

Jan/Feb/Mar 2010

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

OFFICERS**PRESIDENT**

Dave Haggist
704-435-0265

VICE-PRESIDENT

Tony Lail
704-462-1070

TREASURER

Jim Vogt
828-245-4668

SECRETARY

Barry Clodfelter
bclodfelter@thecta.org
10001 Archer Road
Davidson, NC 28036
704-791-6588

EDITOR

Joe Henz
jhenz@thecta.org
704-904-9474

BOARD OF DIRECTORS**CHAIRMAN**

Charles Suttles
704-201-0061

Mike Neely
704-504-8595

Lonny Huff
828-873-6152

Jack Wilson
828-328-8047

Jim Todd
704-875-6726

*Letter from the President*

Dave Haggist

CTA Members,

I am really excited about this year's events! Something new for 2010 is that each of our shoots will have a central theme and include an instructional seminar. We did this a few times last year and it appeared to be a hit with our members. If you would like to pass on some of your outdoor knowledge at a CTA shoot, please don't hesitate to contact a club officer to make arrangements.

There is no doubt that times are tough and many of our members are struggling just to make ends meet. With that in mind, I am very pleased to announce that there will be no due or shoot fee increases for 2010. We are doing this despite the fact that our operating costs have increased dramatically over the past few years. In addition to no fee increases, your club officers are committed to providing you with challenging shoots, great food, and family-oriented fellowship. As always, we appreciate the support you provide to CTA whether it's in the form of your membership dues or by helping out during a club event or work day.

Our membership application has been modified this year to insure greater accuracy in our membership roll and comply with our By Laws. In regards to family memberships we ask that you only list those family members that are active in CTA events. In regards to children, please list their ages since members 16 years of age or greater are eligible to vote. To be eligible for reduced shoot fees and the quarterly CTA magazine, your dues must be received no later than January 31, 2010.

For some time now I have been collecting CTA memorabilia and filing it in an organized manner. This has been a daunting as well as interesting task. I know that there is a great deal more artifacts out there among our members. If you have any old CTA photographs or documents please share them with me. I will return the originals to you. If at all possible, please identify the document or photo with a date and a name of the person pictured.

Finally, we are always looking for a good story! Please don't hesitate to share your outdoor adventure with us. Just send the text and photos to Joe Henz at joehenz@yahoo.com

Best regards,

Dave Haggist

2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 9—Herb Reynolds Memorial Club Shoot, 9am-3pm, Maiden

January 23—Awards Banquet, 6pm-8pm, Milano's Restaurant, Cherryville

February 13 - CTA Annual Business Meeting & Pig Pickin' Shoot, 9am-3pm, Maiden

March 13— Ladies Club Shoot, (women & girls shoot & eat for free) 9am-3pm, Maiden

March 27—CTA Workday, 8am-noon, 8am-noon, Maiden

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

March 20 - 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

Community Outreach



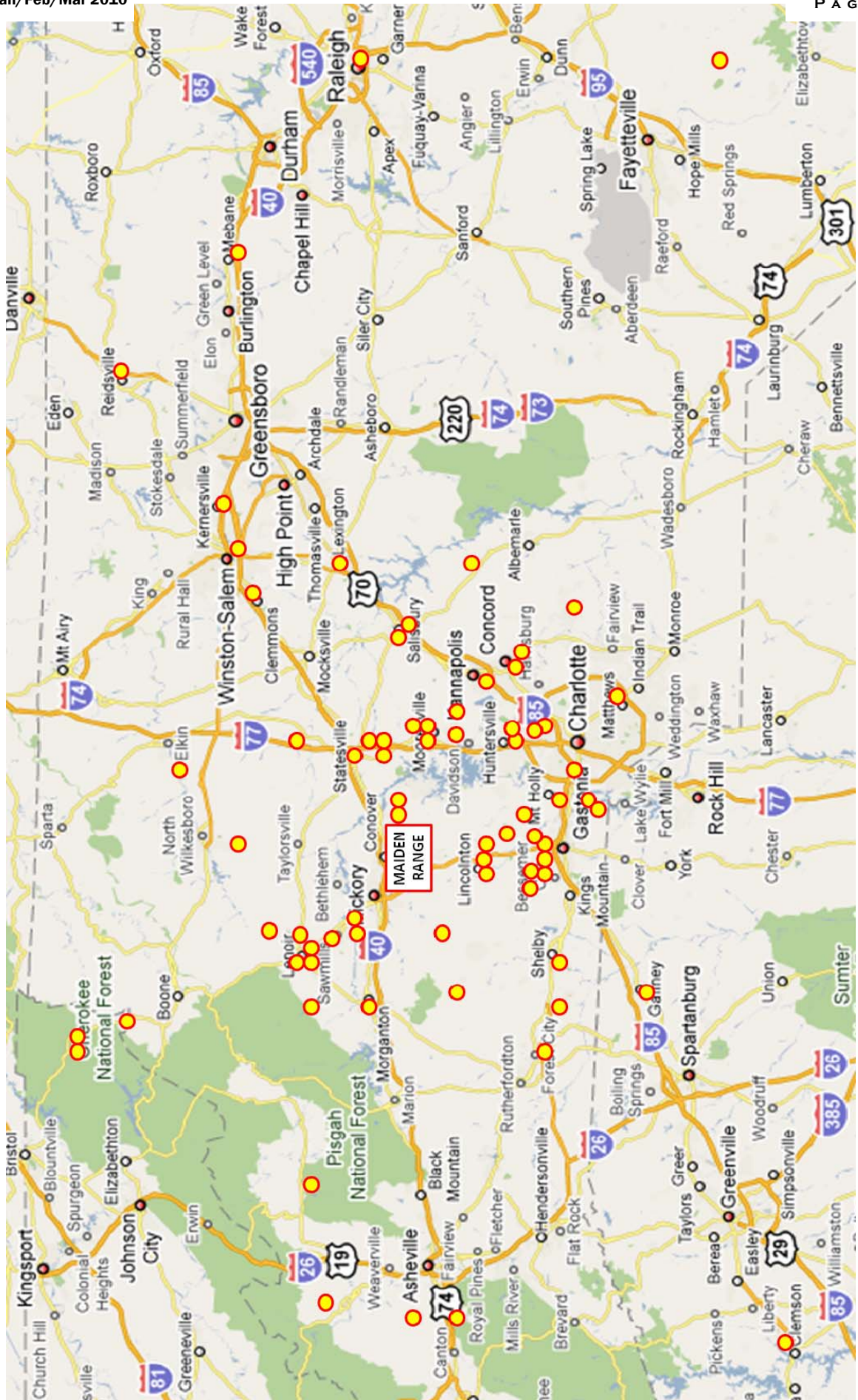
Public Lands Day at W. Kerr Scott Reservoir

As we did last year, CTA put on an archery clinic for the Boy Scouts and other kids at W. Kerr Scott's Reservoir, near Wilkesboro, NC. This was part of a National Public Lands Day celebration. Dave Haggist, Mike Neely, Jack Wilson, and Joe Henz arrived to introduce the kids to traditional archery. Tom McRary - who was there as a Scout Master - was also pressed into service. Even though the range was set up far away from the rest of the action, dozens of kids made the long walk over to wait in line and try their hand at traditional archery. Several children stayed for the entire afternoon, getting back in line again and again to have another turn!



Member Distribution Map

Ever wonder where everybody's from? Here's a map of where our members live around the area.



Custom Arrows Made Easy

By Dave Haggist

Go to any traditional archery event and you will see a wide array of archery gear. Yes, traditional archers are gear hounds! But one thing is very apparent, traditional archers strive to add that unique touch to their arrows. I recently came upon a website that offered an easy way to customize my arrows using vinyl wraps.

Wanting something that included the colors of my bow wood, fletching, shaft, and to commemorate my AT hike, I sat down with pen and paper and laid out a design. After scanning the drawing into my computer, I emailed the image to the company. In about a week, a full color proof was emailed back to me for approval. A week after approving the design, my wrap was ready for me to place an order. The cost of my dozen customized wraps was \$15.00 and they arrived within a couple days after ordering. Better yet, I avoided the expense of all the gear needed to dip and crest my arrows along with the dreaded paint fumes. Also, the fletching glues adhere much better to a vinyl wrap than a bare or painted shaft.

The company I used was www.battledrumwraps.com In addition to designing your own custom wrap, they offer hundreds of stock designs.



Ancient Photograph Discovered!

Archeologists recently uncovered an ancient photograph during a dig in Gastonia, NC. The photo purports to show a **young** Charles Suttles posing with a deer!

For those of you who find it hard to believe that Charles was ever young, let me remind you that even Moses was a pimply teenager once; in fact, he and Charles graduated from high school together!

While driving around town with an animal carcass strapped to the bumper of a Luv Bug may seem extremely barbaric to us, in ancient times this was a widely-accepted practice. As a matter of fact, young men were encouraged to do so, since it advertised their virility and ability to “bring home the bacon” to young women in the community. If this practice seems odd to you, remember that this was an era when people wore elevator shoes and polyester leisure suits, and boogied to disco! Groovy, Charles! Right On!



CTA Commemoratives

In anticipation of our 25th anniversary, we will be offering two commemorative items. Descriptions and costs of the two items are listed below. Regarding the coin, we need to get a total Club order of at least 50 coins before an order can be made. **These items will only be available through June 2010.** Don't miss out on this opportunity to own a piece of CTA history.

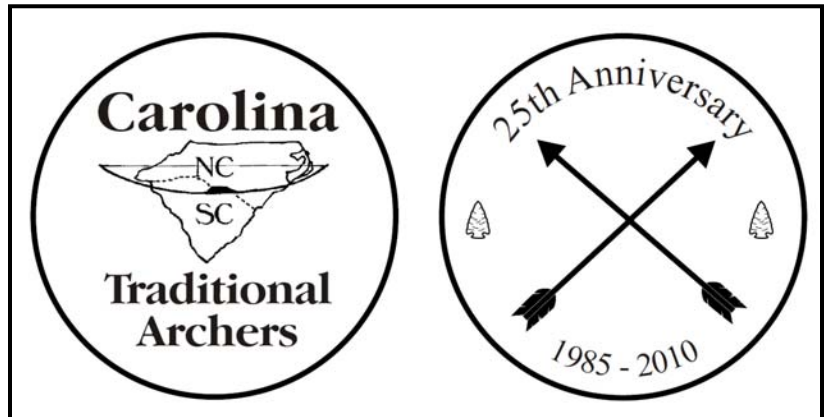
CTA Commemorative Coin

1 ¾ inches in diameter

Pewter with raised images

\$6.00 each

Make personal check payable to CTA and route to Jim Vogt.



CTA Commemorative Knife

Drop point skinner

Blade length: 2 ½ inches

Overall length: 6 inches

Stainless steel

Includes a hand stitched leather sheath

The following engraving: **CTA**
1985 25th 2010

Make personal check payable to Mike Treadway and specify which handle style you want. Route checks to Jim Vogt.

Orders will be placed as checks are received. No minimum orders needed.

rope handle: \$35.00

wood handle: \$45.00

antler handle: \$55.00



Blackbeard Island

Jewel by the Sea

By Dave Haggist

My love affair with hunting on coastal islands began in 1970 with my first trip to Bulls Island, South Carolina. Almost four decades later, the allure of century old live oaks draped in Spanish moss, abundant wildlife, and the sound of waves striking the shore still draws me to these jewels by the sea.

There are several islands that run along the Atlantic coast that are either state or federal wildlife refuges. All allow management hunts for deer and feral hogs to protect these fragile environments.

Located off the coast of Georgia near Savannah, Blackbeard Island was established as a National Wildlife refuge in 1940. Archery deer hunts have been held on the island since 1948. The island is comprised of over 5000 acres but two thirds of it is made up of fresh and salt water marshes. Although management hunts are conducted twice each year the main mission of this refuge is to provide wintering habitat and protection for migratory birds as well as protection and management for endangered and threatened species such as the loggerhead sea turtle, wood stork, and piping plover.

Access to the island is by boat and hunters must make their own transportation arrangements. The island has an excellent road system but hunters are restricted to foot or the use of bicycles. In the wilderness track only foot travel is allow. With all its beauty this hunt is no cakewalk. With swamps come hordes of mosquitoes and no-see-ums, four species of poisonous snakes, alligators, and vegetation that wants to bite you. On my previous hunts I have encountered poisonous snakes each time. Reaching down to pick up a piece of styrofoam that turned out to be the mouth of a water moccasin was a bit scary. How high can I jump.....pretty high!

My guest on this third trip to Blackbeard Island was Charles Suttles. Charles had never hunted in this type of environment and was immediately struck by its beauty. After setting camp it was off to the woods to locate stand sites. The first place we checked revealed several fresh scrapes and a large area rooted by feral hogs. Although we scouted a couple other areas, we eventually returned to this site to set stands.

Finding a tree you can hang a stand in let alone one where you want to hunt in can be quite a challenge. The trees tend to be very crooked, with huge bases and circumferences that quickly become smaller. Needless to say, climbing in and out of our stands each day would have easily won the funniest home video contest.

After hanging stands it was back to camp to sort gear and prepare an early supper. Grilled hamburgers, potato salad and baked beans. Boy does food taste great when it's cooked outside! With very little sleep the night before and a long day on the island, it wasn't long before we were both in our sleeping bags fast asleep.

The next morning we woke in eager anticipation of seeing game. After a quick breakfast, it was off to our stand sites. The temps were cool so the mosquitoes were kept at bay and we arrived at our stands about 45 minutes before first light. As I sat silently in the darkness, the hypnotic sound of waves striking the shore almost put me back to sleep. I couldn't help to think how lucky I was to be here.



Shortly after first light a family of raccoons strolled past my stand. The two babies were scouring the ground for food and paid me no attention, but mama raccoon was having doubts about that mass of leaves in the tree. Three different times she stood on her hind legs, cocked her head to one side and stared at me.

As the morning progressed, the trees and vegetation filled with such a number and variety of birds that it kind of reminded me of the old Hitchcock movie.

A little past 9:00 I was starting to believe that my first morning was going to be a wash deer and hog-wise when I saw him... Clearly the biggest buck I had ever seen in the woods, and he was walking towards my stand! I was immediately struck by the chocolate brown color of his ten point rack and how symmetrical it was.



Within a second he was standing broadside in front of my stand but his posture indicated that he knew something was up. Normally I would have waited to see if the buck would calm down before taking a shot but with a very limited shooting lane it was now or never. As I released the bowstring, the buck crouched and I watched in disbelief as my arrow skimmed the top of his back right above his shoulder! I sat down not because I wanted to but because my shaking legs would no longer support me. I was torn between disappointment for having missed the deer and gratitude at having such an opportunity. At 10:00 I met Charles at the road and delivered my sob story. He had seen a doe that morning but had no shot opportunity.

After a quick lunch it was off to what would become a daily ritual: ridiculous archery shots! Today's target was a snuff container at 32 yards. After surrounding our quarry with several arrows, Charles and I scored back to back hits. Yea, I know: how can I missed a deer at 15 yards, yet hit a snuff container at more than 30?

The afternoon hunt resulted in no game seen but another interesting bird encounter. As the shadows of evening enveloped me a flock of more than 20 cardinals landed in the trees around my stand. Most were male birds and the brilliant red color against the green foliage was striking.

After a hardy supper of beef tips and mixed vegetables, Charles and I had a strategy session and decided we would devote a good part of midday tomorrow scouting.

Day two would result in no game seen by me but Charles had a close encounter with a doe during his morning hunt. Problem was that the doe was too close and fearing a one lung shot, Charles decided to pass.

Midday was consumed with searching for alternate stands sites and - of course - ridiculous archery shots. Our scouting resulted in no better sign than where we were currently hunting. In fact a scrape near my stand had been freshened during the night. Our quarry for this practice session was a Pringles potato chip can at 32 yards. Again several close calls before we both struck the can.

Like all great trips, before you know it the last couple hours of the last day are upon you. About 5:00 a doe began walking towards my stand. But a steady breeze would reveal me and she slowly turned and melted into the palmettos.

As always there were a lot of birds chattering around my stand that evening. Suddenly what best could be described as a missile sailed past me. This missile was a Sparrow Hawk and his flight resulted in a very close call for one bird. And just as quickly all was silent in Tweetyville, and remained that way for several minutes after the Hawk left the area.

As darkness fell and I lowered my bow to the ground, the palmettos behind my stand rustled...and I heard the low growl of a feral hog. Man, I can't wait until next year to be in my stand by the sea!

On this hunt the author missed his buck with a Hummingbird bow, Easton Legacy shaft and Magnus head. Charles used a Black Widow bow, carbon arrows and Abowyer heads. For more information about coastal island hunting go to:

www.fws.gov/southeast/refuges

CTA Annual Awards Banquet

When: January 23, 2009

Where: Milano's Restaurant, 1011 East Church Street, Cherryville, NC

Time: 6:00pm to 8:00pm

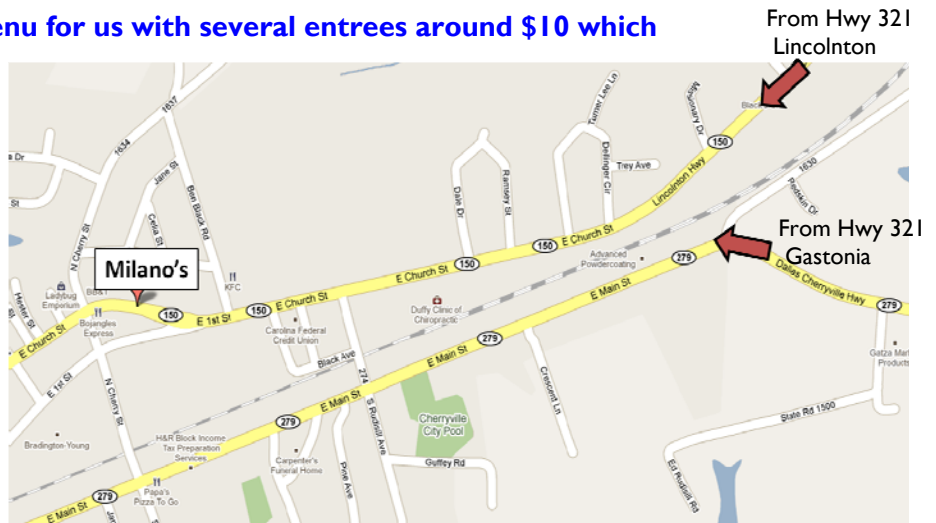
Milano's has put together a special menu for us with several entrees around \$10 which includes a salad and bread!

Don't miss this opportunity for a great meal and fellowship as we celebrate another successful year!

This year's event will spotlight our many achievements as well as recognize several members who played an instrumental role in that success.

In addition, we will present over \$300 in prizes as part of the Step up to the Plate program.

This event is open to all members and their guests.



Tribute to CTA Founder Herb Reynolds, 1936-2008

Don't Just Remember His Love for Archery, Remember the Whole Man

By Pat Reynolds and Family

We want to thank the club for honoring Herb by giving to the North Carolina Bow Hunters Association fund for Youth Education Project. Herb loved teaching others to shoot and he always hoped they would love the sport as much as he did.

Herb also wanted to help the old, the young, and the sick. He picked who he helped with his heart, not his head. There was the time in the late 1960's when an elderly lady needed a place to put her trailer. He had a septic tank put in our front yard for the trailer, and she lived in her trailer there in our front yard until she could buy herself a piece of land. He charged her no rent.

He loved giving when he was at Charlotte Rehab. In 1982 on Father's Day, Kayren gave him Wonder Woman balloons. He went around the rooms giving them to other patients. Kayren was upset until she saw how happy it made him. So after that she made things for him to give away.

When Herb took his sons Ward and Randy bow fishing, he always stopped and gave fish to an elderly man. Another time, there was a lady fishing. He asked her how many fish she had caught, and she said, "none." He gave her some. She put them in the trunk of her car and kept on fishing. We always wondered how long she continued to fish after putting those fish in the trunk of her car!

We, his family, didn't always approve of his generosity. But when he was sick we were the receivers of others' generosity, and it sure made his time in the hospital easier on us.

Those he helped who were in need never asked for help. Herb just somehow seemed to know when they needed it. As Herb's family, we hope the memory of this side of Herb will live on too. He saw this as an important part of the hunting community. It was a natural offshoot of the friendships that developed.

This comes from all of us: from Pat to Caiden, 2½, and Conner, 2 months, who will be told stories of their GranPa. Caiden's first sentence was, "See bow, Pap." We hope that he will also learn a love of caring for others from his Great GranPa. We hope that you will also continue to be an example of this for them, as well.

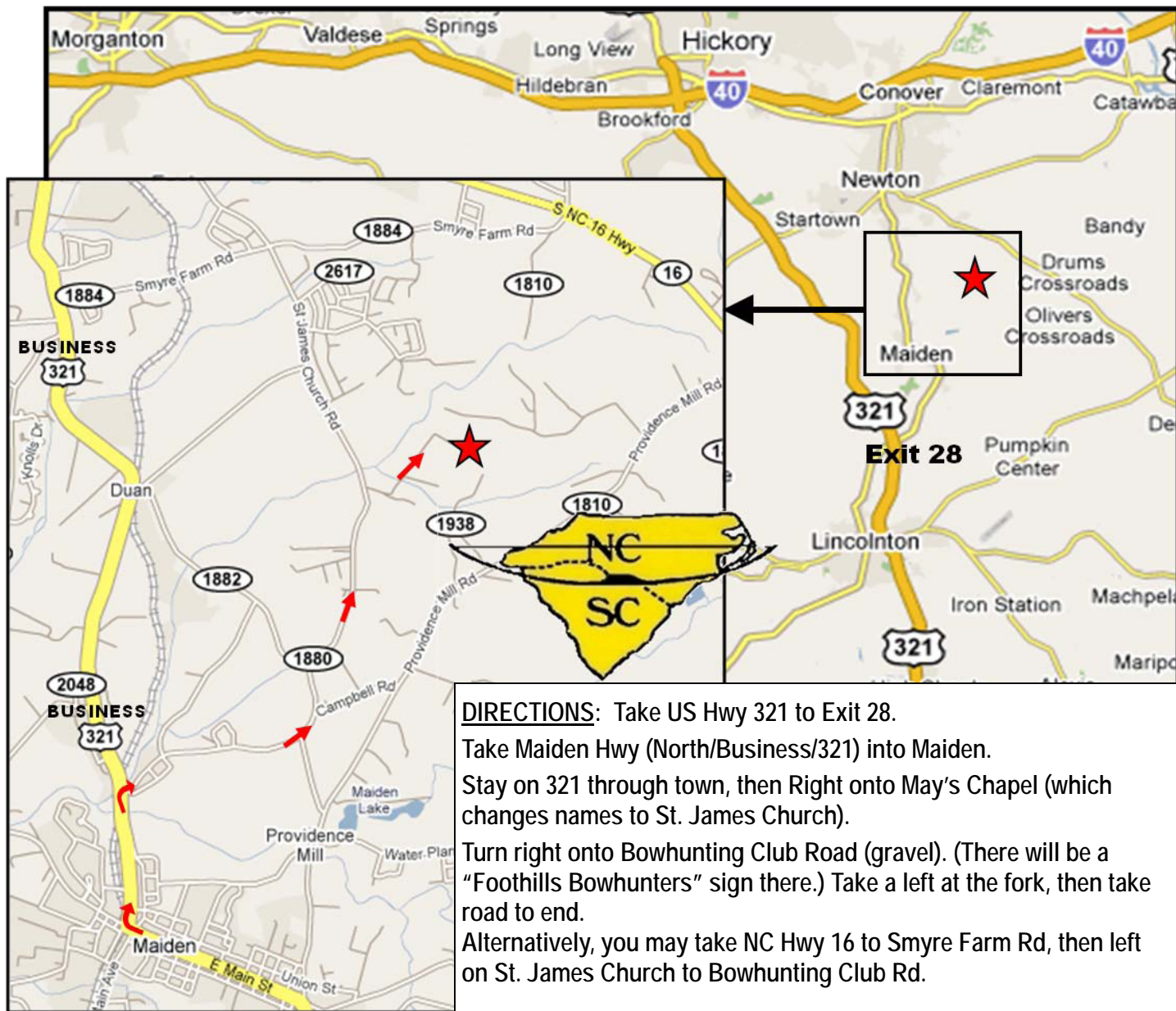


About our Club Shoots

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 Bow-Hunters/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!



DIRECTIONS: Take US Hwy 321 to Exit 28.

Take Maiden Hwy (North/Business/321) into Maiden.

Stay on 321 through town, then Right onto May's Chapel (which changes names to St. James Church).

Turn right onto Bowhunting Club Road (gravel). (There will be a "Foothills Bowhunters" sign there.) Take a left at the fork, then take road to end.

Alternatively, you may take NC Hwy 16 to Smyre Farm Rd, then left on St. James Church to Bowhunting Club Rd.



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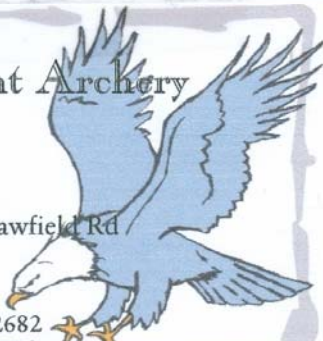


Eagle's Flight Archery

Don & Karen Ward
Owners

1626 Trollingwood - Hawfield Rd
Mebane NC 27302
USA

919 563-2682
twofletcher@mebtel.net



Lee Hoots Builders

General Contractor



704-539-4862 or
704-903-8305
hootowl@yadtel.net



Hoots Custom Bows