

The
South Dakota

November 2017



Bowhunter

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On the Front: Will Kraus, first deer

On the Back: Al Kraus and his won, Will

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Bowhunters, Inc
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Editor's Note

Mike McKnight

The picture on the cover is Will Kraus. His dad (Al of Black Hills Archery) emailed me that picture in the early evening of October 8. His email text read:

"First buck ever. My son and I were sitting together when we saw a buck walking about 150 yards out. I "can " called and the buck came to 5 yards of our tree. A perfect shot and the rest is history. It will go down as my most memorable hunt ever! I look forward to many more hunts with my son !!!"

Al has been on a lot of amazing hunts and for this to be his most memorable speaks volumes about the relationship between parent and child. Anyone who has shared a young person's first bowhunting thrill can relate to this. Ironically, this email hit my inbox as my son and I were driving back from a bowhunting adventure of our own. The picture and Al's text brought back a flood of memories and emotion in me. My son will be 30 years old next January. My how time flies. We have shared a lot of hunting seasons and experiences but I will never forget the first whitetail doe he shot with his bow on a Kingsbury County farm one cold November Saturday. Congratulations Will and Al. Enjoy every minute together. I hope all of you do so as well.

Special thanks to Jared Bloomgren and all our armed forces for their service. And many thanks for the photos and article!

This is a longer story than I will go in to but find the ad for Heads Up Decoy and the special discount for SDBI members. Thanks Garrett Roe for your generosity.

An email hit my inbox a month or so ago from a long time member who had been away from the state and was now back. His comment was that it looked to him like SDBI was struggling. My response was that it is. We need help folks. Money, donations and a willingness to be involved and contribute. SDBI is a 501(c)(3) organization which means contributions are tax deductible just like any donation to any other tax exempt group. The convention is coming up and we need donations and raffle items. Probably as much as anything we need folks to step up and get involved in this organization. Without these things our struggles will lead to our demise. That is not speculation but a certainty.

As always I welcome photos and articles of any length. Just email them to me and they will get included.

Play hard and have fun!

Mike McKnight



The President's Point

Jim Peterson

Fall is in full swing and the rut is right around the corner. Many of you have already gotten r done and are blessed with an antelope, elk, or deer for the freezer. I am not a big social media fan or user, however, I check it out enough to notice how much is going on out there. A lot of good, a lot of bad, and some just truly misleading. As conservationists, we need to be aware of how the world is perceiving our great pastime and use all opportunities to educate our neighbors about the importance of hunting and game management. Also, we need to help them understand that we are not a bunch of thugs killing everything we see and posting bloody pictures all over Facebook. I haven't seen anything inappropriate from any of our SD members and friends, but be conscious of what you post as well as what your friends are posting around the country. If you see something that might hurt the public's view of bowhunting, be sure to give them a call and discuss it with them.

I came up with several short topics so I am going to jump around a bit, but one of the more common things I have read a lot about lately is poaching. I can't tell if poaching is on the increase or if the media is just making it more public, but there is a definite issue around the country with poaching and we need to be on the watch for it. Local wardens can't possibly keep track of everything going on out there. We need to help out as much as possible and pass along important information to our GFP staff. Another important aspect of this topic is knowing the rules ourselves? Do you know all of the rules? Are you teaching those rules to your kids? Are you correcting your friends and family if they aren't following the rules? Let's take a stand as sportsman and bowhunters and help keep poaching and other infractions out of our state.

We are once again going to sponsor a \$500 grant to a youth organization teaching archery and bowhunting within South Dakota. These grants are a valuable tool for building the archery programs as well as promoting SDBI throughout the state. The grant application is a page within this newsletter. Please fill it out and send it to us at sdbi.net@gmail.com by December 1, 2017. We will select the recipient by the end of the year.

Speaking of youth, we need to be taking the extra time to teach our kids and grandkids about archery and bowhunting. There are many opportunities to get a tag for a kid, but unless they are taught how to use it, they will rarely take up the sport on their own. We may have to give up our own hunts, or even seasons, to help mentor a youth trying to learn the art of shooting a bow and harvesting a deer with it. Take the time to get involved with the youth at your local 4H shooting sports program, and take your kids out. Nothing is more rewarding than watching your kid shoot their first deer with a bow.



The President's Point

(continued)

Jim Peterson

Finally, once you have taken that animal, are you making the effort to process it correctly and consume it throughout the year? If not, is it because you don't like it, don't know how to cook it, or just don't care? Be responsible and make sure you are doing something with the meat you are harvesting. I know many of us consume it regularly and run out far before season opens again, but I also know so many people that don't properly take care of their animals, don't process it effectively, and end up throwing it out later in the year. If properly taken care of and prepared, wild game is far superior to any other meat and not eating it should be a crime. If you aren't going to eat it, give it to the local butcher for the Feed the Hungry program, they even have vouchers to help pay for the processing.

As we continue to chase deer this season, be thinking about how we can grow our organization and support bowhunting, the outdoor lifestyle, and the values we all share. If you have any ideas, please send them to us at sdbi.net@gmail.com.

Jim Peterson
SDBI President

*Next deadline to submit articles or
pictures is December 1*

Email articles, photos, want ads, cartoons, and letters
for newsletter submission to :
Mike McKnight
msmcknight2912@gmail.com



Youth Grant Application

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Name of Organization | |
| Contact | |
| Phone | |
| Address | |
| Email | |
| National Affiliations | |

| |
|----------------------------------|
| Describe the organization |
| |

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|---|
| Describe how you would use the money |
| |

| | |
|---|--|
| How many kids do you work with now? | |
| How many bows does the organization own? | |
| How many adult volunteers do you have? | |

| |
|---|
| Describe why your organization should receive this grant |
| |



Hunting Separation Anxiety

Jared Bloomgren

Where is the correct place to even start? Have you ever had to miss a hunting season? How about the entire season? If you said no then I really admire you and your tenacity! All kidding aside, I remember when I got the phone call again being called to active duty in order to support the oath that I gave the United States 17 years ago. I know that deployments are part of the job and I accept that with full responsibility and I am happy to be able to do so. This wasn't my first rodeo. Did you know that less than 1% of the United States population decide to take this oath; an oath to defend the United States and its people against enemies both foreign and domestic. Guilty as charged!



This is not an article geared towards a pity party but perhaps rather one to open people's eyes to how great many have it in life and how good we have it here in the US. Many fail to realize this each and every day. Seeing how others operate in other countries really make me happy to know where I call home! Also, there are men and women each day who give up their time to do what many may think is the unthinkable. There are men and women losing their lives each day to defend this

country and many do it without thinking. Myself, I am proud to say that I accept that responsibility fully without reserve. I don't type this looking for a pat on the back by any means but an opportunity for all to think about the bigger picture and about how good you have it. Remember, it could always be worse.



Obviously I knew that I would be missing an entire hunting season due to this deployment but the bigger



picture yet is being away from my friends and family that I dearly love so much. That cannot be measured in any way, shape or form other than deep hurt and pain that cannot be explained. While I reserve to talk much more about that I will gear this article towards missing the hunting seasons. After all, we are all here to read about hunting and much less about the other.



Hunting Separation Anxiety

(continued)

Jared Bloomgren

I deemed a term called "Hunting Separation Anxiety." Trust me, it has to be a real deal! I am surely convinced of it! It really sucks when reality sets in and you have to miss a year of scouting for the game in which you pursue, hearing turkeys gobbling from the roost, stalking across the prairie after a pronghorn, glassing for big bucks in the backcountry, perched in a tree stand watching the world wake up for the day or hearing the elusive bugle of a big bull elk. But most importantly just missing all the things that make me who I am and building memories along the way with those I choose to share my time with.



It seems as if the fall of 2017 has been a great year for many in the field. Pictures keep hitting social media of great bucks and bulls hitting the dirt. It is great to see the success of many and 2017 has surely been producing! With each picture that I see, I miss home a little bit more. I would definitely be right there if I could be, taking down big bucks and bulls as eagerly as I always want to! Next year right!?



I couldn't let it get me down and had to refocus on the task at hand and make my deployment as good as I possibly could. Honestly

I was truly lucky as I deployed in a much less hazardous part of the world than I could have but that didn't lessen the sting that I felt from missing so much back home. But it did allow me plenty of time to think about what hunts that I want to do in 2018!



I find myself reflecting on my past seasons and all the awesome opportunities



that I have been given. I am primarily 95% a DIY public land bowhunter and each year there are struggles to be had. Public land being taken away, lack of access to public land, or landowners that become belligerent when I am abiding by the law and hunting public land. Special thank you to those that are out there fighting for us and making a difference! Don't get me wrong though, there are some pretty amazing land owners out there that let



Hunting Separation Anxiety

(continued)

Jared Bloomgren

some hunt but I haven't been lucky enough to find that nearly as often as I would like. The only place I had once upon a time was bought out by a high dollar amount years ago that I couldn't compete with. I don't have deep pockets so I was out. Also, there is always the constant struggle to find public land where I can be the only hunter in the area and not be disturbed by others hunting and I am sure they are thinking the same thing. I know I know, I am selfish! As the world turns right?! These are always constant struggles it seems and although I would love to find a slice of private heaven to hunt I have to keep realistic and know that most times it will always be public that I hunt and I am content with that. The real concern comes when I think about my young children and the opportunities that they may not have when they are of age to hunt. It has gotten harder!

There are great opportunities to be had! I reflect back to recent years when I have been home and lucky enough to be able to put these critters on my family's dinner plate. Each holding a great story of their own!

2017 has been hard for our country in many ways. There are people out there that on a daily basis, are looking to take something away from the American people. We all need to be vigilant and watch out for ourselves and for others whether you are in the military or not. It can go many ways.

I am looking forward to 2018 to say the least! Until then, here's to 2017 and those that are out in the field doing what you love to do! Best of luck

to you! Do not take it for granted and give credit where credit is due, do it legally and cherish each memory that is made! We live in a great country and we all should to do our part to help make it better! Be humble and be proud!

I am looking forward to getting back home and feeling that bowstring pulling at my shoulder awaiting to loosen an arrow!





Nine Footer at Nine Feet

Al Kraus

I remember when I was a little guy paging through my Fred Bear books. One hunt in particular was when Fred was kneeling behind a rock along the ocean with a coastal bear approaching. I tore those pictures out of my book and taped them to the walls by my bed. countless nights I drifted to sleep dreaming of that scenario of man versus beast with a sharp stick.

Forty years later I found myself reliving those pictures. I was in Unalakleet, Alaska, knelt behind a rock along the Bering Sea with a giant grizzly approaching. My shot to the ocean was going to be at 17 yards, but as the giant approached he started drifting up onto the boulders that I was hiding in. The sight of a monster grizzly with a huge head and hump swaying back and forth walking towards you, and the sound of his claws on the rocks is something that words cannot describe. The giant literally walked behind the rock I was hiding by. As his head disappeared behind my rock I could still see his hump. I drew and leaned against the rock trying to blend in. He walked out from behind the rock at 9 feet! I thought for sure he was going to see me, but he seemed to be preoccupied on where to place his feet onto the next rock. I knew he would run towards the alders behind me, so as I released the arrow I leaned into the rock. When the arrow hit him, the growl he let out made me wish I was "under" the rock instead of by it!!! He spun biting and growling at where the arrow entered. As luck would have it, he came over the top of the rock next



to me only feet away into the alders never seeing me. I remember hearing his claws on the rock as he went by. My trusty guide, Eric Umphenour with "Hunt Alaska with Us," was behind me along with Jordon, the son of another guide. Jordon was able to capture the moment on film. Eric and his father, Virgil, have guided many of the largest grizzly and moose taken in Alaska.

My grizzly bear ended up being an absolute giant! He squared 9 foot 1 inch with a 26-inch skull. I was truly blessed to get an opportunity at such a majestic creature and to fulfill a childhood dream!!



If you are reading this article and share the same passion for our sport we cherish so dearly, for ourselves our kids our family and future generations. Then I would encourage each and every one of you to renew your membership with SDBI. If you're not a member, please join. It is sad to see how many bowhunters we have in SD and how few active members. I served many years on the board and can honestly say that the hard work and countless hours of keeping the members up to speed on the ever changing rules and regulations of our sport go's unnoticed. Please help protect our sport and get involved!!!!!!

I hope everyone has a wonderful safe and successful fall!!!



New Zealand Bucket List Hunt

Gary Finn

Are you looking for a dream hunt in March or April? No, I'm not talking about a turkey hunt.



This past April, five of my family, friends, and I traveled to New Zealand for a Red Deer Stag and Fallow deer archery hunt. For several years I have dreamed about going to New Zealand to see the beautiful country and hopefully be able to hunt a Red Deer stag. Our trip and hunt turned out to be everything I had hoped for.

I decided that I was not getting any younger and if I didn't just get started and make it happen, it might never happen.

Time has a way of slipping away. I started my research by calling several outfitters in NZ that I found on-line. After talking to the outfitters, I decided that I wanted to hunt on the North island. The north island tends to be a little less mountainous and seemed to be a better fit for a couple of us that aren't exactly young any more. I picked Mountain Hunters, NZ to book our hunt with. After visiting with Brent Moody, the owner of Mountain Hunters, I felt confident that they would be a good fit for us. They are a family type operation. Besides selling hunts, they raise red deer for the sale of venison (mostly to Germany) and velvet antlers (China). We were the only group in camp the week we hunted and it was like hunting on a friend's ranch. We stayed in nice modern cabins and ate meals in their lounge/dining lodge next to the main ranch house. Brent is 25 years old and is taking over the 25 plus year business from his parents. Brent's parents, Adrian and Wendy, do the cooking and "visiting". They are great people. We felt like family right away.

After we booked our hunt and sent in our down payment/deposit, we had to book the flight to New Zealand. Brent helped us to determine flight times. We flew out of Denver, Co to San Francisco, CA. We then had a 12 hour flight to Auckland, NZ. From Auckland, we flew to Wellington, which is in the southern part of NZ and is the capital. We stayed in Wellington, and then the next morning we took an 1 ½ hour train ride to the small town of Masterton. The ranch is located about 3 miles from the east coast. The say-





New Zealand Bucket List Hunt (continued)

Gary Finn

ing “getting there is half the fun” is a correct statement. Seeing all the airports and riding the train across NZ was all part of the adventure and memories.



The first day of our hunt was spent scouting and looking at stags and fallow deer. It takes a while to be able to judge the size of stags and fallow deer. Every one seems to be unique. When we booked our hunt, we decided to go for a Gold Medal class stag. 350-375 SCI. We were constantly asking our guides, “is that one a Gold?” They have several animals and they want you to be happy

with your animal; so they like to show you as many as possible.

Once you find the stag you want, the hunt is on. The hunt is a high fenced hunt and would not be too difficult with a rifle. The challenge was to get one you wanted with the bow. The ranch is quite large and has mountains, valleys, some thick forest, and beautiful streams. The scenery is amazing.

Every one of us got a very nice stag that we were very happy with. Our group consisted of four hunters and two non-hunters. My son and nephew came along for the adventure and to help the old men out. My son, David and I, hunted with Brent. My brother Steve Finn and his son Troy hunted with Josh as there guide. Mark Larive and Jason Grenstiner had Ollie as there guide. All the guides were great guys. Mark and Jason opted to also take a Fallow deer.



I still had some time left after I got my stag, so I asked Brent if we could do some sight-seeing?

We visited the ocean, toured a light house, and I even golfed. I borrowed some golf clubs and golfed a little course along the beach with my camo and hunting boots.

Our trip was a great success and I highly recommend it. Don't put off going on your dream hunt. Life is too short and changes in a blink of an eye. Check out Mountain Hunters, NZ on their web site

www.mountainhunters.co.nz or give me a call if you I can answer any questions or help.

Gary Finn, 605-490-3206



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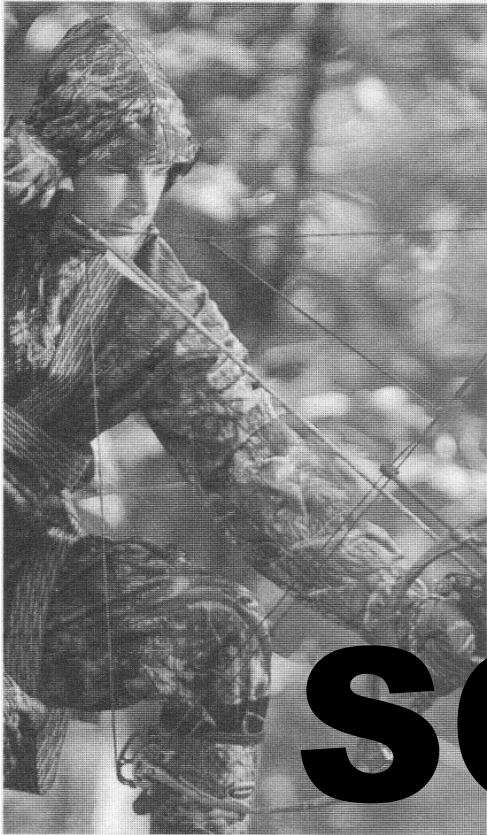
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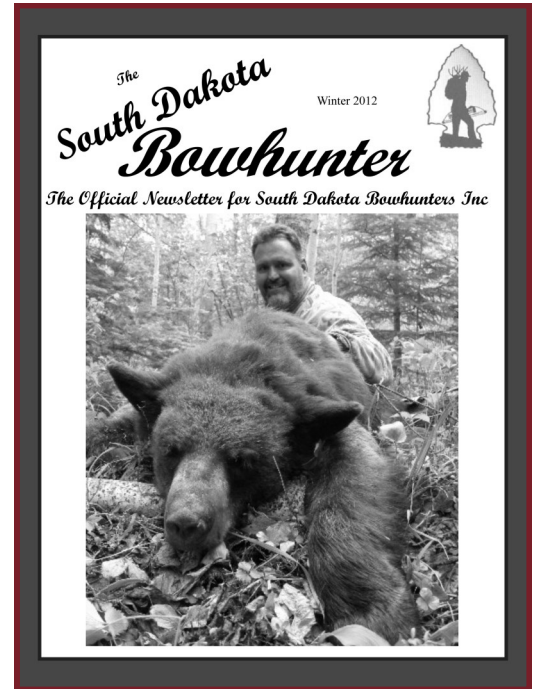
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