

STICKTALK



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STICKTALK

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DEADLINES

The next issue of *STICKTALK* is due
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Cover and back photo

Submitted by

Floyd Wells

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Editors' Point

by Ms. Caroline and Bub

It's SUMMER TIME!! Most of us are enjoying the summer camping shoots across the state. Being able to shoot, camp, eat and share with others is a huge part of the "**Longbow Lifestyle**" we so dearly love here in Michigan. It is mind boggling when we meet folks that are traditional shooters who have no idea that there are large numbers of archers just like themselves who gather at trad events all summer long. They see themselves as one in a million loners who are throwbacks to a bygone era and that is OK. One trip to the Compton Rendezvous or the Great Lakes Longbow Invitational leaves them awestruck and in traditional archery overload. Bub and I are always asking these archers if they know about the Michigan Longbow Association and all the other traditional shooters who are out there waiting to meet them. Most have that "deer in the headlights" look and shake their heads. Nowhere in the USA is there another state that enjoys the traditional following like we have here in Michigan. All the local shoots. All the camping shoots. All the special activities that allow us to share the stick and string with others. We truly are blessed to be able to pursue our passion with such support. If you have not yet arrived at that conclusion, just ask a traditional archer from another state about the activities and options they have where they live. It is no contest.

Speaking of contests, we have a lot of fun competitions coming up at the GLLI this year. Not only will there be a Silver Arrow and Sherwood Challenge, but there are age-specific as well as gender-specific contests this year. If you are not the competitive type but still want to be a part of these great events, then plan on volunteering. You will read that word a number of times in this issue. We can't stress it enough. The Michigan Longbow Association is a member

owned and operated organization and depends solely on volunteer help. It is YOUR archery club. We invite you to step up and take ownership. Keep score, take pictures, teach, give another volunteer a break, whatever needs to be done. Not only will you be helping others enjoy the weekend, but you will be adding volumes to your own positive experience at this MLA event.

Bub and I are still actively seeking new editors for this newsletter. STICKTALK has enjoyed a great run over the last few years and there is no reason why it can't continue to do so in the future. While it helps to be familiar with a computer, a willingness to learn is the biggest attribute you can have as the editor. We learn something new with every issue, like the fact that there are many MLA memberships that do not list a spouse on the roster. Remember that an MLA membership is a family membership. As a member, your spouse can be included at no charge and be a voting part of the MLA organization. But to do that he or she must be registered. Simply send their name to sticktalkeditor@yahoo.com with an explanation as to what it is for. We will take care of the rest. When you do that, make sure that we have an updated email address for you as well. With a current email address attached to your membership listing, you will receive each issue of STICKTALK in a **full color** e-version. Oh, you will still get the hard copy but you won't have to wait for the mailman to read it first! It's all part of the perks of being an MLA member.

Take your cameras with you. Take notes and write your thoughts down. Send them to us here at STICKTALK and we'll make you famous. Good shooting everyone! We'll see you at camp sometime soon!





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It seems a bit surreal to me, finding myself writing this column. Usually I would be "doddaling" away at articles of fun, usually sharing my mis-

adventures of one form or another, describing with great detail my most recent harvest of a Pope and Young sapling. Nick really excelled at being the President of this club. His heart went into every aspect of the task before him, and he did so successfully. He leaves big shoes to fill, and I hope to keep the ship pointed into the right direction. When you see him, give him a handshake, a tip of the hat, and a big "Thank you."

At the meeting, we talked about storage at Charlton Park, as we have accumulated enough gear to warrant the need for storage solutions. A vote on having a shed placed at the park was passed, and at current time, we are waiting on the finalized contract from the park.

The spring shoot itself was once again a wonderful time. Rain threatened to put a damper on things, but come Friday morning, the weekend set itself up to be a gorgeous display of Michigan springtime. The courses were fun, the MLA Team shoot was a blast, and the American round was fun to watch. All topped off with a great chili contest. How can anyone find a better way to spend a spring weekend?

Spring and summer seem to be going by at an accelerated pace this year. By the time this reaches your mailbox or in-box, we will be about ready for GLLI. The Council has been working hard to get everything ready for the August event. If you can spare a few hours during the weekend, your help will be most welcomed for any of the competitions or for help in the booth. Get in touch with any of us Council members, or Suzanne Schmier at schmiergr@sbcglobal.net.

While on the topic of balance, a discussion came up recently about where our numbers come from within the membership. Nick found a program that was able to show where regionally we stand as a membership. Not just in the mitten state, but in the US and abroad. It was

Prez Corner

by John Buchin



really quite interesting to see where we are as a club.

Keep in mind, that there are no hard-pressed lines or explicitly defined parameters for the numbers on the map, but it uses area codes, and displays, in a regional sense, where we all hail from. I never really considered the numbers of where we called home; I really thought it was about an even split. Perceptions can be skewed, as we see from this. The region surrounding the Detroit/Ann Arbor region holds almost twice as many members as the Greater Grand Rapids/Kalamazoo region. It also starts to paint a picture of how much we have grown, and are growing, not just within the state, but abroad as well. Our presence at events like the World Dragon Shoot Day, Compton's, Charlton Park Days, and the Hudson Lake GOYJ play a large part in that. And we thank you, the membership, for being a large part of these events.

With GLLI on our doorsteps, a few things to keep in mind:

- Early campers need to make sure that they pay for their time prior to our event.

- All unoccupied (pre-event dropped off campers) are to be parked in the large lot between the exhibition building and maintenance building. This is a park policy.

- No animals in park buildings. Park policy.

- Please limit usage of generators.

- Be mindful of your neighbors. Have fun!

I look forward to seeing you all at Charlton! Longbows Forever!

Michigan Longbow Association Spring Membership Meeting Land-O-Lakes Bowmen Fenton, Michigan May 6, 2017 1:03pm

by Secretary: Floyd Wells

The meeting was called to order by the Departing President of the MLA, Nick Viau.

Roll Call: was taken for MLA Council Members present or absent by Recording Secretary Floyd Wells. The record reflects that Council Members Kevin Bowers and Keith Jackson were absent.

Minutes of the 01-30-16 MLA Regular Council Meeting was prepared and handed out by Recording Secretary Floyd Wells.

Thank you was offered to the host club Land-O-Lakes Bowmen and a "state of the organization speech" given by departing President of the MLA, Nick Viau.

The Election of Officers: President Nick Viau announced the results of the MLA elections which went uncontested this year.

President—John Buchin
Vice President—Rob Jones
Treasurer—Steve Chappell
New Council—Jamey Burkhead and Heather Williams

New and Retiring Council: Nick Viau also announced the joining of new Council Members Heather Williams and Jamey Burkhead. Nick also announced the retirement of Keith Jackson and himself (Nick Viau) from the MLA Council.

New Business: Discussion was held at the request of the membership to consider the possibility of a lifetime membership that could be purchased by those interested in doing so. A lively discussion was heard. Possibilities were explored that included prices and age requirements. Age 40-\$500, Age 55-\$400 and Age 60-\$300. Discussion also included honorary life membership based on merit vs purchased life membership. Vote to table the discussion in favor of more fact finding. Motion by John Buchin and Second by JoAnn Kruko. Passed unanimously.

Discussion was held concerning making the MLA Winter Awards Banquet a Members ONLY event. Motion made to do so by Kim Summers. Second by Paul Gasiorek. Passed unanimously.

Explanation was held concerning the free Sunday morning breakfast at the MLA Spring Shoot. This will only happen when the Sunday falls on Mother's Day.

Rob Jones made a plea for a new merchandising agent for the

MLA as he will be stepping up into the MLA Vice President seat.

Floyd Wells announced a new MLA program for sending a commemorative arrow to those MLA members who have passed away. Ken Scollick has agreed to make a personalized flu flu arrow to send to the families of the deceased. Floyd and Caroline Wells will coordinate this effort.

Sticktalk Editor's Report: Caroline Wells reported that the MLA club magazine is growing and submissions are being made quite consistently. Caroline also offered up the responsibilities of editing to any newcomer who might be interested in taking over for her. This is the same request made at last year's meeting, but there has been no one come forward to fill this position.

Membership Report: Caroline Wells reported that the MLA is steadily growing in numbers, both online and from personal contacts. At this time the current membership totals 499 households—38 have recently expired. Caroline Wells explained that the new membership calendar year (a quarterly affair coinciding with the release of each new issue of STICKTALK: January, April, July and November) has worked out much better in keeping track of the memberships.

Treasurer's Report: Steve Chappell reported that there is \$18,767.26 in the MLA accounts as of the MLA Spring Shoot w/e (5-4-17). Cash box \$421.60. Total \$19,188.86. Projected spending: Land-O-Lakes Bowmen (For MLA Spring Shoot) \$500. Storage Shed \$2,800. Logo gear \$5,500. STICKTALK Editor \$125. Total \$8,925. Liquid funds \$10,263.86.

Webmaster Report: Nick Viau and Thom Jorgenson reported that they are still willing to do the webmaster's job as volunteers. The website is running well and is drawing many interested archers from across the nation. Even though Nick Viau is stepping down from the MLA presidency, he is still willing to help Thom Jorgenson with the MLA's website.

Chili Cook Off: Denny Every announced the winner of the 2017 Chili Cook Off as being Sam Morello.

Trash pickup and general cleaning request was made to the constituency upon leaving the L-O-L grounds. The activity schedule was reviewed before dismissal.

Motion to adjourn made by Paul Gasiorek. Second: Bruce Folske. Passed unanimously.

Obituaries

Bill Buckley, age 74 of Monroe, MI, peacefully met his Lord and Savior May 19, 2017. Bill and Sharon were married for 52 years and have resided in Monroe, MI for the last 46 years. They have 3 children: Lisa Lewick, Patrick, and Janeen (Bryan) Jones of Monroe, MI; 3 grandchildren Jaimi (Temme) Kirkwood, Jack William Buckley and Charlotte Jones; 2 great grandchildren.

Bill worked as a millwright for Ford Motor Company for 37 years, retiring in 2002. Bill and Sharon traveled to over 30 countries and camped over most of the United States. He loved to fish, hunt, golf and ride motorcycles. Bill was an instructor in Wing Chun Do, in which he held a black belt. He served as a Frenchtown Volunteer Fireman and EMT for 15 years.

He was a member of the Michigan Longbow Association, Michigan Traditional Bow Hunters and The N R A (National Rifle Association). Bill welcomed the SON every day in the lake in front of his home and would say,

"Every day is a Good Day."



James Kenneth Andresen of LeRoy passed away Monday, June 26, 2017 at his residence after a long battle with cancer. He was 76 years old.

James attended Trinity Lutheran School in Reed City and later attended LeRoy Agricultural High School. As a member of the United States Army, he

served his country honorably in Germany and at Ft. Benning, GA. He was employed most of his life as a truck driver who hauled milk, gravel, and petroleum. As an avid outdoorsman with a passion for bow hunting, Jim counted himself a member of several traditional archery communities including: Michigan Bow Hunters Association, Compton Traditional Bowhunters, and the Michigan Longbow Association. He took immense joy from outdoor activities such as gardening, horseback riding, and camping.

He is survived by his wife Paula; children Vickie (Phil) Sedillo and Carrie Andresen; grandchildren: Kyle Andresen, Annika Sedillo, Elizabeth Sedillo, Ben Sedillo, and Tanner Aubert, and his dog, Dakota.

Volunteer at the 2017 GLLI

by Suzanne Schmier

It's that time of year again when we start scheduling volunteers to help our GLLI during the second weekend in August run smoothly. During the past two years, more and more members have come forward offering to help. Having so many volunteers allows our Council members time to enjoy the GLLI, too. Best of all, it is fantastic to see so many members become more involved and feel more a part of our special organization. In the past two years, we've gotten almost forty members offering their time during the weekend. We hope all of those folks will return, and that even more members will step forward to help.

The goal is to ask each volunteer to work for just two hours over the entire weekend. Occasionally, we have some members kindly offer to work more than one shift, which is greatly appreciated. You can choose the day, time and area in which to volunteer. There is always someone nearby who has done each job before

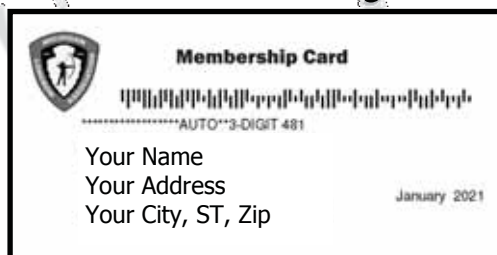
to help you feel more comfortable, but all jobs are quite easy.

The main areas we will need help are the registration booth area and the kids' shooting area every day of the GLLI. Help will also be needed at all the special events that take place only once during the weekend, such as the Silver Arrow and other competitions. If you volunteered last year, I'll be contacting you to ask if you'd like to help again. If you have not volunteered at the GLLI before, but would like to help this year, please contact me at schmiergr@sbcglobal.net. We'll also be putting the volunteer chart on the MLA Facebook page where you can sign up when we get closer to the event.

Thank you to all the volunteers at all the events throughout the year. I hope to see you at our biggest event, the Great Lakes Longbow Invitational.

Your Mailing Label is your Membership Card!

The MLA keeps growing at an exciting rate! To keep pace, new innovations were instituted at the 2016 MLA Spring Shoot and Membership Meeting. You will be happy to know that your membership is now calculated on a quarterly basis, giving the member and the membership secretary a more accurate date of renewal. Please refer to your STICKTALK mailing label as it is actually your new membership card! No more waiting for a response or looking for your card. It has the pertinent information already on it including your date of renewal. So, cut the mailing label off your copy of STICKTALK (or bring the entire magazine), stick it in your wallet, and you



will be ready to flash your ID for MLA discounts at all our MLA functions. Congratulations on being a member of the greatest longbow organization in the nation!

Welcome to the Michigan Longbow Association!



Kids' Korner

Cahl Kobec, age 12
Allegan, MI



"And there I was...." in the truck heading to Kalamazoo Traditional Bowhunters Expo. Two years before that my mom bought her bow there and I was interested in getting one of my own. While we were walking around, we saw the MLA booth. We went up to them, and they let me shoot a bow for the first time. After that, we looked around for a bow and we saw the St. Joe Riverbow's booth. They were very nice and helped me look for a longbow. After picking one they let me shoot it at the target range and I decided that it would be my first bow.


Since then, I have gone to the MLA Spring Shoot, Marshall Primitive Archery Rendezvous and Compton Traditional Bowhunters Rendezvous. I have met many good people and made new friends. At Marshall, I was able to make a primitive longbow with some help. It was a lot of work but worth it. I am starting to get into arrow making and I am interested in going hunting.

It is nice to be a part of such a great group of people. I like everything about archery and look forward to learning more.



My only complaint is that I wish the shoots would last a bit longer.

I want to compete in the Silver Arrow Contest at the GLLI and have been practicing every day. It is fun to participate in the events at the shoots. I like the challenge. The Great Lakes Longbow Invitational is coming up soon, and I'm looking forward to meeting more people and learning more things.



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Bob Mayo



2017 American Round

By Thom Jorgensen

It is a longstanding custom for the Michigan Longbow Association to shoot an American Round at the conclusion of our annual membership meeting. The round consists of ninety arrows being shot from ranges between forty and sixty yards. Shooting a perfect round would bring in the maximum possible score of 810 points. Although archery contests of this type were extremely popular in years gone by, it's a rarity these days. The MLA is proud to keep the tradition alive!

This year we had 15 archers begin the round, and 14 finished it out. Other duties pulled one archer away early in the contest. The weather was nearly perfect for a Michigan springtime day; the temperature was very comfortable but we had some big gusts of wind. At one point we had to re-anchor the net when some of the stakes were pulled out. We took to the line mid-afternoon and loosed our final arrows just before the potluck.

The first five ends were shot at a range of 60 yards, and Ken Highfield scored 138 points including one X with his first 30 arrows. Mark

Carpenter held second place with 118 points at that time, while third place had 68 points. A two-horse race shaped up rather quickly.

The line was moved up to the 50-yard mark and Ken struggled in the sixth end allowing Mark to close the gap and even take a 4-point lead. Over the next four ends these two archers would go back and forth trading the lead. After the tenth end Mark had 279 points and Ken had 268 with two X's. You may recall the 2015 contest ended in a tie and X's were counted.

The line moved up to 40 yards and the final five ends were shot. Both archers made their highest scores at this range and Mark got his first X with one of his final arrows. When the final score was tallied, Mark Carpenter had the most points and successfully defended his title, two years in a row. Congratulations, Mark!

Thanks to everyone who volunteered to help setup, and all of the archers who participated! Here are the full results:

Mark Carpenter – 455
 Ken Highfield – 436
 Willis Auxier – 347
 John Maxey – 340
 Jeff Burns – 329
 Eric Stuckey – 270
 Bruce Folske – 244
 Terry Hermenitt – 239
 Donavan Watson – 220
 Cahl Kopec – 177
 Tyrell Carey – 151
 John Kopec – 97
 Devin Smith – 49
 Dakota Smith – 46
 Dustin Kleeves – 17



The Shed

& The Great MLA Mug Fundraiser

As we are rounding the corner to another GLLI, I would like to bring you up to date on what's going on with the shed. What shed you ask? For those who weren't able to attend the spring shoot and general membership meeting, the Council presented the idea of purchasing a 10 x 14 shed and placing it at Charlton Park to store our targets, backers, and other equipment. MLA assets have been stored with various Council members across the state of Michigan for over a decade and doing so is no longer conducive to the running of the organization. Our outreach efforts and events require us to have our equipment on hand when needed. Knowing where everything is being stored and no longer needing to transport it makes your Council's job a lot easier in the managing of MLA assets. The membership in attendance at the spring meeting felt the same. Approval was given to purchase the shed by a unanimous show in favor.

Charlton Park has drawn up a proposed contract, regarding the shed, for the Council to review. Steve Chappell worked to correct some of the wording, insurance issues, and future renewals of said contract with Charlton Park, whose board will convene July 10 to review, approve, and adopt it. Once we receive word back from Charlton Park, we will then move forward with purchasing the shed.

Here is where you come in. The shed is going to cost approximately \$3,000, which will require us to dip into the MLA coffers. If possible, we would like to trim some of the cost through card raffles and specialty merchandise.

To begin, we have purchased 100 stainless steel coffee mugs with the MLA badge logo *laser-engraved* on the front.

We had a similar mug created several years ago and it was very popular. However, the logo was printed and faded after a number of washings. These will not do that. The logo isn't going anywhere, so you can rep the MLA with pride every morning! These mugs will be for sale at \$20 per mug.

The MEMBERS-ONLY mugs will be for sale at GLLI, but will go quickly. If you don't want to wait, email Rob Jones at robslifts@gmail.com or call at **(616)490-7212** to reserve yours. You can pay and pick them up at the MLA booth in the Steam Barn at the GLLI.

There are several other fundraisers planned to help fund the MLA storage shed which includes a university competition of sorts. Joe Callahan has donated two sets of True North Arrows for the shed fundraiser. One set is maze and blue for the University of Michigan, and the other is green and white for Michigan State University. The two sets will be raffled off via a card raffle. Which set will sell all of their deck? Any guesses?

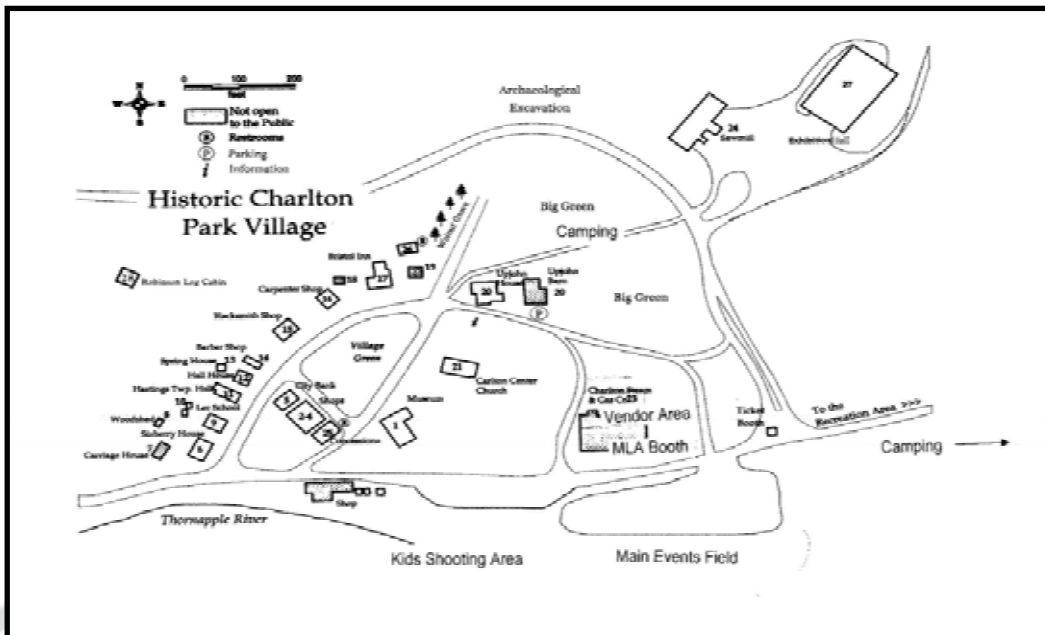
Act fast and own a piece of MLA history. ➡



Upcoming Shoot Schedule

If your club is sponsoring a shoot where the longbow is welcome, contact us here at STICKTALK (sticktalkeditor@yahoo.com) and we will try to place it on the updated schedule in every new issue. ➡

Date	Event	Location	Contact
July 27-30	Eastern Traditional Archery Rendezvous Archeryfestivals@hughes.net	Ski Denton, 5661 US Route 6 Coudersport, PA	814-435-6653 814-203-0467
Aug 4-6	28 th Annual Pine River Recreation Club Stick Bow Shoot: brentsinger17@yahoo.com	ELM HALL, MICHIGAN 5999 Ferris Road, Riverdale, MI	Brent Singer 989-436-1075 Brian Rockafellow 989-833-2430 Chris Koenigsnecht 989-640-5888
Aug 11-13	Great Lakes Longbow Invitational michiganlongbow.org	Historic Charlton Park, 2545 S Charlton Park Rd. Hastings, MI	John Buchin 269-217-5611 Rob Jones 616-490-7212
Aug 25-27	Lapeer Bowmen's 25th Annual Traditional Archery Rendezvous	Lapeer County Sportsmen's Club 1213 N Lake George Rd Attica, MI	Bob Jones at 248-217-8500
Sept 22-24	MBH Fred Bear Memorial Broad Head Shoot: Last Leg of the Triple Crown	Detroit Sportsmen Congress	Sam Morello 248-410-8794 michiganbowhunters.com



The Great Lakes Longbow Invitational

MLA's Signature Shoot

In every summer issue we here at STICK-TALK devote a few pages to what you need to know about the upcoming GLLI. The Michigan Longbow Association continues to enjoy a pattern of growth and vitality so much that we feel your club newsletter needs to help point newcomers in the right direction. So for the sake of time and space, follow along as we hit the highs and lows of what you should expect at this year's shoot.

The 2017 Great Lakes Longbow Invitational will be held at Charlton Park in Hastings, Michigan on August 11-13, 2017. If you are able to come earlier, please feel free to help set up. Tables, chairs, tents and pavilions will all need a lot of attention.

Having been around for over 30 years, the present day GLLI is a wonderful gathering of the old and the new. One will find beautiful deluxe campers sitting alongside canvas teepees. Many campers arrive early in the week to get shady spots near the lake, while others prefer to be closer to the vendors' barn, so they camp near the village. There are bathrooms with running water and also port-a-potties, but no shower facilities, and limited electrical hook-ups. A modest one-time camping and entrance fee is collected by the park administration.

Shooting fees are collected at the MLA booth where raffle tickets, event schedules, and MLA memorabilia are also available. Special event sign-up sheets will also be at the MLA booth. Adult competitions will cost competitors \$5 this year (except for the team competition) while all children's programs remain free of charge. Remember to sign up in advance of any contest or event at the MLA booth.

The MLA sponsors a kids' shooting area where young people can shoot for literally hours on end. The MLA's youth equipment is always available for those who do not have their own. When the area is open, it is staffed with qualified adults for your child's safety. A kids' program will run from 9 am to 10 am daily and will be held at the activities tent in front of the barn. Those activities will be geared for children 8-12 years of age but all are welcome. Free t-shirts and ice cream will be given to all children who participate in the kids' Silver Arrow youth competition on Saturday. Check age-specific times on the schedule of events list.

There will be 3D courses, turkey shoot, hawk-throwing, and target competitions all three days at the GLLI. One has to but check the schedule of events to know where to be and when. A bit of the MLA spring shoot will make

its debut at the GLLI on Friday. The "Team Competition" will bring laughs and sport to spectators and competitors alike. A \$10 shoot-fee will get your 5-man team two rounds for best time, with deductions for accuracy included. But be prepared, if you cannot laugh at yourself, then this may not be the competition for you. It will be a rip-roaring good time.

Saturday evening there will be a Commemorative Arrow Salute for friends and family who are no longer with us. This is a solemn, non-competitive tribute where a few words are spoken, the list of names read, and a special arrow launched in remembrance. Anyone is welcome to participate in this event. Please contact the staff at the MLA booth any time before 5 pm on Saturday to add the name of your loved one to the list and/or to add your name to the list of shooters. There is no fee for this event.

A trade blanket will be held at the pavilion (near the boat launch) as well as a Tomahawk competition at 7 pm on Saturday.

Sunday's events conclude with a large raffle of donated items. Remember, this is the second of the two money-making events held by your MLA each year. We are dependent on your donated items as well as raffle ticket sales to supply funding for all MLA programs. There is no need to wait until Sunday to drop off your items. The MLA volunteers will gladly accept your donations any time during the weekend, prior to the actual drawing. You will note that while you do not have to be present to win, it is highly encouraged that you stay to see what the drawings bring. For more or less obvious reasons, some items simply cannot be shipped due to size and weight. Volunteers will make every effort to label those items so that you will know in advance of the drawing. There are also "MEMBERS ONLY" items which will include \$500 toward a new bow by an MLA bowyer. So you may want to check your membership to make sure it is current! Discounts abound for shooting and memorabilia when you are an official MLA member. Check the mailing label on your current STICKTALK magazine; it is your official membership card and will have your membership expiration date on it. Your membership information is also available at the MLA booth where you're encouraged to renew, if needed.

There are a few basic rules that all of us must follow while we are at Charlton Park. For

those who like to come to Charlton the weekend before, you will no longer be allowed to leave an unattended trailer in the park proper. Due to new park policies we are asking that early arrivals, who are not staying with the camper, leave their trailer in the area between the exhibition building and the maintenance barn. Early campers also need to make sure they pay for the extra time prior to the event. Wherever you camp please be mindful of your neighbor. Limit your use of generators. Remember too, there are no animals allowed in any of the buildings, at any time. This is also a park policy.

Many of us go to a lot of shoots across this fine state, and we've noticed more and more trash on the trails. Please clean up after yourselves. Traditionally, longbow men and women are a particular lot who would pick up their tracks if they could so that no one would know they had entered and exited the out-of-doors. Please police yourselves and make sure that everyone keeps the park, and especially the 3D trails, clean and beautiful for the next person.

We encourage longbow men and women everywhere to join us at historic Charlton Park on the second weekend of August. Please do not leave the non-archer behind because this park is a great place for them to come and relax. Most of the buildings around the grassy hub will be open with volunteers in period dress, sharing information about the turn of the century village. You will want to see the museum, the blacksmith and carpenter's shops, school house and the wayside inn, to name only a few of the businesses represented in this nostalgic walk down memory lane. One may even find that the competitions are in themselves quite entertaining.

The Michigan Longbow Association's Great Lakes Longbow Invitational is alive and well on the banks of the Thorapple River in Barry County's Charlton Park. Please come and share a great weekend with like-minded archers. It's a place to create relationships and memories that will last a lifetime. ➡



The Adventures of Maid Marion

by Heather Williams

The crowded dining hall of the castle had the smell of roasted meats, seasoned vegetables and poorly disguised sweat. Marion's stomach turned as she glanced up from her quickly congealing trencher of food and accidentally caught the eye of the Sheriff of Nottingham. It was not the food that made her nauseated. She forced a neutral smile on her face, lowered her eyes and bowed her head, ever-so-slightly, in acknowledgement. As she looked back up, Marion could see the satisfied gleam in his eyes. The Sheriff turned to speak with an underling, content his future was set. *Over my dead body* thought Marion.

The Sheriff had begun his campaign to take control of the throne before King Richard had even stepped from English shores. Now, so many years later, he was planning to wed Marion. As the King's cousin, a marriage to her gave the Sheriff a sense of legitimacy. Tonight was their engagement celebration.

Marion had been very careful to seem compliant with the Sheriff's demands and his feeble courtship. She allowed the announcement and planning of this farce of an engagement because she knew it would offer the perfect cover for escape. He kept her "bodyguards" with her always, even stationing them at her bedchamber door. Tonight, with so many people coming and going, was her only chance.

The hours seemed to drag on as Marion waited for the opportunity to slip away. The moment came when the Sheriff was distracted by a lively game of dare. The game had gotten boisterous enough, her guard's attention was fixed on it and his back was to her.

Quietly, she slid from behind the table and exited the hall. Walking with purpose, so as to look normal, she headed toward her chambers. She only passed a few overworked servants. Once in her rooms, she removed her fancy dress and donned an outfit of men's pants, shirt and boots. Placing a floppy hat on her head to cover her masses of hair, her disguise was complete.



Marion made her way through the servants' hall and kitchens, finally reaching the courtyard. She crossed to the stables. Anyone looking would see a slim stable hand working the tasks set by his master. With so many new faces joining the castle festivities, no one paid any heed to Marion as she selected and saddled a dark mare. An accomplished horsewoman, she finished the job and was mounted quickly. She trotted through the back gate, tipping her hat at the inebriated guard standing watch. Marion forced herself to maintain the steady pace until she was over the southern hill and out of sight of the castle.

Once the view was clear, Marion released a long, tense breath. Her heart had been pounding through her chest. She put the adrenaline to work as she spurred her horse into high gear. There was only one place to go. Only one man who could help her. Marion was heading to Sherwood Forest and Robin Hood.

- *Will Maid Marion be able to find Robin Hood?
- *Will Robin Hood help keep her safe from the Sheriff?
- *Has the Sheriff discovered Marion's escape?

To find out how Maid Marion's story ends, you'll need to join the fun at this year's GLLI. Ladies, look for the Maid Marion Shoot sign-up sheets at the registration booth. Spots are limited. Whether you're shootin' or watchin', it'll be somethin' new and awesome to see!!

...Marion had to allow her horse the freedom to slowly pick the way down the trail. The moon-

light was blocked by the dense forest canopy. The mare neighed softly, seeming to understand the importance of her mission. Marion leaned in to pat the mare's soft neck reassuringly. The horse's ears perked to attention and her body stiffened beneath her rider, ready to flee. Marion heard a noise behind her and approaching from the right. Heavy forest shrubbery was being trod upon with mumbled curses as feet got hung up every so often.

More sounds from the left and front as dark figures emerged onto the path.

Marion was surrounded...

GLLI 2017 Schedule of Events

Events are subject to change. Check daily at the MLA registration booth

Friday

9:00 a.m. Vendor area and 3D courses open
9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Youth program (Events Tent)
10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Youth archery area open
Noon-5:00 p.m. Turkey Shoot
2:00-4:00 p.m. Team Challenge (Main Event Area)
5:00 p.m. Vendor area close
6:00 p.m. 3D courses close

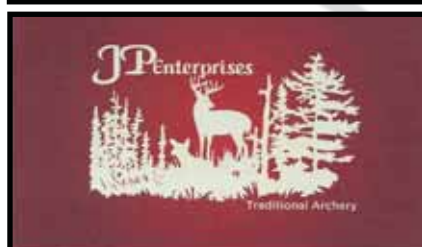
4:00 p.m. Adult Silver arrow (Main Event Area)
5:00 p.m. Turkey Shoot sudden death shoot-off (Main Event Area)
5:00 p.m. Vendor area close
6:00 p.m. 3D courses close
6:00 p.m. Commemorative Arrow Salute (Main Event Area)
7:00 p.m. Tomahawk Throwing (Pavilion)
7:00 p.m. Trade Blanket (Pavilion)

Saturday

9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Youth program (Events Tent)
9:00 a.m. Vendor area and 3D courses open
10:00 am Maid Marion
10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Turkey Shoot
10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Kids shooting area open
11:00 a.m. Sherwood Challenge (Main Event Area)
1:00 p.m. Youth Silver arrow competition *Under 7 years*
1:45 p.m. Youth Silver arrow competition *8-11 years*
2:30 p.m. Youth Silver arrow competition *12-15 years*

Sunday

8:00 a.m. Non-Denominational church service (Village Chapel)
9:00 a.m. Vendor areas and 3D courses open
9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Youth program (Events Tent)
10:00 a.m.-12:00 Youth shooting area open
12:00 Vendor and 3D Courses close (no starts after 12:00)
1:00 p.m. Barn raffle (Steam Barn)
2:00 p.m. GLLI concludes (clean up grounds)





Ed's Bear Hunt

by Ed Pearce

It was my second trip out bear hunting this season and after a three-hour sit, things began to happen. Some sound or motion drew my attention to the bear. At first I thought two bears were coming up behind the poplar tree. Then, what was thought to be two bears became one as the black mass turned and walked around the tree.

He threw his head up in the air, which is when I noticed that at some point the wind had shifted in his favor. He was easily two times as wide as any other bear I had seen. His front shoulders gave him the shape of a silver back gorilla. I became concerned when after detecting my sweet aroma, he walked right past my corn barrel on a beeline toward me. When he stopped he was already way too close for comfort. Standing on his hind legs at five yards, his head rose to seven feet, which was only three feet lower than my tree stand platform. The bear placed his front paws on a tree about six inches in diameter and began to violently bounce in a show of aggression. He had the top swaying violently with every thrust. I think I heard him saying, "This is my house and I am king!!"

After successfully asserting his dominance upon the local land creatures, the monarch swaggered back toward my corn barrel. Then it happened...a shot opportunity. I drew my long-

bow and in the next moment I saw all but the nock of the arrow disappear into the side of the quartering-away animal. In seconds I could hear wheezing and then coughing just before a really good "burp." Now I realize those are not real polite sounds, but it was music to my ears.

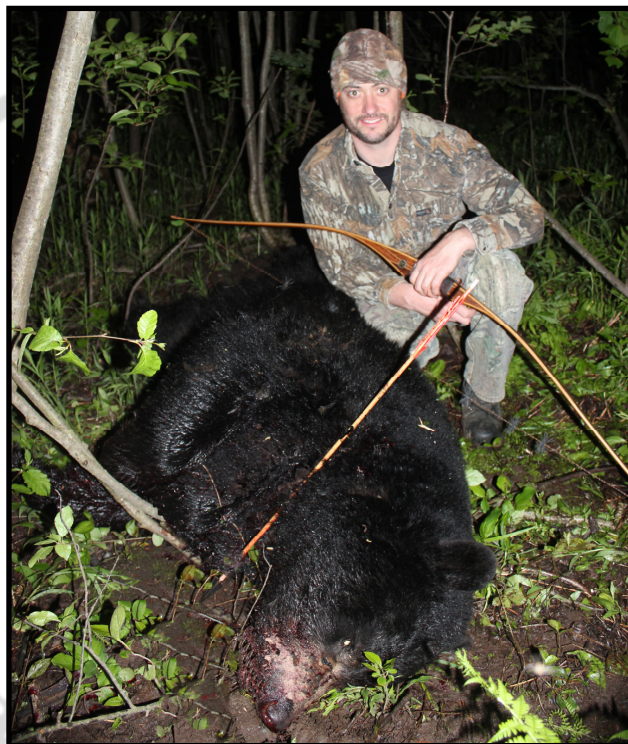
Thirty yards from ground zero, the bear was found! I approached him gingerly, and only after I had made a trip to my truck to pick up some confidence and life insurance. After giving the 500-plus pound bruin the bump test with the muzzle of my slug gun, I began my autopsy. The arrow must have migrated out of his chest just ahead of his front leg. The arrow passed high and back of the chest cavity on a forward angle, passing over its heart and part



of the far lung before exiting. Remarkable for a little longbow, I thought.

The bruin proved too heavy to arrange for a good picture and that should have been my clue. I brought a local logger friend in to help me drag it out, but we concluded two guys were not going to get it done. As day turned to night, I rounded up my brother Mike and my wife Nicole to help with the chore. Together we did the "1-2-3 pull" tactic. Yard by yard we moved the bear close enough to the road for the truck to do the rest of the work. We tried to lift it into the truck without a glimmer of hope for success. We finally pulled the bear to a knoll where we could back the truck up and kind of rolled him in before we rolled the truck on home.

The bruin has yet to be scored officially but it is my largest Ontario black bear to date. It was a good bear as the green figures have the skull over 20". The minimum Pope and Young requirement being 20" and the Ontario records start at 17". I used a 65# Tomahawk Longbow,



with Goldtip Traditional arrows, and a 250 grain single bevel Grizzly up front.

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Sunday	- Unlimited Shooting	-	Individual \$15.00	Family \$25.00

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Exactly Who is Wild Heather?

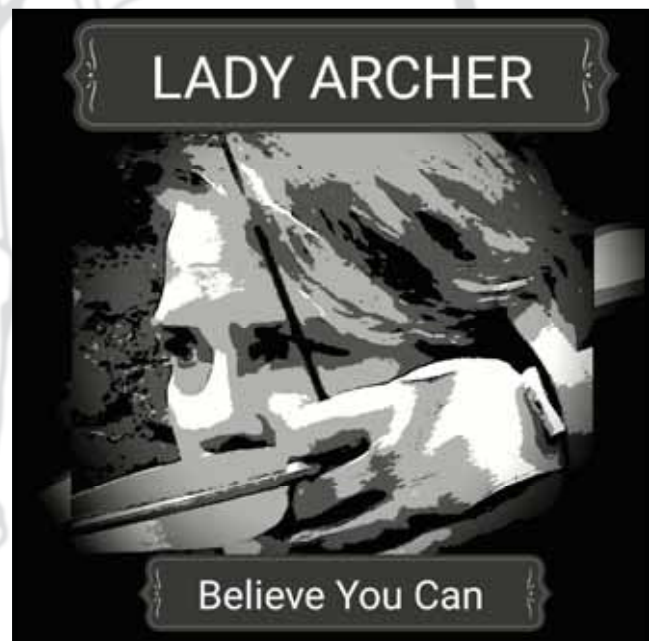
As you've strolled through this spring's events, you may have noticed a new vendor. Wild Heather has been slowly cropping up everywhere archers are present. The bright burgundy tent is hard to miss. Owner, Heather Williams and her husband, Chuck, have taken a leap of faith and started this small business to offer a variety of things at events big and small. We've finally corralled her long enough to ask some questions and find out "Exactly Who Is Wild Heather?".

ST: How did you get started in traditional archery?

WH: Well, Chuck has been an archer for years, but, I just started last year. Loving every minute, by the way.

ST: How did you get started in your archery business?

WH: One of the first things I noticed was the lack of things for us gals. Specifically for us gals, I should say. Not to take away from what the vendors are offering, but, the majority of items are focused on the fellas. A girl can only have so much pink camo and sometimes, we want shirts made for our unique shapes. So, anyway, this bug of an idea began to niggle in my brain. As the year went by, I worked on



concepts. I do have previous vending experience. I knew I liked that kind of work. As it started coming together, looking more and more like a legitimate business, I realized this was going to happen, as long I as I could get through the hardest part...convincing Chuck.

ST: How did you come up with your name?

WH: I tossed around several ideas. I wanted to

express myself as eclectic, unique...yes, wild. Someone who loves the outdoors. Feminine in a "man's" world. Ultimately, I had a picture in my head of a lady archer, standing in a field of heather. My niece and nephew, Jessica and Jesse, from Painless Printing, helped me hone the image into the logo you see to-day. Then, he developed an alternate logo with the WH and an arrow. I can use this on smaller items or men's wear.

ST: Talk about your product line. How do you decide what to carry? Unique products?

WH: The bulk of what I'm selling is apparel for women, especially tee shirts. There are some things for men. Most everything is archery themed. There are also a variety of crafts and décor, handmade jewelry, natural soaps and other products. While I will carry mostly things that will interest the ladies, there will always be a few things for our gents. A majority of the items offered are made here in Michigan. Generally, the entire business is built around what I wanted to see walking through the vendor areas at the archery events.

ST: What is your customer's favorite product? Best Seller?

WH: The tee shirts are, without question, the best sellers. Our American Archer shirt is a big hit! We have a variety of sayings, colors and styles. They're always being added to, so that next time you come by, it'll be new.

ST: What do you see as the future of traditional archery?

WH: I think we've got a great future. Every time I speak about archery, our club or events, there is always interest. People don't know what they don't know. If we all continue to



share our love of this longbow lifestyle, it will continue to grow. I think we each have it in us to bring about the future of traditional archery. In this crazy, disconnected world, people (all sorts of people) are looking for ways to reconnect. There's something so fundamental about gripping a longbow, nocking an arrow, drawing back and releasing. The accomplishment felt when you strike that target is the easiest thing to share.

ST: What has been your experience with the MLA?

WH: I've had a great experience with the MLA! From the very beginning, the entire club has been so supportive of my learning and growing in archery. I've made life-long friendships. I love being part of this family!

ST: Any parting thoughts?

WH: Chuck and I would just like to say thank you to everyone! They've been so very encouraging in this new adventure. We look forward to seeing you in the field, on the trail or just roaming about.

Welcome New Members And Those That Have Been Away...

Don and Kristine Scholtz
Mike and Kathi Hogan
Joshua Swincicki
Michael Jensen
Thomas Becher
Randy Duncan
Carl Shippen
Kalie Grice

Jack Briggs
John Carlson
Jay Steimhauser
Kenneth Sargeant
Charles Patrick Hunt
Scott and Crystal Guise
Justin and Jennifer White
Doug and Kathie Gilmore
Glen and Kimberly Stensaker

Paul and Inga Podsobinski
Wayne and Linda Gross
Nick and Nataia Denner
Alan and Donna Veen
Bud and Lori Stafford
Rodney Harwood
Jack Walker
Tyrell Carey



The Longbow Meets the Public

MLA Outreach

by Floyd Wells



The Michigan Longbow Association is a 501(c)3 organization dedicated among other things to these specific standards set in the MLA By-Laws:

To preserve, foster and perpetuate the true spirit of archery.

To promote good fellowship among, and bind together, persons with a mutual love for the longbow and desire to keep the sport of archery pure and traditional.

To encourage the use of and respect for the longbow as a wholesome sport in all its forms, including tournaments, target and field archery and lawful hunting.

To preserve, protect and improve the privileges and opportunities for the use of the longbow and archery for all legitimate recreational purposes.

To facilitate and conduct educational programs to acquaint members and the public in the use of and respect for the longbow as an effective and suitable weapon for the hunting of game and fish as an appropriate and historically honorable endeavor.

To cooperate with public and private organizations, associations, and individuals in fostering and perpetuating the use of the longbow in accordance with its finest traditions and as an activity of human endeavor worthy of study, respect, and dignity.

To encourage the acquisition, study and preservation of knowledge, design, techniques and skills used in the construction of traditional bows and arrows, accessories, their use and the love of archery



Wow! That is a mouthful isn't it? Some of you didn't even know that we are an organization that has its roots in keeping the use of the longbow alive and well in the public eye as well as the private (membership) sector. That is a task not easily accomplished.

On the pages of this STICKTALK magazine you will find numerous references to volunteer work in the different programs that the MLA, its administration and its membership have arranged to meet the goals so elaborately stated in our by-laws. Last year alone, the MLA got a longbow into the hands of an estimated 2500 new shooters. That is a conservative estimate at that. Let's review a few of these programs and their volunteer opportunities.



The first outreach of the year comes in January at the Kalamazoo Traditional Archery Expo sponsored by Great Northern. We have an MLA booth there and a shooting area for children who are interested in shooting a stick and string. Some of them are accomplished shots. Some have never tried traditional archery before. Volunteers man the booth selling memberships and merchandise while others work with the children at the shooting line. It's a great weekend getting to know other MLA members and making new friends.

An April/May trip to Kelloggsville Elementary



School is next. Situated near the Grand Rapids district of the state, it is where the MLA teaches 2nd and 3rd graders about the longbow. Volunteers man stations in the gym where they teach students about bow designs, dominate eye, shooting techniques, arrow building, and actual shooting. Just replacing the balloon cards is a task at this event. One of our recent trips saw the school's 300 students break 1100 balloons!



Move on now to Memorial Day Weekend in May. The MLA sponsors a shooting booth at the Charlton Park Days in Hastings, Michigan. An important part of the day's events, the MLA booth far exceeds even the bustling bounce house in popularity. Long lines are common place as children and adults want to shoot the longbow, many for the very first time. Volunteers work one on one with new shooters here.

Let's go to June and the Compton Traditional Bowhunters' Rendezvous in Berrien Springs, Michigan. The MLA has a booth there that sells memberships and merchandise. Volunteers man



the booth making new friends and sharing with other stickbow shooters from around the nation. Many MLA members also participate in the kids' program on Saturday morning. It is a great time to meet other traditional shooters from around the US of A.

The Michigan Longbow Association's signature shoot is in August at Charlton Park in Hastings, Michigan. At the Great Lakes Longbow Invitational volunteers run the MLA administration booth, shooting competitions, and kids programming. At the GLLI you can volunteer to teach or take pictures. There is no limit to the volunteer opportunities on that weekend. Set up starts on Wednesday and tear down ends on Sunday night. Then there is everything in between. The GLLI takes many volunteers to run smoothly.

Moving toward the fall time in September there is the Great Outdoor Youth Jamboree at Hudson Lake State Park in Clayton, Michigan. Again this is where the MLA sponsors a shooting booth and is one of the premier attractions for this event. The MLA has the number one booth space and coordinates closely with Pheasants Forever and the Michigan DNR to help bring traditional archery to the masses. The first year saw nearly 800 participants come through the booth. The second year those numbers doubled. Men, women and children stand in long lines for a chance to shoot the longbow. Volunteers help hand out bows, gather arrows, instruct shooters, and set targets. This is a one-day event that needs 20 volunteers due to the volume of participants.

In any article about reaching the public with

a stick and string, we would be remiss if we did not acknowledge some of the local club and county events that MLA members participate in. There are shooting events scheduled for scouts, private parties, schools and organizations that the MLA provides instructors, equipment, and funding for, like a TRY TADITIONAL booth for traditional shoot weekends or the World Dragon Shooting Day. The MLA volunteers from local clubs to local libraries teaching traditional archery to anyone who will listen.



There is an old saying that states, "You get out of it what you put into it." If your archery experience seems to be lacking something, there is a good bet that you are missing the **sharing** component. The opportunities have been outlined here for you. All you have to do is jump in and get your feet wet. Your archery experience will grow by leaps and bounds guaranteed. There is no doubt about it. Contact an MLA Council Member today and ask, "What can I do?" You will have an amazing time! Try it and see. —

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Changing of the Guard

by Floyd Wells



From time to time we in the Michigan Longbow Association need to take pause in our daily lives and look at the good with which

we have been blessed. This spring at the MLA Membership Meeting was just such a time. President Nick Viau, at the conclusion of two terms, stepped down in favor of Vice President John Buchin.

Nick's tenure as president saw the MLA progress through many changes including the capture of the coveted 501(c)3 recognition by the state and federal government. He helped get the Council certified in as Level I archery instructors and set a policy and standard in attire. Outreach was encouraged and supported by MLA resources. Nick also spearheaded an eager group of Council members who together created an environment of welcome to traditional archers everywhere. This concept translated into an active archery organization for new families as well as the established outdoors person. Under Nick's leadership the MLA has come to the forefront of the archery culture in the state of Michigan. If there is an outdoor venue someplace in the state, it is a sure bet that one will see an MLA shirt somewhere in the crowd, if not an active MLA group taking part. While Nick is stepping down, he is not going far. He will still be active with the MLA website as well as helping with administrative tasks. You can also follow him on his blog Lifeandlongbows.

The new MLA president John Buchin is not a newcomer to the field of archery administration as he has been on the MLA Council for several terms. John has become more and more assertive in the office of Vice President and was a common sense choice for President when the seat was vacated. John is a craftsman of the finest kind being the owner and creator of Talon Game Calls. One of the first projects John will be dealing with is the MLA storage issue as well as the various contracts with other organizations. We can all look forward to a great run with John at the helm.

Our new vice president, Rob Jones, has been around this longbow organization for many years. Having sat on the Council for several terms, Rob knows what it takes to get the job done. He has served the MLA well as the Merchandising Agent and will continue to juggle those duties



along with the VP job for the time being. A dedicated part of the MLA program like many of the Council men and women, Rob eats, sleeps, and drinks longbows.

We would encourage each and every member to take a look at their archery experience to see if indeed you feel you could be an asset to the organization that has given the longbow archer so much. If you answer in the affirmative, we invite you to become an active volunteer at the many MLA events or on the MLA Council. We look forward to seeing what you have to offer.



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Archery Experience in Kelloggsville

by Suzanne Schmier

For the fourth year in a row, the Michigan Longbow Association came to West Kelloggsville Elementary School near Grand Rapids to provide a special experience for second and third grade students. Because Kelloggsville is just outside of the city, nearly every student is new to archery.

The day was organized and run by several amazing MLA volunteers. Most of the volunteers had done it before and found it very rewarding, returning to spend the day with these great kids. We also had a couple of new volunteers step in.



John Buchin led a station at which the students learned what a longbow was, how they were made, and a little history of the longbow.

Jeff Burns and Doug Schmier led a station at which students used stretchy bands to work on how to aim and proper form. It looked very cool to see the kids all "shoot" their bands at the same time.

Returning volunteer Rob Kruko and new volunteer Teresa Burns led a station at which students learned about arrows and cresting using a crester and permanent markers. In each class, the students worked together on one arrow, which turned out beautifully! Each child also got to put a small dowel rod, the size of a pencil, in the crester and decorate it to take home and keep. Teresa was a little shy at first, but after a couple of groups went through the station with Rob's guidance, she got comfortable and did an excellent job with the kids. This was a very popular station!

The most important station was the shooting line. We needed many volunteers at this station, and Brian Carpenter, Greg Denny, JoAnn Kruko, and Nick Viau returned and new volunteers Jessica Viau and Jerry Schodelmayer came to share their love of the longbow. Jessica was amazing with the kids. She made sure each child got a bow that fit. This was no easy task because most of the children thought they should hold the bow with their dominant hand.



They were confused and couldn't tell her if they were left-handed or right-handed! She adjusted and found a way to make this easy. She asked the students to close their eyes and pretend they were writing their names in the air. Then she plucked out the lefties and righties and gave them the correct bow.

All the coaches did a wonderful job with the kids. Most of the children were a little nervous at first, but the patience of our coaches and the gentleness with which they gave directions had every child comfortable within one or two pulls of the string. We had just a few kids get snapped on the arm, but they always wanted to finish shooting before going to get ice. They liked that their small bruise was called the "archer's tattoo"!

Two of the most important volunteers, hidden from view most of the day, were our balloon blowers, Dave Balowski and Kevin Bowers. The kids were so excited to hear balloons popping as they shot, and Dave and Kevin kept the boards replenished.

We had many of the Kelloggsville staff, even the principal, come in to shoot while students were outside at recess. They have all heard me talk about archery and the MLA for so long, they wanted to give it a try. After watching their



students have such a good time, teachers were waiting for a turn, too!

Best of all, we had several parents come to watch their kids. It didn't take much convincing to get them to try it as well.

One family shared a sweet story with me. Their younger daughter, who was to try archery for the first time, was quite nervous leading up to the day. Their older daughter, who had been to our longbow day for the past two years, told her sister, "When I got to shoot the longbow, it was the best day of 2nd grade and the best day of 3rd grade. You're going to love it!" She told her all the cool stuff she would get to do. The girl's mother told me that on that morning, she came to wake up her daughter and found her not nervous at all, but already up and dressed. When she asked why she got up so early, her daughter answered, "It's longbow day! I don't want to miss it!" This family showed much interest and are hoping to attend the GLLI this August. The parents said it seemed like a really good family activity, and they're right. They've already got MLA members offering to show the young family through the course for their first time.



Students wrote thank you cards and letters which are adorable. You can tell from their words and pictures how important and special this day was to them. Thank you to all the volunteers who help make this day happen. Special thanks to Nick Viau, who organized this experience for our students four years ago when I asked if it was possible to share the longbow with our students.

As a long-time teacher at West Kelloggsville, I appreciate the Michigan Longbow Association and the kind volunteers who made this event possible for these students who are close to my heart.



World Dragon Shooting Day

by Dorothy McElroy

We were up just before the sun, leaving Wisconsin at 4:30 am. In the passenger's seat next to me was a sleepy-eyed little dragon slayer. Little did I know that he would mature and grow years before my eyes in a matter of 24 hours.

It was a beautiful day to drive. The seven hours on the road would allow us to reflect on what the coming days would bring. Our memorial shoot had a three-year history and had been expanding every year, but this would be our first World Dragon Shooting Day. It was being held at Tomahawk Archers in Temperance, Michigan, on June 3 and 4 of 2017.

This would be our first trip to Tomahawk Archers, and our first national shoot out-of-state. The scary part for us is that we weren't in charge. Wyatt, Val (my significant other) and I were very excited about the weekend in general, and especially about the shoot. We knew the capable hands and heart of the Tomahawk club were covering every detail on our behalf. We were looking forward to finally meeting these people whom we only knew either from a Facebook profile or from a phone call. We were anticipating a weekend of making memories and living through all the moments that would impact three families that needed support.

This would be our largest Dragon Shoot to date and would benefit three families: the brothers Gavin and Nathan Walker, who lost their parents to a drunk driver less than a year ago; Jimmie Gretzinger and his three children, who lost their mom and wife to pancreatic cancer a few months ago; and Sarah and Pat Hogan and their two girls. Sarah, had just been diagnosed with stage three melanoma cancer.



This weekend was about more than just slinging arrows. It was about bringing a community together in support of three of their own families. It was to be a weekend of hope, strength, and solidarity. It was a weekend that truly impacted us with every arrow that was shot.

Our first visual was the practice course adorned with all the sponsors' signs. On every practice butt was a hand-drawn and hand-painted dragon target. Many individuals, including the local school systems, had gotten in on the target-making fun. In addition to the targets that would be used for the contest, there were many homemade signs that people had bought to support not only the families, but also, my son Wyatt's dream of just such an event taking place. Seeing all these people pouring out their support was enough to stop my breath for a moment. It was a mesmerizing and humbling moment. Wyatt and I just stood and looked at the sea of support in front of us, holding hands in total silence.

Early Saturday morning, you could hear the birds singing and the gentle sound of the wind whispering through the beautiful grounds of the Tomahawk club. The stillness interrupted by club President Chris Jurski yelling, "Who wants eggs? They are ready!" I was told no shoot started until the eggs were served. No one knew what to expect with a first-time shoot of this nature. Would the public come in support of this cause? The anticipation could be cut with a knife.



The vendors were ready, and Caroline and Floyd Wells from the Michigan Longbow Association were patiently waiting for their newbies to learn the power of the longbow. These two and their helpers did an amazing job of instructing beginners in the sport of archery. There were thirty-five groups and families who were introduced to archery that weekend. The Wells' even took the time to train reporter Kelsey Cogan and Josh, her cameraman, from Channel 11 News in Toledo, Ohio. Later to the cheers of the spectators, Kelsey hit the dragon target using a longbow and cedar arrow.



As a mom, I couldn't have been more proud of my son, Wyatt. He seemed to mature into an adult in the matter of seconds. Of course, after his "on-camera" time he melted back to a little

boy, running off to play with his new friends. He has become a spokesman of sorts for grieving children everywhere. He knows you have to keep living to make a difference for those of you who have experienced loss.



We were all patiently waiting to meet our three families. This was, after all, why we were here. The time finally came. Gavin and Nathan Walker are two incredibly strong young men. They have moved forward in life even after the loss of their parents. Wyatt was able to walk the course and shoot with them on Saturday.



Jimmie Gretzinger, host of the Michigan Outdoors television show, was another of the event's recipients. Our gratitude goes out to Jimmie for allowing us to benefit his family and for taping the WDSO for one of his episodes. Jimmie is a man of strong faith and conviction and an incredible father of three children. Pat Hogan was the reason we were at Tomahawk Archers. Pat had been in contact with us for several years. It was Pat who had prompted the Tomahawk club to hold their version of World Dragon Shooting Day which included 50/50 shoot raffles. Tomahawk then donated the



money back to us at WDSO. While the preparation for this shoot had gone on for a year, it was just a month before the shoot that Pat learned of his wife's cancer diagnosis. Sarah is a courageous mother and wife whom we were proud to make a recipient of this WDSO event.



This is why Wyatt's dream is so important. Even though he is honoring a loss that he is reminded of every single day, he is also helping others in the process. He is learning that small gestures and little moments can truly play a large part in the meaning of life. The World Dragon Shooting Day is not just about shooting

arrows at dragons, it is about slaying the dragons each of us must face. It is about bringing archers together worldwide in hopes of a sense of unity. We archers are a unique breed. We yearn to share and pass on traditions. We laugh while we are competing and break bread as a family at the day's end.



On Saturday night an old high school friend of mine, who now lives in Toledo, came with his band to do a fund-raising concert for us. The Reese Daily Band was a tremendous hit. Their tight music and fun-filled night of antics was the perfect ending to a magical day. A great shout goes out to Reese for sharing the "music to sooth our souls." Sunday was also a great time with all the raffle drawings and dragon slaying that went on. The entire weekend was overwhelming.

The World Dragon Shooting Day at Tomahawk Archers is now in our rearview mirror. Leaving the grounds on Sunday afternoon we watched the Tomahawk sign grow further and further away. With it came a feeling of loss, yet, at the same time, an amazing feeling of love and respect for a club and its community. A community that came together for one weekend to share support for three families. United we help slay the dragons in each of our lives. Until we meet again, may your arrows shoot straight and may your groupings be small.

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To The members of Tomahawk Archers and its families:

Wyatt and I would like to thank you for all your hard work. The endless hours that you put in with every ounce of heart and soul made this year's Dragon Shoot something very special. We know the effort, the stress and energy that these shoots demand. We were not able to be there in person or to help physically because of the distance between us, and we struggled with that. We are inherently very hands-on, and this was the first year we did not have control over the many things that needed to be done. However, we did not have to worry as everything turned out to be in extremely capable hands. Both the sponsors you recruited and the raffle items you were able to procure were phenomenal. The fund-raising event's success and the proceeds raised were beyond our fondest expectations. What you did as a club and community was simply put, incredible.



Wyatt had the time of his life. He made many new friends, forged new bonds and once again, grew up before my eyes. My thanks go out to Blair for taking him on ATV rides and for letting him help. I owe a debt of gratitude to Caroline and Floyd for letting Wyatt help you set up the tomahawk throwing. Many thanks also for teaching the fine craft of archery to all the beginners. We appreciate all that the Michigan Longbow Association did for us and for the archery community.

Thank you doesn't seem to be enough. Words don't really seem to express the depth of thankfulness that we feel. The Dragon Shoot is a very happy time and yet, a very emotional time for us both. We can't help but be reminded of Dennis. He is the person we are honoring. He is the person whose presence we miss every single day. When we arrived at the club, we came as faces from a social media site, yet we left feeling like part of a family. It has taken a couple of weeks to process all that happened and all that we felt. Reality of course returns, and life must go on. But, for a good cause we came together and created something very special. It will remain for both Wyatt and myself, a shining moment to reflect upon. If there is even the smallest way that my son or I can reciprocate, you need only to ask.

Thank you all and until we meet again, peace and love,

Dorothy, Wyatt, Val



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Build Your Own Personal 3D Course

Dave Worden

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I am fortunate to own eight acres, part of which is wooded and, unfortunately, quite often under water. This portion of my property is not really useful for much, so I suggested to my wife that I'd like build a 3D course in our "yard." See pic 1. TALL boots will keep your feet dry. Arrow dryness is directly proportional to accuracy!

Obviously she agreed to my building the course. There was one proviso, however. Neither the course nor any individual targets were to be visible from the house. As I already owned some 3D targets, my first hurdle was to make them invisible from the house. This is easier to accomplish than it seems. Putting the targets in the wooded portion of the property pretty much blocked them from view from the house. I also was careful not to align any shooting lanes or trails with the window in the house.

Since sunlight degrades urethane in the targets, I thought camouflage covers would be just the thing. The targets would be protected from sunlight and even harder to see when not in use. My wife sews, and since she didn't want to see the targets anyway, it wasn't that hard to

persuade her to make the covers. (Just a note here, after a couple of years wear and tear on the covers, she's not quite so happy to make replacement covers!) With a few more leaves on the trees and bushes, my course is virtually invisible. See pic 2.

The hinged 4x4 3D supports used by many clubs work well to hold the targets, but are rather expensive so I made my own stands. Here in Michigan, our ash trees are dying by the thousands. I just cut discs 6" to 12" thick from downed trees that are at least 12" in diameter



and drilled a couple holes in them to accept the post on the 3D targets. I generally drill a hole near the center of the disc and another about 4" from the edge. This permits me to use the disc on large and small targets. I found with some small targets the diameter of the discs was such that the distance from center to center was greater than the distance from post to post on the target. With holes offset nearer the edge, the discs can be turned until the proper distance from hole to hole has been achieved. You can see these discs in most of the pictures and quite well in pic 1. I drill through holes so that they don't fill with water. I leave the discs in the woods over the winter, but lean them against a nearby tree so to insure that water doesn't freeze in the holes and split the log sections.

Target placement can be a challenge on a small course. I have a small swamp and a creek to deal with. Placing a large target, like a deer, near the swamp would likely lead to some lost arrows. A miss high or even a bit low could make it to the water. A miss is much less likely to make it to the swamp on a low target like a mountain lion, javelina, or even an alligator if you're lucky enough to have one. Of course, it's not just about losing arrows. Shooting at the ground is inherently safer than shooting horizontally or skyward. If the opportunity is there, a tree stand or platform reduces the chance for errant arrows even more. So will a tree behind the target.

To make the best use of available space, I set up so most shots are taken from the previous target or very close to it. Obviously this means one group at a time on the course. But hey, this is my back yard, not a public course.

3D targets generally have kill zones marked on both sides. I have one deer target set up beside the creek. I shoot across the creek first, and retrieve the arrows later—after I've crossed the creek (at a nearby culvert) and then shoot the deer on the other side.

I also sometimes shoot two targets from the same place. In one set-up, I'll shoot a deer target, then turn 90 degrees and shoot at a hare target. Then I retrieve the arrows from the deer and continue on, shooting a couple more targets, the second of which is sitting near, but 90 degrees to the hare. At this point I retrieve the arrow from both targets. You'd be sur-



prised at the number of target you can fit into a small area!

In keeping with the "invisible course" theme, I don't clear cut shooting and walking lanes and often shoot through holes in the vegetation. See pic 3. Not immediately retrieving arrows on some targets reduces the walkways necessary for the course. The fewer trees and bushes I trim, the less work I have to do to maintain the course and the harder it is to see.

Now let's talk about targets. If you are a member of a local archery club, watch for used targets it may have for sale or in the dumpster. Many of these targets can be repaired and last for years on your course. I use a repair kit from 3-D Country (www.3-dcountry.com). This two-part expanding foam is poured in the shot up or shot out target areas. It expands, filling the holes and is then ground to match the contour of the target. You can clearly see the repaired area on the mountain lion target that I retrieved from a dumpster.

Latex house paint works great to paint the repaired areas. I buy paint that people return to the paint store. It's generally much cheaper. I look for colors that are close to what I want and then mix them if necessary. Dark brown becomes tan with the addition of a bit of left over ceiling white.

The expanding foam will also “glue” broken targets back together. In some cases, you can buy a new core for a shot out AND broken target and, using the repair kit as a glue, glue the broken front and rear portion of the target to the new core and create a good, one-piece target. This works especially well on small targets like javelinas and coyotes. Check out the repaired javelina in pic 4. It was broken (shot out) in the thin areas both above and below the insert. With the front and rear sections glued to the insert, the target has new life. You can also use it as glue when the keyways on targets are broken or too loose to hold properly. You can either rebuild the keyway or just glue the sections together.

Many have had good luck repairing targets using the expanding insulating foam available at hardware stores. I’ve found that it doesn’t last as long as the foam from 3-D Country, but it does cost less.

I have a couple of inexpensive targets made by U-Stuff-It, but I think they may be out of business now, so I’ll just tell you how to make your own. For a simple bag target try using old feed sacks. Both the woven plastic and the burlap type work well. You can just paint an animal on them like I did for the woodchuck target in pic 5 or you just use the bag for raw material and cut and sew it into the shape of an animal like the U-Stuff-It people used to do. The internet is full of animal pics you can use for inspiration. In either case, just stuff it with plastic scraps like grocery bags, bubble wrap or any other soft plastic sheeting you can get your hands on.

A simple support for these targets can be made by bending electrical conduit into a U shape. I hook two of these U-shaped pieces and the bag target together with a couple of nylon band ties, spread the legs, and it’s ready to go. I have also used two ring clamps to hold the stand together, with the band ties then holding the target to the stand. It’ll work fine both ways. Picture 6 shows this support with a “U-Stuff-It” target.

Tyvek, available as scrap at building sites, is also a good material on which to paint target faces. It is weather proof and can be pinned to bag targets, straw bales, and ethafoam 2-D targets. You can find flat ethafoam targets, usually 19”x 24” in the sporting goods section of de-



PIC 4

partment stores. I’ve found K-Mart to be a good source for these targets when they are closing out their fall merchandise. They often sell for less than \$10. Put a paper animal on it



PIC 5

or just shoot the bull’s eyes that are on it.

I have one such target mounted behind a hollow section of a log that I use with a rabbit or squirrel paper target. The foam is held to the log with a couple of metal brackets bent to shape and screwed to the back of the log. The log is supported by a couple of pieces of rebar



PIC 6



PIC 7

into the ground. Since only half of the ethafoam rests in the hole, I can shoot out one side of the target, then slide it over and use the other half. See pic 7. I occasionally extend the target life by shooting the log!

There are 2D animal targets printed on plastic now available. These waterproof target faces can be put on an ethafoam or bag target and you get a very realistic, almost 3D look for very little expense. My turkey target has been used and left out in the weather for a couple of years. Except for the arrow holes, it's good as new. See pic 8. The support for this one is a sign frame my son had left over from a summer of house painting. Hey, nothing wrong with putting a couple of realistic looking 2D targets on your course.



PIC 8

Here's a real cheap target idea I got from Pat Gleason of Land-O-Lakes Bowmen. Get some shot out kill zones for 3D animals, paint them orange, put them in the woods, and have a punkin' shoot. See pics 9 and 10. You can take the idea a bit farther by attaching a rope

to one of them. Toss it out into the yard, take a shot or two, retrieve your arrows, and repeat. The rope isn't necessary, but it makes throwing the target a lot easier. Now you can go roaming around your yard shooting at various and unknown distances kind of like "stump shooting." Just be sure to throw the target where there's nothing behind that can be hurt should you happen to miss!




PIC 9

These cores are always being discarded by archery clubs, but, as you can see, they still have life in them. You can also use them for broadhead practice. Just shoot them up and replace as needed.



PIC 10

There you have it. You don't need a lot of land or expensive targets to make your own 3D course or shooting range. You can make a very fun course with a little creativity and a willingness to experiment. Once you have it set up, invite a few friends over and shoot to your heart's content. Who knows, they might even offer you a target or two! It's worked for me. 



The Terror of 1992

By Rob Gillow

The year was 1992 and it was a GLLI the Michigan Longbow Association will never forget! The greatest archery event in the world started as it had for years before. Longbow shooters from all over the country and some from overseas began rolling in and setting up camp. Vendors began setting up their portable shops, and campfires began to roar. These times are normally events I look forward to every year. Little did I know the terror that would unfold in the days to come.

I rolled into camp on Wednesday afternoon and headed for my usual camp site next to the castle. Yes a CASTLE, how cool is it to have a castle at your longbow shoot! OK so it was a really small castle at the Wilder Creek Conservation Club in Marshal, Michigan. For the last couple of years my tent had graced the grass in front of that castle as my imagination would fly with longbow adventures. That night was shared with friends, many of whom I only saw at this shoot each year. Thursday morning started out much the same way as other longbow enthusiasts continued to filter in. The problem started at about 3 that afternoon as storm clouds darkened the sky. Thunder rolled through the cooling air spreading across the greying sky above. Then the rain started setting off a chain of events that no one could have imagined.

The rain continued through the night, growing in intensity with every passing minute. I remember staring through the tent walls as

lightning flashed in front of me. I peered from my tent door to see the small creek next to me beginning to reach its upper banks. "Just sleep," I told myself. "The rain will stop and the fun will continue in the morning." I just had drifted off with the rhythm of the rain when I was slapped awake from a high-pitched scream. At least I thought it was a scream, or maybe I had just been dreaming. I strained to listen into the darkness but nothing else was heard. Still I pulled my back quiver closer to me as I lay back down. The shadows thrown against my tent walls with each lightning flash almost seemed to move before me. "Close your eyes," I told myself, "just close your eyes." Just then I swore I could hear something dragging along the ground outside my tent. That's it, I strung my longbow and moved my air mattress to the center of my tent and hugged up on the dozen or so cedar shafts resting in my leather back quiver.

The morning rays began to warm my tent, and its piercing light began invading my clinched eyelids. The driving rain had stopped and the clouds had moved on, clearing the skies to allow the brightest blue to shine through. Getting dressed I stepped out of my tent swinging my back quiver over my shoulder. Terry Henry was briskly walking toward me asking if I had seen Tim Able? It would seem that Tim was supposed to join Terry that morning for breakfast but hadn't made it. I told Terry I had not seen him, but if I did, I would let him know that



Terry Henry looking for Tim Able

he was looking for him. I too had an appointment with Dave and Norm Blaker for coffee. As I strolled across the small bridge, I saw some of the first shooters loading into a canoe to float down the course along the banks of the large pond. I could see the water of the small creek was up to the bottom of the bridge as I crossed, that will make it easier for a bath later on I thought. As I reached the Traders Traditional tent of Dave Blaker, a commotion of splashing and people hollering came from the pond behind me. I ran back over to the banks as Steve Turay was lumbering out of the water. "What happened?" I asked as Steve approached. He looked at me with bewilderment stating something had pulled the canoe right out from underneath them. Now Steve was a very accomplished canoe man from the Upper Peninsula, and I could not see him dumping a canoe of passengers on a smooth pond. We looked back to see the canoe straight up in the air and then pulled to the depths of the water. "What was that?" we both muttered as the small rope tied to the end of the canoe disap-



Norm working on broadheads to take his guard post

peared. "Keep everyone out of the water," Steve hollered as he raced off. "I have got to find Jerry and Ron," he said as he rounded the corner over the bridge.

My focus again swung back to the rolling pond in front of me. Moments later the water swelled as two halves of Steve's canoe broke the surface. What on earth could do that to a fiberglass canoe kept running though my head. A short while later Jerry Brum, Rick Shepard, Norm Blaker, and Ron LaClair all returned with Steve to the canoe launch. We all stared out at the remnants that once was a 14-foot canoe.



Ron getting gear together to face the man killer

"What happened again?" Ron asked Steve. Steve looked again in bewilderment, "I don't really know. One minute I was floating up on the first target and the next thing I know the canoe was pulled out from under me." "Maybe our canoes can't hold up to a big Yupper like you Steve," Jerry chuckled. The comment drew a laugh from everyone as we all stammered for an explanation. Steve looked around at us with a confused look. "Well I need to get into some dry clothes anyway."

We all stared out across the waters trying to figure out what had taken place when we saw it, a gray streak flying out of the water grabbing one of the deer targets along the shore. We all stared in amazement as the target bobbed up and down violently. Was that what we thought it was? Visions of Howard Hill's Man Killers began screaming though my head. Set guards and sharpen your broadheads Ron stated as they moved off to figure out what to do. I quickly reached back and moved the half dozen mounted Hill heads to the front of my quiver. We scrambled to pull the remaining canoes out of the water and closed the canoe shoot.



Rick and Jerry planning how to protect GLLI campers

We nocked arrows and took positions around the pond. Poised for action as our intent stares floated across the water in front of us. Then suddenly there in the lilies a pair of eyes lifted from the water. Then nothing, as quickly as they appeared they were gone. The grip on my bow tightened, I could feel the pressure of the bow string build on my fingers. A loud splash echoed behind me, my head snapped



Author getting a quick shot off

around to see a small dog swimming out into the pond. My eyes snapped back to see the water

roll as a large gator rose racing through the water. I quickly drew, found my anchor and relaxed my fingers. My arrow streaked through the air striking the beast back of the jaw. It rolled splashing wildly, the giant beast turned and began swimming back to the lily pads he had once come from. I found another arrow from my quiver; its nock found the bow string. This time my eyes focused on a small scale behind its large front leg and my arrow was away. The broadhead hit home putting the beast into another rolling dive, breaking both arrows. Another arrow again found the shelf of my bow and my eyes strained to find movement.

There, there, just before the lilies the giant beast slowed as my second arrow was a mortal hit. My right hand again found my anchor as the man eater caught my movement. He turned to come at me with teeth chomping. As his head turned from the small stump under the

water I locked focus on the slit of his eye and my arrow was away. The shaft penetrated through to his brain killing the beast instantly.



Another shot

Where did this thing come from? How did it get here? We had all heard stories of gators in the sewers, could one of the stories be true? With all the rainfall and the slight flooding did the swelling water push this killer from its underground home? Pulling the monster from the water, its swelled body measured over 9 feet long and was over 400 pounds. Suddenly, I remember we still had not found Tim. I looked down at the beast and shuddered. The scream I thought I dreamt, could it have been? This was truly a longbow invitational that no one would forget!!



The Man Killer brought to bay with the Authors Longbow

I shared this story with Mr. Floyd Wells who looked at me with a thousand questions across his face. "Rob," he said with conviction, "there is no way that story is true!" First of all he had just spoken with Tim Able last week, and there was no way Steve would lose a canoe!! Looking at the pictures of the monstrous beast, I seem to remember of a target they had floating in the pond and would pull it back and forth with bicycle wheels and a small motor. Well OK maybe I don't remember everything correctly, but it was still a lot a fun and a GLLI no one would forget!!!





One More Arrow

By Matt Wirwicki

The winter season seems longer every year; however, I'm excited to write that summer is here at last. For many of us, summer is synonymous with the traditional archery shoot season. Yes, it's time to string up our longbows and hit the 3-D courses. It's also the time we reacquaint with the many MLA friends and family we so dearly enjoy. Sharing campfires, sing-

ing camp songs, telling hunting stories of the past season and talks of perhaps picking out a new longbow or some new gear.

We in Michigan are fortunate to have many opportunities to attend archery shoots whether for weekend-long events or simply a Saturday afternoon outing on a course. On virtually every weekend in Michigan, there is a course

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open to shoot and practice our longbow skills in preparation for fall when hunting season opens again.

Though not all of us archers hunt. For many, it is the pure enjoyment and challenge of watching a beautifully crafted arrow, graceful and silent, make its way to an intended target. The target could be the whitetail target made of foam, the rotten stump or an empty soda can. To hone our skills even further, instead of the whole animal, we concentrate on the 10-ring on the whitetail. We focus on the bright leaf in front of that rotten stump or the "P" on the Dr. Pepper can. "Aim small; miss small" they say. We practice.

The longbow is a very capable weapon all on its own. It places more of the success of taking game on the hunter/archer rather than on the equipment. On the archery courses, many of us forego the shooting stakes and shoot from places of our own imaginations. Especially for us hunters, we seek tougher

shots. We challenge our comrades such as, "behind this line" and "between these two trees." We shoot from different positions, maybe on our knees or uncomfortable stances. We pretend to be caught off guard. We create for ourselves unpredictable, real hunting situations because after all, our quarry is indeed unpredictable. It is our time to practice. It's summer time. The time is now. Let's get out, have some fun, see each other once again and get in some practice. See you on the course!



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Any questions? Please contact Caroline Wells

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