

April/May/June 2009

The Whispering Shaft

Quarterly Newsletter of

C A R O L I N A T R A D I T I O N A L A R C H E R S

Keeping The Traditions Alive



Carolina



Traditional Archers

www.thecta.org

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Carolina Traditional Archers is the preservation and promotion of the ancient art of traditional archery through club activities and educational interactions with others. Members will adhere to the highest ethical standards in their support, practice, promotion and preservation of traditional archery and bow hunting. The Carolina Traditional Archers support sound wildlife management principles and seek opportunities to aid conservation efforts.

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April's Club Shoot is "Youth Day"!
We will have targets, equipment, and door prizes for the children.



The Whispering Shaft, Carolina Traditional Archers (CTA) newsletter, is published on a quarterly schedule. All members are encouraged to submit articles and tasteful photographs about issues of interest to traditional archers and bow hunters. Please submit articles in MS Word format or even just simple email text to jhenz@thecta.org. If you can, also include an archery-related photo of yourself with your article so that people can put a face with a name. CTA Officers and Directors reserve the right to refuse or edit any material submitted for publication that they deem detrimental to traditional archery/bow hunting or to the Carolina Traditional Archers.

2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 4—Club Shoot, 9am-3pm, Maiden

April 11-14—Club Hunt, Kerr Scott Reservoir

May 16—NCTAC Workday, 8am-noon, Catawba Valley Wildlife Club

May 21—NCTAC Workday, 8am-noon, Catawba Valley Wildlife Club

**May 22-24 North Carolina Traditional Archery Championships
(NCTAC 2009) - Catawba Valley Wildlife Club**

June 13—Club Shoot, 9am-3pm, Maiden

July 11—Club Shoot, 9am-3pm, Maiden

August 8—Club Shoot, 9am-3pm, Maiden

September 5—Club Shoot, 9am-3pm, Maiden

October 10—Youth Day, Kerr Scott Reservoir

October 14-17—Club Hunt, Kerr Scott Reservoir

November 14—Club Shoot & Coon Shoot, 2pm-10pm, Maiden

November 21—CTA Workday, 8am-noon

December 12—Club Shoot, 9am-3pm, Maiden

Carolina



Traditional Archers

Other Regional Traditional Archery Events

April 19 - Triad Traditional Archers Shoot, 8am-2:30pm, Colfax, NC

More details at www.stickandwheelarchery.com

May 16 - Sissipahaw Traditional Archers Shoot, 9am -3pm, Bellemont, NC

More details at www.stacgang.org

June 6-7 - STAR - Sherwood Traditional Archers Rendezvous, Roanoke, VA

More details at www.sherwoodarchersroanokeva.com



Letter from the President

Dave Haggist

March Club Shoot

March certainly came in like a lion. Our March shoot was a wet one but about a dozen brave souls hung in there and shot a few arrows. The treat of the day was a Brunswick stew prepared by member Maggie Vogt. Yes, everyone got seconds.....and the desert was to die for.

Membership

I want to express my sincere appreciation to all of you that renewed your membership with CTA. I know in these tough economic times folks are looking at any item to cut back on. I'm thankful to all of you that CTA was not one of them. Your dues not only support CTA but further the sport of traditional archery in this region. Your club officers and I are committed to making your experiences with CTA enjoyable and worthwhile.

Bow Hunter Club Road

The Foothills Bow Hunters Club is spearheading an effort to fix Bowhunter Club Road. They have contracted with a vendor that is going to do the grading. CTA is working with property owners to share the cost of gravel. It was the recommendation of the vendor to wait about mid year for warm temperatures and hopefully dryer conditions to start this project. I know this has been something that has hurt our attendance at shoots so it will be a welcome improvement.

Elections

I would like to congratulate Tony Lail who is our new Vice President as well as newly elected Board Members Tommy Blackburn and Jim Todd. Charles Suttles has agreed to be Chairman of the Board. I know these men will work hard for the success of CTA in the coming year.

NCTAC Workdays

Two workdays are schedule for the North Carolina Traditional Archery Championship. (NCTAC) Please make every attempt to attend them. Like all workdays they are limited to 4 hours and CTA provides a meal. NCTAC is a significant source of revenue for CTA that not only allows us to put on this event but provides for the resources needed to host our monthly shoots.

Workdays

Saturday May 16th 8:00am to Noon

Thursday May 21st 8:00am to Noon

** We'll meet at the Clubhouse of the **Catawba Valley Wildlife Club** at 8:00am sharp. Note that this is not the location of our monthly shoot. For directions to the Catawba Valley Wildlife Club, see the back of the NCTAC flyer.*

What to bring

Weed eaters, pruners, chainsaws, leather gloves.

Range Rules

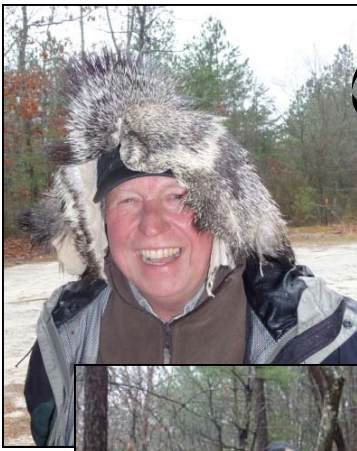
The property where we hold our monthly shoots is owned by the Foothills Bow Hunters Club. These folks have been kind enough to share their property with us and we owe them a debt of gratitude.

Our lease agreement with Foothills Bow Hunters requires a number a things from CTA and its members. Most of these rules are just common sense but following them goes a long way in maintaining harmony among our members and the two clubs. On the opposite page is a copy of those rules.

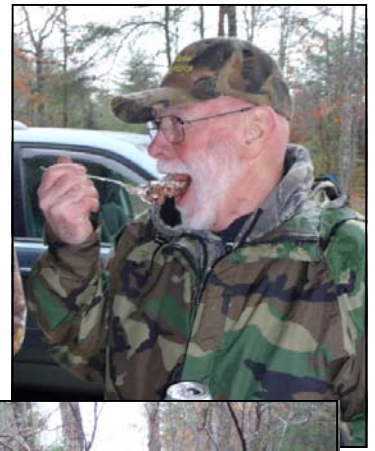


Range/Facility Rules

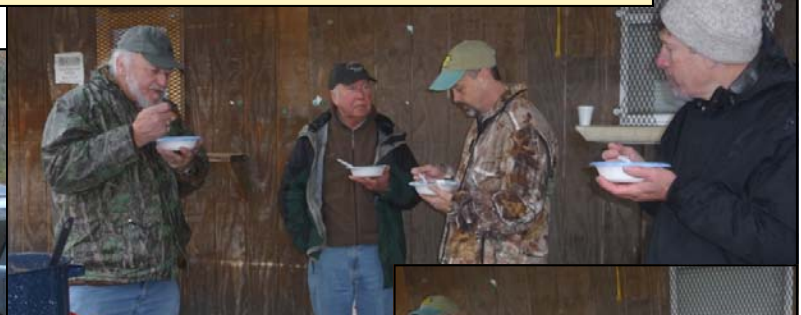
- **Possession of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs while on CTA Property is prohibited.**
- **Persons who have consumed alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs or who are otherwise under the influence of such intoxicants will not be permitted on CTA property.**
- **Pets shall remain on a leash.**
- **No hunting or harassing of wildlife.**
- **Discharge of firearms is prohibited.**
- **Littering is prohibited.**
- **Persons shall not walk with an arrow nocked on the string.**
- **An adult or guardian shall supervise all persons under the age of 16.**
- **Only members or invited guests shall use the ranges.**
- **Archers shall only shoot at designated targets and from designated positions during club events.**
- **Campfires will not be left unattended and shall be completely extinguished before leaving the property.**



MARCH MADNESS



Only five hardy members braved the 40-degree rain to shoot the course at the March Club Shoot. They were, from left to right: Charles Suttles, Dave Haggist, Dennis West, Jim Jordan, and Jim Vogt. Jim Jordan set what is probably a new course record by somehow managing to break all eight of his arrows!

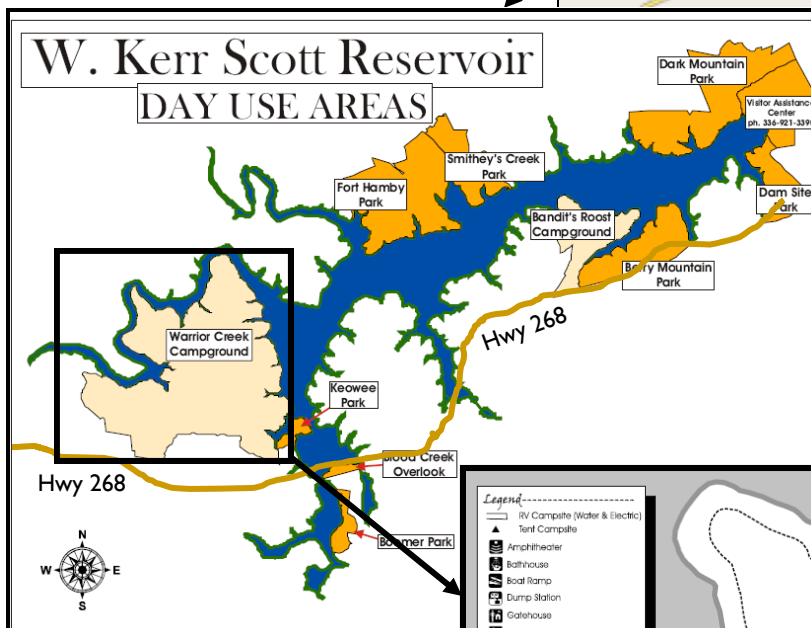
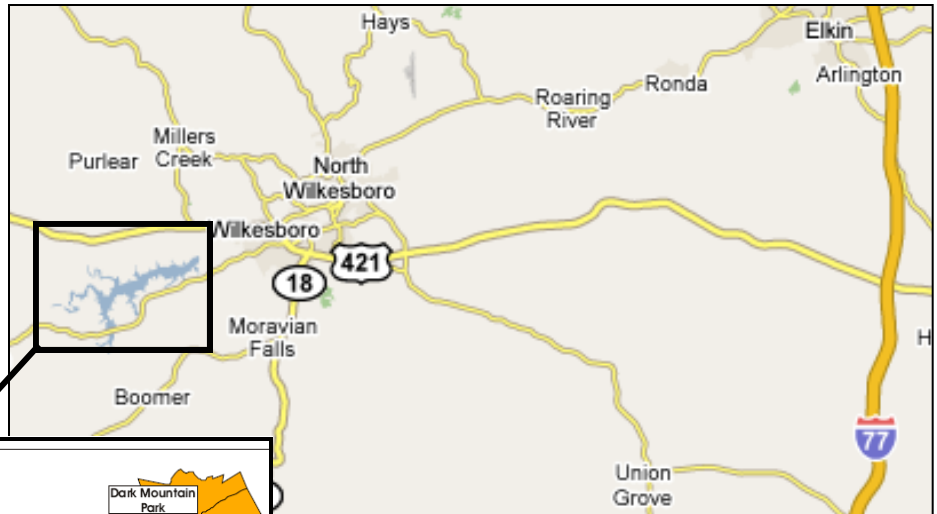


The rest of us stayed under roof! Maggie Vogt kept us warm with a pot of hot stew. Brad Anderson showed off the new addition to his quiver, made from an empty turtle shell that he found during last month's shoot!

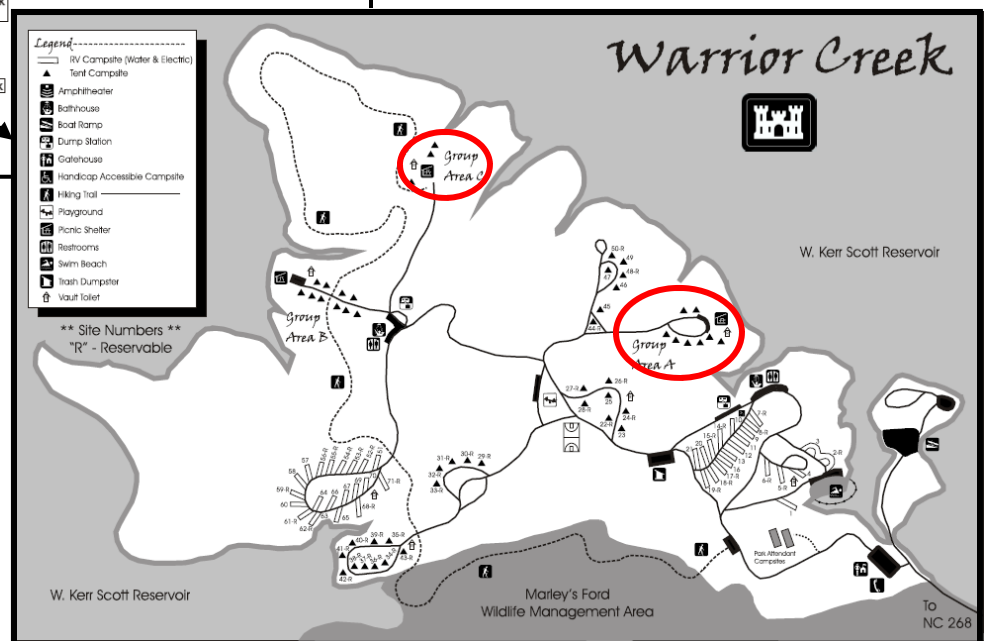
April Club Hunt

Turkey season is right around the corner and CTA will sponsor a hunt in the Warrior Creek WMA at W. Kerr Scott Reservoir. The folks at Kerr Scott are graciously allowing us exclusive use of a site at Warrior Creek Campground from April 11 through April 14. A map is included in this newsletter. Entry to the campground will be via a key pad code. If you are interested in camping please contact Dave Haggist at 704-435-0265 for the combination.

This is bow hunting only area. Hunters must possess a current NC Hunting License.



Directions: take Hwy 268 West from Wilkesboro. (Drive about 7 miles west of the Hwy 421 interchange.) Look for road to Warrior Creek Campground on right-hand side after crossing over the finger of the lake. Shelters A & C (circled below) have water and electricity.



North Carolina Artisans

Hummingbird Bows

North Carolina archers looking for a premium bow with looks and performance that stands out in a crowd don't have to go very far. Just west of the Uwharrie Mountains, in center of the state, is Hummingbird Bows. Ben and Linda Graham operate out of their home in the rural outskirts of the small, aptly-named town of Mt. Pleasant. The first thing you notice when you pull into their driveway is all the archery targets in the yard. These are people who like to shoot! The first thing you notice when you're invited into their modest, ranch-style house is the large, full-body mounted black bear shoe-horned into their small living room. And the elk's head above the stairs going into the basement. And the full-body mounted wild boar in the basement, beneath several more trophy heads. These people like to hunt too! The bedroom hallway lined with numerous plaques and trophy's from archery competitions entered and won over the last ten years also proves they know how to consistently connect with their target.

Ben first got interested in archery as a young man in the 1970's. He lived in nearby Albemarle which at the time had a city archery range. Like most archers of that time, Ben shot Bear and Hoyt recurves, then switched to compounds in the early 80's. Ben worked primarily in the construction industry before getting a job as a machine technician at the Phillip Morris plant in Concord, which is where he met Linda.

Ben picked up the recurve again in the late 80's, and began experimenting with making his own bows. Like most of us who work in high-stress jobs at major corporations – with dependable paychecks and good benefits – Ben dreamed of starting his own business and being his own boss. Unlike most of us, Ben actually did it, and started Hummingbird Bows in 1991. Ben said he chose the name "Hummingbird" because "all the predator names had been taken", and the sound of the dueling hummingbirds zipping around the feeder in his front yard reminded him of arrows flying to the target.



**The Hummingbird Team
Ben and Linda Graham**



Linda with some of the many trophies she has won in archery events around the country. Linda shoots right-handed, even though she's left-eye dominant. And she shoots very well...



A riser made of a unique piece of zebrawood. In addition to fine workmanship and attention to detail, Ben's use of exceptionally beautiful woods make his bows stand out in the crowd.



Ben inspecting a board of highly figured cocobolo. He will likely get only one riser out of this large, expensive piece of tropical hardwood.



**Graham's bow shop.
Hummingbird Custom Bows
9631 Vineyard Rd.
Mt. Pleasant, NC 28124
(704) 436-2509**

Visit Ben's shop and you can't help but notice all the wood. Stacks and stacks of wood. And not just any wood. We're talking birds-eye maple and waterfall bubinga, highly figured pieces of zebrawood and cocobolo, and just about anything else you can imagine. Ben and Linda travel all over the country to get exceptional pieces of lumber, and it shows!

Their passion for the best lumber money can buy is one of the attributes of Hummingbird Bows. The other is craftsmanship. A strong-willed perfectionist, Ben's personality is well-suited to making bows for the discriminating archer. It's doubtful that he's ever had a customer who's standards are more exacting than his own. Pick up a Hummingbird bow and it feels just right. The glue lines between the laminations are invisible, and the finish is flawless. Even shooting one of Ben's low-end model bows I was struck with the smooth, solid quality feel as I released arrow after arrow.

If you're at the point in your life where you're ready to buy an extra-special bow, drop by the Hummingbird booth at the State Shoot this May. And if you want something really special, make an appointment to drive to Mt. Pleasant and pick out your own wood for your bow. Just be forewarned that you might be there a while - there's a lot of good wood to choose from!



NCTAC 2009 is almost here!



Our annual State Shoot, which our Board has dubbed “NCTAC” (North Carolina Traditional Archery Championships) is just around the corner. This is always a big event, attended by hundreds of archers from around the Southeast.

The NCTAC is especially honored on having two great traditional archers at the event this year:

G. Fred Asbell is a modern pioneer of bowhunting. He has bowhunted most of the big game species in North America, and has hunted in most all of the states, the Canadian provinces, and even in Africa. Asbell was president of Pope & Young for 18 yrs, an officer for 25; he's been the President of Compton Bowhunters since 2000. In 1977 he co-founded Bighorn Bowhunting Company and ran it until 1991. Asbell has done much in the past two decades to resurrect and promote the use of traditional equipment. Through his books, videos and seminars on instinctive shooting he has intrigued and instructed a whole new generation of hunters to return to the ways of Howard Hill and Fred Bear.

The other person has a great past in traditional archery. Owen Jeffery worked for Hoyt Archery from 1942 - 1956 in building and designing bows that has won National & World titles. He was the head of the Shakespeare Archery Division for 7 years, President of manufacturing for 12 years for Fred Bear, and was Fred's hunting and fishing buddy. He designed the well known Fred Bear take-down, Super Kodiak and the Kodiak Magnum. Mr. Jeffery started his own bow building business (Jeffery's Archery in Columbia, S.C) in 1976. He has built over 50,000 bows. Owen is an accomplished archer as well, having won the Missouri State Champion six times and was Midwestern Champion, National Broadhead Champion, and Southern Regional Champion. He also taught Olympic shooters for the U.S., Russians, Japanese, French and Austrians. Jeffery is an avid bowhunter too; he took a world record whitetail buck that hung in the Fred Bear Museum. Although 84 years old, Owen Jeffery took 35 hogs last year with his bow!

Come join us in the fun and fellowship of traditional archery!



North Carolina Traditional Archery Championship

E V E N T C A L E N D A R

Friday May 22, 2009

12:00pm	Event Opens
12:00pm-6:00pm	Participant & visitor registration Vendor area open
1:00pm	Ranges Open
1:00pm-3:00pm	Tough Man Shoot
12:00pm-1:30pm	Lunch @ Clubhouse
5:00pm- 6:30pm	Supper @ Clubhouse
8:00pm	Ranges closed
9:00pm-11:00pm	Coon Shoot

Saturday May 23, 2009

7:00am-9:00am	Breakfast @ Clubhouse
8:00am-6:00pm	Participant & visitor registration Vendor area/ Ranges Open
12:00pm-1:30pm	Lunch @ Clubhouse
1:00pm-3:00pm	Tough Man Shoot
12:30pm-2:30pm	Kids Events @ pistol range
5:00pm-6:30pm	Supper @ Clubhouse
5:30pm-6:30pm	Blanket Trade @ vendor area
6:30pm-7:30pm	Target auction @ practice range
7:30pm-9:00pm	Fred Asbell
8:00pm	Ranges closed
9:00pm-11:00pm	Coon Shoot

Sunday May 24, 2009

7:00am-9:00am	Breakfast @ Clubhouse
8:00am-10:00am	Participant & visitor registration
8:00am	Vendor area/ Ranges open
8:00am-9:00am	Church service @ Clubhouse
12:00pm	Ranges close
12:00pm-1:30pm	Lunch @ Clubhouse
1:00pm	All scorecards must be turned in
2:00pm-3:00pm	Door prizes awarded
3:00pm	Trophies awarded
5:00pm	Event closes, all participants must be off site by 6:00pm

Sweet Success

By Dave Haggist

To say Javelina were my nemesis would be an understatement. Having hunted them twice before without even loosening an arrow had my confidence really shattered. But I was determined to make this third time a charm instead of three strikes and your out.

Adding to the pressure factor were the notable bowyers and bow hunters I would be sharing camp with; Ed Scott of Owl Bows, Larry Fischer, co owner of Traditional Bow Hunter Magazine, Nick Dedaker, Youth Program Coordination with Compton Traditional Bow Hunters, Mike Yancey of Pine Hollow Longbows, and last but not least fellow CTA member Charles Suttles.

For weeks prior to our departure I had practiced each day honing my skills and preparing gear but the advice from Charles Suttles to bring "plenty of arrows" had me wondering what I was getting myself into. This was a spot and stalk hunt which was very attractive to me but something I had never done before. Although Javelina are reported to have poor eyesight they more than make up for it with their sense of smell and hearing. And within 100 yards their ability to pick up movement is amazing. By the second day of our hunt, even Larry Fischer would comment how tough Javelina were to hunt.

Although more commonly known as Javelina (Spanish for spear due to their sharp tusks) their proper name is Collared Peccary. While Peccaries look similar to pigs, Peccaries are classified in a family of their own because of anatomical differences. Their range is the Chihuahuan and Sonoran Deserts of southwestern Texas, New Mexico and Arizona, and southward through Central America to northern Argentina. Peccaries weigh between 35 and 60 pounds, with one in the 50 pound range considered a real trophy. They have between 1 and 3 young once a year and a life span of about 10 years in the wild. Their diet consists primarily of agaves and prickly pears but they will also eat insects, roots, fruits, worms, and reptiles. They are social and range in groups from 6 to 12 although larger groups are not uncommon. They are most active during early morning and evening when it is cooler. Peccaries have a powerful musk gland on the top of the rump. Their odor is always apparent, especially when they are excited and you are likely to smell a Peccary before you see it. This musk gland is also used to mark territories.

The first morning I was teamed up with Larry Fischer and Nick Dedaker and our guide David Williams. The 60,000 acre ranch we were hunting on is owned by David's family and has been in their family for nearly 100 years.

Several hours of kidney bruising Jeep riding later not a Javelina had been sighted and even David apologized for the lack of game. About 11:00am, David decided to stop at the top of one canyon and glass the coulee and hillside.

Suddenly a herd of Javelina were spotted crossing the ridge. With the wind not in our favor our only hope was to get ahead of the herd and hope they would pass by us. Of course with everything along your path grabbing at your clothes and puncturing your skin that was easier said than done. None the less we managed to set up a perimeter but the Javelina were having none of it. After a snoot full of bow hunter they hit the trail running. However, Larry caught one trying a backdoor maneuver and was able to connect. When we regrouped, Larry felt his shot was a little far back but the blood on his arrow looked good.



Nick Dedaker with his javelina.
Back row left to right: Charles Suttles, Larry Fischer, David Haggist.

While Larry and our guide David went back to the site of the shot. Nick and I circled around to a creek bed to look for blood sign. Within a couple minutes I found a distinct blood trail crossing the river bed and signal to Larry and David. Within 15 yards Larry had located his Javelina. This was Larry's first Javelina, so there was a lot of congratulations and photos. After a quick field dressing it was back to the ranch house for lunch. Although some stalks had been made, Larry's Javelina was the only one taken that morning.

About 4:00pm we were back in the Jeep for round two and the action definitely picked up with several groups of Javelina spotted, stalked and yes missed.... Yep, I missed the same one twice and earned the nick name Tin Man for the sound of my aluminum arrows making contact with the rocks. Both Nick and Larry connected on Javelina but we were unable to locate them before nightfall. With cool temperatures we decided to return the next day to search further.

When we got back to camp, we learned that Charles Suttles and Mike Yancey had taken Javelina and all the others in camp had either had stalks, or shots.

After a great meal prepared by Carol Scott and Lisa Yancey, it was off to the living room to recount the days events and solve the world's problems.

The next morning, everyone was up early and ready to go. Charles Suttles was going to join our group since Larry had limited out with the hit on his second Javelina. The rule on this ranch is whether you recover your Javelina or not it's counted against your two tags.

We had not been out a few minutes when we spotted our first herd. However it was a short stalk and the Javelina bid *adios amigos* to our group of bow hunters.

Within a few minutes we were into a second herd and Charles, Nick and I attempted to get ahead of them to no avail. While making our way back to the Jeep, Charles and I jumped a second herd and Charles connected on a Javelina. Charles got a second shot at the same animal but missed.

Charles and I quickly located a blood trail and after about 50 yards were joined by Nick, Larry and David. For the next three hours we were on hands and knees finding minute spots of blood. Sometimes the traces of blood were more than 30 yards apart. When we reached a dry creek bed the blood trail vanished and Charles decided to call it quits. No one wants to lose an animal but we all concluded that it was likely a non vital hit and we had certainly given it all we had to recover this animal.



continued on the next page



When we arrived back at the ranch house we learned that Justin Scott, Ed's son had taken a Javelina and Jeff Reiter had taken two Javelina. This was especially sweet considering that both of these hunters were using primitive bows and arrows.

After a short lunch, we returned to the site of Nick and Larry's hit animals and did a through search of the area without any sign detected.

It didn't take long for us to get back into Javelina again and Nick missed a 8 yard shot. I then moved in the direction of the fleeing animals and spotted a Javelina about 20 yards away. This animal was slightly quartering towards me with a clump of white grass between me and its vitals. Seeing that the wind was blowing the grass to the side I drew my bow and waited for an opening. If there ever was a time to focus this was it, and I continued to tell myself to wait for an opening and pick a spot. When that moment came I released and suddenly the Javelina turned and began running straight away from me. At the same time I saw my blood soaked arrow sailing about 20 feet beyond where the Javelina was standing. I had just made it to my arrow when the gang began yelling for me. My Javelina was lying next to a Juniper tree and a follow up arrow in the vitals ended it. For a moment it didn't seem real but the words of congratulation and handshakes brought me back to reality. My initial arrow had struck right above the elbow hitting both lungs and the liver and had resulted in my animal going down quickly. My Javelina was a mature male of about 50 pounds. I could not have been happier with the outcome. After a quick field dressing we were back in the Jeep looking for another herd. We all could tell that Nick was really down and I hoped that he would connect before the day was over.

Within a few minutes we spotted another herd moving towards us. Nick decided to move down a dry creek bed and I moved straight ahead towards some cover. Unfortunately for Nick, the Javelina were walking straight to me instead of him. As I heard Nick walking in my direction I made my mind up I was going to hold off shooting until he got a shot. Nick's shot did materialize and he made a perfect quartering forward hit in the spine dropping the Javelina in its tracks. Although Javelina were moving around me that perfect shot never occurred. Quite frankly it didn't matter I was just so happy that Nick had gotten his first Javelina.

After field dressing Nick's animal we had about one hour of light left. Although we were diligently looking for Javelina not seeing one did not matter to me. I was just relishing my earlier experience and was completely satisfied.

When we got back to camp we learned that we were the only hunters to connect on Javelina that afternoon.



Well there was lots of celebrating and most of us didn't get to bed until after midnight. Charles and I are going to give the feral hogs a try tomorrow since we only have a half day of hunting.

Well like most hunts, time passes far too quickly. Charles and I are going with the outfitter to look for feral hogs and the rest of the gang that have not limited out are going for Javelina. Ed Scott and Craig Roundtree are the only ones that have not gotten a Javelina yet. Shawn Williams, the guide's son is also with this group and is going to try for a Javelina with a bow that Ed Scott had given him a couple days earlier.

After a couple hours of searching there were no hogs to be found but Charles and I got some neat photos of caves and Indian pictographs for our photo albums.

When we got back to camp we learned that Ed Scott, Mike Yancey, Justin Scott, and yes Shawn Williams had taken Javelina. What a way to end a hunt!

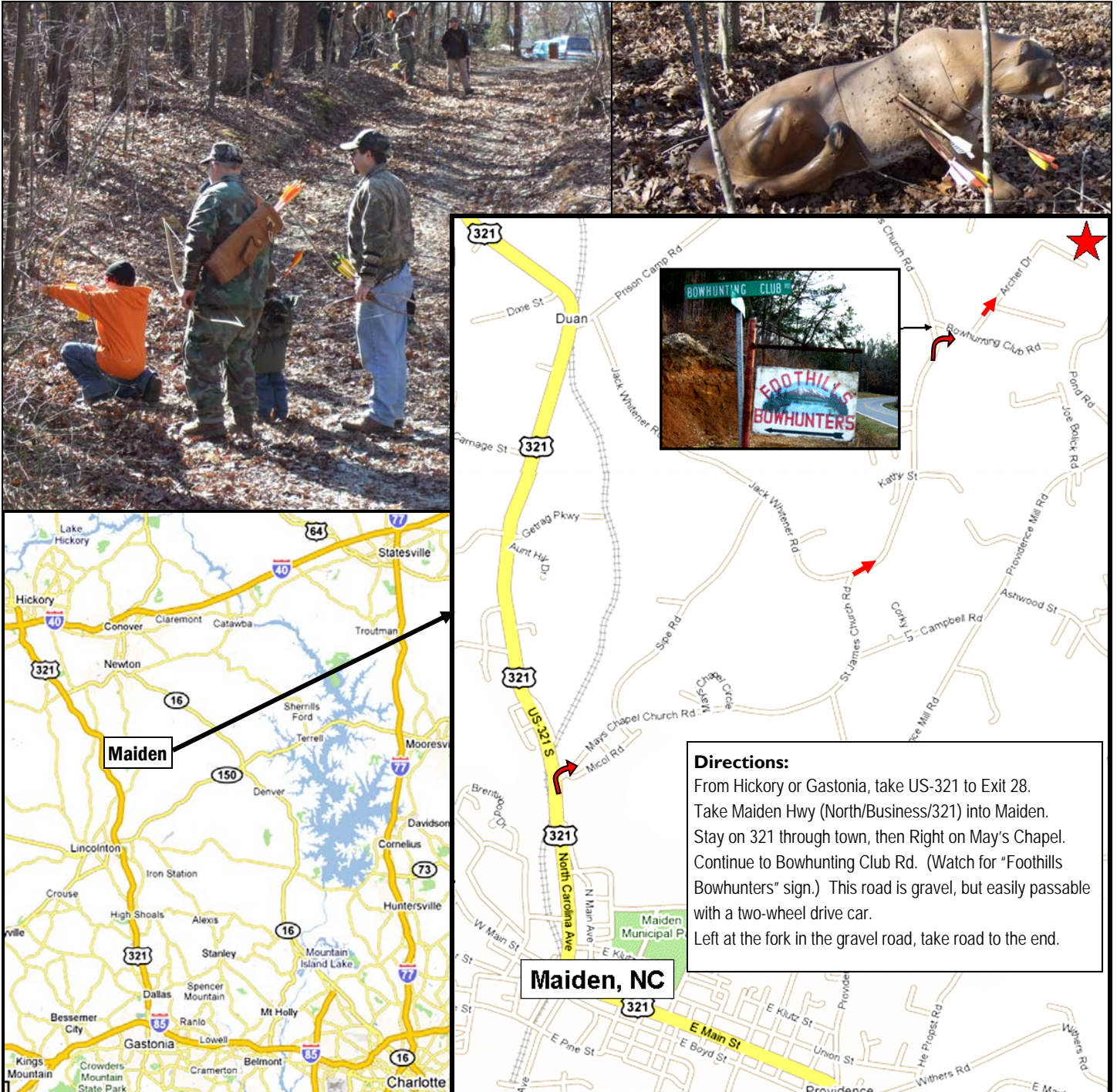
The title of this story means a lot to me because this hunt was sweet in so many ways; taking my first Javelina, the fellowship among a group of tradition archers, and the beauty of this vast country.

On this hunt the author used a Hummingbird Kingfisher takedown drawing 56lbs, 2018 aluminum arrows and Zwicky Eskimo Broadheads. Charles Suttles used a Black Widow takedown drawing 66lbs, cedar shafts, and Eclipse Broadheads.



About our Club Shoots

Our monthly Club Shoots are loads of fun! If you like traditional archery, or even if you're just curious as to what traditional archery is all about, you owe it to yourself to check us out! It's an event the whole family can enjoy. All club shoots are held at the Foothills BowHunters/CTA range in Maiden NC. Shoots have about 20 3-D animal targets. All the foam targets are in the woods, amongst the trees, which makes for a realistic and very pleasant setting. Shoots cost \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. Meal is included with the price of admission, and first-time visitors shoot and eat for free!





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Davidson, NC 28036



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