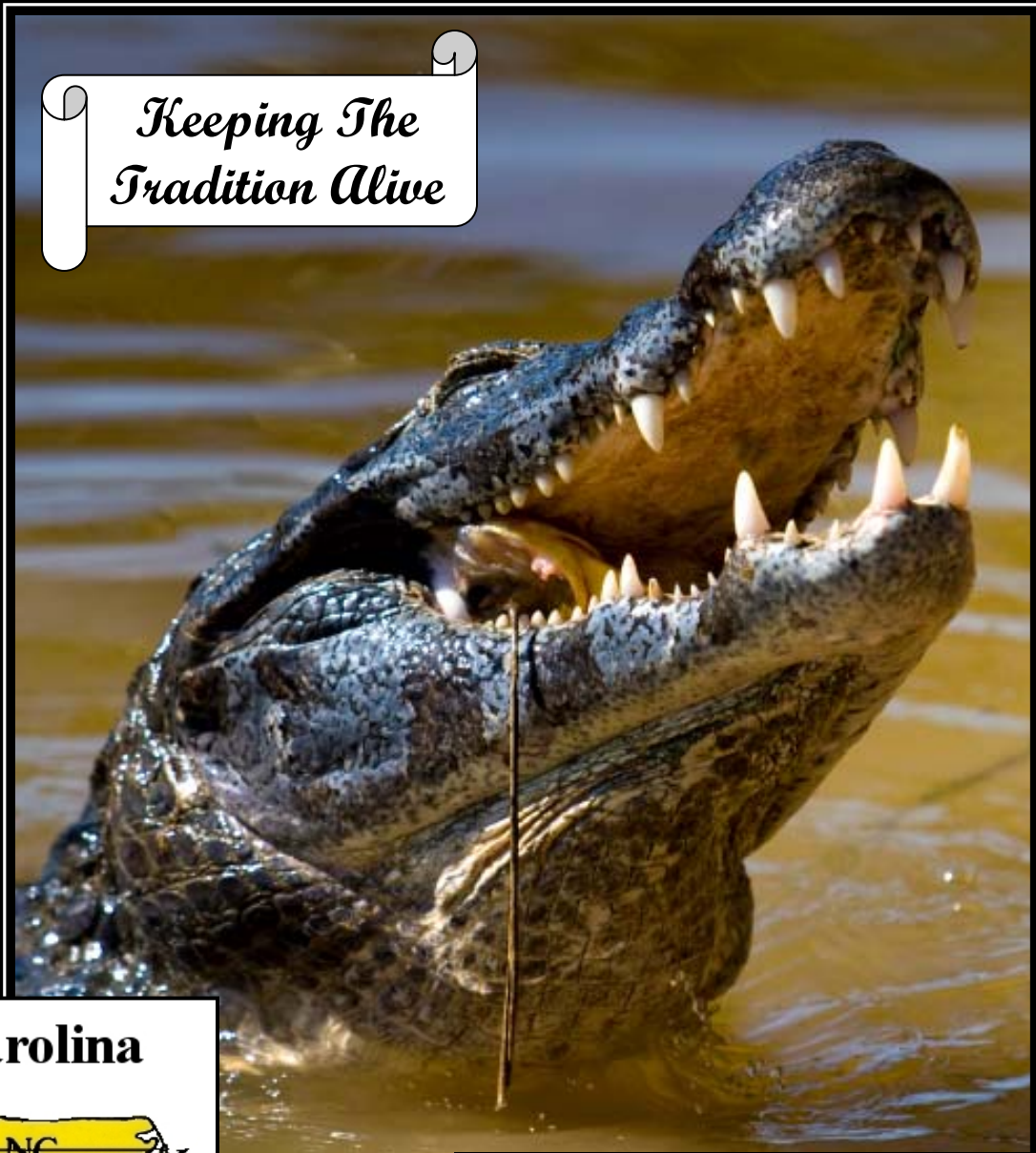


The Whispering Shaft

Quarterly Newsletter of the

CAROLINA TRADITIONAL ARCHERS

*Keeping The
Tradition Alive*



Carolina



Traditional Archers

www.thecta.org

CAROLINA TRADITIONAL ARCHERS

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Carolina Traditional Archers Inc. is the promotion of traditional archery and bow hunting. Members will adhere to the highest ethical standards whether in the field or on the range and hold in reverence the traditions and history of

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*Letter from the President*

Dave Haggist

CTA Members,

I sincerely want to thank each of you that joined CTA this year or renewed your membership. Your support of CTA is greatly appreciated and goes a long way in promoting traditional archery in this region.

Congratulations to our new club officers. Lonnie Huff was reelected to the Board of Directors. Joe Henz is our new Vice President and Brad Anderson is a new Board of Directors member.

The Board of Directors approved to continue work on Bowhunting Club Road. Gravel will be added to the section that was graded last year and work will begin mid-year on the entrance.

In the near future, the State will begin a project to replace the bridge on St James Church Road and widen this road. Hopefully a sidebar to this project will be an improvement to the entrance to Bowhunting Club Road. If you cross this bridge on the way to or from our shoots you will need to make alternate plans for a while.

Hats off to Larry Anderson and Barry Clodfelter for the fantastic job they have done on the website. Now that the framework has been completed it is up to all of us to submit photos and stories that spotlight the joy of traditional archery and the outdoors. Often the first introduction someone has to our club is through our website so let's put our best foot forward.

One of the highlights of NCTAC is the raffle. In years past our members have really come through with great items to raffle. Please see Jack Wilson if you would like to donate an item.

Most of you know that there are two critical issues facing bow hunting in NC; the use of the crossbow by anyone during the bow hunting season, the expansion of the muzzleloader season, and the shortening of the bow hunting season. It is critical that you informed yourself of these issues and let your feeling be know to your elected officials. If you are an NCBA member you recently received a mailing outlining these proposals and steps you can take. Go to www.ncbowhunter.com for more information.

Please make this the year that you get involved in CTA events. CTA belongs to all of us and it's up to all of us to make it successful. In addition, your involvement is rewarded through the Step up to the Plate program.

Best regards,

Dave Haggist

Cover: A feared predator falls prey to a CTA member's old Howatt Hunter recurve. (See story, page 8.)

2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 10—Youth Club Shoot, (children under 18 shoot & eat for free) 9am-3pm, Maiden

May 22—NCTAC Workday, 8am-noon, Catawba Valley Wildlife Club

May 27—NCTAC Workday, 8am-noon, Catawba Valley Wildlife Club

May 28, 29 & 30 NCTAC 2010 - Catawba Valley Wildlife Club, Hickory

June 5—Primitive Archery Celebration Club Shoot, 9am-3pm, Maiden

July 10—Club Shoot, 9am-3pm, Maiden

August 14—Club Shoot, 9am-3pm, Maiden

September 11—Whitetail Warm-up Club Shoot, 9am-3pm, Maiden

October TBD—Club Hunt, Kerr Scott Reservoir

November 13—Club Shoot & Coon Shoot, 2pm-10pm, Maiden

November 6—CTA Workday, 8am-noon

December 11—Tribute to Fred Bear Shoot, 9am-3pm, Maiden

Carolina



Traditional Archers



Other Regional Traditional Archery Events

May 15 - Sissipahaw Traditional Archers Shoot, 9am -3pm, Bellemont, NC

Sissipahaw Archery Club is located on NC Hwy 49, four miles south of I-85 (exit 145).

More details at www.stacgang.org

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

More details at www.sherwoodarchersroanokeva.com

July 9-11 - ATAR - Appalachian Traditional Archers Rendezvous, Beckley, WV

More details at website: <http://wvbowhunt.tripod.com/>

Winter Club Shoots

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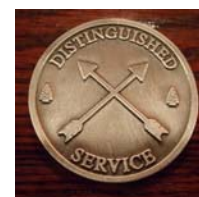
We had a real winter in North Carolina this year! The February Shoot even had to be postponed a week when about six inches of snow fell on the targets overnight! The new fire ring constructed at the last work day was a popular hangout!







CTA Awards Night



A great time was had by all at the CTA annual Awards Banquet. Each honoree was recognized for their contributions to CTA in 2009 and presented with the Distinguish Service Medallion. In addition, several prizes were awarded to CTA members on behalf of the Step Up to the Plate program. In 2009, nearly 40 members assisted with CTA events. Thanks to all that supported CTA in 2009!

Distinguish Service Awards

Kyle Garrou
Jacob Garrou
Maggie Vogt
Brad Anderson
Tony Lail
Ronnie Pack
Mike Neely
Jim Yount
Jim Jordan
Bill Stroupe
Roger Abernathy



Step Up to the Plate Winners

Lois Parris	Come November, book
Ronnie Pack	Masters of the Barebow, DVD
Larry Anderson	Hunt w/ Fred Bear, book
Rowan Parris	Digital Scale
Kyle Garrou	Witchery of Archery, book
Emily Trivett	Alcohol Burner
Judy Morris	Zwickey Broadheads
Bob Trivett	Magnus Broadheads
Cory Culbert	C C Sharpener
Bill Morris	EZ Cut Pruners
Jim Jordan	Rite in the Rain Notebook & Cover
Jacob Garrou	Stalking & Still Hunting, book
Tim Webster	Traditional Bowhunters Handbook
Brad Anderson	Earth Skills, book
Maggie Vogt	Alaska, 700 Miles Alone, DVD





March Ladies' Club Shoot ♀



Carolina Lizard Stomp!

By Corey Culbert

After weeks of preparation we were finally ready for our first alligator hunt! I and my two bowfishing buddies (Fred and Andrew) had put in for the South Carolina drawing months before, and both Andrew and I were fortunate enough to draw a tag. Even though Fred had not drawn a tag, we all three went together as a team. While we only had two tags, it is permissible for someone without a tag to shoot a back-up shot into the animal. In fact, South Carolina DNR prefers that there be back-up shooters, as it increases the opportunity to secure and dispatch the animal rather than wounding and losing it. And as we were to discover, these beasts are hard to kill. Gator hunting is definitely a team-sport!

Prior to the trip there was a lot of work to be done. Although we were all accomplished at bowfishing monster carp and catfish, we still had to modify our equipment and our boat quite a bit to make sure we were equipped to handle this new prey.

First we added a 9.9 hp motor with front steering, which allowed us to cruise through the shallows at a more efficient pace than we could with a normal trolling motor in our 20-foot, flat-bottom boat. For this hunt we upgraded from the normal 200 lb test fishing line to 400 lb gator cord. The cord was tied to a Muzzy "Gator Getter" point. The other end -- instead of being tied to the bow as is normally done when bowfishing smaller game -- was instead tied to a large "deployment bobber", which looks like a normal fishing bobber but is about the size of a football. Although you can buy commercial bobbers, we simply used 2-liter soda bottles as our deployment bobbers. We had multiple set-ups for all three of us. We also made cable snares to use in securing the alligator's head once it was close to the boat. Now all we had to do was find a gator!

We departed on our giant lizard hunting excursion during the early morning hours of Friday, September 11th. Our destination was the Santee Cooper River about 15 miles North of Charleston, South Carolina. The season wouldn't open up until noon the following day, but we wanted to get in a full night of scouting beforehand. We had bowfished this area before, and only seen a few gators. But we were using lights on the boat that shine directly into the water around the boat so we could see fish. This time we left the bowfishing lights off and used a spotlight to locate the alligator's red, reflective eyes. When we turned that spotlight on and started going up the river we were amazed: there was the eerie glow of red eyes everywhere! The river was positively infested with alligators! After a few hours of spotlighting we decided to turn on the bowfishing lights and see if we could shoot a few fish. This turned out to be a decision we'd somewhat regret later. As soon as we turned on the lights we were seeing catfish everywhere! In fact this was some of the best



bowfishing we had ever seen on the river, so we quickly forgot about gator scouting and started chasing catfish! We shot 30 or more fish in a couple of hours. The action was so good that we had to force ourselves go back to the motel, as by then it was 2 or 3 o'clock Saturday morning.

We woke up full of excitement around 10:00 AM knowing that Big Lizard season was about to open in just 2 hours! But then it dawned on us that we still had a huge cooler full of catfish to clean...

Fortunately the motel we stayed at was equipped with a fish cleaning station, so we grabbed our fillet knives and started a fillet assembly line. By noon we had sixty or so fillets bagged and on ice, and began a mad scramble to throw our gear in the boat and head to the lake.

We knew our area was a hot pick among hunters, and we didn't want to end up chasing spooked gators right off the bat. We were on the river by 1:30 PM and by 2:00 PM we saw a ten to eleven foot alligator swimming across the river about 150 yards away. We made several attempts to get close but the gator would drop below the surface 10 to 20 yards out of bow range. We'd back off and wait for it to surface and try it again. And again, and again...

The funniest part about it was that once when we backed off, the alligator surfaced and stayed on top of the water while a recreational motorboat zoomed by right next to it, but as soon as we moved closer it dropped below the water again. It's as if the beast knew what we were up to! I guess these animals get to be that big for a reason! We continued to stalk other gators throughout the afternoon, but were unable to get close enough to fling an arrow.

When nightfall came we brought out the spot light. At night with a light the game changed! Suddenly we were able to get within bow range of the gators no problem! My team-mate Andrew was on deck and passed up the first two gators we got close to. He felt they were smaller than he wanted to shoot. The legal size to take needed to be greater than four feet. He mentioned these alligators might have been around six feet but he wasn't positive. At night it is much harder to determine length as you can really only see their head, while during the day you can see the whole top portion of their body floating in the water.

After he continued to pass up legal-size prey, I told Andrew to get out of my way because I didn't care what size the gator was that I shot, as long as it was legal. Within 30 minutes we were slowly approaching another set of angry glowing red eyes. I knew it was longer than four feet, but wasn't sure of much more than that. As we approached I got down on one knee to minimize my silhouette to avoid spooking the wary reptile. We got just 15 yards away, and the alligator made no move, so I held my fire. Just as we hit 10 yards the gators head started to lift up so it could slide diagonally downward into the water, as we had seen so many times before. It was now or never. I pulled back my 64-lb. Damon Howatt recurve to full draw and quickly released my 1200-grain fiberglass arrow straight through the window of opportunity just as it was closing. Twack! I scored a solid hit right in front of the shoulder, just as the lizard dropped below the surface of the water! I pulled the 2 liter deployment bobber off my stabilizer attached to the other end of the line and tossed it in the water after the gator.

Unlike hunting a deer, you normally don't use a broad head when alligator hunting. The goal in hunting a gator with a bow is to deploy a bowfishing arrow with a barbed tip (that acts like a miniature harpoon) into a spot on the alligator where the alligator's thick, dragon-like scales (called scoots) will not cut the cord attached to the tip. So we now had a very much alive alligator of unknown size on the end of a line that was hopefully strong enough to hold it!

Talk about having the tiger by the tail! It was a little freaky to me, but my team-mates are crazy anyways and this was just the type of adrenaline-pumping action they like! After following the bobber for a couple of minutes while the gator crawled around on the river bottom, Andrew grew impatient, grabbed the line, and started pulling the gator up. It gave him a pretty good fight for about 20 minutes before it came close enough to the surface to be illuminated by the bowfishing lights we had turned on. The beast seemed to give up the fight just before it was pulled to the surface. Once it hit the surface and saw us though, all hell broke loose! It began to thrash around wildly, throwing water inside the boat and making a huge commotion. Fortunately Fred played back-up man perfectly and got a second arrow into it before it could break the original line—which it eventually did!

As Fred deployed the back-up arrow I was frantically searching in the dark for the cable snares we had made. I finally found one and handed it to Andrew who threw it around the beast's neck to ensure we had possession of it. As Andrew lifted the gator up in the air for Fred to shoot it with a pistol the giant lizard bit the side rail of the boat and began to grind its teeth on it, which left some really cool war wounds on the boat for future story telling. Also, while trying to control the alligator's position Fred tried to grab its jaws and hold them shut to be taped prior to dispatch. But this only made it madder, and it made a deep, guttural growl that I'll never forget.



Fred, Andrew, and Corey with the results of their scouting trip for gators.



Continued next page...

Carolina Lizard Stomp continued...



When its jaws snapped shut it sounded like a couple of long 2x4's wrapped in leather slamming together. Finally, Fred said 'the heck with this' and shot the beast in the back of the head with his 22 Magnum pistol. The gator went limp then...but we still taped its mouth shut before pulling it into the boat!

When we got the giant reptile into the boat we stopped and admired its weird, prehistoric appearance. It measured 8 feet 6 inches, and we estimated it to be over 200 lbs! We headed back to our motel to skin it, stopping along the way at a gas station where there was enough light to take some pictures. A policeman stopped by with his partner and asked us if had had any luck fishing.

Andrew said: "Oh yeah...we got a big one! Go look in the boat and see it."

Poor cop! I think it scared the daylights out of him when he peered over the side of the boat and saw that gator, but he congratulated us anyways.



After skinning my alligator, we went back into the river to fill Andrew's tag. By this time, the gators had been hunted so hard we couldn't get close to any of them, and Andrew was kicking himself for passing up the one's we'd seen earlier in the day. We had many technical difficulties that night, but to make a long story short after we'd given up filling the second tag and were motoring back to the dock, Andrew managed to spy a nine-foot alligator across from the boat ramp – just before we were set pull the boat out and go home..... Go Figure!

It was a great experience that I'll never forget, shared with close friends. Hopefully my wife never finds out I laid the whole tail of that slimy swamp lizard out on our granite kitchen countertops so I could carve the steaks out of it, or she'll give me a whole other unique experience I'll never forget!

Article and photos by Corey Culbert—who has also used his poor, long-suffering wife's favorite kitchen cutting board to skin a snake.



Have you visited our website *LATELY?*

Thanks to the efforts of CTA members Larry Anderson and Barry Clodfelter, our website has received a major upgrade! If you haven't visited the website lately, check it out! The only thing that hasn't changed is the website address: it's still <http://thecta.org>


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Wall and
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We also
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****Click Below For Information on NCTAC 2010****

CTA Events						
March 2010						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

North Carolina Artisans

Bill Stroupe, - Arrowsmith

Hawk Arrows - Dallas, North Carolina

Before there were compounds, there were longbows and recurves. And before there were aluminum and carbon arrows, there was wood. Despite the advances and advantages of carbon fiber arrow technology, wood will always have a place in the hearts and quivers of traditional archers. And CTA members are fortunate to have one of the top commercial wood arrowsmiths in America right here in our own club!



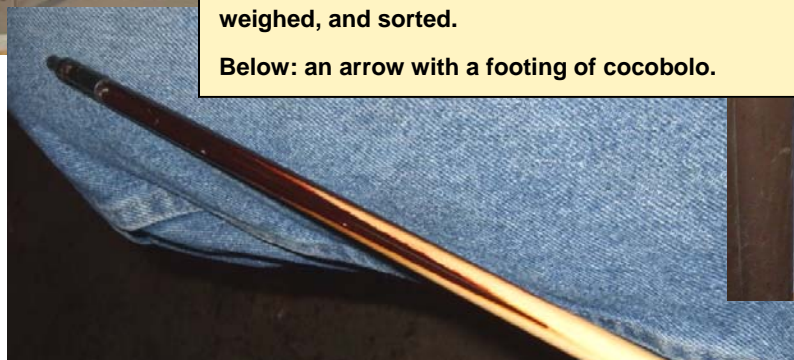
Bill Stroupe of Hawk Arrows is a common fixture at our club shoots, and his presence always adds a splash of color in the form of a couple hundred brightly fletched cedar arrows! In addition to exhibiting at our State Shoot, Stroupe also travels to other shoots around the region such as Sissipahaw, ATAR, STAR, Rock's Pond, and shoots in Florida and Georgia. And while he sells a bunch of arrows in person, nearly half Hawk Arrows' business is mail order – primarily repeat business from satisfied customers.

Bill first started selling arrows fifteen years ago on the side, while he worked full-time in the Gaston County Department of Revenue. Eight years ago Bill took early retirement at the tender age of 52, "retiring" to a life of leisure as a full-time bowyer and arrowsmith. Since then, Bill has grown Hawk Arrows into the number one vendor of traditional wood arrows in the Eastern United States. Nearly all the arrows he sells are made of Port Orford Cedar, but Bill occasionally makes arrows from Sitka Spruce, Douglas Fir, Ash, and laminated Birch if an archer requests it. If it's wood arrows you're looking for, you don't have to look very far!



Each one of Hawk Arrow's shafts are individually spined, weighed, and sorted.

Below: an arrow with a footing of cocobolo.





Bill working in his arrow making shop.



Stroupe's trailer is a familiar fixture at the monthly club shoots.

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Bill Stroupe
Bowyer & Arrowsmith

129 Pond Dr
Dallas, N.C. 28034

704-263-4564

billstroupe129@aol.com



Hawk Arrows at 2009 NCTAC State Shoot.



Hawk Arrows takes cresting to new levels!

Notice: Bridge work this year.

The bridge just north of Bowhunters Club Road is scheduled to be replaced by Catawba County sometime soon. If you travel to our Club Shoot from the South via Hwy 321 Business (i.e. from Maiden) then it shouldn't affect your travel. However, if you come from the North via Hwy 16, be prepared for a detour around the bridge construction via Prison Camp Road. As you can see from the map below, if this does happen during a club shoot the detour and inconvenience is relatively minor.



OLD BROADHEADS

By Ward Reynolds

Since the passing of my Dad, hunting has changed for me.

Don't get me wrong, it is still one of my favorite things to do. A bad day in the woods still beats every day at work. But there is always that one big thing missing. I don't know which one of us enjoyed the last few years of hunting together more, but I do remember the last deer season before my Dad passed away, when he was unable to join me. He had Mom call my wife so many times on opening day that she finally had to tell him to stop, and that I would call him when I got back. You see, I had made a less than perfect shot and was out in the woods for several hours working a hands-and-knees type blood trail, and it was killing my Dad to know the outcome.

Dad and I both enjoyed the outdoors. I don't think it mattered to him if I was hunting with my longbow or a rifle, he was just glad that I loved the woods the way he did. One very hard day after the funeral my brother Randy and I were going through some of Dad's things, making up boxes of memories for all the grandkids. I ran across a couple of old Howard Hill broadheads. They brought back memories of Dad taking us hunting when we were kids. It must have been in the early 1970's when I first saw these broadheads, so long and sharp. They gave me the idea...

Tools to use for hunting this season:

- Dad's old hunting jacket - a gift from me when I was in the army.
- Old wool shirt that my sister had made for Dad years ago.
- The longbow that was a gift to my son from Mom and Dad.
- Arrows that were made for me by one of the best arrow makers, Dad's friend Bill.
- Two very old Howard Hill broadheads.

The hunting season started out very bad. My hunting partner for years got a job in Florida and moved way down south, so no help dragging deer this year. Of course the other shoe had to drop and I lost the spot that we had been hunting for the last 5 years. Bad start, but after several months of looking & begging I finally got permission to hunt a beautiful 80 acre strip that connects to our neighborhood in December — a great time to *start* my hunting season!

The first few times hunting this new land I saw deer, but nothing within my 20-yard limit. Then the middle of the month we got a rare, heavy snowfall. I couldn't wait to get in the woods! After about 3 hours in the tree stand, growing cold and tired, the woods started to come alive. I spied a nice big doe standing 70-80 yards up the hill, and she had several friends with her. Now it's hard enough to avoid the senses of one old doe, and I had six coming right at me! Seemed like it took them hours to walk down that hill, but it was probably more like five minutes.

This is the part of the hunt where my Dad's words always come back to me:

"If you've scouted the spot, you know how the deer are going to travel through the area." — I did.

"Know where your best shot is and be ready." — I was.

"Don't just pick a spot - you want to split a hair!" — I did.

"Now here's the hard part you need to know: where the deer was standing when you shot it, where was the last place you saw the deer, and wait at least 30 minutes before going after it." — Check, check, and check.

A short 80-100 yard blood trail later I was giving thanks. Not for the big doe or an 8-point buck, but for a little doe that gave me the best shot - because that is the way I was taught by a man who'd forgotten more about the woods than I will ever know.

Miss you Dad.



Ward Reynolds is the son of CTA founder Herb Reynolds, who passed away in 2008.



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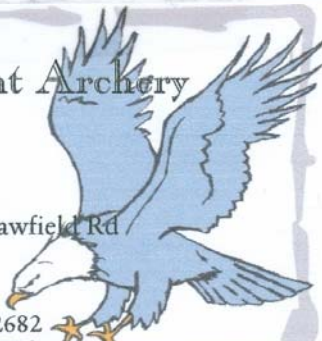


Eagle's Flight Archery

Don & Karen Ward
Owners

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Lee Hoots Builders

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Hoots Custom Bows