

# The Colorado Bowhunter



A BOWHUNTING  
vol 27 | issue 2 |

HUNTERS BY HUNTERS SINCE 1969

*Spring Strutters*  
JESS & STEVE FERNANDEZ

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- RIVER BOTTOM BULLS
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## FROM THE EDITOR

### YOU ARE MORE POWERFUL THAN YOU KNOW

Here's a challenge for you, not just any challenge, but one that speaks directly to the heart of every hunter reading this: finish this piece. Yes, it's going to push you, maybe even make you squirm a bit. But, isn't that the essence of hunting? Facing the uncomfortable head-on with courage? So, ask yourself - are you all in? Because this isn't just about me or you; it's about us.

Think about the long hours you've already sunk into tag applications, planning out your hunts for 2024. Guess what? You're just getting warmed up.

In the coming 5 months, many of you will dive into the annual ritual of hunt prep. Rising before dawn to practice archery, powering through workouts, hitting tournaments, planning scouting missions, and rallying your tribe for the hunt. You're setting yourself up to excel, pouring in hundreds of hours to stand at the pinnacle when the season kicks off.

Yes, the grind can be tough. It can tear at you, pull you away from loved ones, and demand a fanatic's focus. So why do we do it?

I see you out there - at tournaments, sweating through workouts, scouting terrain with friends. That camaraderie, that joy in the wild, that's the soul of our lifestyle. It's our escape, our shared breath of freedom.

And here comes the hard truth.

These moments, this freedom, it's under threat. How would you feel if I said this season might be your last snapshot with your crew, reveling in a successful hunt?

Are you zoning out yet? That's exactly the problem.

Too many think defending our way of life is someone else's battle. Wrong. This is on you. On your family. It's personal.

We need to unite, recognizing that protecting our future hunts is a mission for every one of us.

Do you care enough to step up? To push past your comfort zone and fight for what's yours?

Think about it - if your home was under threat, you wouldn't just lie down. Yet, by not defending our hunting rights, that's precisely what we're doing. We're letting invaders plunder what's dear to us.

Yes, these words might sting, but they're drenched in truth. How long will you watch our heritage be eroded before you stand up, brace yourselves, and join the fray?

This isn't about tuning out; it's about tuning in - to the urgency of protecting what we cherish. Can you devote even a fraction of your hunting prep time to safeguarding your tradition?

Or will you turn a blind eye, seeking solace in the wilderness, haunted by the thought, "Is this the last time? What about my kids?"

My greatest wish is for the wider world to witness the strength and unity of bowhunters. There's power in our community, and it's time to harness it. Spare a few hours, lend your skills, and defend our legacy.

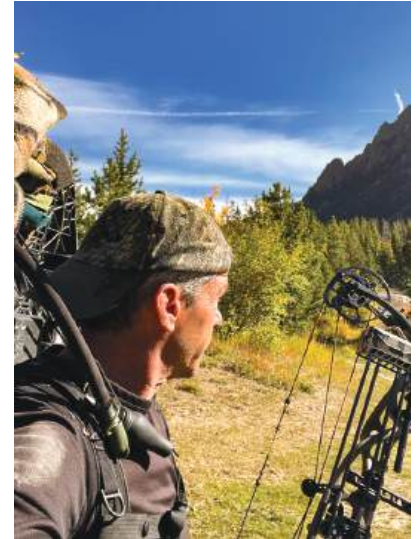
It's no longer enough to just show up at events and splurge on gear. The future of hunting is calling. Will you answer?

Or will you look back with regret, wondering, "Why can't the next generations experience what I have?"

Realize your true power. Decide to stand firm and send those invaders packing.

You are far more powerful than you know.

**MATT JACKSON** • [editor@coloradobowhunting.org](mailto:editor@coloradobowhunting.org)





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**2023 BOWHUNTER OF THE YEAR KURT HOVANEC**

## The Colorado Bowhunter

### OUR MISSION

The Colorado Bowhunters Association proudly accepts the mission:

- to encourage and perpetuate the sport of bowhunting for all legal game;
- to protect, improve and increase the opportunities for hunting with the hand held, hand drawn bow;
- to cooperate with and support federal and state agencies, sportsmen’s associations, and conservation organizations, which are insuring the propagation and preservation of game and its habitat;
- to encourage and conduct educational programs designed to acquaint the public and the archer with the safe and ethical use of the bow for hunting and bowhunting as an effective method of hunting legal game;
- to foster unity and perpetuate the spirit of good fellowship among bowhunters; and
- to develop and advocate specific policies that support and help fulfill the Mission.

### CBA POLICY STATEMENT

#### Bowhunting Seasons:

The CBA will promote seasons and season structures that strengthen and enhance the opportunities for bowhunting with the handheld, hand-drawn bow and actively oppose seasons and season structures that diminish or degrade those opportunities without evidence of overriding wildlife management goals.

#### Legal Bowhunting Equipment:

The CBA will develop and promote bowhunting regulations with thresholds that limit hunters to using only the handheld, hand-drawn bow and that emphasize archery and bowhunting skills.

#### Crossbows:

The CBA categorically rejects crossbow technology as being legal archery equipment for use during any archery season in Colorado, and will actively oppose the use of crossbows or implementation of crossbow seasons under any circumstance, where such use will diminish or degrade the bowhunting experience, opportunity and/or quality with the handheld, hand-drawn bow.



# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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BY HENRY FERGUSON

We just completed our annual Banquet at The Ranch in Loveland. Our Banquet Co-Chairs: John Cannon and Kaleb Bell set a new standard against which future banquets will be measured. They had a team of folks working behind the scenes to make this event a success and I simply cannot thank each one of them enough!

It's rare that we have such a big event, and the Chairman is nowhere to be seen. I had a business trip in Vietnam and had to leave the day of the event.

While I sure wish I could have been there, I was supremely confident that everything would work smoothly because we have a great team on the CBA! This is not now, nor has it ever been a one man show.

It takes a great team to succeed and that is exactly what we have. Many of us will be moving on at the end of the year to other projects and there will be some spots to fill. If you have the desire to get involved and help move the cause forward, be ready to step up.

In my last report, I mentioned that we were going to need to talk to our friends about the upcoming ballot initiative. On my trip to Vietnam, I took my largest customer out to dinner. While eight of us sat in a quiet restaurant in Ho Chi Minh City, the conversation turned to hobbies and the merchandise manager asked me about how my hunting season had gone.

As I told some quick stories, one of the newer folks asked me, "Are you the Jerky Guy?" I have been taking them bags of jerky for their corporate office for years. She commented on how much she loved it.

Someone asked me what my thoughts were on the mountain lion bill. I thought.. here was my chance! I explained the North American Model for Wildlife Management and how important it was to keep each population in balance, especially apex predators.

In just a few moments, they all confirmed that they would be voting against it. It isn't hard and you certainly do not need to be an expert to have a positive impact.

I was very proud to see so many passionate bowhunters show up to speak to the Commission about the importance of keeping OTC elk for Colorado residents. It is apparent that they will be making some changes, but it is still possible to save the opportunities for residents. Please stay active in this, it can and should make a difference.

I am proud to be a bowhunter.

Sincerely,  
**Henry Ferguson**  
Chairman - CBA





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# LEGISLATIVE REPORT

BY WES MENDEZ

## THE CONTINUED FIGHT TO PROTECT OUR HERITAGE

I have had the privilege over the last four years to serve as your volunteer lobbyist for this phenomenal organization. I have been deeply touched to be allowed to follow in the footsteps of CBA trailblazers who created and protected the bow hunting rights we now enjoy today.

Never in my wildest dreams would I have ever imagined the level of attempts to erode our hunting privileges - especially when you think of the vacuum that would exist if they were successful!

On the eve of the 2024 election, I anticipated this year would bring an influx of controversial bills, designed to serve more of an optics purpose than creating a social benefit. What disturbed me the most with the proposed legislation is there seems to be a growing effort by some to look for more opportunities to restrict personal choice in one's life and in our society.

Firearms have been a big focus this legislative session where we have continued to see proposed changes to statute prohibiting or severely restricting the model, the location and the amount a person should pay to maintain the right. While most of the legislation seems to target urban areas of the state, the broad scope of some of the legislation could have the unintended effect of impacting hunting activities in the state.

Below is the comprehensive list of all bills that we have been collaborating on with our peers to engage in some form of manner:

- HB24-1353 Firearms Dealer Requirements & Permit
- HB24-1349 Firearms & Ammunition Excise Tax
- HB24-1270 Firearm Liability Insurance Requirement
- SB24-066 Firearms Merchant Category Code
- HB24-1348 Secure Firearm Storage in a Vehicle
- SB24-131 Prohibiting Carrying Firearms in Sensitive Spaces
- SB24-003 Colorado Bureau of Investigation Authority to Investigate Firearms Crimes
- HB24-1292 Prohibit Certain Weapons Used in Mass Shootings
- HB24-1117 Invertebrates & Rare Plants Parks & Wildlife Commission
- HB24-1375 Wilde Carnivores & Livestock Nonlethal Coexistence
- SB24-126 Conservation Easement Income Tax Credit
- SB24-161 Parks & Wildlife Licenses & Passes
- SB24-135 Modification of State Agency & Department Reporting Requirements
- SB24-026 Agriculture and Natural Resources Public Engagement Requirements





Regarding the category of conservation and hunting we have seen a few bills that are of concern in addition to a friendly bill related to the restoration of Wolverines (SB24-171). Regarding the Wolverine bill, Senator Will and Senator Roberts have drafted legislation to proactively ensure there are protective measures in statute such as the requirement of a 10j rule from Fish and Wildlife before any reintroduction actions begin.

Learning from the Wolf reintroduction issues, the Senators have done an outstanding job getting proactive protections into statute regarding Wolverines.

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***“In a small town, you're never alone; someone's always got your back.”***  
*- Unknown*

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Of great concern is the bill HB24-1375 Wild Carnivores & Livestock Nonlethal Coexistence proposed by Representative Tammy Story and Senator Keven Priola. The bill's basic intent is to rollback years of work done by the CPW Wolf Working Groups related to livestock owner compensation in the event of livestock loss.

The proposed legislation does not come as a surprise as Representative Story made multiple attempts last session to stop the 10j Wolf Bill that ultimately passed before being vetoed by the Governor. Although we are in the early stages of this legislation we are working with our peers to ensure there continues to be a united front on ensuring these types of bills are defeated in committee.

**One of the best ways we can continue to ensure nonsense legislation does not get traction at the capitol is by our community showing up when it counts to meet and talk with legislators.**

On Thursday April 18th, The Colorado Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation will be hosting the annual Sportsmen's day at the capitol. Various sportsmen groups will be in attendance helping cook and serve Wild Game to the legislators and staff.

The event is open to the public and we need to show up in force especially in an election year where we have a proposed hunting ban that might make the ballot, Initiative 91. We will be sending out communication in the next few weeks to stay tuned!

Our community is similar to a small town mentality - where at times we may stumble but having people who have our back elevates our game and ultimately our future success.

We know the road ahead is going to be difficult as we get closer to the general election. Below are ways you can help:

1. **Continue to donate to Coloradans For Responsible Wildlife Management (CRWM)** <https://savethehuntcolorado.com>  
Dan Gates continues to lead the charge against #91 and we at the CBA will continue to do everything in our power to support him in such efforts.
2. **Engage and volunteer**
3. **Join Sportsmen's Groups & Show Up**

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***“Those who stand for nothing fall for everything”***  
*- Alexander Hamilton*

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Until next time, continue to advocate for our right to bowhunt and the North American Model.



The fight for tomorrow's rights as sportsmen and women has already begun. Although it has begun it is but one battle in the war against those who wish to eliminate the hobbies we have all grown to love. Whether you're a hunter, fisher, hiker, trapper, mountain biker or wildlife enthusiast we all fall under the definition of a sportsman and most importantly united we will stand in this fight together. Our weapons will not be made of steel or powered by political advocates; it will be a force far more formattable that will spread like a wildfire to dry timber.

Through education and opportunity, we will "SPARK" the passion we have for the outdoors in the next generation as they will be the ones who will win this war in the decades to come. Their passion will make the difference and only through the responsible education and interactive platform will we truly help guide them on their path.

As we spend the 2024 year partnering with organizations, venues, and volunteers we aim to develop the most interactive and thought-provoking camp series for tomorrow's sportsmen and women. By designing a volunteer class system solely focused on the responsible education of basic conservation we intend to ignite that "SPARK" in every attendee's mind.

As an example, a typical camp weekend will be based in a rural, easily accessible area to encourage participation from all families in every walk of life. All classes will be on a voluntary sign-up basis. Classes will be led by industry professionals and follow a simple easy course structure to promote understanding from all ages and participants. These courses will vary from all aspects of the outdoors, basic wilderness survival, wildlife identification, fishing, environmentalism, archery, animal processing, firearms safety, river/water reading, and land navigation to name a few.

Our mission is to responsibly educate tomorrow's sportsmen and women by igniting the "SPARK" that fuels the wildfire of passion so many of us already have. On behalf of the Colorado Bowhunters Association, I'd like to say thank you for taking the time to read this. Hopefully this brief description of "SPARK" has kindled that wildfire in your heart. If you would like to know more about how to donate or volunteer, please feel free to call our youth outreach director at any time.

For more information on the program, volunteer positions or how to donate please contact:

**Kaleb Bell**  
Program Director  
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By Marv Clycke



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*This is his life story, and it is a good one!"*

**T.J. Conrads**  
Editor/Publisher/Founder  
Traditional Bowhunter® Magazine

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# COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE LIAISON REPORT

BY LANE WALTER



For years the CBA has been raising concerns to Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) about the unlimited OTC archery elk license sales to non-residents. We have always been an advocate to keep OTC tag sales for everyone as long as it is good for the wildlife and bowhunting in Colorado.

In the last 5-year Big Game Season Structure (2019-2024) we made requests to limit the non-resident OTC elk hunting licenses with some kind of cap or go to a system similar to Wyoming and Montana. In the last ten years other states have started to put lower elk license allocations into effect and remove their OTC elk licenses for non-residents, this has caused a large increase in non-residents OTC elk hunters in Colorado.

In the same time frame CPW cut out almost 40% of the OTC archery elk units but sold more OTC elk licenses the next year, this cut in units increased the crowding even more.

In 2014 there were 20,661 resident OTC archery elk tags sold and 14,984 non-resident OTC elk tags sold in Colorado. In 2021 there were 16,492 resident and 19,250 non-resident OTC archery elk tags sold in Colorado. That's a 28% increase in non-resident OTC archery elk tags sales and a 20% drop in resident tag sales.

I have no doubt in my mind that the decrease in resident tag sales can be attributed to the increased pressure in OTC hunting units.

All of this has led to the current 5-year Big Game Season Structure and the recommendation from the CPW staff to eliminate all OTC archery elk licenses but keep OTC rifle tag sales.

There is an alternative to keep OTC archery elk licenses for residents but limit them for non-residents. In my opinion, this is the alternative that we need to be requesting to be chosen.

Both alternatives from the CPW staff will cut tags for non-resident hunters but only Alternative 1 will cut tags from everyone. Alternative 2 will help preserve Colorado's hunting heritage by preserving the opportunity for Colorado residents to go to their local sporting goods store and buy an OTC archery elk hunting license.

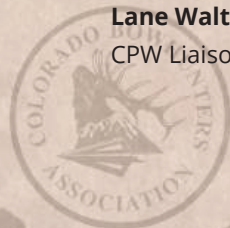
By eliminating OTC archery elk licenses for everyone but keeping OTC rifle elk licenses for everyone, I am afraid that history will repeat itself that way it did when CPW cut OTC archery elk units. We will start to sell recording breaking numbers of OTC rifle tags and that this would have a large negative impact on our wildlife.

As an organization, the CBA is dedicated to preserving archery elk hunting in Colorado, but I believe that both the OTC archery and OTC rifle opportunities are so intertwined that we must speak up about both.

We should write to the CPW Commissioners and show up to the next few meetings to speak about what alternatives we support. For me, I will be speaking in favor of 6a (alternative 2), keeping OTC archery elk licenses for residents while limiting them for non-residents.

For 6b I will be speaking in favor of alternative 1, keeping OTC rifle elk licenses for residents while limiting them for non-residents. I strongly encourage you to speak up for the same. Both alternatives are going to have an impact on non-residents but I believe that 6a alternative 2 will be what is best for Colorado bowhunters (residents and non residents).

**Lane Walter**  
CPW Liaison

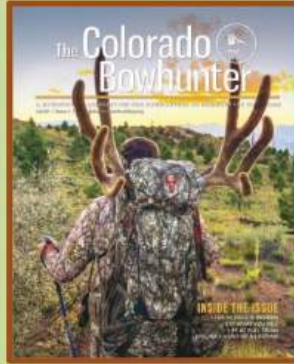


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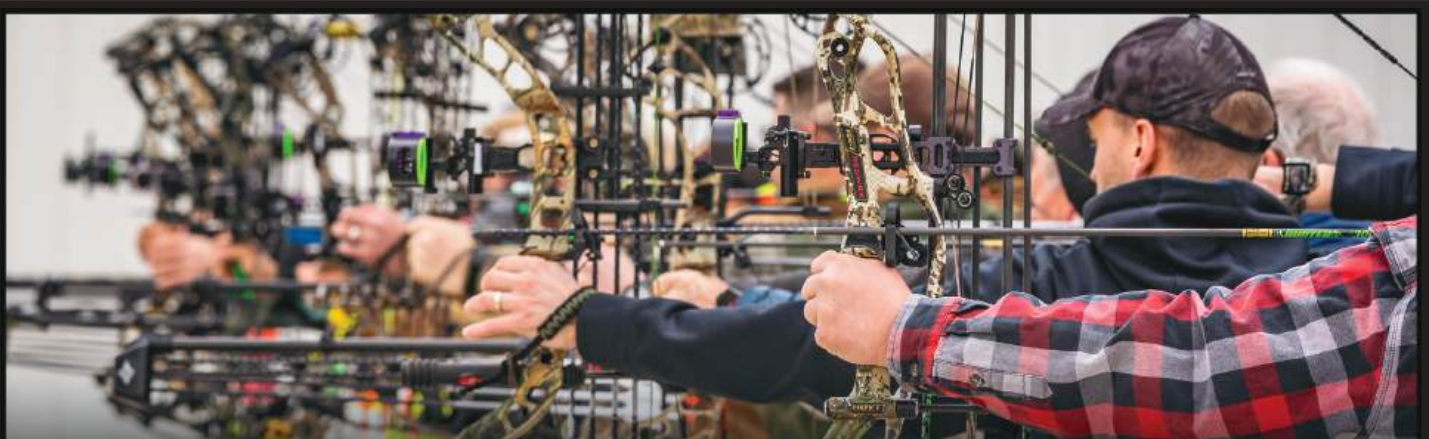


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- July 19, 2024 • CBA Jamboree | Twin Lakes, CO
- August 18, 2024 • CPW Headquarters | Denver, CO

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**NOTE:** When you sign up for an Internet Conclusion Class it must be completed within 90 days after completing the On-Line Course.

**[WWW.CPW.STATE.CO.US](http://WWW.CPW.STATE.CO.US)**

# BIG GAME RECORDS

BY JOE BRADLEY



## WHAT MAKES THE BIG GAME AWARDS SO SPECIAL?

The 2024 Annual Banquet sure was a good time... wasn't it?!

We put more mounts on the wall than ever before, and it was the biggest wall to date. I'd like to send a big thanks to my buddy Mike, and the other multiple volunteers, who helped with the setup and tear down.

Also, a big thanks to all the members that displayed their animals. The awards ceremony was fun, and we added 3 new members to the Big 9 list, as well as 4 First timers.

The top 3 moose were big. The top 3 elk were huge. The other categories showcased some elite animals as well. We have some great bowhunters in this state. I met a lot of new members during this process and it's great to see the younger generation show up in our awards.



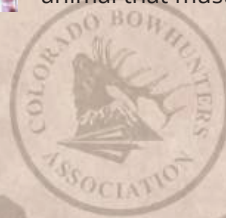
Now, let's talk about these awards and why they are important.

We are hunters by choice, not necessity. So, the use of words like "trophy", "awards" and "records" is seen as a derogatory term in the public's eye. I understand that sentiment, but I will harshly defend our event and others like it.

The hunters receiving these awards are working class men. Men who bring home meat to the family and feed them. We form an alliance of brotherhood, and we meet once a year to celebrate that.

The way we hunt is hard, and taking an elite specimen is truly an accomplishment. Our awards ceremony does not celebrate world records. It does not celebrate TV celebrities or propaganda.

What it does celebrate, is an organization of like-minded individuals that obsess over their craft. Their passion. Their own movement. We celebrate being in the right place, at the right time, with a full-time animal that must make a mistake for a part-time hunter to capitalize.



No one shoots an elk and says, "that will place high in the CBA Awards this year". Instead, they shoot that elk in a moment of opportunity. An opportunity they have dreamt about since the tag was issued, scouted all summer, and developed a plan.

They dialed in their shooting and poured over gear preparation. Early morning gas station fill ups or a ¾ mile hike before sunrise from a spike camp. Weather issues. Body wear and tare. Mental strain. Ups, downs and highs and lows. Just like they do every year. When they are successful, with an elite specimen no less... we celebrate.

We don't lose the impact of a life being lost. We must kill to achieve the successful result of the hunt, but there is sorrow and remorse as much as there is excitement and jubilation. I know a lot of our members, and they are composed of the highest integrity and just want to be left alone and hunt.

These animals are elite, and it's so nice to see them together and hear the stories about how they were pursued. Our awards are a way to extend the life of these animals and keep them alive through spirit, mounts, and pictures.



Our awards ceremony is lighthearted and not uppity like others. It's a laid-back group of colleagues who would rather watch their buddy get an award instead. In fact, I have two examples of guys that rescinded their entries this year to let a kid or a friend of theirs get an award instead.

Our CBA Chairman Henry Ferguson is a great example. Each year Henry is successful with an amazing mule deer, and we have an annual discussion about his entry. Each year, he gives us stories and beautiful animals to display, but Henry doesn't want his name called if someone else had success that year.

We don't talk about specifics. Henry may hunt on Mars for all we know. That is his private business and will never be discussed as long as I am the Big Game Record Chairman. We want stories, not hunting spots. We want mounts to display, not taxidermists contact information.

We want to celebrate something we all live for.

The big game wall is always composed of bow-killed animals from CBA members. Of course, the #1 moose or elk in our organization was not the #1 moose or elk in the state last year.

That's why I want EVERY bowhunter in Colorado to be a CBA Member. But we celebrate those who are, and we have some great hunters in this Organization.

Let's celebrate that and make the wall next year even better!

## **Joe Bradley**

CBA Records Chairman

### **Contact me at:**

[biggame@coloradobowhunting.org](mailto:biggame@coloradobowhunting.org)

(970) 420-3771

# Spring Strutters

BY STEVE FERNANDEZ



First of all, we want to thank all of you for being CBA members, without all of you this awesome organization wouldn't exist. We encourage you to share our organization with everyone you can.

The 2023 season has come to a close, and if you're like us; we get the blues when we're not bowhunting.

With that said, why turkey hunt with our bows? First of all, April is a great time to get out. Elk and deer are dropping their antlers, grass is turning green, trees are blooming and the sounds of the feathered elk are sounding off.

Why do we call them feathered elk? Well, if you've hunted elk during September you know how fun it is to hear bull elk bugle. A big ol' Tom gobbling gives me the same feeling.

It's a time when you put your calling skills and hunting skills to the test. There is something magical about having game come into your calls for a close bow shot.

So that's why we call turkey's feathered elk. When I was a youngster, I really wasn't much for hunting turkeys. When my son Ty was a youngster he wanted to hunt turkeys, and that's the time turkey hunting became something very special to me.

I'm going to dive into some of my most epic times in the spring and why you all should all try to get the family and friends out for a spring turkey bowhunt.

It was a cool Colorado morning, my son Ty and I parked the truck. He was an excited 10 year old, eager for the hunt. It was still dark, and we started off with some owl hoots.

Boom! Three Gobblers fired off. We both gave a high five and got our bows ready as fast as we could. We made our way down the mountain stream to get set up on them.

When we move in the dark I prefer to use a red light, it seems to not spook game. With that said, the decoys were set and we were 200 yards from the roost set up.

The feathered elk were hammering. Gobblers all over the high ridge above us. The sun had crept over the top and the turkeys started flying off the roost landing close by.

We began to call and soon we had four big gobblers strutting into the decoys. Our hearts were pounding as we saw them closing into the decoys. Ty goes to full draw.

I'm literally shaking waiting for him to let an arrow fly. Ty hammers the first Tom, I get my Hoyt ready. The second gobbler comes back to the decoys and I hammer one as well. It was one of the most amazing day, we hugged and high fived. What an epic morning!

From that day forward I've bow-hunted turkeys as much as possible.





We set up along the creek and took pics. I couldn't have been a prouder father seeing the passion in his eyes. As we are walking back to the truck, Ty yells out "look Dad, elk shed."

I couldn't imagine the day getting any better, but it did. He found a big six point elk shed. That's why the spring time is so magical. It's a time to shoot your bows, get out and hunt and enjoy the sunshine and warmer weather.

If you haven't called a big Tom in the spring, I would definitely start. Turkey hunting is one of the family's favorite hunts.

Now I want to tell you a short story about my wife Jess. She has the passion of bowhunting like any guy I know. It's in her blood. About five years ago, Jess and I got married. Her dad was an avid trapper and hunter, but she never got into hunting much.

Well that all changed when she met me. Our good friends from Hoyt sent Jess her first bow. She's a lefty so it was cool setting up her first bow. She immediately became hooked.

It was her first time that year to bow hunt. It was a spring morning in southern Colorado. We were on the river bottom, on a piece of land we had never hunted. It's still dark, so I let out a locate call.

Very similar to Ty's hunt; we had birds gobbling close by. We packed in a ground blind on the Kifaru frame pack and started to set up in the dark with a red light.

Jess is so excited, the sun is cresting the horizon, birds are gobbling like crazy. All of a sudden, a large group of turkeys flew down off the roost and were gobbling and strutting about five hundred yards away.

I was hammering with my Phelps calls and finally they saw the decoys. The big toms started

making their way to us. Jess is shaking. I'm shaking. The biggest gobbler runs right into the spread.

I watched Jess draw her bow and hammer him. We were both so excited, high fives and hugs. After the rest of the birds drifted off, we got out the blind to look for her bird.



Unfortunately, the gobbler had flown off the bank into some thick willows along the river. She went from excitement to tears in minutes. I think all of us bowhunters have been down that road.

We began skirting the willows, and after maybe a half hour or so, I found him lying there with an Easton arrow and Iron Will Broadhead in him. The shot was textbook. I yelled for Jess.

She replied anxiously "Did you find him?!?" "Yes!" I hollered out. She ran over as fast as she could, and when she saw her gobbler lying there she let out a woohoo and ran over to hug me. It was an epic day with my wife!

There are many different ways we bow hunt Turkey. A lot of times we run a ground blind, but one of my favorite ways is to use a Stalker decoy from a company called Ultimate Predator.

The decoy is bow mounted, they make a strutting tom that covers your body when sitting down. They are extremely realistic looking, and I've actually harvested birds within 10 yards while using this decoy.

If you are using a Stalker decoy, remember, safety is very important with this style of hunting. The decoy has orange safety straps so other hunters can easily identify the decoy is not a huntable animal.

This is an action packed style of hunting. We hope you all have an awesome spring turkey season! Look forward to seeing and hearing about your adventures!!



# RIVER BOTL TOM BULLS

*By Steve Fossil*



Most hunters know how good hunting river bottoms are for whitetails, but did you know they are just as good for elk? You hunt them the same way as you would bucks in the Midwest, from a tree stand.

In Colorado we are fortunate to have a 5-month season east of I-25. It's a "C" tag so you can hunt bulls in the mountains in September then head east to the plains to hunt some more.

The big issue is finding a place to hunt because as the CPW brochure says "Landowner permission is advised before applying. Most land is private". While 43% of Colorado is public land, most of this is west of I-25. You're going to have to work for permission out east.

I'm fortunate to have property to hunt there and have taken full advantage of it the last two years. The elk will tend to feed on corn and alfalfa in the farmers' fields at night. This makes them even tastier than mountain elk.

They will then bed in the thickest cover they can find along the river during the day. Where I hunt there is no shortage of thick tamarisks, Russian olives and cattail swamps. You need to intercept them going between the two. Preferably from a tree stand.

This way you can both see over the brush and get a little warning when they are coming. If you are lucky your scent might stay above them. The deer and elk where I hunt have not yet learned to look for danger from above like whitetails in some eastern and midwestern areas have.

A few other tricks I've found helpful are rubbing posts and waterholes. There are basically only three kinds of trees along the Arkansas River where I hunt: cottonwoods, Russian olives and tamarisks.

Cottonwoods are too big for elk and deer to rub. Russian olives have two-inch thorns and tamarisks are really oversized bushes. None are good to rub but bucks and bulls love rubbing a 8', 4"x4" rough cedar post that I plant 18" deep.

Cows and does also use it as a signpost. They will sniff it and rub their necks on it. Put a post 20 yards in front of your stand and you are set! In a couple spots I'm on my third post in six years as the first two got rubbed clean through.

A couple others I've had to anchor down with concrete as the elk keep knocking them over. A good problem to have! Even though you are near a river, a few small water holes will attract game.

It is easier for a deer or elk to have a quick drink where it is convenient rather than walk a quarter mile or so to the river. If this waterhole is also 20 yards from your stand, all the better.

In 2022, I used these techniques to take a great 6 x 7 bull. In early October this bull and about a dozen cows were feeding in the alfalfa every night and would come out bugling at first light.

I had two stands set up to intercept him on the way to the river to bed but twice already he had gone by the one I wasn't in. The third morning it sounded like he was heading right for me when at 200 yards he made a hard left.



I had had enough, hopped down from my stand and gave chase. He bugled every five minutes and I hurried to get ahead of him and get the wind right before he disappeared into the thick brush.

After a little while I snuck close to where he last bugled and stood between two Russian olives being careful of their thorns. A cow stepped out 50 yards to my left and walked 20 yards in front of me. The bull wasn't far behind.

I slowly drew my bow and released the arrow when he'd cleared the last bush. It was a classic double lung shot. He made it only 50 yards.

In November of 2023, my neighbor from across the river told me he'd seen a big bull daily for a week on the property I hunted. He thought the bull was bedding in an impenetrable swamp and would come out into the river and drink.

He'd been trying to call him over to his property with no luck so figured I should give it a try. I couldn't find him for a couple days but then one afternoon I was in a tree stand between the cattail swamp and the river.

At 3:30 eight cows and a spike emerged from the brush stopped to sniff the rubbing post and cut behind me to the river. At 4:00 I spotted two more cows. Then right behind him was the big bull!

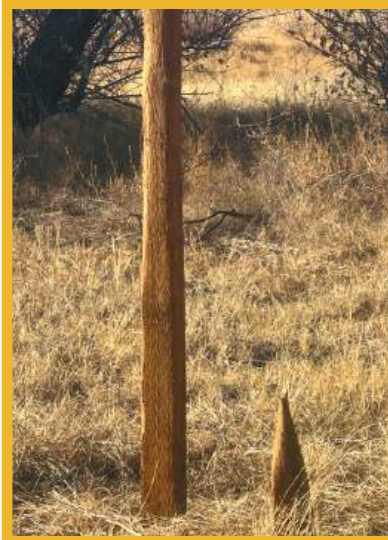
I had him on a couple of my cameras weeks ago but had never laid eyes on him before. He did not disappoint!

When the bull went behind a bush at 25 yards I drew back. I had a very small opening to shoot through, about the length of an elk. So when he stepped out, I quickly shot rather than trying to stop him.

He must have taken another step when I shot as I hit him a little back in the liver. He crashed through the brush and disappeared. I texted my helpful neighbor that I'd shot the bull but could use some tracking help.

We tracked him for three quarters of a mile. He did a big loop and a couple zig zags but we eventually found him!

The moral to this story is find a river bottom property to hunt, hang stands, dig water holes, plant rubbing posts and make sure you have a good neighbor.





# COLORADO BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION

## 2023 CBA BANQUET RECAP

BY KALEB BELL

Thank you to everyone who attended the 2023 CBA Big Game Awards banquet. For those of you who were not able to attend, I hope you are able to attend in the future. Big thanks to our banquet committee which was made up of Banquet Co-Chair's Kaleb Bell and John Cannon, Evan Stewart, Kurt Hovanec, Stephanie Bradley, John Mount, Dominick Steele and Joe Bradley. They have set a whole new standard for our future events.

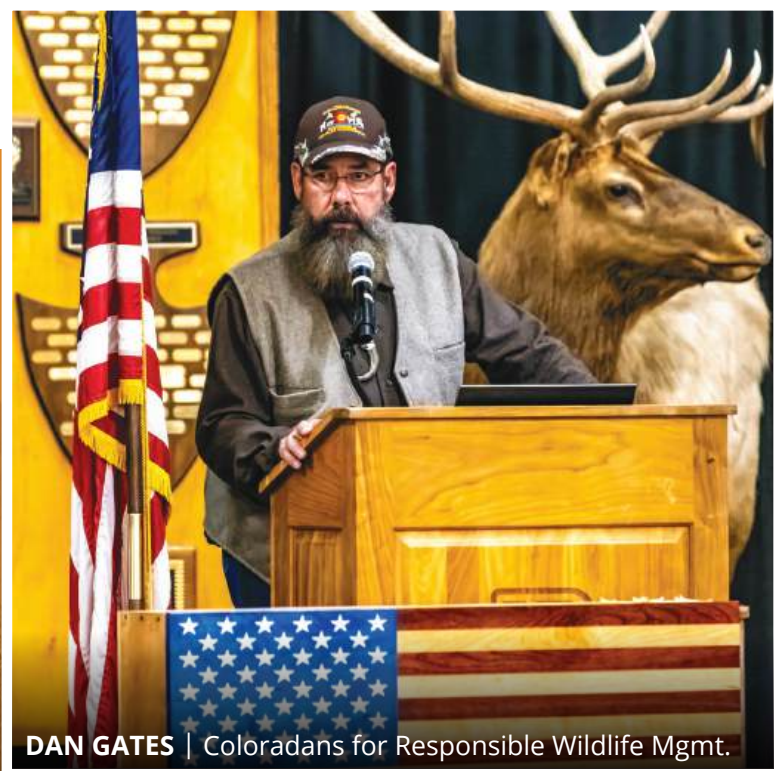
Evolution has been defined to me in many ways but the simple truth behind the word is this: Evolution is the gradual development of something simple to a more complex form.

Standing back and looking at the CBA now as compared to the time I joined in 2020 it's clear to me we are in a progressive evolutionary stage. Not just as an organization but also as a community and more importantly a family. Long past are the days of the Colorado Bowhunters Association being just a group of dedicated hunters and huntresses, with the growing popularity of political agendas threatening our heritage our evolutionary curve has accelerated to a speed that is hard to fathom.

Looking out over the crowd standing on the stage of the 2024 annual banquet this realization struck me like a wind shift in the middle of a delicate stalk on that buck of a lifetime. I noticed folks like Dan Gates with Coloradans for Responsible Wildlife Management, Randy Walk formerly with Hoyt Archery, Brian Dreher with the CPW amongst the bustling crowd while watching the interactions amongst complete strangers, overhearing the conversations revolving around current events, the reverberating sounds of joyful laughter and following smiles of lifetime friendships being formed rang clear that we are taking this evolution and turning it into a movement.

Camaraderie is what it's all about, by uniting sportsmen and women under a single roof for one great night we are paving the path to a brighter future for generations to come. Iron sharpens iron is a saying that stands the truth of time and we are that iron. With the dedication and drive of all those attending and who donated to the cause we will take the next step in evolution towards the future, a future where we can not be swept under the rug, a future where we stand with giants in the name of conservation and preservation of our heritage.

The Friday of the event, we had an evening with the Legends of the CBA. We



DAN GATES | Coloradans for Responsible Wildlife Mgmt.





had a few of the founding fathers of the CBA on stage sharing their stories and telling us about the establishment of the CBA.

Thank you to Pawnee Waste for providing an open bar for all attendees.

It was great to see you all back at the ranch Event Center in Loveland. We were fortunate to sell out the event. There was plenty of conversation and swapping of hunting stories.

We had four great seminars from some of the best experts in their field.

Ryan Sepena with Seek Outside provided great gear tips for everyone who attended.

Dan Gates, representing Coloradans For Responsible Wildlife Management, gave us a succinct and inspiring report on the legislation being proposed against hunting and how we can best work together to help ourselves. Please, everyone reading this visit [www.savethehuntcolorado.com](http://www.savethehuntcolorado.com) to learn more and donate! It's worth your time and money.

Trevon Stoltzfus, with Outback Outdoors, shared his expert tips on how to improve your outdoor photography. This information is incredibly valuable to anyone who hunts and wants to ensure they capture the best photos of their adventures and memories.

The Colorado Parks and Wildlife was represented by Brian Dreher and Andy Holland. They shared the CPW's perspective on upcoming

issues to help us better understand the CPW's thoughts and missions.

We deeply appreciate our vendor partners Hamskea Archery, Mile High Note Game Calls, Davis Tent, Iron Will Outfitters, Scheels, Eric Wolfe Photography and Beaver Creek Outfitters.

Please support our vendor partners. We appreciate their dedication to hunting the outdoors and the CBA.

The 2023 Big Game Display wall was absolutely incredible! We

had all Big 10 species represented with some amazing taxidermy displays showcasing amazing animals. It is truly inspiring to see the hard work that goes into the hunts. It's equally inspiring to see the hard work of Joe Bradley and the effort he puts in to ensure that we all get to enjoy an amazing and impressive display. It takes weeks and weeks of work. We really appreciate your effort Joe!

Thank you to all of our members who brought animals for the display. You truly make the event memorable. Thank you for sharing your beautiful displays with the entire Association. We encourage all of our members and readers to bring and proudly display their animals next year.

The evening was emceed by Danny Farris. He did an amazing job! Our featured speaker was Dan Gates representing Coloradans For Responsible Wildlife Management. Be sure to get yourself and your family and friends familiar with



Save the Hunt Colorado. It is crucial that we all work together in the next 6 months to ensure our rights to hunt in Colorado.

The CBA is a proud supporter of CRWM and donated \$10,000 for their future work to ensure our right to hunt.

Our 2023 Keynote Speaker was Randy Walk, past Chairman of Hoyt Archery, a man who holds more patents in the archery industry than anyone else. Thank you Randy for supporting the CBA!

We deeply appreciate the support of Chevron who donated \$25,000 to the CBA!

We started the award ceremony off with some fun. Our longest distance traveled member was from Iowa having traveled over a thousand miles. The tag soup drawing award is a novelty toy replica of the largest Colorado mule deer ever taken and a gift card to a grocery store.

Congratulations to all of our Species Award winners, Hall of Fame, Special Recognition, Volunteer of the Year, Lifetime Achievement honorees and our 2023 Bowhunter of the Year Kurt Hovanec.

To all of our members reading this, we really need you to share your success stories and scores with us in the future. The more success we can share, the more we can inspire others to a life of adventure and bowhunting. Your success and scores matter. Please plan on contacting Joe Bradley to submit your animals next year!

We would like to thank every single partner who donated items for auction. We broke another record in the amount of money we raised and we have big things planned for the future.

We would also like to thank our Corporate Partners who purchased platinum and gold tables. We really appreciate your support and commitment to bowhunting!

We are planning to be back in Loveland again in 2024. The event will be at a bigger venue to hold more people and a bigger display wall. If you attended this year thank you! If you are unable to attend this year, be sure to show up next year. It's going to be a Big Game Awards evening you will not forget.









## 2023 CBA COMMITTEE AWARDS

### Hall of Fame

Roger Trudell  
Rod Washburn  
Ron Rockwell

### Volunteer of the Year

Wesley Mendez

### Lifetime Achievement Award

Rick Davis

### Bowhunter of the Year

Kurt Hovanec

### Special Recognition

Henry Ferguson  
Dustin Etheredge  
Chevron Energy

### Service Award

Wesley Mendez  
Evan Stewart  
Joe Bradley



# 2023 BIG GAME AWARDS

## First Timer Award

Braden Gaines	Mule deer
Sterling Kohl	Whitetail deer
Ross Cordova	Elk

## Elk

1st Place	Mark Horning	372 0/8"
2nd Place	Justin Davis	362 5/8"
3rd Place	Cody Campbell	346 5/8"
4th Place	Steve Fossil	340 0/8"
5th Place	Ross Cordova	337 3/8"
6th Place	Steve Poznanski	325 5/8"
7th Place	Trevor Wittwer	321 0/8"
8th Place	Brett Marcheso	303 0/8"
9th Place	Jonathon Richter	267 5/8"

## Pronghorn

1st Place	Steve Fossil	73 2/8"
2nd Place	Bryan Wessel	73 0/8"
3rd Place	Jacob Bradley	72 0/8"
4th Place	Jason Dailey	69 6/8"
5th Place	Kimberly Gillespie	69 2/8"

## Whitetail Deer

1st Place	Chad Lewis	154 0/8"
2nd Place	Nathan Andersohn	128 1/8"
3rd Place	Max Grogan	128 0/8"

## Mule Deer

1st Place	Lance Poole	166 5/8"
2nd Place	Randy Kendrick	163 4/8"
3rd Place	Ty Shaw	160 5/8"
4th Place	Tim Bradley	155 0/8"
5th Place	Tyson Bradley	109 0/8"

## Non-Typical Mule Deer

1st Place	Chuck Brewer	156 5/8"
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## Velvet Mule Deer

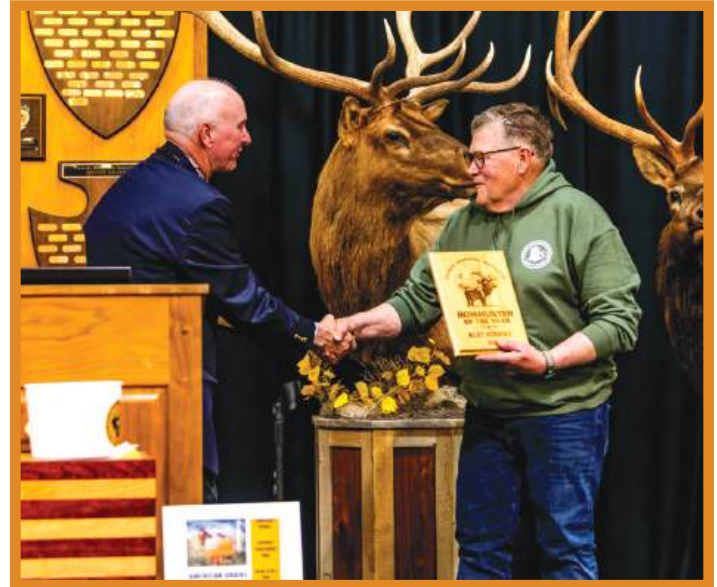
1st Place	DeLancey Hodges	190 1/8"
2nd Place	Steve Heidt	155 7/8"
3rd Place	Richard Tidd	127 3/8"
4th Place	Joshua Konen	122 2/8"

## Bighorn Sheep

1st Place	Jeremiah McConnell	170 0/8"
2nd Place	Josh Bunn	149 0/8"

## Desert Bighorn Sheep

1st Place	Kurt Grimm	156 3/8"
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## Mountain Goat

1st Place	Evan Eschmeyer	45 4/8"
2nd Place	Chad Lewis	41 4/8"
3rd Place	Lisa Thompson	40 6/8"
4th Place	Dan Lee	37 4/8"
5th Place	Brett Marcheso	36 0/8"

## Black Bear

1st Place	Lee Triecek	18 5/16"
2nd Place	Brayden Bonser	18 3/16"
3rd Place	Joshua Konen	16 6/16"

## Shiras Moose

1st Place	Stacey Greathouse	161 0/8"
2nd Place	Kevin Vecchiarelli	148 1/8" (tie)
2nd Place	Phillip Gaines	148 1/8" (tie)
4th Place	Randy Kendrick	144 0/8"
5th Place	Tanner Paulek	142 2/8"
6th Place	Evan Worsley	129 4/8"

## Big 9

#54	Phillip Gaines	Shiras Moose
#55	Randy Kendrick	Shiras Moose
#56	Kurt Grimm	Desert Bighorn Sheep

## Out of State Recognition

Mike Casey	Musk Ox	Nunavut, Canada
Sterling Kohl	Whitetail	Kansas
Evan Worsley	Musk Ox	Nunavut, Canada
Steve Heidt	Whitetail	Illinois
Joe Bradley	Musk Ox	Nunavut, Canada
Brandon Powell	Barren Ground Caribou	Alaska
Tim Bradley	Whitetail	Wisconsin
Evan Worsley	Antelope	South Dakota



## THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR 2023 CBA BANQUET PARTNERS & SPONSORS

Danny Farris - Master of Ceremonies  
 Randy Walk - Keynote Speaker  
 Dan Gates - Featured Speaker

**LEGENDS OF THE CBA SOCIAL EVENING SPONSOR**  
 Pawnee Waste

### FRIDAY NIGHT'S "LEGENDS OF THE CBA" PARTICIPANTS

Tony Seahorn      Larry Baker  
 Ron Rockwell      Rod Washburn

### SATURDAY SEMINAR EXPERTS

Ryan Sepena - Seek Outside  
 Dan Gates - Coloradans for Responsible Wildlife Mgmt.  
 Trevon Stoltzfus - Outback Outdoors  
 Brian Dreher & Andy Holland - Colorado Parks & Wildlife

### 2023 CBA BANQUET PARTNERS

Academy Archery Club	Conductall	Marsupial Gear	Seek Outside
American Grains	Davis Tent	Marve Clyncke	Sheep Feet
Annihilator Broadheads	Dirtnap Outdoors	Mathews Archery	Sportsman's Warehouse
Apex Outdoors	Double D Trophy Outfitters	Maven Optics	Stalker Stickbows
Artiodactyla	Eric Wolfe Photography	Mile High Note Game Calls	Stephanie Bradley
Baby Booners	Fuzion Field Services	Mountain Archery Fest	The Archery Depot
Beaver Creek Outfitters	Garretsons	Mountain Mafia	The Meat Cleaver
Black Canyon Bows	Gods Country Outfitters	Mountain Top Outfitters	Trk Casing
Bowhunter Magazine	Hamskea Archery	Native By Carlton	Ultimate Predator Gear
Bucket List Outfitters	Heart & Pride Outfitters	No Limits Archery	Ursi Gear
Cabela's	High Peak Electrical	OnX Hunt Maps	Wayne Depperschmidt Knives
Caribou Gear	Hoyt Archery	Pawnee Waste	Western Archery & Recreation
Chacma Safaris	Hunt Lift Eat	Prairie Ridge Buffalo Ranch	Zingers Fletching
Chelsea Smith Photography	Iron Will Outfitters	Rick Davis Construction	10th Mountain Company & Spirit Whiskey Bourbon
Chevron	Jimmy Van Zyl Outfitters	Ridge Patrol	4k Painting
Cissy's Auction Services	Kenati Arrows	Rocky Mountain Archery	
Coloradans For Responsible Wildlife Management	Kifaru	Rush Creek Guide Service	
Colorado Youth Outdoors	Klein Trucking	Scheels	
	Mark Herman		

### SPECIAL THANKS TO THE 2023 CBA BANQUET VOLUNTEERS

**Banquet Co-Chairs** - Kaleb Bell & John Cannon  
**Big Game Awards Chair** - Joe Bradley  
**Banquet Committee** - Evan Stewart, Kurt Hovanec, Stephanie Bradley, John Mount, Dominick Steele, & Joe Bradley

To every single volunteer who helped support all of the event's needs, your time commitment and support make this event possible. We deeply appreciate you!!!

**Thank you to every person who was able to attend the Awards Banquet!**

# KINGS CANYON 3D SHOOT



NORTH PARK, COLORADO | JUNE 9-11, 2024

**40 TARGETS • 3 DAYS**

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## LOCATION

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**From Laramie:** Take WY 230 south past Mountain Home (Turn to 127 in CO). Just past Pine Springs Cabins, Turn left on Village Bell Road.

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# Kurt Hovanec

## 2023 BOWHUNTER OF THE YEAR

COLORADO BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE BY JOHN GARDNER



## WHO IS KURT HOVANEC?

I was 9 years old when my father returned from Vietnam. He retired from the Army at Ft. Lewis and we moved to LaPlata, Maryland – a small town of about 1,400 then. Everyone hunted deer there and after watching Fred Bear on the “American Sportsman” TV show, I got a Ben Pearson recurve and started to bowhunt small game and then whitetail. I had many misses on deer but was successful on squirrels, rabbits and quail. Bowhunting gave me an extra season plus I was able to walk through town with my bow in hand from our house to where I hunted. I continued to bow hunt some while at college in the mountains of North Carolina until I went on active duty in the Army in 1973.

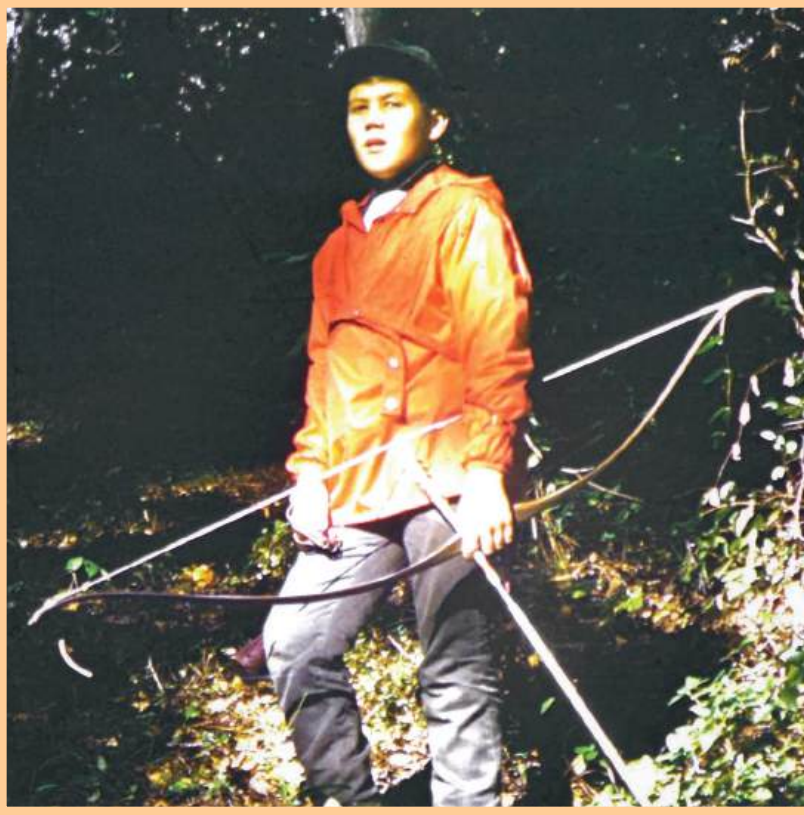
## KURT’S NEXT TWENTY YEARS

“Army assignments stateside and abroad gave me very few bowhunting opportunities - the mission always came first. After basic and parachute training at Ft. Bragg and Ft. Benning, assignments at Ft. Carson, Germany, Ft. Riley, and the Korean DMZ gave me little or no opportunities to bow hunt - but I did buy my first compound bow, a Fred Bear “Whitetail Hunter” in Germany at the Rod & Gun Club for about \$99 – in 1977, I think. Throw in deployments and short trips to military schools and advisor/training trips to Israel and Thailand and you get the picture.

Then I got lucky – I got assigned to the Defense Mapping Agency at Ft. Belvoir, VA to teach, and a group of us started a club and a hunting program - the post had too many whitetail deer. We built a range, started the Belvoir Bowhunters, part of the Virginia Bowhunters Association. Between Maryland and Virginia, I started harvesting whitetails. There I served as Belvoir Bowhunters Club Vice President, Activities Director and National Bowhunter Education Foundation instructor for several years, working about every 3D shoot and Banquet. We had 500 members then – it was a lot of work, but I enjoyed it. Just to get out of work I volunteered to take an assignment with the 2nd Infantry Division as the 3rd Brigade Engineer working patrols, minefields, and other great Army stuff. The DMZ was full of vegetation, rice paddies, mines and deer – at least one deer that I can attest to was killed by one of our antipersonnel mines! After Korea I finished my Army career at the Pentagon where I continued to hunt and harvest whitetails in Virginia, and guess what, I was back on the Board of the Belvoir Bowhunters as VP.”

## THEN COLORADO CALLED

“In 1998 I made my first road trip from Virginia to Colorado for Elk archery and harvested a cow elk. Then again in 2000: I hunted with my three sons where my son Bill and I each took our first archery bull elk. My son



COLORADO - ELK PACK OUT



BISON | 2006



Jim took a mule deer, followed by more mule deer and elk in the years after. I was recently married to Denise. The agreement was to go west every other year to hunt Elk; but that was a promise I failed to keep - sorry Denise. Archery elk hunting during the rut became a passion. I got tired of driving, so we moved to Colorado in Nov 2004. I joined the USAF Academy Archery Club and the CBA in 2005. I enjoyed many hunts, CBA Jamborees and Banquets. In 2010, I volunteered as a CBA BOD Director at Large for 10 years. I have worked at most Jamborees, Banquets, ISE shows and other events. Most people know me as the "one who gets donations and works the auctions." Thanks to all the donors!

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## MEMORABLE HUNTS

I have many memorable hunts:

1. My 2000 archery hunt with my boys where we took two bulls and a deer;
2. Helping my son Nick take his first cow elk with a bow in 2011 followed by a 5x5 bull with his bow in 2017;
3. A successful Idaho bear hunt with Dave Guskey, one of our CBA founders. And let me add that without the support of my wife, Denise, for the past thirty years none of this would have been possible.



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## WHY I LIKE THE CBA

I like the CBA because of its members and the mission we carry to promote and save the great sport of bowhunting as well as working with great people. In addition, I am a member of the Pope & Young Club and the Colorado Traditional Archers Society (CTAS) - all great clubs to support.

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## HISTORY WITH COLORADO BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION

Kurt joined the CBA in 2006, after moving to Colorado. He has been a member ever since.

### **Leadership** positions held for the CBA

Director at Large: Kurt became an active CBA Board member as a director at Large, in 2011. Kurt was an active CBA Director at Large from 2011 to 2019.

Corporate Donations for CBA Events: He solicited and coordinated many of the donations for the live auctions, silent auctions, and raffles; working both the live and silent auctions and raffles; coordinating banquet vendors; developing banquet programs; developing contracts and posters for donated Trips/Hunts; working close-out collections; and writing hundreds of thank you letters to donors. He established a successful corporate donation program/process for the annual CBA Banquet and Jamboree, continuing to obtain support from in state and out of state outfitters, local business, and companies like Sitka Gear, Black Canyon Bows, Pronghorn Bows, Day One Camo, Cabela's, Bass Pro, Dicks, Scheels, Western Archery, Archery Hut, No Limits Archery, Caribou Gear, Black Canyon Bows, Stalker Stick bows, Sportsman's Warehouse, and especially Mike Hays, Marv Clyncke and Wayne Depperschmidt for their continued support. There were many more not listed above. Kurt also developed a CBA Donor Award program, developing an award plaque for donors who contributed annually.

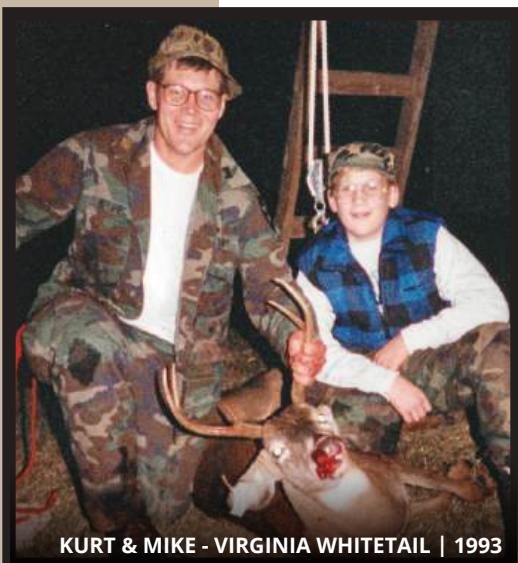
Club Affiliates Director multiple years while on the board.

Contributed to the revised CBA Handbook

2019 Banquet Co-Chair for the 50th Anniversary CBA Awards Banquet

Area Representative: 2022 to current

CBA Service Award 2013 & 2020





**Programs & events** Kurt has volunteered (Jamborees, Banquets, Shoots, etc.)

2011: Attended the CBA Banquet (Colorado Springs) and coordinated the Silent Auction with Dave Iverson.

2012-2018: Committee member for both the CBA Banquet and Jamboree securing donations of compound bows, recurves, long bows, archery equipment, hunts, items from Bass Pro Shop and Cabela's for these events (Ignacio, Northglenn, Glenwood Springs, Denver, Pueblo, Northglenn, & Fort Collins).

Jamboree set up and helped with many functions at the Jamboree.

2019: Banquet Co-Chair for the 50th Anniversary CBA Awards Banquet in Grand Junction; committee member for the CBA Jamboree securing donations of compound bows, recurve, long bows, archery equipment, and hunts. Worked the Jamboree set up and helped with many functions at the Jamboree.

2020: Committee member for the CBA Banquet prior to cancellation due to COVID

2021: Helped solicit CBA Banquet donations for the live and silent auction/raffles

2022-2023: Committee member for both the CBA Banquet and Jamboree securing compound bows, recurves, long bows, archery equipment, hunts and items for the event (Loveland).



**BELVOIR WHITETAIL | 1994**



**COLORADO ELK | 2018**



**FAMILY 3D SHOOT - USFA | 1994**



**COLORADO ELK | 2008**

**Banquets, Jamborees & other events**

Kurt has helped the CBA raise over \$200,000 with all the donations and gifts he has obtained for the CBA. No one in recent memory has helped get so many items for the CBA and/or helped the CBA generate so many funds from these efforts.

Kurt has worked setup and tear down for the CBA Booth and Shooting Range at the Denver ISE show for several years. He also helped with children shooting bows at this event.

Kurt helped with the Cabela's Lone Tree Grand Opening: coordinated, setup, and manned the CBA Booth. Provided information on behalf of the CBA and CBA mission to multiple organizations/individuals. A year later, set up a shooting range at the Cabela's Lone Tree location. He also worked with the Bass Pro Shops in Colorado Springs at one of their seminars led by Fred Eichler and Wayne Carlton.

**Articles** written by Kurt

1. "Nick's Fist Elk" – Son's First Elk with a Bow (Dec 2011) - CBA magazine
2. "Successful Hunt" helped write this article for the CBA magazine (Dec 2011), for a CBA member from Denmark
3. "First Bull" son's first bull (Oct 2018) - CBA magazine
4. "My Idaho Bear Hunt with Dave Gusky" (Dec 2019) - CBA magazine
5. Co-authored CBA Banquet articles for the CBA magazine

**OTHER ORGANIZATIONS KURT HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN**

**International Bowhunters Education Program (IBEP)** instructor, 1990s

Kurt is a qualified IBEP course instructor. Kurt gave 15-plus training sessions for the IBEP course during the 1990s taught at Ft. Belvoir, VA; as part of the Ft. Belvoir hunting program, the Belvoir Bowhunters, and the Virginia Bowhunters Association, covering all topics to include shot placement, blood trailing, and bowhunter ethics.

**Belvoir Bowhunters**

As Activities Director and Vice President (1985-1993) of the Belvoir Bowhunters, helped edit, write and distribute monthly articles for the club newsletter. After moving to Colorado, he wrote an article about "Hunting the Flat Tops" in 2007 and it was published in the Belvoir Bowhunters Newsletter. Kurt was a Charter/Founding Member of the Belvoir Bowhunters (Ft. Belvoir, VA, 1984 to present) –

helped build the Ft. Belvoir Archery Range, worked mostly all 3D Tournaments, Coon Shoots, Annual Banquet from 1984 to 2004, missing two years while deployed to Korean DMZ. Belvoir Bowhunters, Recipient of the Belvoir Bowhunters "Straight Arrow Award" in 1992, their top award.

**Colorado Traditional Archery Society (CTAS)**

Current member for over 6 years; attended many Annual Banquets and Annual High-Country Shoots. He helped solicit and secure donations for one of their banquets.

**US Air Force Academy Archery Club** (2005-present)

- Participated in USAFA Triple Crown Tournaments.
- Range and Triple Crown Tournament Volunteer for 2021, 2022 and 2023 Volunteer.
- Supported the annual Feed the Hungry Shoot for several years.

**Colorado Becoming a Bowhunter Program**

Kurt helped establish the Becoming a Bowhunter Program (starting in 2014), working with Manager, Steve Mitchell, and the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) and state director to develop the three-phased program of instruction.

Kurt has Attended numerous CPW Commission meetings, representing the CBA and as a bowhunter concerned over elk and deer populations, habitat, archery tag allocations, and the introduction of wolves planned for 2023.



COLORADO ELK | 1994



BELVOIR WHITETAIL | 1998

**BOWHUNTING, HUNTING & ARCHERY ORGANIZATIONS/PROGRAMS**

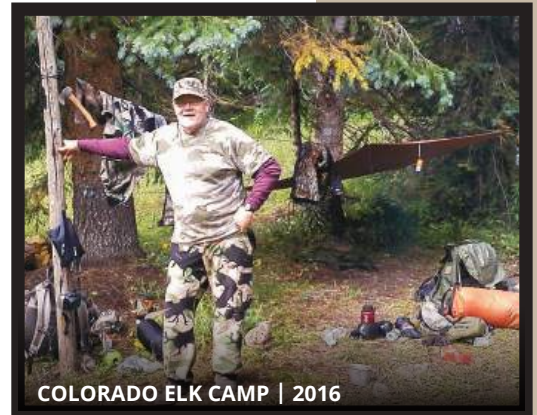
- **Pope and Young** – Member since 2014
- **Professional Bowhunters Society** – Associate member (expired)
- **Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation**– Membership has been off and on since 2004.
- **Rocky Mountain Archery Association (RMAA)**– Member and participant over the years at their 3D tournaments.

**ARCHERY HUNTING CAREER IN COLORADO**

- **Elk (7 Total)** - Cow elk in 1998 followed by bulls in 2000, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2018 and 2021
- **Mule Deer (3 Total)** - 1993 and 2020
- **Whitetail Deer (24 total)** - One in Maryland in 1984; one in Illinois in 2012; and the rest in Virginia between 1985 and 2003
- **Black Bear** - Idaho - 2019

Kurt has hunted in eight states (Maryland, North Carolina, Kansas, Idaho, Virginia, Colorado, Texas, and Illinois, and in Newfoundland, Canada)

Kurt had fun bowfishing for Shad and Herring starting in the 1960's, bowhunted carp in Virginia in the 1990s. He has harvested rabbits, squirrels, and quail using his recurve in the early years, as well as rabbits and grouse in Colorado and Idaho.



COLORADO ELK CAMP | 2016

**CONGRATULATIONS 2023 CBA BOWHUNTER OF THE YEAR KURT HOVANEC!**



KURT RECEIVING THE 2023 B.O.T.Y. AWARD FROM 2021 RECIPIENT JOHN GARDNER.

# ACADEMY ARCHERY 2024 3D TRIPLE CROWN



## Tournament Dates

Leg 1: April 20, 2024

Leg 2: May 18, 2024

Leg 3: June 22, 2024

- First-Third place trophies will be presented for each leg.
- Buckles are awarded for the highest score of all 3 legs.
- Must compete or be registered in all 3 legs to be eligible for Grand Prize drawing.
- Must have 3 participants in a class to be awarded a buckle.

AAC is not a part of the DOD or any of its components and it has no governmental status

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- Professional
- Bare Bow
- Traditional
- Senior Traditional
- Olympic Recurve
- Women's Bowhunter
- Women's Open
- Men's Bowhunter
- Men's Open
- Senior Open (Men & Women 55-69)
- Master Open (Men & Women 70+)
- Youth 10-17
- Clubs 9 & Under

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- Clubs - Free

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# AFTER 40 YEARS AT AGE 74... YOU BETTER BE READY FOR ANYTHING!



## BY HARVEY SWANSON

I was convinced it would never happen: drawing that sheep tag after 40 years of trying and now turning 74 years old. But that successful notice came in from Colorado for archery Rocky Mountain Bighorn late season.

I felt fortunate in all respects: drawing the tag and still being able to physically do the archery hunt albeit this is certainly not the usual sheep hunt with major levels of difficulty. Still, it is a sheep hunt and a lot of guys I have known are not hunting any longer...some of them a lot worse.

I have always considered myself a lifetime hunter with plans to hunt until I simply cannot, as opposed to what I think of as 'career' hunters: people that may hunt for 20 or 30 years with a tendency to quit at some point having achieved their goals and then move on to other things like golf, salt water fishing, armchair sports and so on. More on this later.

As soon as I got the news on the tag I called my brother, Mike, in Colorado as he is the guy who told me where to apply. He and his wife, Cathy, have collected several bighorns over the years by having great skill, cunning and dedication to the draw permit system across the West.



He drew a sheep tag in Montana where I have lived for over 40 years and I have never been drawn. Now he suggested Mark Turner as an outfitter and Brandon Powell as guide. I was all over that and was soon set up for my December hunt.

I began sweating out the months between the draw and the hunt. The idea that age is just a number is definitely a ruse. In fact, getting up into my 70's, I appreciate the idea of 'dog years'...those 6 months of waiting is more like 6 years.

I thought I was going to get through mostly unscathed until about a month before the hunt when I missed the bottom step into my basement landing against a 6x6 support beam precisely on the spot of three ununited old rib fractures (from a hunt years ago).

I was certain my hunt was over and spent several nights sleeping in a recliner. Oddly, I found I could still hike and pull my bow in a limited

fashion. I just pushed on knowing it was likely now or never.

I was pleased to meet Mark and Brandon at a pleasant rental house near the hunting area on the day before the hunt. They had



been scouting the area ahead of time and noted a good number of rams in the hunting area.

Both were quite accommodating and willing to work with my limitations. I would have to imagine that more and more of the people drawing permits are going to fall in my age class having had to apply for many years before success.

The opening morning, Brandon and I climbed the base of the mountain for about a mile to traverse private land and access public land. From there we spent the next 2 days chasing sheep around the mountain.

It was steep but I did draw the line at any climbs into a cliff lined canyon. Brandon was patient (at least on the surface) and often checked in to see if I was up to going on.

Fortunately, I had talked my orthopedist into injecting my bad knee with cortisone a few days prior (it helped that he is a hunter with 3 of the grand slam sheep himself). The rib problem was a little worse for some reason, maybe drawing for the steep angle shots on the mountainside and it did make holding at draw for any length of time painful. Climbing the mountain at altitude also made me a little weaker and more shaky than usual.

Brandon decided to try a silhouette decoy as it was during rut time. It was fun to watch and several times rams did respond to it.

I turned down a few chances at Pope and Young class rams hoping for something a little larger and shorter shots although the ongoing wear and tear of climbing around on the mountain side made me wonder at those choices, maybe it just wouldn't happen if I kept that up.

Late on the second day Mark and his spotter, Ron, let us know a ram was coming down from above us towards the decoy. By the time we hurried over to a potential shooting lane, the ram appeared heading straight down hill.

He suddenly turned and as he came directly to us and the decoy. I realized he was bigger than the rams I had turned down and decided to take the shot.

Unfortunately I hit him high and had to finish him. The shooting was more difficult than I had imagined with steep inclines and my own issues, but it finally was over. I was just overwhelmed with the ram. Brandon did a quick measure with bases 15.5, length 34 and green score 168.

I certainly feel very fortunate to have been able to do this hunt. I consider myself to be a lifetime hunter. This may be my last sheep hunt, but I still plan to hunt.

As a physician of 50 years experience, I would suggest that hunters of like mind take care to make it possible to hunt into older age. Avoid the really bad things: smoking/tobacco use, obesity, sedentary activity, untreated medical issues (high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes and such).

Choose a lifestyle to protect your body: moderate exercise is great, extreme activity causes cumulative damage to the body (weekend warriors, loggers, rodeoing, competitive sports, etc) as does extreme lack of physical exercise.

At a younger age a person often does not recognize the downstream consequences of certain indiscretions...but they can and will haunt you.

Moderation, moderation. Take care of your body and it will carry you far. Thanks to Mike, Brandon, Mark and Ron. I couldn't have done it without you guys.

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# HISTORY OF THE CBA

## 1970-1971

**BY CONRAD DREHER**

If you have been reading my articles about the history of the CBA you know that they have been at a high level without much detail. My plan going forward is to look at in more detail how the CBA has evolved in more detail starting with the early years.

There was a lot of work that was done by those who started the CBA long before 1970. The way I heard it there was a lot of concern about the archery seasons at the time and the constant threat that it could get worse.

By the end of 1969 the articles of incorporation had been filed with the Colorado Secretary of State and were approved in December of 1969. Then, as it is now, the Secretary of State recognized new businesses on the first day of the following month.

So, the state of Colorado officially recognized the CBA January first 1970. CBA annual dues were set at \$5.00. Promoting bowhunting and bowhunting seasons was and continues to be the main mission of the CBA.

The sum of the first goals were to work with the Division of Game, Fish, and Park now known as the Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Efforts were also made to involve archery dealers, grow the membership and work with other wildlife organizations.

With the technology of the day that meant a lot driving to meetings around the state for the CBA leadership. The CBA also had a good relationship with the Colorado State Archery Association (CSAA), which at the time had a bowhunting committee.

The archery season for deer and elk in 1971, for archery only was from August 21st to September 12 and for bucks and bulls only. Deer and Elk were statewide with some units draw only.

Archery antelope season dates were November 6 through the 30 either sex statewide with a few exceptions. Bear seasons were April 1 through June 30 and during the rifle season. Cost of licenses were \$7.50 for deer, \$10.00 for elk, \$10.00 for antelope and \$5.00 for bear.

The compound bow was patented in December of 1969 by Holless Wilbur Allen but was in various stages of development prior to 1969. At that time only longbows and recurves were legal methods of take.

The way I heard it was that the leadership (Marv Clynke) of the CBA made a demonstration to the Division and the Wildlife Commission. Though those efforts of the CBA were able to get approval for the use of compound bows for the 1971 the archery season.

I wanted to give you this basic information to give you an idea of where the CBA started and some of the early successes. A lot has changed since then and in my next edition I will continue the story of the evolution of the CBA.



# Archery Hunting In Kremmling

Kremmling, located in Grand County

Kremmling, located in Grand County, Colorado, is known for its picturesque landscapes and outdoor activities like archery hunting.

Kremmling is characterized by its stunning mountains, dense forests, and pristine wilderness, making it an ideal destination for hunters seeking a more immersive and natural experience.

Archery hunting in this region allows enthusiasts to explore some of the most beautiful and untouched areas, where they can connect with nature and enjoy the thrill of the hunt. The terrain in Kremmling can vary, offering a diverse range of hunting environments, from mountainous terrains to dense woodlands.

Overall, Kremmling provides a unique and scenic backdrop for archery hunting, attracting outdoor enthusiasts who appreciate the beauty of nature while engaging in this traditional and challenging sport



## Hunting Guides in Kremmling



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## DUCK & ANDOUILLE GUMBO DIP



By Jeff Benda

This is one of my favorite appetizers to bring to a Super Bowl party. Creamy and full of spice, this easy spin on a classic gumbo is a great way to celebrate the Mardi Gras season while introducing your friends and family to wild game. I used a couple of duck breasts from some Blue-Winged Teal I got on an October hunt with my 8-year-old daughter here in North Dakota. Serve it with crackers, chips, or veggies and watch this delicious appetizer disappear.

I spent much of my youth reading old Paul Prudhomme cookbooks and dreaming about being a chef at my own restaurant in New Orleans. But real life happened, and now I live

But real life happened, and now I live in the Upper Midwest – 1,500 miles away from Cajun country. I haven't lost my love of Louisiana cooking, rich in French and Spanish traditions, mixed with Southern and West African influences. So I created this dish to celebrate how my youthful ambitions of cooking with classical techniques has transformed into a love of using my intuition to improvise with the wild game I hunt right here in my backyard.

Gumbo is the quintessential Louisiana dish. Everyone makes it and has their own strong opinion on why their recipe is the best. I feed this Duck & Andouille Gumbo dish to friends and family every Mardi Gras. It takes the traditional flavors of a gumbo to a whole new level in less than 30 minutes.

### Ingredients

- 1 Tablespoons olive oil
- 6 ounces duck breasts, diced
- 6 ounces Andouille sausage, diced
- 2 stalks celery, diced (about 1 cup)
- 2 Tablespoons butter, melted
- 1 bell pepper, diced (about 1 cup)
- 2 Tablespoons minced garlic
- 1 cup frozen and cut okra, diced
- 1 teaspoon Creole seasoning
- 1 large yellow onion, diced (about 1 cup)
- 1: 8-ounce package cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1/4 cup Italian-style panko breadcrumbs

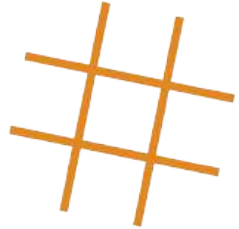
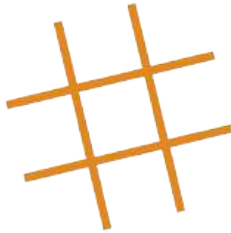
### Directions

1. Preheat oven to broil.
2. Heat olive oil in a large cast iron skillet over medium-high heat on stovetop.
3. Add duck and Andouille to the hot skillet and cook for about 3 minutes, stirring often.
4. To the same skillet, add the celery, onion, bell pepper, and okra. Sauté for 3 minutes.
5. Add minced garlic and sauté 1 more minute.
6. Reduce heat to low. Add Creole seasoning and cream cheese and stir until cheese melts.
7. Add mozzarella cheese and stir until well combined.
8. In a small bowl, combine melted butter and panko, and sprinkle over the dip. Place in the oven and broil for about 90 seconds until topping is golden brown.
9. Serve with crackers, chips, or veggies.

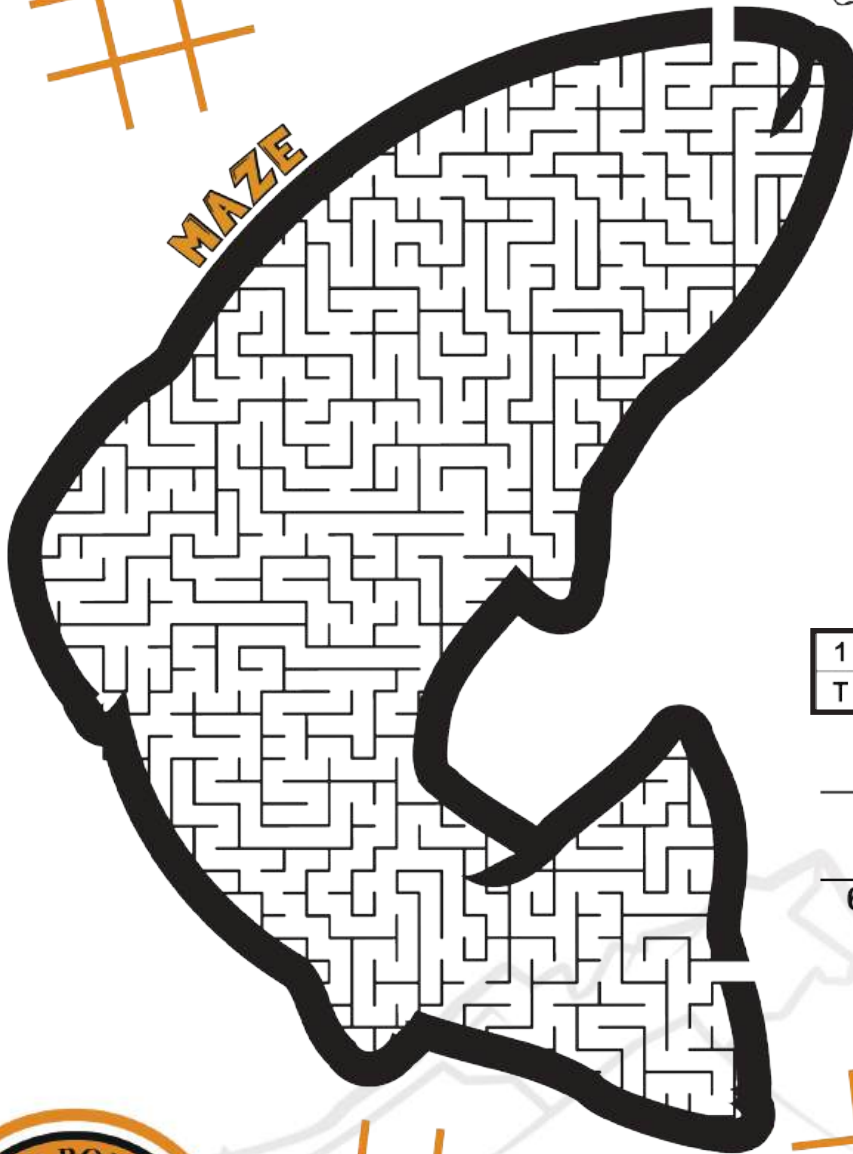
# KID'S CORNER



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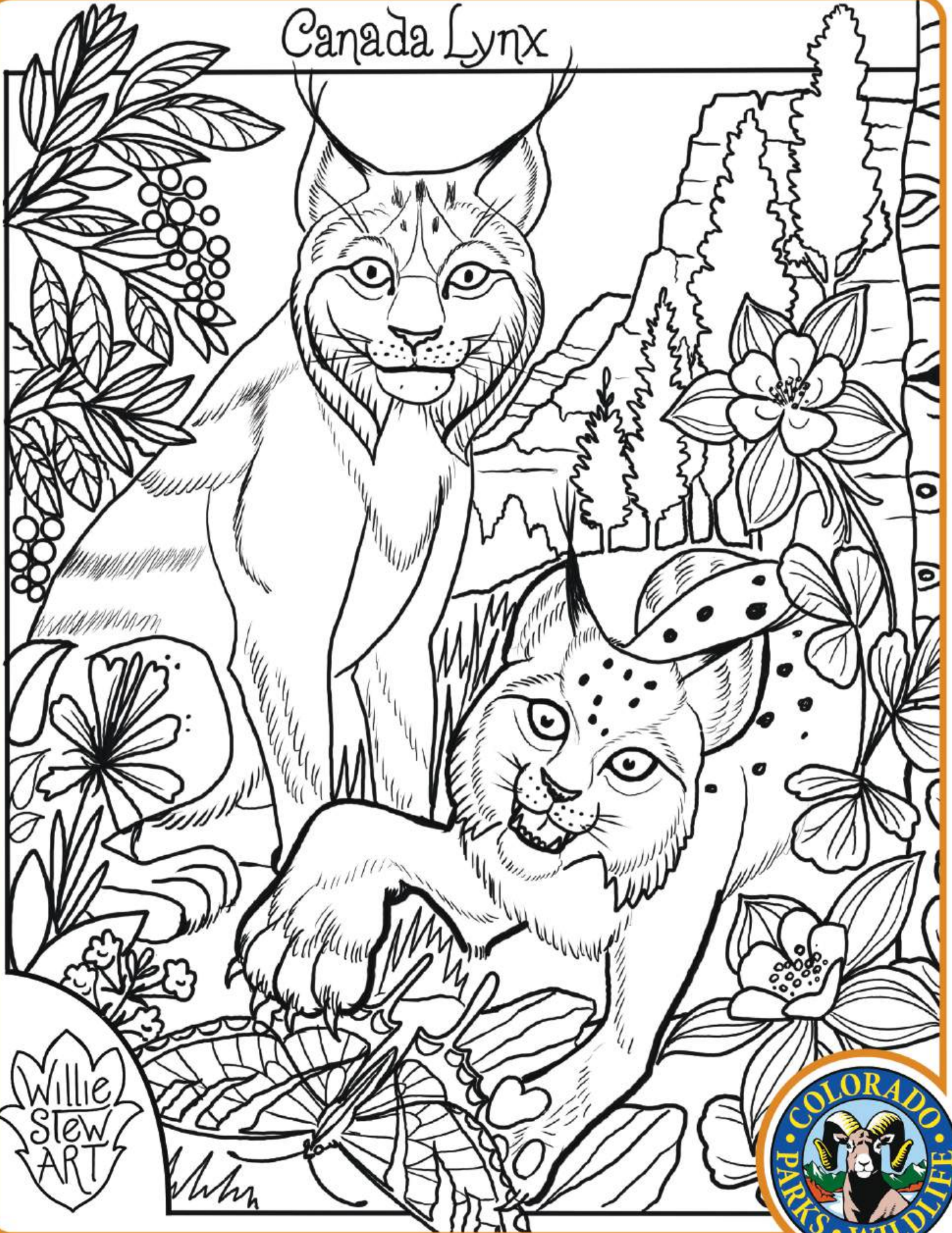
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TIC-TAC-TOE



# Canada Lynx



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## SECRETARY

Bridget McCoy  
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Representative Needed  
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Representative Needed

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Representative Needed

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## OUT OF STATE REGION DIRECTOR

Vacant

## RAFFLE CHAIR

Henry Ferguson

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Representatives Needed

## DENVER METRO EAST REGION AREA REPS

Refugio Silva  
Don Bisecker  
Lucas Watson

## DENVER METRO WEST REGION AREA REPS

Representatives Needed

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Representatives Needed

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JML Outfitters  
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Monte Vista, CO  
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