meat, catering and Ryan Biel offered to contact the Governor's Inn. Rogers will discuss with Trevor Davis on the planning and setup for the event in Pierre in early March.

VI. New Business

- a) Wildlife Manager of the Year Change – Ryan Biel discussed a desire to change the GFP annual award from Wildlife Manager of the Year to Wildlife Division Employee of the year. He'd like to open it up to department personnel like Conservation Officers that work on our behalf every day to stop



General Membership Minutes

(continued)

poaching and other wildlife offenses. Discussion ensued about who would choose and how the decision would be made. It was agreed that the board would set the criteria and parameters and make the final decision on a winner from nominees from GFP or SDBI members. Biel motioned for the change, Rogers seconded the motion and the membership passed the motion.

- b) 50th Anniversary of SDBI in 2021 – The convention will be held March 12-13th 2021 in Rapid City SD at the Ramkota Convention center with Mark Kayser acting as seminar speaker and providing the keynote address. Discussion ensued on getting special hats, t-shirts and other items to commemorate the celebration. Also, actively working for more donation items to increase interest and attendance.
- c) 2022 Convention – President Jim Twamley started the discussion by asking where the membership would like to hold the event in 2022 and who would be willing to volunteer to work on hosting the event. After some discussion, Tyler Pierce and Trevor Davis of Sioux Falls stepped forward to host the convention in Sioux Falls and act as points of contact for the event. Craig Oberle motioned to accept and Stan Rauch seconded. The motion passed.
- d) New Board Members – Jim Twamley and Garin Haak stepped down from their positions as interim board members after serving 2-year terms in vacant positions. The board and membership thanks both men greatly for their work and dedication. That left two positions open so volunteers and nominees were asked to come assist. Jake Leibke nominated Ronn McDaniel and Rogers nominated Trevor Davis of Sioux Falls. Craig Oberle made a motion that nominations cease and the motion passed. We appreciate Ronn and Trevor stepping up to help lead SDBI in 2020.
- e) Advertising and member recruitment – Schoenfelder spoke about recruitment and a need for more effective advertising to get our mission and positive effects out to the many bowhunters of South Dakota that may not understand what we do for them.
- f) Legislative Updates – Rogers spoke to the membership about several bills that are before the house and senate right now. Non-Resident Landowner tag bill, Non-Resident waterfowl license bill, Land and Water conservation bill, Habitat stamp bill etc. Rogers also went over the GFP commissioners' petitions and proposals and a rundown of the work done in 2019 to effectively change how Non-Resident archery tags are distributed and the impacts.

VII. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn by Tyler Pierce, Wyatt Skelton second, voted unanimously, Motion Passed, meeting adjourned.

Minutes taken by Dana Rogers **DR** Feb 16, 2020

x Jim Twamley

Jim Twamley, President

South Dakota Bowhunters Inc.



Board Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2020

South Dakota Bowhunters Inc.
2020 New Board Meeting Minutes
Feb 15, 2020

I. Call to order

The New Board huddled up right after the general membership meeting adjourned at approximately 5:00 pm on Feb 15, 2020 at the annual convention at the Masonic Lodge in Mitchell SD.

II. Roll call

Wyatt Skelton, Ryan Biel, Dana Rogers, Garin Haak, John Meyen, Jake Leibke, Tim Pravecek, Ed Hiller were all present. Newly appointed Board members Ronn McDaniel and Trevor Davis were added to the board and were also present.

III. Biographies and Articles

The new board members are instructed to submit short biographies of themselves to introduce themselves to the general membership ASAP to publish in the next newsletter. Rogers will send them a template to follow and submit to Mike McKnight to publish. Phone numbers and e-mails were exchanged and Rogers will make adjustments to the website and text lists accordingly. Article submissions by board members was discussed and the need to each submit something to Mike for publishing was also discussed. The board has to do a better job of communicating with our members.

IV. New Business

- a) Bow Raffle – The thought of purchasing a new bow and holding a year long raffle was discussed. The option of \$1,000 in cash was also brought up as many would not want to buy raffle tickets for a particular style or brand and we want to maximize revenues. Raffle ticket and website sales possibilities were discussed. Leibke motioned to go ahead and John Meyen seconded. Motion passed.
- b) Article Submissions – Wyatt Skelton brought forward the idea of purchasing a prize or offering Cabela's or Scheels gift cards for article submissions. All names of those that submit would be collected and a winner drawn at the next convention. The sum of \$250 dollars was agreed upon. Motioned and seconded by Meyen, motion passed.
- c) Archery permit holder listing for membership recruitment. It was asked if we could obtain a list of archers that hold a tag. Rogers said that yes, GFP takes those requests at commissioners' meetings but there is a monetary charge. Rogers agreed to ask GFP for the listing and see about the funds required to obtain the membership list.
- d) New Board Positions– Jim Twamley and Garin Haak stepped down from their positions as interim board members after serving 2-year terms in vacant positions. The board and membership thanks both men greatly for their work and dedication. That left two positions open so volunteers and nominees were asked to come assist. Jake Leibke nominated Ronn McDaniel and Rogers nominated Trevor Davis of Sioux Falls. The new board discussed the positions and who would fill each role. It was agreed that Ryan Biel remain as Treasurer, Skelton remain as VP and Rogers remain as Secretary/Lobbyist going



Board Meeting Minutes (continued)

forward. That left the newly vacant position of President of SDBI. After some discussion, Jake Leibke stepped forward and agreed to take on the title and role of President of SDBI. Ed Hiller, John Meyen, Tim Pravecek, Ronn McDaniel and Trevor Davis round out the remaining board of director seats.

V. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn and second, voted unanimously, Motion Passed, meeting adjourned.

Minutes taken by Dana Rogers **DR** Feb 16, 2020



Mark Viehweg, Gobbler taken near Norris



Black Hills Spring Turkey Success

CMSgt (Ret) Dana R Rogers

With the cold snowy conditions here in the Black Hills, I only made it out one morning during the first archery only week. Sitting in the blind for an hour in the dark, I certainly realized I'd not brought in enough clothing as I laid shivering in my blind waiting for the dawn to break in the 20 degree temperatures. The flock pitched down and quickly aschewed my terrible lonely hen impression in favor of the nearby ranchette and it's horse feed troughs across the private land. Day 1 a bust, but still nice to finally be back to bowhunting in 2020.

I'd unsuccessfully tried to get my son his first turkey the last few springs, chasing birds around the hills and CSP with his shotgun over his shoulder. He really wanted his first this year and said he'd commit to going every Sunday in between his full time work and online class schedule. What's a dad to do, you take your son hunting! Sunday brought a few inches of fresh snow and more cold but we headed out after another group of birds I'd gotten some fresh intel on. After hearing several different gobblers in the early dusk I found some legal access to the high mountain ridge behind the private meadows along the gravel road. After a lot of crawling over the deadfall in between the jack pine, I had my son positioned just waiting for a lonely tom to finally come investigate my sickly yelps. A made dash to crawl and reposition for a bird coming in from a side from downhill yielded my sons very first bird albeit with his 20 gauge.

After working Monday the weather was finally starting to warm and most of the snow had melted. Would we finally see some real spring like weather that might break these birds loose? God gave me a gorgeous sunny day with temperatures in the 60's so it couldn't have worked out better for weather. I made my way up a different ridge with bow, blind, decoys and pack a good 20 minutes later than I should have. The birds were already pitched out and dispersing. I made a failed setup and listened as the flock dispersed and headed over a distant saddle. Doing some recon and calling as I walked a few forest service logging roads, I found good sign and listened intently for any distant yelping or gobbling.

Heading back for some sunny exposure and small meadows, I set up and tried my hand with more yelping. A thundering tom sounded off far above on a sidehill in the jack pines. He was either deaf or just didn't think I was his type. That longbeard went back and forth across that hillside 100 yards above me and refused to give up the high ground. Another tom silently slipped in to 30 yards above me but also slipped back into the jack pine without coming closer or offering me a clear shot. Finally, another gobbler came from the south but wanted no part of my jake and hen facade. After seeing that I packed up the Jake decoy and went solely with the lone hen. That seemed to work somewhat better as within the hour 3 skinny jakes closed to 20 yards but also didn't commit closer.

Several naps and 3 more moves later I was moving from the top of the mountain down. Gobblers and hens kept feeding by all afternoon but none would top the ridge to the flat blind and decoy spread I'd laid out. Knowing that roost time would be fast approaching in a few hours, I pulled chinks and headed for the mid elevation roosting and strut zone I'd located earlier in the week. Time for one last nap! Bad Idea. I woke at about 5:00 pm to a few soft clucks and jostled by big but up only to see 8 jakes within 10 yards and no bow in my hand. They'd had enough of the racket in that ground blind and slowly walked off to get ready to roost 300 yards across the thin timbered canyons. With about 1.5 hours of hunting time left I saw a group of hens and a big bodied tom headed my direction through the ponderosa pine. They were heading to roost and certainly not responding to any calling I'd attempted.

My setup was luckily in the right drainage confluence and as the hens and tom skirted my blind he only casually glanced and noted my decoy. It was enough time for me to estimate his route and ready my new Hoyt Axius through a side window. I yelped him to a stop at 28 yards and sent a Rage tipped Carbon Express on it's way. The Nockturnal lighted the afternoon sky and the longbeard spun and summersaulted at the impact. I knew it was a good hit with that wide cutting diameter but still flipped up the blind and ran in pursuit to make sure I didn't lose sight of him. He just made it over the crest of the ridge and was totally expired in the 10 seconds it took me to make it there. A gorgeous 2 year old down and my 2020 SD archery permit was punched. I hope you are taking the time to get out and chase some birds this spring! Thanks for supporting SDBI.



Black Hills Spring Turkey Success (continued)

CMSgt (Ret) Dana R Rogers



Dana R. Rogers, spring turkey Black Hills



Also check out Dana's video of his very first traditional hunt. Self filmed and edited.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4KOgrBAqBb0>



NFAA Dakota Classic

Ronn McDaniel

The NFAA Dakota Classic is an annual event held at the NFAA Headquarters in Yankton. This year due to the COVID-19 crisis it has been postponed to a later date. This is a great shoot! Archers from all over the United States come to this event as part of a three-star tournament. The other events are the NFAA Indoor held in Louisville, KY and the NFAA Vegas Indoor. There are classes for each style you shoot whether Traditional or Compound.

The Dakota Classic uses a Vegas style target face and on day one the archers shoot 3 rounds of 5 arrows at each distance of 40, 50 and 60yds. The scores are then placed in a single elimination tournament bracket for day two. On day two the archers shoot 3 rounds (15 arrows) at 60 yards and move to the next round if you beat your competitor. Day two is where your score really matters.

I highly recommend this shoot, for one reason it's in our backyard and you have a great opportunity to meet the Pros and many archery companies as the weekend goes on. They are super helpful with tips and questions that you may have and it's a great time watching the best shooters in the Nation go at it. I have made many friends from all over the Nation and we do discuss hunting for most of the weekend.

The long range shooting indoors under competition pressure will also tune in your hunting skills and really help you with an effective shooting range when you are out after your quarry. Please keep your eyes out for the many shoots the NFAA Headquarters has to offer, it has only helped my hunting success!

Have a great summer.





Shed Hunting

Ed Hiller

It's Saturday March 7th with temperatures in the 40's, sunshine and light south winds. Looks like it's time to go shed hunting. I have permission to hunt a quarter of CRP which the deer also winter in. There is another quarter of CRP in this section. This makes it ideal for deer watching all winter long. Car parts and deer carcasses on the side of the road serve as reminder for everyone to slow down as the highway crosses between the bedding and feeding areas.

On this day there was a mixture of remaining snow, ice and water making for some tricky walking. This area is a half mile from the river and there is now standing water scattered across it. A misstep almost had water going over the top of my rubber boots.

This is great time to scout for new trails and rubs. I see I need to move a couple tree stands. The trails now weave around on slightly higher dry ground. As I wander around the trails and bedding areas I stumble on to some sheds also. I take pictures and make notes of where they were found. I slow down and work the bedding areas in tight patterns. Don't forget to look back and see the antlers you walked passed. The light hitting in them from different angles can make them pop out of the grass. I have learned to head straight to antlers when I see them. If I just wander slowly in the direction to where I saw it, I sometimes miss them and have to go back to where I originally spotted it.

I also took down a couple trail cameras as I worked out the area. Leaving the cameras out until spring will get pictures of deer I didn't see during the fall. Some of them will stay and others will migrate back to their previous ranges. It is fun to see which deer survived the hunting seasons. And match the antlers up to deer on the trail cams.

Shed hunting is also a good way to scout new property, as the trails, rubs and scrapes are easy to see. You can also use the time to scout for turkeys, and possible locations for mushrooms asparagus etc...

After a long winter it's a great excuse to get out for some exercise. This year it is also a good way to practice social distancing.





Shed Hunting

(continued)

Ed Hiller





Shed Hunting

(continued)

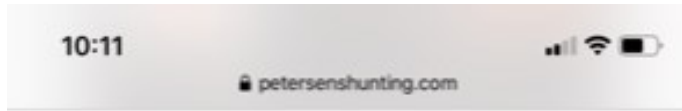
Ed Hiller





Recipe!

Sent in by Wyatt Skelton



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Kristy Crabtree

Elk Venison Burgundy Recipe

Elk Venison Burgundy, or better referred to as Bourguignonne, is cubed meat slow-cooked with bacon, burgundy wine, brandy, pearl onions, mushrooms and seasonings.

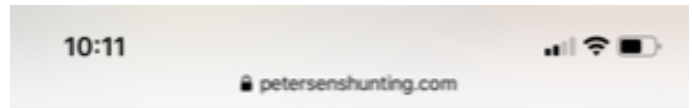


Serve this Elk Venison Burgundy Recipe over cream-style mashed potatoes or polenta. (Photo courtesy of NevadaFoodies.com)

You can substitute deer in place of the elk in this

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You can substitute deer in place of the elk in this recipe.



Serves: 4

Prep time: 20 minutes

Cook time: 3 hours 30 minutes

Ingredients:

+ 1 1/2 to 2 pounds elk venison stew meat, cut into cubes

+ 2 cups red wine (Burgundy, Chianti or Merlot)

+ 1 cup brandy

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Recipe (continued)

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
Ingredients:

- + 1 1/2 to 2 pounds elk venison stew meat, cut into cubes
- + 2 cups red wine (Burgundy, Chianti or Merlot)
- + 1 cup brandy
- + 2 1/2 cups beef stock
- + 6 slices thick bacon, coarsely chopped
- + 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- + 1 onion, diced
- + 1 cup pearl onions

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10:11   
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- + 16 ounces sliced mushrooms
- + 1 bay leaf
- + 2 cloves garlic
- + 2 teaspoons thyme
- + 2 tablespoons butter
- + 4 tablespoons flour
- + 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- + Salt and pepper
- + 4 green onions, chopped (optional)

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Recipe (continued)



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Directions:

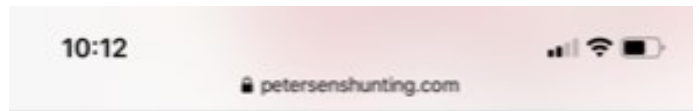
- 1 Preheat oven to 450 degrees.
- 2 Heat Dutch oven pot over medium-high heat and cook bacon until lightly browned. Remove and drain on a paper towel. Leave bacon drippings in the pot.
- 3 Sear cubed elk meat in bacon drippings until browned on all sides. Do this in batches so as not to overcrowd the pan. Remove and set aside. Add diced onion and chopped garlic and sauté until translucent.



Cubed elk venison meat. (Photo courtesy of NevadaFoodies.com)

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- 4 Add meat back to the Dutch oven. Sprinkle flour over meat and stir to coat. Place in oven for 5 minutes. Stir meat and continue to bake for 5 more minutes. Remove from oven and reduce temperature to 350 degrees.
- 5 Add wine, brandy, tomato paste and beef stock into meat mixture. Stir gently. Add thyme, salt, pepper and bay leaf. Put back into the oven with the lid on and cook for 3 hours or until meat is tender.



Elk Venison Burgundy in Dutch oven. (Photo courtesy of NevadaFoodies.com)

- 6 An hour before serving, melt butter in a

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Recipe (continued)

10:12

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An hour before serving, melt butter in a pan over medium-high heat and sauté mushrooms until browned. Add mushrooms and pearl onions to meat mixture and continue to cook in oven for remaining time. Remove from the oven. (Optional: To thicken sauce mix cornstarch and cold water together and pour into pot and stir.)

7

Serve Elk Venison Burgundy over cream-style mashed potatoes or polenta. Garnish with chopped green onions.

For more elk venison recipes, visit:
nevadafoodies.com

Read The Next Article: 8 New .300 P...

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Iowa Archery Deer Year to Remember

Wyatt Skelton

I finally drew an Iowa archery deer tag. When added up price with preference points and actual tag costs, they aren't cheap tags. Would the wait and cost be worth it, I hoped. Having never hunted in Iowa I picked a hunting unit partially on a whim and partially on various inputs picked up randomly. A little luck can go a long way.

A weekend scouting/hunting trip in mid-October was taken to get a feel for the area. This was to solidify possible stand sites in some areas suggested by a very helpful local from the archery shop. That day and a half of stand sites was the extent of my prehunt endeavors. November 1st found me arriving at dark in the quaint little town. Unable to contact the campground guy I spent the first night in the Wal-mart parking lot with my camper. After seeing a few deer that first Saturday morning, I visited with another out of state hunter. I discovered Friday November 1, the day I traveled to Iowa, deer activity was bustling. He saw two shooter bucks, but they were always moving and didn't present a shot for him. Of course I was a day off of prime hunting. Such is my luck.

That afternoon, I located the second entrance to the campground and got my camper set up. Within a day or two I met a couple other archers camped there as well from Minnesota, Luke and Luke. They are a couple of regular "Joes" or in this case, Lukes. They were also trying to tag good bucks like me on a DIY type hunt. They said if I got a deer to give them a call and they would be happy to help. Boy I'm sure glad I met those two! As the days passed that week, we texted back and forth as to what each was seeing. Surprisingly, no one saw any shooters, just lots and lots of small bucks, does, and fawns.

My birthday was Thursday November 7, and I was feeling the pressure of trying to fill my pricey nonresident tag that morning. After several small bucks and a doe passed by, I had decided to climb down and go check on Bow, my dog, back in the truck. You all know Bow. He's with me on almost every venture I go on. Before descending I decided to take a couple practice shots. I had a recurve and a compound in the tree with me that day. I took a practice shot with the recurve at a leaf and switched to take a practice shot with my compound before climbing down my new climbing sticks strapped to the tree. I was at full draw, focused, and about to squeeze the trigger of the release. Fully intending to send an arrow toward a small cluster of leaves on top the layer of fresh snow that had fell with gigantic snowflakes the day before, when I thought I heard something. I leaned my head back and peered around the tree trunk and there stood a medium sized 4x5 approximately 110" buck. Just poof and there he was. I had scanned the vicinity prior to taking practice shots to make sure I wouldn't spook any deer. I decided since I had not seen any big bucks, and that it was my birthday, I would take him if I could switch back to my recurve and make the shot. After easing off full draw, returning the arrow to the quiver, I hung up the compound and grasp my recurve. The buck did a small semi-circle and was 4 yards away walking by me. As I was trying to pull an arrow from the recurve quiver he spotted my movement and spied cautiously up at me. I froze, and when he started walking again, I quickly nocked the arrow. I drew back, but he was out of my clear shooting area and tree branches protected him from my shot as he walked away. So close, but as it were to be, that was my good fortune to NOT get that shot opportunity.

I had hung a couple other sets earlier in the week, so I tried them the next couple sits. The next evening on Friday I went to the stand site I had originally established that scouting weekend in October. After a couple hours and only having a raccoon wonder by, I decided to slip down into the river bottom and retrieve some steps I had placed there days earlier in a large sugar maple tree on a well-worn deer trail. There was no actual stand, just a large branch of the maple that had bent and split horizontally and healed into a flat 20-22' wide platform. The limb actually had grown roots from the branch where it had stabbed into the earthen river bottom soil. I dubbed the tree the "God's hand" stand. It was just a perfect naturally made spot for a bowhunter to perch upon. This was gonna be my last sit in these two spots and was planning on removing my stand and steps from these two locations. I figured what would it hurt to stand in this maple for a few minutes before going back up to my "spendy" manufactured aluminum Millenium stand.

I enjoyed the ruckus of two flocks of Canada geese squabbling at each other on the river and watched a couple young deer sprinting around across the river from me. I looked at my watch and realized there was only like 30-



Iowa Archery Deer Year to Remember

(continued)

Wyatt Skelton

40 minutes of hunting time left so I may as well just stay in this natural maple stand. A doe and fawn ambled by me and the doe eventually caught my scent and blew a few times before wondering back into the weeds back west of me. Shortly later a nice buck cruised down the steep hill from up by my aluminum stand only 90-100 yards away. A quick glance through the binocs and I thought he was about 130" 4x4. He ghosted into the same weeds and brush that the doe and fawn had vanished, completely ignoring my best buck grunting at him. I figured he was gone.

Shortly later, a small buck popped out of the weeds and looked and sniffed around where the doe had disappeared. I verified through the binocs not a deer I wanted to shoot way back here this far from the truck. I proceeded to scan around the area in these waning last minutes for the "big" one to hopefully show, but with no avail. I turned back to see a buck drawing near and thought it likely had to be the little buck approaching. I thought I better confirm his identity in the impending darkness that was befalling the grove of sugar maples and thick river bottom lands I inhabited in these last couple minutes of shooting time.

I picked up the 10x42 Swarovskis laying in front of my boots and low and behold it was the tall tined buck I had watched cruise down the steep bank earlier! Boom heart kicked up into high, I quickly set the binocs at my feet, instantly renocked an arrow and drew the string back to my Cheek. I knew the buck was exactly 25 yards from ranging the doe that had ambled by and snorted earlier. I prayed he would pause and he did just that. Had he taken one more step I would not have had a shot as the branches of a fallen green ash tree would have prevented a clear lane. I lined the peep up with the pin, used "the Force" in the waning twilight of the day, and sent the three fixed razor blades on a steal tipped carbon missile speeding into the buck. The sound I heard was a pleasant wallop like that of an arrow plunging through a five gallon bucket of water. I figured it must be a lethal hit with music to my ears like that! The buck sprung bouncing through the weeds, brush, and trees. He was silhouetted against the remaining patches of melting snow as he bounded away. I lost sight of him and all sound. I could make out a lone deer to the northwest of me figuring it was the small buck looking for what was going on. I waited about 7-10 minutes and as I climbed down the maple. I heard the lil buck snort-blow and scurry away. I gathered my things and went to the spot the buck was standing and located a blood coated Carbon Express arrow and a mist of crimson dust like sprawl on the snow. I was disheartened though as I followed the bucks last traveled path. The blood was droplets and not a spray pattern as I had expected. I trailed for approximately 70 yards and found the dead buck on a very old dirt road cut on the hill side. His body was massive! Like a small elk! Iowa sure can grow 'em! I was also pleasantly surprised that he sported a 7x6 rack instead of the 4x4 I thought crowned his head. He had bedded down with head lain over peacefully at sleep. Forever asleep.

Pulling out my phone, I intended to take a few photos, but the old battery died right there. The old age of the phone, cool temps, and poor signal strength was too much. I guess I shouldn't have taken those pics of the doe and those selfies. Oh well. I left my bow and crawled up the bank to remove my "good manufactured" stand and steps. I packed it all out back to the truck and let Bow out. Then I quickly proceeded to drive up to the top of hills so I could get cell signal and recharge the phone. I called the two Lucas' and my buddy, Hunter from the archery shop, as I was gonna need all the help I could get.

The two Lukes arrived soon and brought their game cart and beverages. I told Hunter to follow the cart tracks in the snow back to us. We did the cell phone photo session and I got the buck field dressed when Hunter arrived. Hunter carried my bow up the steep hill and it was everything the two Lukes and I could muster to push, pull, and drag this beast up to the game cart up on top. Finally we got the buck strapped in and carted him back to the parking area, after several rest stops. We loaded him into Hunters pick up because as per usual, I had way too much "gear" in the back of my truck.

We arrived back at the campground and hung the buck from the picnic shelter built onto the bathrooms. We weighed the buck at 211 lbs field dressed. By far he's the biggest buck I've taken. The two Lukes retired to their camper and as Hunter and I conversed, a nice 4x4 buck streaked through the campground not 20 yards away! Apparently good bucks roaming in town is common around there. I'd like to thank Hunter and the two Luke's for all there camaraderie and selfless assistance in this hunt. That really made this adventure all the more rewarding.

On this hunt, luck was definitely on my side.



Iowa Archery Deer Year to Remember (continued)

Wyatt Skelton





2020 Convention Pictures



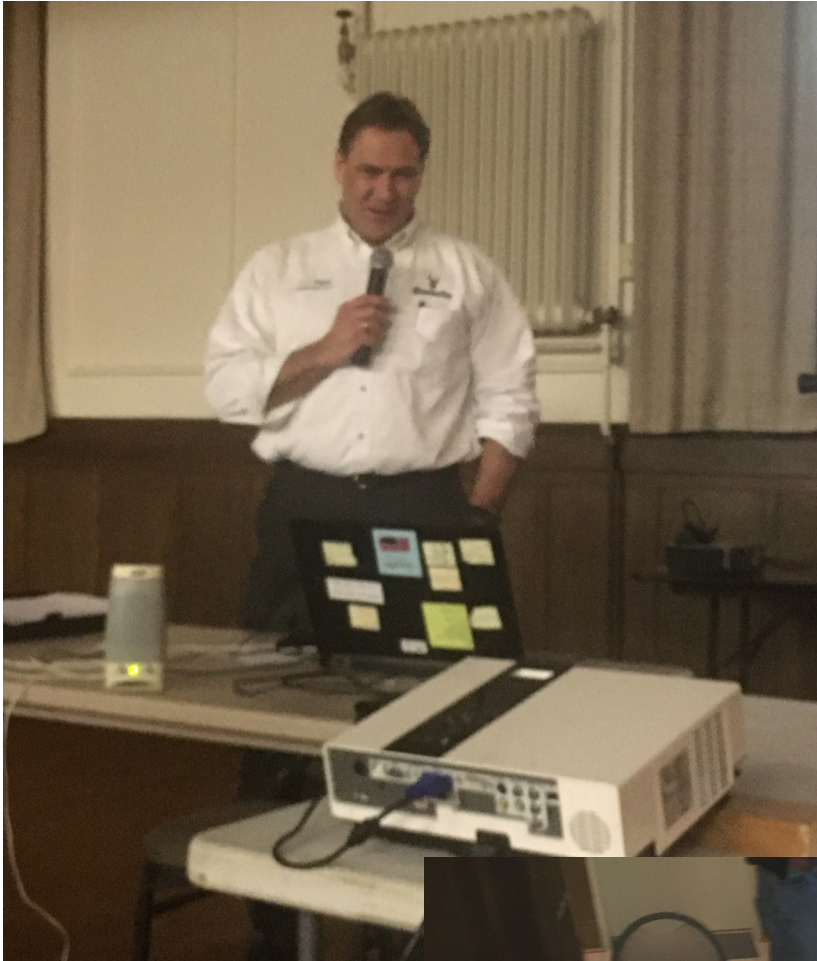


2020 Convention pictures (continued)





2020 Convention pictures (continued)



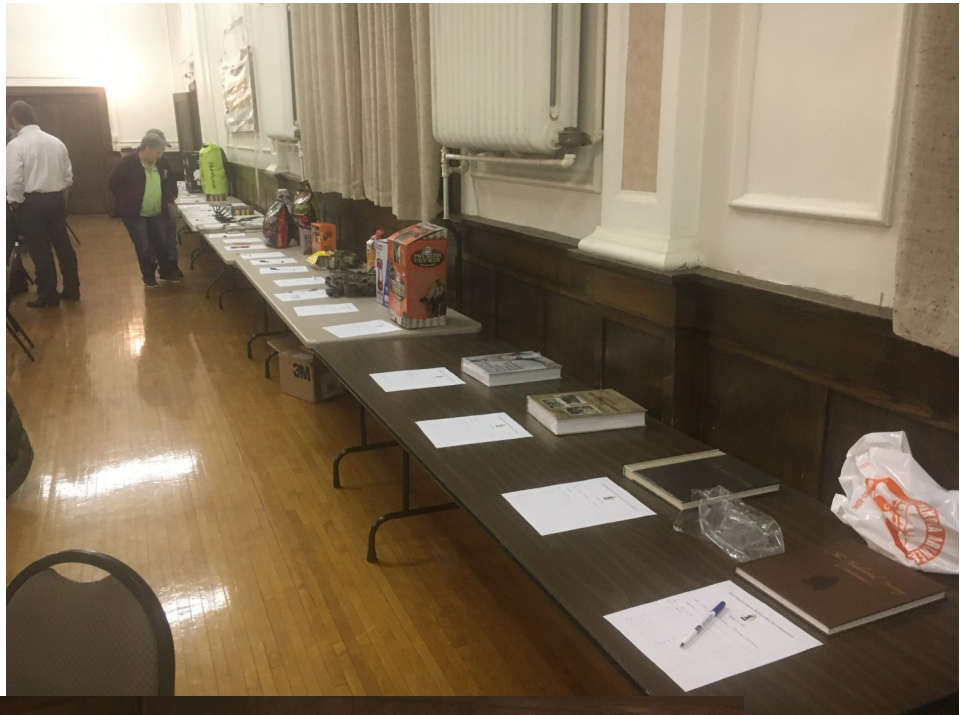


2020 Convention pictures (continued)





2020 Convention pictures (continued)





2020 Convention pictures (continued)





2020 Convention pictures (continued)





2020 Convention pictures (continued)





2020 Convention pictures (continued)





2020 Convention pictures (continued)





2020 Convention pictures (continued)





2020 Convention pictures (continued)





Pictures from the Hunt!



Dana Rogers, Texas hog, second animal with his recurve



Dana Rogers, Black Hills spring turkey hunt



Pictures from the Hunt!



Adam Walter, Hutchinson County



Pictures from the Hunt!



Adam Walter, Hutchinson County, spring turkey hunt.
Double beard.





Pictures from the Hunt!



Paul Greenfield, Lincoln County April 5, 2020



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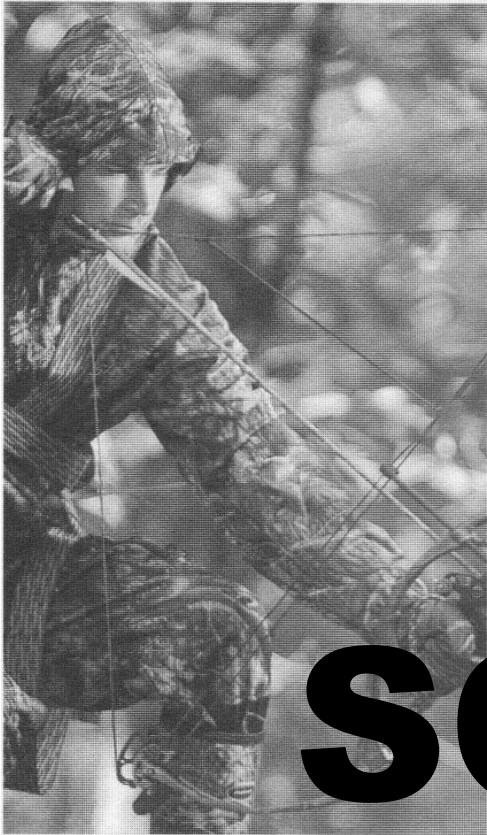
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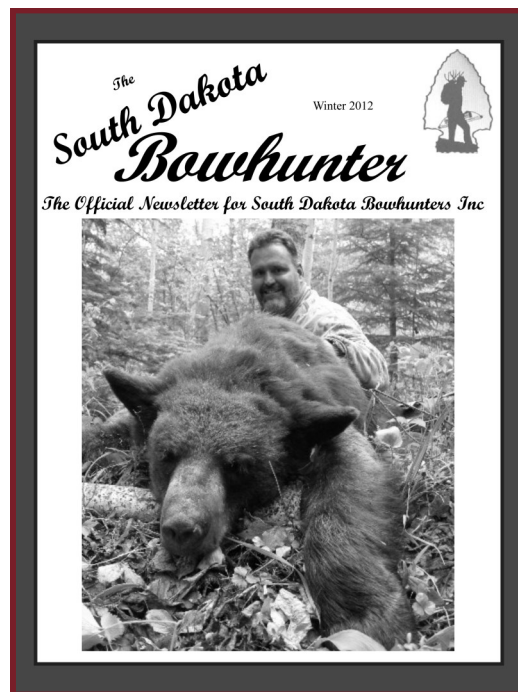
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