

BIG GAME HUNTERS NEWSLETTER

February 2012
Newsletter

OFFICERS

- PRESIDENT
John R. Gibbs
- VICE PRESIDENT:
Robert L. Adelsberger
- RECORDING
SECRETARY:
Milo M. Burke
- CORRESPONDING
SECRETARY:
James E. Mraz
- TREASURER:
Douglas P. Bay
- IMMEDIATE PAST-
PRESIDENT:
Charles H. Steib
- CLUB HISTORIAN:
William C. Abbott

DIRECTORS

Charles H. Steib

CHAIRMAN

Robert L. Adelsberger

David Baer

Douglas P. Bay

Bruce T. Berger

Milo M. Burke

M. Wesley Burke

Joseph E. Crawley

Jill Erlinger

John R. Gibbs

Brett W. Grimm

Charles Jones

Charles W. Mateker

James E. Mraz

Richard S. O'Dell

Steven Pokorny

Charles E. Ruggeri

Gerald K. Sauder, Jr.



From the President

John R. Gibbs

It's February; my least favorite month of the year. It's the no man's land in between 6 months of hunting and thoughts of spring turkey season. I wrapped up my bow hunting on January 14th after shooting a nice doe for my daughter's freezer. I guess it's alright that bow season is over. I started big game hunting in New Mexico in August. After a lot of days in the field and hunting in seven states it was getting harder to get up before the crack of dawn to go sit in a tree when it was 20 degrees.



So what's there to do in February? Maybe I'll go predator hunting and see if I can shoot some of the coyotes and bobcats that are eating all the rabbits, turkeys and fawns on my farm. Every year I say I need to do that, but never quite make it happen. Maybe this will be the year. Some of the bucks will start dropping their antlers soon. It's fun to go shed hunting, especially if you find something. Don't laugh! I started to think about finding sheds on my 500 acre farm. How much area does a shed take up, about a square foot? Since my farm consists of 21,780,000 square feet, no wonder I don't find many sheds.

Here are a couple tips that might help your shed hunting. Check those crossings where the deer are jumping fences. When they land they sometimes jar a loose antler off. Look in and around those winter food plots. Bedding areas around a food plot can be especially good for sheds. If you are into supplemental winter feeding, get some metal fence posts and woven wire fence. Make a "V" shape with the fencing and pour some corn in the "V". When the bucks feed they rake their antlers on the fence and if you lucky, they sometimes pull them off in the fence. Don't laugh; it beats staring at 22 million square feet of ground.

Every August when my hunting partner and I are cutting shooting lanes in thick vegetation and 100 degree heat he says we should have done this in February. He's right. There is no poison ivy, you can see exactly what needs to be cut and it's cool outside.

I guess I should start working on my food plot plan for my farm. If you are planning on planting clover and the soil has already been prepared you can actually plant it right now. Snow, rain and freezing and thawing will work the seeds into the soil. Once it warms up you'll be in great shape.

Got to go, I just got a call from a friend that wants to go coon hunting. Hey, maybe February won't be so bad after all. Get out and enjoy God's creation!

Hunter of the Year Applications –

Applications for the 2011 Hunter of the Year are due February 29th. Applications are available on the BGH web site. Please e-mail or send your applications to John Gibbs (john.gibbs.10@gmail.com) or Joe Crawley (mcrawley@sbcglobal.net). Mailing addresses can be found in the Roster.

Hunting Report – Lou Rupp and George Orphan

Opening Day Mid-September at the Canadian “Waterfowl Factory” in northern Saskatchewan, George and Lou started each day with a major spread of 400 to 500 goose decoys and rags (Snows and Canadians depending on the hunt) and ended each day with a spectacular duck hunt of all varieties of ducks. If you have never witnessed a Saskatchewan sunrise and sunset, you haven’t really been living! This hunt required a lot of bird cleaning and charitable sharing of the bounty in between the hunts as a full limit of birds was reached every day. Any true hearted waterfowl hunter can appreciate what it is like to hunt geese or ducks,

that have never seen a decoy, heard a call, or been shot at in their life! It doesn’t get any better.

The end of October was a three day South Dakota Pheasant Hunt. Traveling Northwest from Missouri (North of I-29) was a real eye opener this year due to the extensive flooding that had occurred this past spring, not only in Northwestern Missouri, but, Iowa and Nebraska. Mother Nature had truly taken her toll on farm lands for miles and miles. Although the bird hunting was a little tougher this year, full limits were bagged each day, with great evening meals that followed. After a successful Pheasant hunt, we moved camp two counties to the West for a couple days of scouting to prepare for the opener of the South Dakota deer season. Lou connected on a dandy whitetail on the third day of the hunt, but due to many reasons, success was not in the cards for George this year. The Turkey population in this area is unbelievable. We counted 167 Birds (55 to 60 Toms) in one flock while watching from our deer stand. Wonder where George and Lou will start off Turkey hunting next spring? The “Honey Hole” continues to produce.



Lou Rupp

“Bird Dogs plead with you to imagine the great things you could be doing together. Their delight is a lesson on the bliss of life.”

-Thomas McGuane

After a few days back home to resupply, George and Lou took off again for their 28th Annual deer hunt in Northeastern Montana. The area was hit hard with “Blue Tongue” disease last fall which had major effects on the Whitetail deer population and some on the Mule deer population. Combined with an extremely abnormal snow fall (103 inches on the ground) in 2010, hunting was a bit difficult this fall as compared to past seasons. Regardless, both George and Lou were successful taking good Mule deer along the Montana/Canadian border.

What a year and it’s not over yet!



George Orphan



Lou Rupp



Calendar of Events

February 21, 2012 — BGHF Auction Meeting 6:30pm Call Rick O'Dell 314-303-1226

March 2, 2012 — Big Game Hunters Foundation Auction

April 11, 2012 — General Meeting and Awards Banquet at the Homesite

April 13-15, 2012 — NRA Convention In St. Louis is looking for BGH Volunteers, for more information call Rick O'Dell 314-303-1226 or Jill Erlinger 618-539-3887

May 9, 2012 — General Meeting and Annual Report at Spazios

June 10, 2012 — Picnic at the Homesite



Wild Game Dinner
Friday, February 3rd



John Juelfs
Archery Buck in Missouri



Bob Adelsberger
Lake Ozark



Charlie Mateker
Javelina Hunting in Texas

"Killing a whitetail buck with a bow and arrow means going through a series of unexpected mishaps and keeping it up until one of the haps fails to miss."
-Robert Wegner

You can also read the Newsletter at www.bghf.net



John Gibbs and 2 Texas Whitetails



Brett Grimm on a management Cow Elk hunt in New Mexico



BGH Members Rich Franke, Glen Smith and Steve Pokorny on a Mo Rabbit Hunt

February 21st
BGHF Auction Meeting
6:30pm at Janet Franke's house
For more info call Rick at (314) 303-1226

Big Game Hunters Foundation – AUCTION

2012 Auction – Our fund raising Auction is around the corner. March 2, 2012 at the Falls Reception Center in Columbia IL. At this time we are asking for help with donations. If you know of a Hunting Outfitter or a Fishing Outfitter that may donate please let us know and we will contact them. Donations of any kind are needed and welcome. Please contact Rick O'Dell for more information (314) 303-1226



Welcome New Members!

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Steven V. Meyers 8 Summit Ct. Fenton, Mo 63026 636-343-8985 mrf250blue@sbcglobal.net | Michael Mraz 2881 Country Aire Est. Desoto, Mo 63020 636-586-8600 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Missouri Trout Season Notice Use of Porous or Felt-soled Waders, Boots or Shoes is Prohibited!



Beginning March 1st, this amendment prohibits the use of porous soled waders or footwear incorporating or having attached a porous sole of felted, matted or woven fibrous material when fishing in the trout parks. For more information visit www.mdc.mo.gov

General Meetings

At Spazios, unless otherwise indicated. Starts at 6:30pm the second Wednesday of; January, April, May, September, October, November and December. For Reservations call (636) 230-4201 by Monday of that week. Cost, \$25.00, if no reservation is received by Monday, midnight the week of the meeting, the Cost is \$30.00

Board of Directors Meetings

The March Meeting will be Wednesday, March 14th at Spazios and Starts at 6:30pm Call the President for reservations or more information. Cost, \$25.00.

Visit us on the web:
www.bghf.net

Big Game Hunters
Home site

3129 Frisco Hill Rd.
Imperial, Mo 63052

Volunteer for the NRA



NRA™

NRA Convention In St. Louis is looking for BGH Volunteers, for more information call Rick O'Dell 314-303-1226 or Jill Erlinger 618-539-3887

BGH Shirts
Big Game Hunters shirts are available,
Contact Doug Bay
(314) 378-6508

We would like to include your stories, pictures, tips and reviews. If you have a Hunting or Fishing report, pictures or stories from a recent adventure. Articles need to be 250 words or less and is due by the 15th of the month. Please send them to Brett Grimm, brett@heartlandhunters.com or Jim Mraz, jem@tarltoncorp.com.

You can view the latest Newsletter anytime at www.bghf.net