



The Parting Shot

by Thom Jorgensen

Fall is in the air! I found a nice little scrape yesterday, and I can see some wild turkeys working down the distant tree line this morning. Like many

MLA members, I look forward to this all year long! For me, all of the tuning and practice the entire rest of the year is for what happens right now!

The 2014 hunting seasons are open from coast to coast and many of our members are choosing to carry their longbows afield in pursuit of game. I'll be hunting with my longbows for deer and hogs across a few states, plus I could get a Michigan turkey or Georgia black bear if those opportunities present themselves in accordance with my tags. I've talked to other members who have longbow hunting plans including: whitetail, mule deer, pronghorn, elk, bear, and moose.

Seeing as we are right in the middle of all this hunting going on, I thought this would be the perfect time to make an announcement. Paul Wilburn has asked me to take over the MLA Game Awards. I've been holding the backup copies of the forms, pictures, and archives for the past few years so I thought I was the "in the wings" guy for this for a while. Paul said that he is ready to pass this torch, and I'm ready to continue in his footsteps. Three things for you to know:

- First, I'm using the same application forms so all the data in our archives will be uniform. You won't have to fill out anything extra, but it won't be any less either.
- Second, forms are available on the *michiganlongbow.org* website for you to download and print. If you would like an application form mailed to you, please give me a call and I will send one out.
- Third, note that you now need to send the applications either to my mailing address or my email address. Both are on the current application forms and inside the front cover of *STICKTALK*.

Paul setup a fantastic system for collecting data about the successes of our members employing longbows for hunting. He has also created a nicely detailed archive of all awards presented. I really enjoyed referencing weather and location information on our archives, I was also inspired (and sometimes awestruck) by the wild successes of some of our members. After I update the archives with the 2014 awards, I would like

to put this information back on our website for everyone to share and enjoy.

Aside from the Game Award info above, I wanted to talk about one last thing regarding hunting season. Last year I did a whole Parting Shot about an unfortunate hunter and his perspective on safety. A few weeks after that article came out another friend of mine (a lifelong bowhunter) took a fall out of a tree. Luckily the extent of his injuries were a dozen or so stitches in his head, getting the wind knocked out of him, having to ask his wife to drive him to the hospital, and the humiliation of having to tell all his buddies what happened. I think it went about as well as it could have, all things considered, and it could have been much worse. This brings me to the short reminder list:

- Don't leave the ground without proper safety gear.
- Check all your straps and ropes, replace anything that's worn or old.
- Check all the bolts and connectors on your ladders, sticks, and stands.
- Replace your harness if it's old or no longer fits right.
- Review the safety videos that came with your gear, check their website or youtube.com if you lost the originals that came in the box.

None of that should need to be said, but we're always getting new members so it can't hurt.

I would like to wish everyone going out hunting the very best of luck this season. Be sure to send me those applications with your successes before January 5th. Oh, and don't be too worried if I don't reply quickly to calls and messages as I will be out hunting quite a bit myself!



The Officially Recognized Outdoor Wish Granting Organization of
"The Michigan Longbow Association"



B ♥ K
4
Benefit4Kids

Outdoor Wish Program

Granting the Outdoor Wishes of Terminally Ill & Life-Limited Children Nationwide with the Continued Support of the Outdoor Community!

For more Information contact 877-B4K-KID0 or visit our website at www.B4K.org