



Catch!

by Thom Jorgensen

Every spring a bunch of us take our longbows down to South Carolina to hunt hogs and enjoy a late winter break from the cold. This year 6 out of 7 hunters in camp were MLA members and all were veterans from previous years. It's always nice to see the camp's bow racks filled with longbows!

While I'm happy with the successes I've had while hunting hogs with my longbows so far, there has been one special type of hog hunt I've never succeeded in. A long standing custom in some hunting circles in the South is to catch a live pig, and if it is a young boar to "barr" it so it will produce exceptionally good meat when harvested later. Many places that follow this practice do so with live traps or dogs, but a small group of people do "catch and release" pig hunting by stalking alone. I know about half a dozen people who have succeeded in this endeavor.

The property we hunt doesn't practice barring of hogs and does not use either traps or dogs. It's just a swamp where pigs live out their

lives as they have since they were planted here by the Spanish in the early 1500s. My goal for the past 3 years has been to do a "catch and release" stalk. I've been within 10' twice but those incredibly fast and agile pigs had me out classed and out gunned.

On this trip Steve Angell and I were stalking along both sides of a slough on a nice sunny morning when I caught a little movement up on the high ground. I began glassing hard counting eight young pigs out rooting in some hardwoods. They were nose down and feeding but there was no sow with them. Wind was directly from them to me, and several large trunked trees were peppered between us giving me the shadow side.

I called over Steve and asked him to take some pictures. I put down my longbow and binoculars and I began my approach. I wasn't excited yet as this chase has always ended in failure for me. I figure worst case they will get a good lesson on predators, a lesson that would be better coming from me than a coyote! One

nice-sized tree and a little rise got me from 35 yards down to 20 very quickly. At this point I made a few side steps and started moving forward as most of them were behind another tree while the remaining tails were turned towards me. In just a few minutes with cooperative wind and shadows I made it to a big tree with them just on the other side of it. I picked my moment to step around it until all eight of them either had their eyes down into the leaf cover or were facing away. This was the one extra step I needed to make my pounce.

I grabbed the closest one to me and it turned out to be a young boar. His legs were pumping and his squealing was loud enough to send the remaining brothers and sisters into a run down a trail towards heavy cover. As soon as I lifted him off the ground, his body went limp and he fell silent. I wonder if this is a reaction about mothers moving their young. Steve

came over and snapped a couple pictures and I pointed his nose down the trail his littermates went down and put him down. As soon as his hooves hit the ground, his legs started pumping and he was still going full tilt squealing when he left sight a few dozen yards away. Immediately after that the squealing stopped abruptly: he found his brothers and sisters and they were waiting for "danger" to pass. That ruckus pretty much ended our morning hunt, but it was totally worth it!

NOTE: It should be said that the family structure of feral pigs is unique, and catching or handling of other species can have DIRE consequences. Touching fawn whitetail deer for example can lead to it being abandoned by its mother leading to death by starvation. If you come across any occupied nests or beds, please back out and leave them be.



Upcoming Shoot Schedule

If your club is sponsoring a shoot where the longbow is welcome, contact us here at STICKTALK (sticktalkeditor@yahoo.com) and we will try to place it on the updated schedule in every new issue.

Date	Event	Location	Contact
May 5-7	Twin Oaks Bowhunters twinoaksbowhunters@wordpress.com	1079 Ashley Rd. Chapmansboro, TN	Mark Baggett 931-362-3717 markbaggett@detdist.com
May 20/21	Michigan Bow Hunters: First Leg of the Triple Crown	Muskegon Bowmen 2380 Central Ave. Muskegon, MI	Lance DeVoght 586-382-1118 www.muskegonbowmen.com
May 26-28	Marshall Primitive Archery Rendezvous	Wilder Creek Conservation Club Marshall, MI	Guy Dasher 419-796-7269 Mike Damon 517-795-7987
June 3-4	World Dragon Shooting Day worldwidedragonshootingday@gmail.com	Tomahawk Archers Temperance, MI	Dorothy: 262-325-5446
June 9-11	Cloverdale Traditional Nationals	Cloverdale Conservation Club - Cloverdale, Indiana	Jim Voyles 765-342-3047 Eric Voyles 765-349-1326
June 15-18	Compton Traditional Bowhunters Rendezvous comptontraditionalbowhunters.com	Berrien Springs Sportsman's Club 2985 Linco Rd. Berrien Springs, MI	Dave Jarvis 217-772-3144 Dennis Harper 816-739-8990
June 24-25	Michigan Traditional Bowhunter Jamboree	Hansen Hills Recreational Area Grayling, MI	Dick Gardner 616-238-6393
July 7-9	Michigan Bow Hunters Rendezvous: Second Leg of the Triple Crown	Harrison Fairgrounds Harrison, MI	2015mbhpres@gmail.com michiganbowhunters.com
July 14-16	9 th Annual Barryton Stick Bow Shoot traddoug@live.com	Barryton Conservation Club 3444 18 Mile Rd. Barryton, MI	Doug Jackson 989-644-5920
July 27-30	Eastern Traditional Archery Rendezvous Archeryfestivals@hughes.net	Ski Denton 5661 US Route 6 Coudersport, PA	814-435-6653 814-203-0467
Aug 4-6	28 th Annual Pine River Recreation Club Stick Bow Shoot: brentsinger17@yahoo.com	ELM HALL, MICHIGAN 5999 Ferris Road, Riverdale, MI	Brent Singer 989-436-1075 Brian Rockafellow 989-833-2430 Chris Koenigsnecht 989-640-5888
Aug 11-13	Great Lakes Longbow Invitational michiganlongbow.org	Historic Charlton Park 2545 S Charlton Park Rd. Hastings, MI	John Buchin 269-217-5611 Rob Jones 616-490-7212
Aug 25-27	Lapeer Bowmen's 25th Annual Traditional Archery Rendezvous	Lapeer County Sportsmen's Club 1213 N Lake George Rd Attica, MI	Bob Jones at 248-217-8500
Sept 22-2	MBH Fred Bear Memorial Broad Head Shoot: Last Leg of the Triple Crown	Detroit Sportsmen Congress	Sam Morello 248-410-8794 michiganbowhunters.com