**INTRODUCING THE 300-YARD MUZZLELOADER.**

Lethal range has been redefined. Powered by our patented U.M.L ignition system for efficient burn of 200-grain Ultra Magnum charges, it’ll give your muzzleloader buck a centerfire knockdown.

**THE NEW MODEL 700™ ULTIMATE MUZZLELOADER**

*Featuring the U.M.L. Ignition System*

**REMINGTON ULTIMATE MUZZLELOADER**

For maximum burn and efficiency of Ultra Magnum charges up to 200 grains.
THANKS TO THE ONGOING support of our union and corporate partners, the Union Sportsmen’s Alliance has achieved many milestones since its launch in 2007. The USA’s Conservation Gala, held at the AFL-CIO headquarters in our nation’s capital on July 29, celebrated our mission and the many successful Work Boots on the Ground conservation projects union members have completed around the country.

That celebration culminated in a monumental moment for the USA and its conservation efforts as Secretary of the Department of Interior Sally Jewell, AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka and I signed a Memorandum of Understanding stating our collective commitment to rebuild, renew and restore our country’s national parks and other public lands.

The Department of the Interior is responsible for overseeing 640 million acres of public lands—28 percent of the total U.S. landmass—and Secretary Jewell didn’t hesitate to point out that one of her biggest challenges is budget cuts in the face of increasing costs for routine maintenance.

To overcome the budget crisis in Washington, Secretary Jewell has been looking for innovative ways to achieve her important goals when it comes to managing America’s public lands. Partnering with the USA’s Work Boots on the Ground (WBOTG) program was one way to do just that.

The Memorandum of Understanding pairs the USA’s WBOTG with shovel-ready projects in the Interior’s three land-managing bureaus—the National Park Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

To every conservation project our union members take on, they bring an unmatched work ethic, superior trade skills and a desire to make a positive impact in their communities. By partnering with the Department of the Interior, the USA’s WBOTG program and the dedicated union volunteers who make the program possible will extend their positive impact beyond the local and state level to America’s cherished national parks, refuges and other public lands, used by so many. This new partnership is a positive for our union partners and will help the public better understand the contributions skilled union members make to their communities both on and off the job.

We are extremely excited about this new venture and the impact it can have on public access to the outdoors, and we thank the hardworking volunteers as well as all of our dedicated union and corporate partners for believing in the USA’s hands-on approach to conservation and helping us get to this significant juncture.

FRED MYERS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CEO
USA CONNECTS CARHARTT AND HELMETS TO HARDHATS

Top workwear brand partners with nonprofit that links returning veterans with union jobs.

HELMETS TO HARDHATS, a nonprofit entity born of the Building and Construction Trades Department (BCTD) of the AFL-CIO, recruits outgoing members of the U.S. military to the building and construction trades—helping America’s heroes transition from life in the service to life as a civilian.

The program offers mentoring, counseling and access to apprenticeship training programs and job placement services at no cost to veterans. Completion of its comprehensive apprenticeship training program means a three- to five-year commitment in the classroom and on the job site. Graduates are often recruited by contractor partners who offer a range of employment opportunities.

“Their ability to follow orders…chain of command…their discipline serves as a correlation that makes it an easy transition from the military,” said Darrell Roberts, Executive Director of Helmets to Hardhats and a veteran construction trades worker, and D’Oliveira learned one of the USA’s top corporate partners was interested in delivering greater value to the labor market.

Carhartt, a proud USA partner and iconic 125-year-old U.S. brand in the active workwear and outdoor categories, supports labor by outfitting the everyday working man and woman with gear that’s tough enough for any job. Some of the brand’s top lines are made in the U.S.

We value Carhartt’s commitment to us on behalf of American workers, sportmen and conservationists, and believe in the mission of Helmets to Hardhats,” said D’Oliveira. “Seeing the good work each group was doing independently to help the everyday worker, we viewed this as a great opportunity to introduce two valued partners in the union community.”

“The partnership between Carhartt and Helmets to Hardhats is similar in that we both value the importance of hard work and have a great respect for those who work with their hands,” said Humes. “It was a natural fit for us to support a group that connects service members with skilled training and construction careers.”

The partnership between Carhartt and Helmets to Hardhats continues to thrive, and discussions regarding continued financial and in-kind support are ongoing.

“We are understaffed and we are underfunded,” Roberts added. “Funds are greatly needed. It gives us the opportunity to expand in areas and grow and help more people. Carhartt evokes a vision of ‘salt of the earth.’ We are very grateful for the opportunity and the chance to work with them at this level.”

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR Sally Jewell and the Union Sportsmen’s Alliance signed a Memorandum of Understanding on July 29, 2014, stating their collective commitment to rebuild, renew and restore our country’s national parks, national wildlife refuges and other public lands alongside youth and veteran conservation corps.

The agreement, signed at the USA’s Annual Conservation Gala in Washington, D.C., pairs the USA’s Work Boot on the Ground program with shovel-ready projects in the Department of the Interior’s three land-managing bureaus—the National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management.

“This agreement with the AFL-CIO and the Union Sportsmen’s Alliance is a true win-win,” said Secretary Jewell. “Not only will our nation’s parks and public lands benefit from the expert labor, but many young people will have an opportunity to work alongside the union volunteers, learning about the great outdoors and gaining important trade skills. I applaud the Union Sportsmen’s Alliance for their work to continue to strengthen the nation through volunteer efforts that will make a big difference in conservation projects across the country.”

The signed agreement complements the Interior Department’s youth initiative to inspire millions of veterans and young people to play, learn, serve and work outdoors. The Memorandum of Understanding emphasizes that, when possible, the AFL-CIO and USA will work collaboratively with youth and veteran corps in order to share experience and expertise.

“America’s workers are committed to doing our part to save our nation’s parks and restore our public lands,” said Richard Trumka, AFL-CIO President and USA Chairman of the Board. “The USA was established to unite the union community for conservation under a single banner, to protect our most precious and beautiful lands, waters and wild spaces.”

Since the USA launched Work Boots on the Ground in 2010, union volunteers have completed nearly 40 conservation projects in 15 states—many of them in America’s parks and on other public lands—saving land management agencies tens of thousands of dollars. This new agreement is a significant milestone for the program, which will now extend the unmatched skill of union labor from local and state parks and recreation areas to America’s cherished national parks and public lands.

RAISE MONEY FOR CONSERVATION WITHOUT SPENDING A PENNY

It’s as easy as searching the Internet with GoodSearch.com

At the 2014 BCTD Legislative Conservation Gala in Washington, D.C., pairs the USA’s Work Boot on the Ground program with shovel-ready projects in the Department of the Interior’s three land-managing bureaus—the National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management.

The signed agreement complements the Interior Department’s youth initiative to inspire millions of veterans and young people to play, learn, serve and work outdoors. The Memorandum of Understanding emphasizes that, when possible, the AFL-CIO and USA will work collaboratively with youth and veteran corps in order to share experience and expertise.

“America’s workers are committed to doing our part to save our nation’s parks and restore our public lands,” said Richard Trumka, AFL-CIO President and USA Chairman of the Board. “The USA was established to unite the union community for conservation under a single banner, to protect our most precious and beautiful lands, waters and wild spaces.”

Since the USA launched Work Boots on the Ground in 2010, union volunteers have completed nearly 40 conservation projects in 15 states—many of them in America’s parks and on other public lands—saving land management agencies tens of thousands of dollars. This new agreement is a significant milestone for the program, which will now extend the unmatched skill of union labor from local and state parks and recreation areas to America’s cherished national parks and public lands.
Top equipment picks to enjoy in the American outdoors

**The LiteFighter 1** is also vestibuled to help keep them dry in inclement conditions. The rainfly can be set with a canopy with a system that features a individual tent that makes it difficult to carry for anyone who wishes to sleep in a larger shelter. The LiteFighter 1 can be included in two different models — a full-size with a 22-inch barrel and a compact with an 18-inch barrel and each model is available in either .22LR or .22 Magnum. All four versions of the Ruger American Rimfire rifle include many of the same features that made the centennial models popular. The rifles come complete with two interchangeable stock modules that allow shooters to easily adjust the comb height to accommodate shooting with either iron sights or a scope. They feature satin barrel barrels, fiber optic sights and composite stocks. All of the rifles allow for easy trigger pull adjustments and the .22LR versions accept all supplied options accommodate many different kinds of shooters.

**Flamingo** is making it easier for people to protect their tactical rifles no matter where they take them. Flamingo’s Tactical Rifle Case is made of reinforced polypropylene and filled with soft eggshell foam. The case is designed specifically to fit tactical rifles and includes strategic straps that hold the rifle and magazines securely in place. The Tactical Rifle Case has four Safeshot tachy and six locking points. To further protect the rifle, the case features Flamingo’s Zenith corrosion inhibitor, which is designed to protect weapons from rust for up to 5 years. And to help make it easier to carry the ammo for those tactical rifles — and all your other firearms — with you, Flamingo has also released the new Ammo Can ($10.99), featuring a see-through window for easy identification of the carbine or shotgun shells clean and dry.

**Buck’s 110 Folding Hunter** might just be the most iconic knife that’s ever been carried into hunting woods across the country. As such, it’s a fitting choice to symbolize the five decades that Buck has been providing hunters and outdoorsmen with the kind of durable, dependable knives that define the term “American made” in the hands of the people who carry them. Just like the 110 Folding Hunter that has been passed down from father to son for generations, the 50th Anniversary Edition features a 3 1/2 inch 420HC stainless-steel blade with the classic clip point and nail notch that so many hunters will always associate with their very first hunting knife. The instantly recognizable wood handle and brass bolsters haven’t changed, but Buck has added a commemorative medallion on the handle for the 50th Anniversary Edition.
Union volunteers roof shooting range shelters at Everglades Youth Conservation Camp

BY LAURA TINGO

THE IDEA OF PUTTING A PERMANENT roof on the youth archery and gun ranges at the JW Corbett Wildlife Management Area’s Everglades Youth Conservation Camp in West Palm Beach, Florida, has come to fruition through the USA’s Work Boots on the Ground program, which mobilizes skilled union members for conservation.

Members of Sheet Metal Workers Local 32, Electrical Workers Local 359, Carpenters Local 1809 and Insulators Local 60 showcased the program in full force as they utilized their trade skills to cover the combined 325-foot shelters. Side by side, utilizing tools, plywood, metal tin, airguns and compressors, they worked throughout the weekends of May 3 and June 7 to finish the job in record time and expert fashion.

According to Lynne Hawk, Regional Hunter Safety Coordinator with the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, the ranges provide year-round hunter safety courses for children and adults as well as school and community groups.

Hawk facilitated the project with the leadership of the Work Boots on the Ground volunteer project leader Rick Pazos, a training director and member of SMART Local 32. “Rick did an excellent job. This project wouldn’t have gotten done if it weren’t for him. The guys worked really hard. I am so thankful for all of them.”

“The archery and gun ranges are used by kids overall Wisconsin’s building and construction trades councils, headed up the project. “It’s nice to get out in the community and do something for the marsh out there that people can use and enjoy.”

Union volunteers included members of Operative Plasterers and Cement Masons Local 599, Sheet Metal Workers Local 18, Plumbers Local 25, Bricklayers Local 13, Electrical Workers 159 and 494 and the South Central Federation of Labor. Wisconsin resident Tim Bindl, who formerly coordinated the USA’s Work Boots on the Ground program, lent some additional elbow grease to the project.

“Union volunteers bring expert skills and sincere dedication to our Work Boots on the Ground program, which brings together union members from all over the country for conservation,” said USA Executive Director and CEO Fred Myers. “They want to give back in their local communities, and be part of our conservation initiatives gives them a way to do that.”

Erin Railback, Visitor Services Manager at Horicon Marsh, said the Egret Trail, where the work took place, is the most popular site on the refuge. “It’s fantastic that this group was able to donate the time to help enhance the facilities for our visitors,” Railback said. “Because of their volunteerism and commitment to conservation and their communities, Myers said. “They want to give back and find that our Work Boots on the Ground collaborations provide a vehicle to get involved and make a difference for future generations.”

Union members roof a picnic pavilion and repair a bridge at Wisconsin’s Horicon Marsh

BY LAURA TINGO

WELCOME SHADE FOR SHOOTERS

Top: Volunteers enjoy the shade under the newly roofed pavilion. Above: Volunteers showcase their union pride on the repaired bridge.

Volunteers brave the Florida sun and heat to cover the shooting range with metal tin.

Visitors to Horicon Marsh in Mayville, Wisconsin, can now enjoy some shade and the scenery of the marsh with the completion of the latest Union Sportsmen’s Alliance all-volunteer project under the banner of its Work Boots on the Ground program, which brings together union members from all over the country for conservation.

Union volunteers, all members of the South Central Wisconsin and Northeast Building and Construction Trades councils, donated their time and trade skills to put a roof on a picnic pavilion and refurbish bridge decking in need of repair on June 13. Throughout the day, workers installed roof tresses and shingles and repaired and replaced portions of a bridge deck that were weathered and warped.

Dave Branson, Executive Director of the South Central Wisconsin Building and Construction Trades Council, headed up the project. “It’s nice to get out in the community and do something for the marsh out there that people can use and enjoy,” Branson said.

Union volunteers included members of Operative Plasterers and Cement Masons Local 599, Sheet Metal Workers Local 18, Plumbers Local 25, Bricklayers Local 13, Electrical Workers 159 and 494 and the South Central Federation of Labor. Wisconsin resident Tim Bindl, who formerly coordinated the USA’s Work Boots on the Ground program, lent some additional elbow grease to the project.

“Union volunteers bring expert skills and sincere dedication to our Work Boots on the Ground program, which brings together union members from all over the country for conservation,” said USA Executive Director and CEO Fred Myers. “They want to give back in their local communities, and being part of our conservation initiatives gives them a way to do that.”

Evan Railback, Visitor Services Manager at Horicon Marsh, said the Egret Trail, where the work took place, is the most popular site on the refuge. “It’s fantastic that this group was able to donate the time to help enhance the facilities for our visitors,” Railback said. “Because of their volunteerism and commitment to conservation and their communities, said USA Executive Director and CEO Fred Myers. “They want to give back and find that our Work Boots on the Ground collaborations provide a vehicle to get involved and make a difference for future generations.”

Top: Volunteers enjoy the shade under the newly roofed pavilion. Above: Volunteers showcase their union pride on the repaired bridge.
JERRY DOUBEK OF NIXA, MISSOURI, has enjoyed fishing since he was a boy, but since meeting USA member Leroy Shull, he doesn’t just fish for the sport of it—he fishes for freedom.

When Jerry, a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces, returned home in 2009 after serving in Afghanistan—leaving the structured life of a soldier and facing the loss of his lower right leg—he experienced something many soldiers have:

“I became reclusive,” he said. “When you go from being a Ranger and doing everything your body can do—to nothing… it’s hard.” He saw himself heading to what he thought was the end of his life.

“My transition was difficult,” said Jerry, a former Army Ranger who served with the 173rd Army Brigade Combat Team and was awarded an Honorable Discharge in 2012. “It’s very personal and we all suffer, whether from post-traumatic stress disorder or physical, we all have experienced the same aspects of war.”

Jerry’s battle of adjusting to civilian life meant being a loving husband and father and getting back to work. Prior to his deployment, Jerry ran a successful trucking company. Yet he found himself withdrawing from his wife, kids and society.

“My experience affected all of us in the program,” said Jerry. “When I saw in the soldiers’ eyes and in their faces what we’ve done for them, I said, ‘Bring them to Jerry. I got to relax and enjoy it. This program has put me back on track.’”

Leroy said he remembers that first day like it was yesterday.

“Jerry was there, walking with a cane. I felt like he had a sense that we could talk when he would have no cost. It also offers a relaxed and therapeutic environment to aid in the healing and readjusting process.

“The first year, we invited 30 wounded soldiers,” said Leroy. “It’s a passion that got in Jerry’s face. I had to keep going. When I saw the soldiers’ eyes and in their faces what we’ve done for them, I said, ‘Bring me 100 wounded warriors and I’ll get the money.’ Year after year, union brothers and sisters line up to support the annual events as volunteers.

Trying to encourage Jerry, his friend reminded him how much he used to enjoy fishing. "I didn’t want to go,“ said Jerry. "If you are a family member with a wounded veteran at home and reading this story, get them up and make them do it."

His friend didn’t take no for an answer and told Jerry’s sergeant.

“She ordered me to go, and of course I didn’t want to go, it wasn’t happy at the time. It was what I needed to do. It truly changed my life,” recalled Jerry.

Soon after arriving to the docks of Missouri’s Truman Lake, Jerry met Leroy. “Leroy took the time to befriend me,“ said Jerry. “I got to relax and enjoy it. This program has put me back on track.”

Since “fishing for freedom,” Jerry has restarted his trucking company and is celebrating his happy marriage.

“The good Lord has really granted me the greatest opportunity of my life with this program,” he said. “It saved my life.”

Since his first, Jerry hasn’t missed a Fishing For Freedom event. “Each year I stop whatever I am doing.”

Leroy said he remembers that first day like it was yesterday.

“Jerry was there, walking with a cane. I felt like he had a sense that we could talk when he got a little more comfortable. He eventually opened up to me and shared a story. His is the epitome of what our program is all about. His experience affected all of us in the program,”

Jerry said. “It’s a brotherhood.”

A NEW FRIENDSHIP.

Jerry invited him to go fishing with a group of other wounded veterans. He got a little more comfortable. He eventually opened up to me and shared a story. His is the epitome of what our program is all about. His experience affected all of us in the program,“

Jerry said. “It’s a brotherhood.”
GET READY, BECAUSE THE BEST HUNTING SEASON OF YOUR LIFE IS ABOUT TO BEGIN. WHETHER YOU HUNT DEER, ELK, SMALL GAME, WATERFOWL, OR UPLAND BIRDS (OR ALL OF THE ABOVE), HERE YOU’LL FIND THE EXPERT SKILLS YOU NEED TO FILL YOUR TAG AND HAVE THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE.
Finally, it’s fall. And not just fall—but the very best part of fall.

Don’t get us wrong: Those first couple of months after summer when opening day week-ends arrive are great. But they’re really just warm-ups for now—the late fall—when things get red-hot. Whitetails start moving through the woods more. Elk are bugling. Waterfowl are migrating. Pheasants are flushing. And small game swarm the woods. No matter what your game of choice is, it’s at its best right now.

And to help you be at your best, we’ve packaged 14 expert hunting skills to help you succeed. Your best fall ever begins now.

**SHOOT DUCKS ON THE RIVER**
BY PHIL BOURJAILY

When small, still waters freeze or hunting pressure on the marshes grows too intense, mallards go to rivers, where the current keeps the water open.

Scout in the mornings, running the river looking for large rafts of ducks. If the weather is clear enough for ducks to feed in the dark, be there early the next morning. On cloudy days the ducks won’t be back until after they’ve finished breakfast. Set a spread of five dozen magnum floaters and let the decoys attract the ducks. Your calling should be low-key, as resting ducks don’t make much noise. You can also combine scouting and hunting by running until you bust a flock, then setting up quickly on the chance that the birds will come back.

**HUNT RABBITS WITH BEAGLES**
BY PHIL BOURJAILY

On cold winter days, look for rabbits on sunny, brushy hillsides. Bunnies love briars, which provide them with both browse and shelter from predators. Rather than lacerate yourself in the thickets, turn the beagles loose to do the work. It’s safer (and more fun) for the dogs if you don’t shoot rabbits on the initial jump. Instead, listen to the dogs bay as the rabbit leads them on a chase, and get ready to shoot as it circles back.

**WALK UP A BUCK**
BY DAVE HURTEAU

In all of deer hunting, there’s nothing so challenging and rewarding as walking up a big wilderness buck. Perched in a treestand, you all but deny a buck its eyes and ears. Following a track, you at least know there’s a deer at the end. On a drive, you have your buddies to thank. But when you still-hunt the big woods, you usually walk alone. You don’t know where the deer are—the nearest buck could be right in front of you or a mile and a half away.

And it’s you, at least as much as the deer, who will skulk and sink and throw shadows and rustle leaves and brush against branches. Seeing a buck before it sees you or a mile and a half away.

**RATTLE IN A BUCK**
BY MARK HICKS

Soft rattling noises, like those made by two bucks sparring, work early in the season. Once the pre-rut gets going, hard, aggressive rattling can bring a buck in on the run. Stay alert while rattling or you’ll get caught off guard.

**GOOD CALL!** You can’t beat a heavy set of real antlers for rattling; however, they are cumbersome. The Pack Rack from Knight & Hale (knightandhale.com) is light and compact, and it also sounds natural.
**PACK MAN**

How to make a backpack carry the weight for you

BY BEN ROMANS

Years ago, trying to hastily pack out a mule deer buck from Idaho’s backcountry in one trip, I carried a heavy, irregular pack too low, and in the process I damaged a spinal disc, pinched nerves in my hip, and lost feeling in my ham hocks for weeks. Here are a few tips to help you shoulder a heavy load comfortably and safely—and avoid the physical therapy and chiropractic sessions I had to go through.

1. **FROM THE BOTTOM UP** Stuff your sleeping bag, pad, and tent in the bottom of the pack.

2. **HEAVY LOAD** Place the heavy freight—like a meat quarter—above the light cargo and against your back. It should sit above your hips and between your shoulder blades.

3. **CRAM SESSION** Surround the heavy stuff with lighter gear, such as clothing and food, followed by cooking gear, a water filter, and the like. Pack the lightest gear, such as a hat and gloves, in any remaining space at the top.

4. **AT THE READY** Stash gear like a GPS, flashlight, or other items you might need to access quickly in the pack’s lid.

---

**IT’S A CINCH** Now that it’s packed right, here’s how to carry your pack

1. Lift the backpack up onto your shoulders. Next, pull down on the shoulder adjustment tags to lift the pack and draw the load closer to your upper back.

2. Secure the belt and cinch the slack so it cups the top of your hip bones. Fastening the belt too high constricts your stomach; too low limits leg movement.

3. Pull down the load-lifters. Once you cinch these, the straps should be in contact with your shoulders—but with less weight on your shoulders and collarbone.

---

**DECOY HUNGRY GEESE**

BY PHIL BOURJAILY

AS LONG AS SNOW DOESN’T BURY the crop fields where they feed, even in bitter cold Canada geese will remain in an area. When ponds freeze, they sit on the ice or switch their roost sites to rivers, especially below dams where the water stays open. They will usually fly out to feed both morning and afternoon. Find the field where the geese are eating and get permission to hunt it. Set up a small but realistic spread of full-body decoys. Set some decoys around the blinds to help hide them. Use your flag aggressively to attract distant flocks, but tailor your calling to the bird’s reactions; some days you’ll have to be quiet, other days, almost angry. In the cold, geese sometimes fly later in the morning and earlier in the afternoon, so don’t give up too soon in the morning, and get to the field early for evening hunts.

If the competition has the feed fields sewn up, find a high spot between the roost and the fields and run traffic. Put out a big spread of decoys, flag liberally, and make a lot of noise on the call to pull birds out of flocks headed for the feed field.

---

**NAIL SQUIRRELS IN OAK GROVES**

BY PHIL BOURJAILY

IF YOU’VE SPENT MUCH TIME in a treestand during deer season, you no doubt already have a good idea where to find bushytails. Now’s the time to go back to the woods and collect the makings of a Brunswick stew. Unlike with deer hunting, you don’t need to be out at first light, as squirrels won’t be active until the morning sun warms the woods. Most of the squirrels you see will be on the ground, searching for acorns or digging up nuts they cached earlier. If there’s soft snow on the ground, still-hunt through the woods. Otherwise, take a seat. A scoped .22 makes the most sense for late season; the leaves are gone and good visibility allows longer shots. If you shoot a squirrel and are certain that it’s dead, sit tight. You may just get another chance in a few minutes.
GET YOUR BULL

BY SCOTT BESTUL

An aggressive plan for pulling trophy elk into bow range

In the right hands, a cow elk decoy is so effective it’s scary. “I had a slobbering bull at 15 feet, ready to mount the deke I was holding,” says veteran Montana guide Al Bousley (centralmontanoutfitters.com). “That’s closer than I want, so I stood up and spooked him.” It was a rare incident, Bousley points out, but it illustrates how realistic a fake can seem to a rutting elk. “It’s common for an older bull to hang up when he can’t spot the cow he’s been hearing,” he explains. “A decoy really closes the deal.”

But not just any decoy. A lightweight, silhouette-style fake is a cinch to pack in, quick to set up, and easy to manipulate to the greatest effect. Here’s Bousley’s plan for deking a bull into bow range.

1.

BE SEEN

“Elk can’t spot a silhouette if they approach from the wrong angle,” Bousley says. “So I stay right behind the decoy—like a rutting elk. It’s real.” Instead of staking the decoy, he attaches a bungee cord from the hindquarter to a tree. “This lets me reposition the decoy using one hand, without my having to grab the top edge where my hand might be seen. It also allows me to make subtle movements of the head and even the ears to really convince a bull that my fake is real.”

2.

SET UP RIGHT

Once he has a bull bugling, Bousley moves to a ridgeline or flat where there’s a true wind. “I put the hunter 50 to 70 yards in front of me and off to one side, where he’ll have a broadside shot at an incoming bull. It’s important that I can see my partner and—for safety’s sake—that he can see me. In fact, my bungee cord is bright red for this reason.”

3.

WORK THAT COW

Bousley sees a camo glove on the back side of the decoy’s head. “This lets me reposition the decoy using one hand, without my having to grab the top edge where my hand might be seen. It also allows me to make subtle movements of the head and even the ears to really convince a bull that my fake is real.”

4.

COVER UP

“If the wind gets swirly or the bull spots something he’s not sure of, I must the air full of scent with a spray bottle of elk urine I carry with me,” says Bousley. “I’ve seen elk that had winded us in after smelling that urine and hearing a cow call. Then it’s just up to your partner to make the shot.”

5.

WATCH OUT

Finally, as with many decoying situations, there are inherent risks. Bousley’s decoy has hoodwinked more than double that of his ear, which averages 6 inches. You want a buck with at least 15-inch horns, 17 or better is world class.

YOU BE THE (FIELD) JUDGE

Scoring an antelope’s horns is trickier than counting points. Here’s how to ID a trophy

BY DAVID DRAPER

A LENGTH: Length is what counts, not height. A buck that looks short from the front might turn his head to reveal sweeping curves, which can add inches to the overall length. Also, the length of an adult male’s horn is typically little more than double that of his ear, which averages 6 inches. You want a buck with at least 13-inch horns, 17 or better is world class.

B MASS: Only two length measurements are added into an antelope’s overall score, but circumference is measured eight times, so get a side view before pulling the trigger. Use the width of the buck’s eye—about 2 inches—for reference. A 5-inch base is good, 6-plus inches is better. Horns that hold their mass all the way to the tips have the best odds of setting a record.

C PRONGS: An antelope’s prongs, or paddles, come into play in two ways. First, they’re measured from the rear of the horn to the tip. A long prong that sweeps inward can result in a high-scoring buck. Second, the higher the prong is on the horn, the better the additional mass measurements. Look for prongs that start above the ears and you’re on your way to a wall hanger.

HUNT MULE DEER ON A FIELD EDGE

BY DAVID DRAPER

MULE DEER CAN’T RESIST the draw of sweet green alfalfa. Corn, winter wheat, soybeans, and other crops—especially those that are irrigated—also pull deer from miles away. Much like whitetails, mule deer will almost always enter and exit these fields at the same spot—day after day, season after season. A good topographic map can help clue you in to stand locations; look for canyons, coulees, and ridges that funnel deer into the field. Place your tripod stand down the fence line within rifle range of the deer’s preferred entrance point, ignoring any field edges bordering other fields or large tracts of prairie where deer will not hear your location well before they come into range.

FIND PHEASANTS IN A FROZEN MARSH

BY PHIL BOURLAILY

Thick cattail jumbles provide pheasants with shelter from predators and weather alike. Late in the season, the marshes freeze and the snow flattens the surrounding cover, pulling even more birds into the sloughs. With the marsh frozen, we can go in after them. Although cattails are hard for us to walk through, pheasants find tunnels and gaps among the stems that allow them to run or hide effectively. So slowly to give the dog time to puzzle out the scent, and if you can combine two hunter-dog teams, you can hunt toward one another, trapping birds in between. Marshes are good spots to hunt all day when it’s cold, but the last hour of shooting time is best.
**FALL HUNTING SKILLS**

**Get the Shaft**

A recovered arrow tells a tale. Here’s how to read it.

**Blades**

Sometimes these will hold blood. For the last buck I killed, my arrow was wiped nearly clean on the exit. But the 4-inch blades didn’t lie; they were soaked in blood. Only one blade can mean a grazing hit.

**The Shaft**

Blood from tip to nock means a pass-through. Otherwise, the end of the blood reveals the penetration depth. And take the shaft last. Pure fun.

**The Vanes**

Gut hits will smell like regurgitated salad. A shaft coated with whitish fat or sinew usually portends a poor hit.

When a Cold Wind Blows

Hunt draws and small valleys on blustery days for late-season success.

**When a Cold Wind Blows**

Heavy winds rob deer of body heat and make it harder for them to detect danger. So when it gets gusty in the late season, deer gravitate to natural windbreaks, such as a protected draw or small, stream-cradled valley. Rather than freeze in a treestand, smart hunters like Oklahoma guide Milton Rose go after them. Here’s what he looks for.

**Draws**

Focus on straight leeward draws that run perpendicular off ridgeline or high ground. “Compared to small draws and twisting draws, the wind is more predictable in linear draws, funnelling straight over the ridge from the windiest side,” Rose says. If the wind isn’t terrible, the first area with some cover may hold a buck. If it’s blowing hard, drop midway down. Bucks will rely on their noses to scent danger from above and fan down the draw. “This is perfect for a sedentary-deer approach — you’re not walking directly into deer line of vision and your scent is also blowing down away from them.” Bucks will bed on the downwind side of three trunks or logs and in small dips to avoid the wind.

**Small Valleys**

A similar approach works when deer drop down into valleys running parallel to ridgelines, especially if the wind is strong. Bucks will hole up low, often near a creek or ditch. Usually the cover is good, with brush, forbs, and fruit near water. Small valleys are also a favored spot for picking up late-cycling doves. Ease along the valley bottom, following the creek. Bucks will watch the downwind direction across the stream. That leaves you the perfect crosswind route for slipping along the water’s edge. “The narrower the valley, the better,” Rose says. “As heavy winds will blow right over it.”

**Black Bear Fake-Out**

Three decoy strategies that will lure big boars into bow range.

**The In Intruder**

Big boars are solitary animals and will claim a food source as their own, commonly by destroying other bears’ entrance trails. To get his bear’s attention, place a small bear decoy near the food source positioned with its head down and its backside facing the direction you expect a boar to approach. At few steps of black cloth to the decoy’s ears and tail for added realism and collect some bear scat from another area — preferably from a boar — and with a plastic bag, transplant it onto the entrance trails. Now sit back. Any wise old boar that might otherwise camp just off the food will come in fast, so be prepared to shoot pronto.

**The Easy Meal**

Black bears are fond of fresh meat and will drop their guard to capture an animal in distress. Any small, furry decoy, like those used for foxes and coyotes, will draw the attention of a little deer. With a little luck, the boar will move in quick enough to finish off what he thinks is helpless prey. If the hang up, though, add a few squeals from a dying-rabbit call to entice him. If whitetail deer are prevalent in your area, a fawn decoy can be too much for any hungry black bear to ignore. Try a few fawn contact bleats, and if that fails, go to a fawn-in-distress call. Nock a broadhead and get ready. The bear will come in fast, so be prepared to shoot pronto.

**The Feeding Female**

You’ll have to wait a few months to use this setup, but it’s a good one to have in your arsenal. Black boars rut in late spring and early summer and will visit bait sites looking for a sow in heat. If baiting is legal in your area, position a small black bear decoy with its head in the barrel and hang some fentanyl soaked bear’s ears and tail in front of it. A few squeals will draw a sow. If she hangs up, throw her scat at the decoy and watch the boar. She will approach the decoy wary. Don’t rush the shot. As he Investigates, you should have plenty of time to draw.

**Bear decoys are hard to find, but a 3D archery target can work great.** Rinehart Targets (rinehart targets.com) makes several foam bear targets that range from $190 to $250. And if that’s too pricey, or you don’t have a four-wheeler to get to your hunting spot, Montana Decoy has just released a photorealistic collapsible bear decoy ($140; montanadecoy.com). Measuring 40 inches wide, it stands 3.3 inches tall with stakes and is a very packable 2.1 pounds.

**by Scott Bestul**

**by Gerald AImy**

**by Bill Vaznis**

**Illustrations by Peter Shapard**

**by Michael R. Shea**

**by Bill Vaznis**
USA and Peoria Labor Temple target Asian carp in Illinois

BY LAURA TINGE

IT’S HARD TO FIND A person in Peoria, Illinois, who isn’t concerned or at least curious about the invasive Asian carp strangling the Illinois River.

Kay Ryan, who lives in Peoria, said it’s hard not to know about the issue. “I read about it all the time,” she said. “When we visit the shops and restaurants on the riverfront, we see them jumping.”

So when Ryan heard about the Inaugural Peoria Flying Fish Festival and Bowfishing Tournament taking place on July 12 to spread awareness and help combat the fish’s unwelcome overpopulation, she came out to support the event along with a host of anglers, local union members and others in the community.

For the anglers, this meant signing up teams to pull as many Asian carp out of the river as possible and raise money to support the Union Sportmen’s Alliance (USA) and the Peoria Labor Temple.

For festival visitors, it meant mingling amongst live music and volunteer exhibitors in the parking lot of Bass Pro Shops, a top sponsor of the event.

It was the USA’s Brother- hood Outreach TV show that sparked the idea for the festival in the mind of Sharon Williams, Editor and Business Manager of The Labor Paper. When the USA brought its production crew to bowfish on the river two years ago, a conversation began and led to Williams spearheading this year’s event and the USA taking part in the festival and hosting its inaugural Preservation and Conservation Dinner. Through giveaways, auctions and generous union member gifts, the dinner raised funds that, combined with the money generated at the tournament, will support the USA’s conservation efforts and help sustain the Peoria Labor Temple, which dates back to 1918.

“Part of the excitement of our dinners is that we bring together many different locals in one setting to enjoy an evening of fun and raise money to put back into the local community through conservation efforts,” said USA’s Conservation Dinner Coordinator Kevin Grubbs.

While carp was not on the dinner menu, it was one of the highlights of the festival earlier in the day as guest food vendors and chefs cooked carp on for-castling events.

“We were curious,” said Sharon Peters of Taylorsville, Illinois, who attended the festival to enjoy the weather and try Asian carp. “I would order this out in a restaurant. It’s good!” added her husband Mark.

But it wasn’t enticing to everyone who passed by the vendors, with the smell of fish in the air. Melody Johnson of Edwards, Illinois, just wrinkled her nose and walked quickly by.

“Naah, I’m not that excited about it,” she said when offered a sample. “I’m not that familiar with it.”

Ryan expressed similar reservations. “I got a little nervous because they are known to be bony,” she said. “Weills says this is why they brought this element in for the festival. To counter concerns, Williams had the Peoria Labor Temple, which dates back to 1918.

They are really good,” Williams exclaimed. “The hope is, once people see how good they are, they will want to catch them more often to take them home and eat them.”

Tristan Cole is first to earn three trophies at a USA shooting event

BY KATE NATION

Pull Tristan Cole steps up to the plate at the USA’s 2014 Western Pennsylvania Sporting Clays Shoot.

Tristan Cole is first to earn three trophies at a USA shooting event

BY KATE NATION

Pull Tristan Cole steps up to the plate at the USA’s 2014 Western Pennsylvania Sporting Clays Shoot.

Best Way to Beat ‘Em? Eat ‘Em

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU?

USA

FALL WINTER 2014-23
TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT

Share your best shots in USA’s Best Shot Weekly Photo Contest, sponsored by Buck Knives. Visit UnionSportsmen.org/photo to check out photos and to submit yours for a chance to win a Buck Knife.

USA PHOTOS

Buck Knives

EVERYDAY SPORTSMEN
EXTRAORDINARY ADVENTURES

WITH CO-HOSTS JULIE MCQUEEN AND DANIEL LEE MARTIN

ALL NEW SEASON!
Sundays at 11 AM ET
BEGINNING JANUARY 4TH, 2015
SPORTSMAN CHANNEL

PRESENTED BY

Bank of Labor
BORN OF INTEGRITY

www.BrotherhoodOutdoors.tv

TheSportsmanChannel.com

Follow us on Facebook

DIRECTV 605 / DISH (HD) 395/AT&T U-VERSE (HD) 642 / VERIZON FIOS 308 ★ Check local TV provider
YOU CAN HIDE FROM ANYTHING, BUT WE’LL NEVER HIDE THAT IT’S
THE ONLY REAL TREE XTRA CAMO
UNION MADE
IN THE USA